

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF Crossroads Fellowship CRCNA.

Note: As you prepare for classis, please reflect as a council on the following questions as they relate to your congregation's ministry during the last six months. List as many items as your desire. Use the back of this sheet if necessary.

We are thankful for these experiences of God's blessing in the life of our congregation:

- 1. Strong Financial Support**
- 2. Membership growth**
- 3. Spirit of unity**

We are excited about the following opportunities we have had to *Bring Christ's Comfort* to those outside of our congregation:

- 1. Food Shelf**
- 2. Liberian Ministry**
- 3.**

We ask for the prayers of classis in these areas as we look to the challenges and opportunities of the next six months:

- 1. Unforeseen future**
 - 2. Wisdom and guidance for our Education Program**
 - 3. Ministry to our church and the Des Moines area**
-

Leighton CRC

Prayer and Praise:

We are thankful:

- 1) Two weekly Bible Studies, Sunday evenings “Apologetics of Genesis” with about 40 in attendance and Wednesday evenings Bible study “Following Jesus” by Douglas Connelly with around 10 in attendance, being led by two capable men from the church.
- 2) Faithful giving and financial support from the congregation to meet all our needs and support other causes.
- 3) God providing Al Bandstra to pastor us.

Opportunities for ministering to those outside the congregation:

- 1) The Sunday evening apologetics class.
- 2) Cadet program

Prayer requests:

- 1) Be an effective outreach into the Leighton community
- 2) Each of us exhibits the fruit of the Spirit daily.

Tracy CRC

Prayer and Praise:

We are thankful for:

- 1) We are blessed with several leaders/teachers in the congregation who are willingly and joyfully using their gifts to serve the congregation and community in Cadets, GEMS, Sunday evening community fellowship[meal and Bible study.
- 2) Faithful giving and financial support from the congregation to meet all our needs and support other causes.
- 3) God providing Al Bandstra to pastor us.

Opportunities for ministering to those outside the congregation:

- 1) A godly and energetic couple who are joining with us.
- 2) Two couples in the community who contacted members of the church for a pastoral visit.
- 3) The active Cadet and GEMS ministries.

Prayer requests:

- 1) Be an effective outreach into the Tracy community
- 2) He will draw those members who have dropped out of attending worship back to fellowship with the church.
- 2) Each of us exhibits the fruit of the Spirit daily.

First CRC Oskaloosa

We are thankful for these experiences of God's blessing in the life of our congregation:

1. We have been blessed by the ministry of Pastor Tom Dykman and his wife Erin as an interim co-pastor this summer.
2. We are very blessed by the number of volunteers who faithfully serve in our church and out in the community
3. We are thankful for the number of children in our youth ministries, Sunday School and Christian School. We are thankful for the 75th Anniversary celebration that was recently held for Oskaloosa Christian School

We are excited about the following opportunities we have had to *Bring Christ's Comfort* to those outside of our congregation:

1. The community Love Inc. ministry is developing a thrift store in 2021. Many of our members have been involved in the planning and construction of this project.
2. After a one-year hiatus due to COVID, we have been able to do another Mission Mahaska work day and that has resulted in continuing service projects in Oskaloosa.
3. We were able to have a very well attended Parking Lot Praise event as a kickoff to the fall ministry year. It was an event full of people, praise, and BBQ brisket.

We ask for the prayers of classis in these areas as we look to the challenges and opportunities of the next six months:

1. We ask for prayers as we continue in the associate pastor search
2. For wisdom in possible sanctuary upgrades and remodeling
3. Prayers for those in our congregation and community who are struggling with addiction. The past year has been difficult for many and we are concerned about substance abuse and the effects of our families.

Cornerstone

We are thankful for these experiences of God's blessing in the life of our congregation:

1. Construction progress on Cornerstone's new facility.
2. New members joining our congregation in 2021.
3. Sermon series on and plans to enhance outreach to the community.

We are excited about the following opportunities we have had to *Bring Christ's Comfort* to those outside of our congregation:

1. Mobility Worldwide fundraiser
2. Hosting Angel Tree Camp kids and counselors for food and activities.
3. DeKinderen Kloset consignment sale.

We ask for the prayers of classis in these areas as we look to the challenges and opportunities of the next six months:

1. Transition to the new facility (including continued construction, the physical move, and farewell to the current facility).
2. Renewed outreach efforts to the community.
3. Spiritual and relational growth in the new season of Life Groups.

Bethel

We are thankful for these experiences of God's blessing in the life of our congregation:

1. Celebrated Pastor Doug's 25 years in ministry
2. Good turnout for our VBS
3. Addition of new members and baptism

We are excited about the following opportunities we have had to *Bring Christ's Comfort* to those outside of our congregation:

1. Several from outside our congregation attended VBS
2. Several members have helped with the LOVE INC store renovation
3. Several people outside our area watching our Sunday worship service online.

We ask for the prayers of classis in these areas as we look to the challenges and opportunities of the next six months:

1. Our response to cultural and moral challenges to our households, Families and communities.

New Life Prison Church

We are thankful for these experiences of God's blessing in the life of our congregation:

1. We praise God that New Life could gather on the evening of August 29 for worship and a fellowship meal.
2. We praise God for the contacts we have been able to make with men getting out of prison.

We ask for the prayers of classis in these areas as we look to the challenges and opportunities of the next six months:

1. We pray for wisdom and discernment for the Department of Corrections and the Newton Facility as they make decisions about when the volunteers may come back into the prison.
2. We pray for healing for New Life family members, along with their extended family.
3. We pray for returning citizens who are struggling to find a church home because of extensive restrictions.

Trinity CRC St Louis,

We are thankful for these experiences of God's blessing in the life of our congregation:

1. Most families (85%) have returned to in person worship each Sunday
2. The congregation of Trinity in May voted to hire Aaron O'Laughlin as our part time Youth Director. We share in hiring Aaron to this position with the Onnuri (Korean) Presbyterian Church. Starting in July Aaron has already begun to meet with the youth of Trinity CRC, Onnuri and also the St Louis Korean CRC each Sunday.

We are excited about the following opportunities we have had to *Bring Christ's Comfort* to those outside of our congregation:

1. Trinity has 2 police officers, 1 EMT, 2 Medical Doctors and 3 nurses who each have been impacted by COVID care in the last several months. One of our Nurses has been assisting with COVID treatment centers in other states with hot spots for the last 9 months. Each of these 1st line responders bring request for prayer, comfort and praise frequently to our congregational prayer time each Sunday.

We ask for the prayers of classis in these areas as we look to the challenges and opportunities of the next six months:

1. Mission and Vision (sermon series) beginning in January with possible church retreat.

Newton

We are thankful for these experiences of God's blessing in the life of our congregation:

1. A few of our young adults made profession of faith earlier this year.
2. We welcomed new members by transfer as well.
3. We are thankful to have returned to a semblance of normal in our ministries, events, and calendar.

We are excited about the following opportunities we have had to *Bring Christ's Comfort* to those outside of our congregation:

1. We have been able to serve our community and meet many physical needs through the proceeds of a large garage sale in our parking lot.
2. We added a blessing box for food items and a caring cabinet for toiletries, and they have been a great ministry to our community.
3. We hosted a community picnic and met a few people from our community, including a homeless man that we have been ministering to.

We ask for the prayers of classis in these areas as we look to the challenges and opportunities of the next six months:

1. Ministering to grieving people in our church, after we had many of our members go home to be with the Lord over the last year.
2. Shepherding our youth through this difficult time in our culture.
3. Faithfully stewarding the resources God has entrusted to us.

PEORIA CRC.

We are thankful for these experiences of God's blessing in the life of our congregation:

1. A good sabbatical for Pastor George and family this summer and that our congregation was led in the Word during pastor's absence.
2. Many members of our congregation are directly or indirectly tied to agriculture, and we have been blessed with favorable weather, indicating an abundant harvest.

We are excited about the following opportunities we have had to *Bring Christ's Comfort* to those outside of our congregation:

1. A good week of VBS in July with over 90 children enrolled.
2. VBS was concluded with a community hog roast that was well attended.

We ask for the prayers of classis in these areas as we look to the challenges and opportunities of the next six months:

1. Unity – among Council members, between congregation and pastor, between all members in the body of Christ. We know the devil loves discord among members of Christ's body, the church.
2. Two members of our congregation have passed away in recent weeks after long struggles with cancer, leaving spouses who are alone.

Sully CRC

We are thankful for these experiences of God's blessing in the life of our congregation:

1. We are thankful for a worship coordinator who has worked hard and eased our transition to vacancy
2. We are thankful for several youth in the church making profession of faith recently.
3. God has blessed us with many willing men as pulpit supply who have preached the Word.

We are excited about the following opportunities we have had to *Bring Christ's Comfort* to those outside of our congregation:

1. Several members who participate in prison ministries are anxiously awaiting being let back in the prisons.
2. We are thankful to have been visited by many of our missionaries recently and that their work can continue despite Covid challenges.
3. We are thankful for so many who serve around the community. Often their outside efforts are unknow to those with the church.

We ask for the prayers of classis in these areas as we look to the challenges and opportunities of the next six months:

1. As a church we covet prayers for the formation of our search team, the search for a pastor and the pastor that will be called. The Lord knows him already; may he be preparing his heart and his family to serve in Sully.
2. As a Council we seek wisdom and courage to lead how Christ calls us, especially in our time of transition.
3. As a congregation may we be patient through our search and give honest input and encouragement when needed.