

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF __Sully CRC_____ 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. We are thankful for those who have recovered from Covid.
2. We are thankful for those who have had successful surgeries and healing.
3. We feel blessed to be able to start a new small group Bible study with our care groups.

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

1. We are thankful for visitors who have come and returned and feel welcomed.
2. We are thankful for the Lord's continued blessing on our Cadets/Gems programs as they have so many from outside our congregation attending.
3. We are so thankful for so many men from our surrounding area that have been able to bless us with the Lord's word in our time of vacancy. It has given us a greater sense of our whole church family. The Lord provides.

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 for our council as we continue through this vacancy and for the search team as they begin their work and for patience for all of us as the Lords timing doesn't always coincide with ours. We are thankful for the work they have already completed.
2. We ask for prayer for families who have lost loved ones and are dealing with the loneliness.
3. We ask for prayers of unity as we go through our time of transition.

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF Calvary Pella 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. Our members faithfully contributed to our budget in 2021**
- 2. Another transition in church leadership with Council in 2022**
- 3. Excellent staff, including 3 pastors and specifically custodian and treasurer (Arvin and Judy Kelderman) on staff for 40 years**

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

- 1. The possibility of sponsoring an Afghan refugee family.**
- 2. The Evangelism team is starting "Free Laundry Night" at the local laundromat.**
- 3. Faithful support for mission, locally, nationally, and globally**

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

- 1. Planned partial retirement of Pastor Sheldon in June**
- 2. Challenges our denomination is facing**

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF Cornerstone Church 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. Opening of our new facility at 1020 East Oskaloosa St.
2. Relaunch of a high school and post-high school youth group.
3. Professions of faith by eight high school youth.

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

1. Candlelight service for the community.
2. Hosting a showing of the "Chosen" Christmas movie for the community.
3. Food drive for the Pella food shelf.

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

1. Outreach to the community, especially those not involved with a church.
2. Youth group
3. Spiritual and relational growth in the new season of Life Groups

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF Bethel 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. Baptism of covenant children
2. Welcoming new members
3. Freedom to worship as a body

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

1. Livestreaming of our service
2. Broadcasting our sermons on local radio
3. Vacation Bible School ministry

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

1. Vacation Bible School ministry
2. Discipleship
3. Prayers for members with health issues and loss of loved ones

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF ___Peoria_____ 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. We celebrate the birth of several children.

2.

3.

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

1. We rejoice in a successful Summer Bible School

2.

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. Ephesians 4:1-6 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

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. Youth Group Outreach**
- 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. Long term planning**
- 2. Health and well being of our congregation**
- 3.**

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF Trinity- St Louis 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. New membership class starting February 20
2. In-person attendance including Sunday School Classes (all ages)
3. Council introduced new Mission and Vision statements including a sermon series which started January 1. Plans are in process for a congregation retreat this spring to focus on the next 10 to 15 years in Maryland Heights.

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

1. Trinity hosted our 1st annual First Responders Dinner (to thank them for their service) which was attended by 30 firefighters and paramedics from our community.

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

1. That the Lord would continue to use His church to bring light and hope in the St Louis community.
- 2.
- 3.

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF First Oskaloosa 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. Welcoming a new associate pastor, Erik Kamp.**
- 2. Growth in our youth ministries**
- 3. Stability of in-person worship despite Covid**

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

- 1. Many connection points with our congregation and the Love INC. ministry in Mahaska County. In the past year, Love INC has opened a new thrift store and our congregation volunteered in the hundreds if not thousands of hours.**
- 2. Mission Mahaska (volunteer group within First CRC) doing service projects in again in Oskaloosa after a pandemic pause.**

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

- 1. Seeking greater community outreach**
- 2. Upcoming mission trip with the Youth Group.**

Classis Central Plains – Prayer and Praise

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF **Newton** CRC.

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. We have been blessed with new members and regular attenders.
2. We are blessed to have an ordained minister in our congregation to fill in when Pastor Aaron is away.
3. We are thankful to be meeting and ministering again on a regular schedule.
4. We are thankful that our fellowship time after the service is filling up again.

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 serving meals at Discover Hope Ministries in Newton.
2. We have ministered to, and made connections with, many in our community through our Blessing Box and our Caring Cabinet.
3. We filled and delivered many shoeboxes in conjunction with Operation Christmas Child, and our church was a drop-off location.

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

1. Please pray for God's guidance as we evaluate areas of ministry, both inside and outside the church.
2. Please pray for wisdom and grace as we continue to minister to our shut-ins and help them feel a part of the church.

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF Prairie City 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. Worship grant awarded and the concert and worship seminar by Jonas Woods
2. Return to in-person worship services
3. Series on spiritual gifts
4. Implementation of the "verse of the week" and activities to use it through the week
5. Programs for kids staring back up.

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

1. Harvest Auction raised almost \$10,000 for missions
2. Giving "care bags" to Clearview for Christmas
3. Taking a collection for food for the PCM food bank at Christmas
4. Increase awareness of the ministry "My Brother's Keepers".

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

1. College students going on mission trips
2. Keep everyone safe/healthy from COVID
3. Human sexuality issues
4. CREW and Coffee break starting up again

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF _____ Faith CRC Pella _____ 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. New Pastor – Brian Ochsner**
- 2. Elevate Program – Inter-generational mentoring starting in 7th grade**
- 3. Re-energized youth and education programs**
- 4. Servant hearted volunteers for the many programs our church offers**

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

- 1. Kids Hope Program mentoring at local elementary school**
- 2. Coffee Break, Friendship Bible Hour Programs**
- 3. Our Youth Group attracts many students from outside our congregation**

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

- 1. New Small Groups starting for a 7 week (full congregational) study – new groups with Council members leading groups**
- 2. Wisdom for direction for facility upgrades to our current church building**
- 3. Community outreach opportunities, we feel like we are geographically blessed in our neighborhood, and we pray for ideas and direction for possible outreach.**

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF LEIGHTON 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. Faithful church attendance, the welcoming of a new family into the membership of the church, and peace and harmony in the church so that we are enjoying a time of "coffee" fellowship around tables every Sunday morning and a light dinner and fellowship at 5:30 every Sunday evening served by weekly willing volunteers prior to the apologetics class.
2. The faithful support, encouragement, participation, volunteering, and financial giving of the congregation.
3. The faithful preaching of the Word of God and pastoring of the congregation.

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

1. The weekly well attended Sunday evening Apologetics of Genesis Class serving the congregation as well as several home-school families and interested couples in the area.
2. The support of Christian schools.
3. Along with the congregations of Peoria and Tracy, we are contributing to the financial and material needs of 40 orphans in The Siem Reap Children of Promise Orphanage in Siem Reap, Cambodia so they may become self-sustaining in the future.

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

1. The creation of a website for the church.
2. That we have the awareness, vision and means to continue to serve needy families, individuals, and children in the environs of the church.
- 3.**

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF TRACY 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. Faithful church attendance and peace and harmony in the church so that we are enjoying "pot-providence" noon dinners monthly on the fourth Sunday.**
- 2. The abundance of leadership in the church.**
- 3. The faithful support, encouragement, participation, and financial giving of the congregation.**

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

- 1. Talented, gifted, willing, and faithful leaders in the GEMS and Cadet programs of the church in serving unchurched boys and girls within the environs of the church.**
- 2. Along with the congregations of Peoria and Leighton, we are contributing to the financial and material needs of 40 orphans in The Siem Reap Children of Promise Orphanage in Siem Reap, Cambodia so they may become self-sustaining in the future.**
- 3. Our online worship services are being viewed locally as well as in Korea, Nepal, and Cambodia.**

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

- 1. For the few families and individuals who have not returned after covid to have a desire to join us in worship again.**

2. We have the awareness, vision and means to continue to serve needy families and children in the environs of the church.

3.

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL OF New Life Prison Church 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. We praise God for the new contacts we have been able to make with returning citizens (men getting out of prison).**
- 2. We give thanks that we could send out over 20 devotional books to bless returning citizens.**
- 3. We give praise for the GIVING and strong finish to 2021.**

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

- 1. New Life Church was able to comfort 3 families that lost loved ones in recent months.**
- 2. Pastor Rick was able to officiate one of the funerals for a returning citizen's significant other.**
- 3. May God grant encouragement for us and the inmates. We pray that the prison will reopen and that COVID-19 cases will go down soon.**

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 healing for New Life family members who have various health struggles.

2. We are grateful for the returning citizen who is using his Stephen Ministry training at his Narcotics Anonymous recovery group, as well as others who are using what they learned from Stephen Ministry. It helps them to be active listeners while showing Christian compassion.

3. We pray for patience as Pastor Rick and Rose continue to find their way through this discouraging time of being out of the prison for almost 2 years now!