

CLASSIS CENTRAL PLAINS – PRAYER AND PRAISE

Calvary Pella

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

1. Generous giving
2. Growing Young program
3. Volunteers
4. Inviting church congregation

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

1. Evangelism—laundry night, visits to Bethel Missions
2. Red Rock Ministries
3. Going above and beyond our giving goals taking on additional causes

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

1. Looking forward instead of backwards at Covid--growth
2. Turnover in the Missionaries
3. Prayers for mission trip to Rehobeth this spring

New Life Prison Church

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

1. We are grateful to be back inside the prison each week.
2. We are thankful that New Life Church could end the year strong financially.
3. We are thankful for men who have been able to get out in the past year.

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

1. We are excited about the number of men attending the worship inside the prison walls and pray that those numbers will continue to increase.

2. We are grateful for the opportunity to send out approximately 25 devotionals to returning citizens this month.

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 more opportunities and time inside the prison walls. Presently, we are only allowed 1 hour per week.
2. We pray for ways to minister to the men inside besides just the worship service each week.
3. Pray for our eyes to be open to ways to minister to returning citizens.

Crossroads Fellowship

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

1. Thankful for new members
2. Baptisms
3. Increase opportunity to build community

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

1. Mobile Food Pantry
2. Community Benevolence opportunities
3. Strong Liberia/Ivory Coast Support

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

1. Decisions on our building expansion
2. Wisdom and guidance on the replacement of our Education Coordinator.

Prairie City

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

1. GEMS program expanding and very well received fundraisers (Pasta supper and the jars of cookies and hot chocolate)
2. Support for Ryan, Tim, and Sonya Natelborg from the community.
3. Advent series building a present

4. Construction of ramp and deck for the CMC building

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

1. GEMS as the majority of the girls attending are out side the congregation
2. Care baskets given to the ladies at Clearview as part of the annual caroling
3. Haiti bags collected and sent to UCI

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

1. GEMS program need of leadership
2. Funding and work to finish the ramp to the building

Peace Cedar Rapids

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

1. We praise God for the beginning of a relationship between our church and the Gate of Testimony Christian Reformed Church of Liberia. We also praise God for the beginning of a relationship between the CRCNA and the Christian Reformed Church of Liberia denomination.
2. We thank God for the growing number of people in our church who are being discipled, and who are discipling someone else.
3. We thank God for those who are training to be Deacons.

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

1. We ask for God's wisdom and creativity as we engage with our community through service and our youth programs.
2. We pray for the wisdom of Christ to guide us to be a welcoming and loving church while we stay true to the will of God revealed in scripture.

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 God for wisdom and peace as we encourage volunteers to set healthy boundaries to avoid burnout.
2. We ask God for direction as we train and develop new leaders and encourage them to step into leadership positions.

First Oskaloosa

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

1. Thankful for our pastors and their ministry
2. For new attendees and families
3. Gospel messages with depth

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

1. Many GEMS and Cadets come from outside of our congregation
2. Love INC classes are held in our church on Thursdays. People from the congregation who are helping with childcare for these classes have been told that many of the kids view our church as a "safe place"

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

1. Continuing outreach into our local community
2. Working alongside Good News Chapel and their pastor search
3. Outreach to those who have drifted away from church

Leighton

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

1. The addition of four young families faithfully attending worship and actively participating in the educational programs of the church.
2. The joy and peace and harmony and cooperation among the members.
3. The faithful preaching, teaching, and pastoring from the pastor and the faithful and dedicated teachers in the youth and adult educational programs of the church.

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

1. The updated and well maintained website is enabling to be bringing the Word of God to several listeners in the surrounding area, communities in Iowa, and worldwide - including the Philippines, South Korea and Cambodia.

2. Supporting the Siem Reap Children of Promise Orphanage in Cambodia and the Covenant United Reformed Church in the Philippines.
3. About 75% of the 40-50 attendees at our Sunday evening "Thinking Biblically" classes are from outside our congregation. Several others are viewing the classes 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. How to connect and work with unchurched individuals and families living in Leighton.

Tracy

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

1. Receiving into our membership a couple gifted in leadership and music, and their adult son, and another man, who had for several years been unchurched, but had been faithfully and enthusiastically attending the worship services and Sunday evening classes.
2. The enthusiastic and faithful GEMS and Cadet counselors who are providing local boys and girls active and effective programs for both GEMS and Cadets.
3. The many members who are talented and gifted in leading, in teaching, and in music and are willing and ready to use these gifts in the church.

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

1. The live broadcasting and recording of our worship services online is enabling us to be bringing the Word of God to several listeners in the surrounding area, communities in Iowa, and worldwide.
2. The Sunday evening meal and Bible study involves community members outside of the congregation.
3. All of our GEMS girls and Cadet boys are from outside our 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. Continue to stay steadfast in preaching and teaching and living out the Word of God.

Faith Pella

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

1. A good start to fundraising and planning for a facility expansion
2. A thriving Friendship Group ministry

3. A revitalized and broadened education program

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

1. Coffee Break ministry
2. Kid's Hope Ministry
3. Member participation at The Well/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. A successful restart of our Prayer Ministry that ceased during the pandemic

Cedar

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

1. We are thankful that we are able to remodel our entryway doors and update our hallways which has served to enhance the "Welcome" experience.
2. Cedar continues to receive great financial support from our members.

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

1. We are able to minister to a church neighbor whose daughter has undergone surgery in order to correct a hearing impairment.

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 have mourned the loss of our regular pianist, Laura Hol, who passed away from the Covid virus one year ago. Since that time, we have enjoyed and are thankful for the guest pianists who have been willing to help us every Sunday. However, we would like to find someone who is willing to share their talents with us on a more regular basis. If you know of someone who would be willing to play for us, please let us know. Thank you!

Bethel

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

1. Faithful preaching of the Word of God leading to a spirit of unity within the congregation

2. New Covenant children
3. Covenant children making Public Profession of Faith

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

1. Participating in the Oskaloosa Christmas Parade
2. Christmas caroling at the nursing homes

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

Newton

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

1. We have had many visitors on Sunday mornings.
2. Our ministries to our neighborhood have been well received, and relationships have been developing as a result.
3. We have been blessed with the finances to make several necessary capital improvements.
4. We had a men's retreat that was well-attended and a great blessing.

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

1. We did a Trunk-or-Treat for the first time, with free hot dogs and drinks, and it was very well attended.
2. We gave away Thanksgiving meals, and did a chili giveaway at a live nativity.
3. Our church was a drop-off location for Operation Christmas Child.

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 are doing a service trip in March to Southwest Florida to help with the cleanup and recovery after Hurricane Ian.
2. Upcoming ministry events (marriage retreat, more meal giveaways, and more).
3. Ministering well in light of the changing demographics of our congregation and community.

Sully

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

1. Pastor Joel De Boer's service to us as interim pastor for five months.
2. Rev. Bill Vis responding to the call to serve and lead us as interim pastor starting in May.
3. Multiple avenues creating a growing unity within our church – Sunday evening small groups, care group gatherings, Bible studies, etc.

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

1. Opportunity to reach the community (gather together and serve) through recent Cadets and GEMS events, along with many from outside of our church being involved in both programs.
2. Many families and individuals have signed up to be volunteers with the Together for Good ministry. A training opportunity will be taking place soon that will enable those volunteers to get more involved with the ministry.
3. Continued partnership with Bethel Mission in Des Moines – groups leading worship services at Bethel Mission.

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

1. Continued prayers for our congregation and search team during our time of pastoral vacancy.
2. Many families have lost loved ones recently and/or are dealing with serious illnesses or pain.

Connect

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

1. The unity of our church family to call on a STM
2. Our pulpit support of Bandon Mick and Chris Allen.

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

1. Serving at Celebrate Recovery at The Well
2. Also having the opportunity to worship on Saturday at the Well
3. We have a home school group that meets in our church on Tuesdays.

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

1. Recruiting and calling on a STM that can help our church family move forward into the future
2. Pray for Brandon as he completes his work to get his credentials to be ordained
3. Our youth programs: Cadets, GEMS, and YACS

Peoria

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

1. Adult Sunday School and Men's Bible Study groups that are meeting once again
2. Youth who participated in a pre-profession of faith class

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

1. Vacation Bible School, Cadets, GEMS

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

1. Pulpit Supply needs
2. Pastor Search Committee
3. Multiple families dealing with cancer

Grace Fellowship

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

1. An interim arrangement with Pastor Piet VanWaade and Larry Hanthorn
2. Learning good fellowship and care

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

1. Pastoral Vacancy