

Reflections

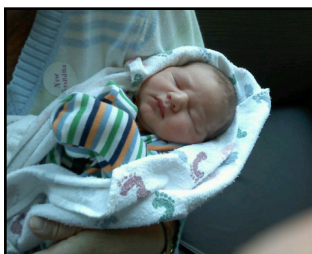
Volume 29 Issue 23

February 2013

Meet Our New Members

Austin Gregory Kiel

Greg & Leslie Kiel introduce their son, Austin Gregory Kiel. He was born on September 14, 2012 and was 8 lbs. 20 inches. He's a very happy, smiley, and hungry baby! He joins big sister, Annika at home who loves her 'Baby Austin' very much. Grandparents are Don and Carol Kiel, Wayne Knudson, and Betsy and Randy Ziemer.



Lincoln Daniel Rowland



Lincoln Daniel Rowland was born at the St. Cloud Hospital on November 20, 2012 to Leah Christensen and Blake Rowland.

Lincoln weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz and was 18 inches long. Grandparents are Dan Christensen & Lori Stewart, Marti Lambert and Randy & Karen Rowland. Great-grandparents are Duane & Karen Bouma & Bob & Kathy Rowland and Roger & Marian Olson.

New Grandbabies

Flo Van De Riet has two new great-grandsons and one new great-granddaughter.

Luke Jonathon was born on December 17, 2012 to Steve & Natalie Ritzema of Chicago, IL. His siblings are David & Nora. Grandparents are Dick & Lois Ritzema.

Levi James was born on January 21, 2013 to Jeremy & Heather Ritzema of Munster, IN. Noelle is his big sister. Dick & Lois Ritzema are the proud grandparents.

Alyssa Claire Swanson who was born February 8, 2013 to Jason & Katie. She weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces and is 20 1/2 inches long. Bob and Lynn Swanson and Roger & Mary Van Heel are the grandparents. Flo Van De Riet & Lucille Swanson are the great-grandmothers.



Alan and Ruth Ann Kragt welcome their 6th great-grandchild. Axel Timothy was born November 13, 2012 to Christopher & Emily. Grandparents are Gene & Cindy Kragt.

Michael & Brie Borntrager are the parents of a girl, Adeline Renae, born February 3, 2013. She weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. Her grandparents are Brian & Doreen Borntrager. Great-grandparents are Jerome & Shirley Hanenburg.

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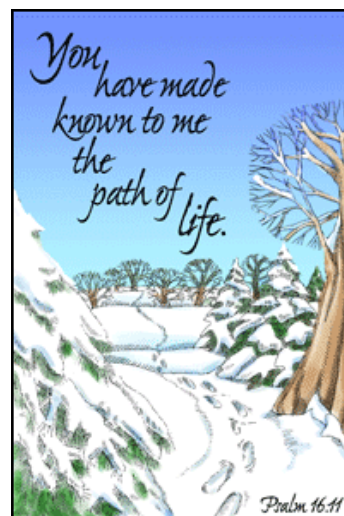
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Hendrix Kenneth Villa was born on January 29, 2013 to Sarah Ruis. Grandparents are Ken & Roseanne Ruis. Great-grandparents are Matt & Joanne Ruis. Hendrix is the 23rd great-grandchild for Matt & Joanne.

Twin sisters, Britta Danielle and Kiah Joan were born January 10, 2013 to Bruce & Merv Droogsma of Delano, MN. They are welcomed home by twin brother and sister, Darin & Maria. Chuck & Mary Droogsma are their proud grandparents. Joan Droogsma is their proud great-grandmother and Ed Winters their proud great-grandfather.

Leah Jane Loayza was born October 21, 2012 to Miguel & Rachel Loayza of Minneapolis, MN. She was welcomed home by her brother Benjamin. Chuck & Mary Droogsma are her proud grandparents. Joan Droogsma is her proud great-grandmother and Ed Winters her proud great-grandfather.

We are so thankful to announce that Aikley Carolyn Veurink, daughter of Tim and Jessi, was welcomed on January 9, 2013. Aikley weighed in at 7 lbs, 7 oz and is 20 ½ long. Lorraine Veurink and Ben and Adeline Groen are her great-grandparents.

Otto Jeffery Hjort was born to Randy & Joelle Hjort on December 29, 2012. He weighed 9 lbs 2 oz. Grandparents are Dean & Lori Hjort. Great-grandparents are Don & Marg Timmer.

Greg & Vonda Schiebout are the proud parents of Theodora Bertha, born on January 20, 2013. Grandparents are Chris & Henrietta Schiebout and Duane & Vi Sjaardema of Denver, CO. Theodora is welcomed home by 3 sisters and 1 brother.

Bailey Douglas Kok arrived on January 1, 2013. He weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. and was the first baby of 2013 born at the Fairview Northland Hospital. Bailey is the son of Keith and Cindy Kok. His grandparents are Doug & La Dawn Kok and Tammy Kok. Helen Kok is his great-grandmother.



Esther Rose Pluimer was born on November 5, 2012 and weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz and was 19 inches long. Her parents are Pastor Mark and Laurie Pluimer. Her grandparents are Den & Sheri Pluimer, Don & Dani Bahr and Carl Kreller. Alice Pluimer and Jean Kline are her great-grandmothers. Esther Rose was welcomed home by big brother, Ethan.

Memories

Dee Dee Moorlag

The following is the tribute that Dylan Moorlag read at his Grandma Dee Dee's funeral. This is a collection of Dee Dee's grandchildren and great-grandchildren's memories. We think this is a wonderful way to remember Dee Dee.

Grandma had a sign hanging in the house that said: "On a farm so long ago, all my fondest memories grow." For her 6 grandkids and 3 great-grandkids this saying is so very true. The farm was a favorite place for all of us. As kids we would spend weeks playing in the woods, eating Grandma's cooking which always included "Eww Hotdish," reading stories and poems, coloring and enjoying popsicle after popsicle. While we all have shared memories such as the many, many family picnics Grandma threw, playing scrabble for hours, her wonderful laugh and her cooking, we each have our own memories as well.

Britani loved how Grandma always had a big hug for her when she first arrived and another big one before she left. She also remembers that Grandma was always the loudest of all of us. When Casey was first introduced to the family Grandma laughed about how different our family must be compared to Casey's small, quiet family. Britani was quick to assure her that Grandma, herself, and one other person were louder than his whole family combined. Grandma laughed in agreement. The other thing Britani will always remember of Grandma is her toast. Britani always believes that Grandma's toast tasted better than anyone else, and Grandma told her every time that she would always share her last slice of bread with her.

For Jon it is catching frogs all over the farm. Grandma always had ice-cream buckets ready for him to keep the frogs in, even though we never seemed to eat ice-cream. Jon also remembers Grandma's bonfires.

There was little that Grandma loved more than food cooked on a fire. Jon was the grandchild who named Grandma's famous "Eww Hotdish." He sat at the island while Grandma cooked complaining and saying "eww" as she put the hotdish together. After it was put in front of him, he took a big bite, smiled, because it was good, said "eww," and ate the whole bowl.

Jackelyn will never forget the one and only time she beat Grandma in scrabble with the word "leftovers" or helping Grandma make sugar cookies and apple pies. She also remembers walking and biking to the farm and yelling for a popsicle before she even reached the barn. Although Jon and Dylan have never let her hear the end of it, Grandma never said a word about the time Jackee got Jon's car stuck in the mud before school. She was always ready to help and would do anything for us. Jackee was also the only grandkid to ever get spanked by Grandma, so I don't know what that means.

Cori will never forget the time that Grandma and Grandpa came to take her to the farm for a week. When she realized she forgot her blanket they turned the car around to go back for it. Then, on the day she introduced Grandma to Tim, Grandma said "Cori, if he loves you even close to how much I love you I promise to love Tim as one my own."

As for me, through most of my high school years I stopped at the farm each night on my way home from school. Grandma always fed me, most of the time it was a fried egg sandwich. That didn't stop me from going home and eating supper with my parents as well. Grandma frequently served as a buffer between me and Uncle Buddy. I spent a lot of time with the 2 of them and Grandma would laugh and laugh at the things that Uncle and I would do.

For Alex it was Grandma's familiar greeting of, "Hi Sweet-heart," and the smell of her hair and coffee. The popsicles didn't stop with us, Lucas, Andrew and Alison also knew that Grandma would always have a Popsicle in the freezer for them. The boys would be at the farm for less than a minute before running to the cars and trucks and driving them all over the house. She must have loved them more than us because we were never allowed to play with Grandpa's collectibles.

Grandma and Grandpa always fought about whether being Dutch or Swedish was better. Her sons, and most of us, generally agreed with Grandpas line, "If you ain't Dutch, you ain't much!" But, Grandma, just so you know, even though you weren't Dutch, you were much to us.

It's been 4 months since I lost my dad and the wounds are still raw, in other words, this is a difficult task to do. My dad loved to hunt, fish, and watch the Twins and Vikings. Of course, in order to fish and hunt, he had to work to pay for these hobbies - and he had kids to keep clothed, fed and in the Pease school. Dad delivered milk for years and I often helped him on Saturdays and when school was not in session. I was continually amazed at his memory. He always seemed to know what each customer needed. He could also keep track of the milk costs in his head. Even when we would divide up fishing costs in recent years (gas, lodging, gas, bait, gas and tackle) he knew the totals before I could reach for the calculator.

I remember a lot of fox hunting with the local Pease guys. They always had coffee and pie at the Dutch Mill and talked about their hunt -who missed, who shouldn't have missed and who tried to fire with the safety on. I was lucky enough to go on some of those hunts and then on the snowmobiles (which were legal for a while) -- - what a blast. Speaking of snowmobiles, us kids lived on the Arctic Cat. Back then, we often had a lot of snow and I remember rolling the snowmobile twice and breaking the windshield both times. Dad just gave me the look and ordered a new windshield.

I do not remember my mom or dad ever missing a sporting event while I was in high school. They planned their work schedule around our activities. Dad coached the women's fast pitch team in Pease and we never lost a game. Dad was also a member of the men's fast pitch team in Elk River. He played 2nd base and was a good bunter, a singles hitter and fast on the bases.

Trapping with Grandpa became part of his life for some years. I rode along many times and remember sharing the front seat of the truck with the fox pelts. If the pelts became cold they were harder to skin and they didn't want the bladder pierced.



I don't think mom or dad liked it when we moved to California and after the October 17, 1989 earthquake (a 7.1 shaker) and the inability to call for 3 days and let them know we were okay, dad told me we should move back to Minnesota or risk falling into the Pacific. I believed him. The part that made him wonder about us is that we moved with no jobs and 2 children. God was good and soon provided employment. It was the best move our family ever made.

The last 15 years we spent a lot of time in a boat, especially the last 10 years fishing walleye tournaments. Dad was not a boisterous person, but he had a strong opinion about a few things. He thought Kirby Puckett was overpaid when he signed for 3 million a year in the early 80's but then never commented on A-rod or Joe Mauer's huge contracts. He didn't believe in spending money on trivial things, but thought nothing of driving to Cabela's for a \$6.99 rapala. Priorities, you know. His least favorite thing to see was poor sportsmanship, especially while fishing. I remember him saying "If you lose, say nothing, if you win say less." From the middle of April until the beginning of November, we spent a lot of time in a boat, sometimes 8-9 hours a day and 3-4 times a week, doing what we both loved to do. These were special times for me. Two years ago, when I had to work, and dad couldn't find a partner to go along and he wasn't supposed to go alone, he went anyway. He called me at work and told me he had 3 people in the boat with him - the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. We told mom a year later and she was not happy. The highlight of fishing came this past July at Lake of the Woods when we won 1st place and almost missed the time deadline (we were 10 seconds early) - nothing like cutting it close.

The saddest time came the 1st week in September when dad said he was too weak to fish anymore. We couldn't go to the Lake of the Woods together. We both shed a few tears together. I knew then that his cancer was really winning the battle. A day later, a friend called and said he would take dad's place if it was okay. He readily agreed as long as I kept him informed about how we were doing. He wanted to know every 2 hours where we were fishing and how well we were doing.

Dad was only in hospice for 2 weeks and 2 days before he died, he looked at me and whispered, "Best Friends". Those two words were the greatest gift he gave his daughter and summarized my relationship to him. Dad also impressed upon me the importance of family, being kind to each other, and to remember that one's faith should always be a priority. If you see me with tears in my eyes while in church, the tears are not a symbol of weakness, but unspeakable love. I just miss my dad.

Submitted by Pam Ruis, Jim's daughter

Arlene Droogsma

On November 9, 2012 we gathered to honor the Home-going of one of God's humble, faithful servants, Arlene Droogsma. Pastor Tom reminded us to remember her for her upbeat attitude, her sense of gratitude and her willingness to serve wherever there was a need.

Arlene had come home once again to the church where she was baptized, publicly professed her faith and worshiped while she attended and graduated from the Pease Christian School and Milaca High School. After high school Arlene went to Minneapolis and began her life work of caregiving, initially rocking babies at Abbott Hospital. Arlene was employed at nursing homes most of her working life. It was a great satisfaction for her to earn her CNA and TMA certification.

Although Arlene was never a mother she maintained a vital interest in her nieces and nephews. Dallas Van Den Einde remembers Arlene reading stories to the grandkids while the adults enjoyed their after church coffee at Grandpa & Grandma Droogsma. Kathy & Jim Gerritsen enjoyed a close relationship with her during her later years as they lived near her in the metro area. She rode with them to Faith CRC and they also were available to her for her doctor visits, errands, etc. The Gerritsens' and other family members remember Arlene's ability to share her faith; be it a salesperson, food server, medical staff or whomever, Arlene's gentle question would be, "Do you love Jesus?" and no one remembers of her ever being rebuffed.

When Kathy Gerritsen was asked to share a memory of Arlene her immediate response was, "Her ability to find something good in every situation she was in." Laura Broberg, Elim Administrator, remembers Arlene being happy and excited to begin her stay as a new Elim resident.



Arlene was a “people person” and soon made her presence known at Elim. She read to and visited with many of the residents, among them Angeline Kamstra.

Angeline’s niece, Linda Haberman, often visited and she and Arlene became good friends. Arlene so much enjoyed worshipping together, sharing a meal, shopping trips, garage sales, etc. Arlene liked to dress well and she loved jewelry so it became a “fun friendship” for her.

Arlene was an active participant in all the Elim activities and especially enjoyed painting and drawing but her favorite was singing in the choir and Wii Bowling at Country Meadows.

She was always grateful for all the opportunities but she gradually became less energetic. Her disabilities became more evident and she began to spend more time in her room. Arlene’s illness was brief and after only a few days at the Princeton Hospital with her family near her, God gently took her Home. To Him be all the glory! She is missed and affectionately remembered by her family. Submitted by Arlene’s sister, Vi Rens

Sid Droogsma

Sid was born July 5, 1924 to Henry and Annie Droogsma and lived on a farm in Princeton. Of course, living on a farm meant there were chores to be done and he got his share of them along with his seven siblings. There were cows, chickens and pigs to care for. He even broke some of the horses for riding. He also loved to ride those horses himself!

He served in the Navy from 1944-1946. In 1947 he met and married Jeanette Van Dyke. They raise eight children. He has been a lifelong member of the Pease CRC and served as an Elder.

He loved to fish, hunt and travel. He worked at various jobs and especially enjoyed serving as a deputy, keeping tabs on teenagers and others. He also worked in the Post Office for 33 years prior to his retirement. He had a country route and loved it because he got to see wildlife from time to time. That was always a plus!

He enjoyed making things out of wood fashioning them into tables, chairs and trellises. This became his passion.

He was a devoted and faithful husband and provided well for his family. God took him to his Heavenly Home on December 27, 2012. We miss him.

Submitted by Jean Droogsma

Meet Your Church Family

Even though our church is a large church, one of the goals of *Reflections* is to foster the concept of “God’s Family.” The Newsletter Team has heard comments from members, old and new alike, “I don’t know many of the people who come to our church.” In an effort to correct that condition, we continue this column with the “S’s.” Some of our members did not submit an introduction so therefore, only their names are included: Curt & Amber Sonnek, Diane Stob and Chad & Peggy Swenson.

Carol Smith

I am Carol Smith and I returned to the land of my birth nearly seven years ago.

I left Pease with my parents (Buck-the-bus-driver & Ann Smith) and siblings when I was 9 years old. We moved to San Jose, CA where I grew up and began my business career.

Throughout my career in the corporate world, I was blessed with many opportunities to travel and relocate to Grand Rapids, MI, Oakland, CA, Pittsburgh, PA, Irving, TX and Foxboro, MA. I’m now working on my second and third careers in the office at Community Christian School and at the St Cloud Post Office. (This is what retirement looks like) 😊

God placed me in locations where I could finish my degree (earning my BS degree in Management at Lesley University while in Massachusetts) and where I found wonderful church homes.

God has a plan and He is faithful - even bringing me home after many years. I live in Princeton - my father’s hometown. I am joyful to be where I have roots!! I feel especially blessed to be a part of the community of the Pease Church where I was selected to serve 3 years as a Deacon and am currently on the Pastor Search Committee and endeavor to serve as a Facilitator for the Goodness Group.

Maynard & Fannie Smith

Maynard Smith lives in their townhouse in Milaca and attends our church regularly. Due to failing health, Fannie, (age 90-1/2) is currently living at the Sothman Foster Care Home, near Bock.

Maynard & Fannie mourn the death of their oldest son, Stephen, who passed away 2 years ago. They greatly appreciate the weekly visits of their son, Mike, who lives in Burnsville. Their 24 year old granddaughter who lives in Minneapolis is preparing to take the bar examination, prior to becoming an attorney. Her older brother is at the U of Wisconsin working on his thesis toward receiving his PhD in Mathematics.

Maynard & Fannie are grateful for God's care in their lives and would enjoy visits from their church family.

Susie Smith

I would like to introduce myself, Susan Wood Smith. Wood is my maiden name; I took it to tell me apart from all the other Susan Smiths. My husband Daniel died 4-5-12. I depended on him to tell me which Pease people went together, for he lived outside of Pease in the 1940's - 50's. I miss him but he is now with his 1st wife, Arlene, which is good.

My mother's parents were from Scotland and England and lived where Dan was born and grew up (Southwestern MN by Pipestone). My father's parents were English and his mother was born in France; they lived by Winona, MN. My father went to college at Winona Teacher's College to become a teacher and later on a school Superintendent. My mother went to Beauty School in Mankato, MN. and owned her own shop in Fulda, MN. (SW MN), where she met the new History teacher and coach. They were both Presbyterian's. During my father's career there wasn't always a Presbyterian church available so at Confirmation time I was a Congregational confirmant (the pastor was really Presbyterian so again was Presbyterian based). We ended in 1959 in Eden Prairie High School; when Eden Prairie was a suburb south of the cities predominantly composed of potato and corn farmers; also a fringe town from which one could commute to Mpls. I lived on campus at the U of M; went the science route to become a Medical Technologist and only worked two places before I met Dan - (U of M Hospital, Memorial Blood Bank).

Dan offered me the chance to travel; for he was already retired, so I quit my middle manager job (much to my peer's disbelief) and married him first in Hawaii and then in Bloomington at Calvary CRC.

We went to Sun City, AZ. to visit his brother, Maynard and wife, Fannie, and rented for 6 months; only to end up there, building a house in Sun City West. We really enjoyed living there; became physically fit and became involved in the community and the CRC Church of Sun City (West Valley). I also sang in a trio that did WWII songs at the various groups in SCW, sang in the Presbyterian Ensemble that entertained at nursing homes and did praise dance at these homes, too. We travelled primarily with Witte Travel from Grand Rapids, MI. and the Presbyterian Church (both in Sun City and Sun City West). Dan had attended Calvin College, so knew of Witte Travel. We went on an inland cruise in Holland and really recommend this plus we spent a few extra days to enjoy Dan's roots here in Pease CRC.

I just got back from FL., where I was visiting my sister, who moved there recently from Coon Rapids, MN. We giggled the days away. We saw lots of places around Port St. Lucie (on east coast) but left Miami and other fun spots for my next visit. I helped her to go through old pictures, hang them on the wall and to decorate. She has a pool so we christened that. Her neighbors from England were so friendly that we first invited them over and the next week we enjoyed dinner with them.

I'm back to living in my Milaca home (on the Rum) helping out my daughter, a nurse with 3 boys. My house in Sun City West just sold so I can start concentrating again on regaining my Pease church involvement. It's time for volunteering which I was very busy with in AZ. I'm looking forward to being active in 2013.

Louise Spoelstra

I am Louise Spoelstra. I was born in the Milaca area and attended Pease CRC until I graduated from Milaca High School. I went to Calvin College and then to Iowa to teach second grade in Oskaloosa Christian School for four years. While in Oskaloosa I met and married my husband, Gerb. We moved to Des Moines, IA where Gerb worked in sales and service for a communications and sound system company for 45 years. I taught at a pre-school for 18 years.

We were blessed with two children. Jeff (Laura) who lives in San Jose, CA and Connie, who lives in Eagan, MN. I have two grandchildren in San Jose.

As a family we loved to travel and also made many enjoyable trips to the Pease area for family visits and special occasions.

In September 2004 the Lord took Gerb home to live with Him. I lived in Des Moines four more years, then I decided to move back to my "roots" to be closer to family; Karen Bouma and Warren Kamstra are my siblings.

I truly enjoy and appreciate the love and friendship I experience from this church family. May God bless the Pease CRC.

Rose Stob

I am Rose Marie (Groff) Stob. I graduated from high school in Braham. We moved to Milaca and that's where I met the man I married. He passed away about 20 years ago. We have three children, 2 girls and 1 boy. Laurie has one girl, who goes to Bethel College. Diane has 3 children and Don has 3. I worked in Milaca, but have been retired for several years.

Teunis Stob

Hi, I am Teunis Stob. I live on a farm west of Pease, and I have been a member of this church all of my life. I have a strong faith in God, and that has carried me through the tough times in my life.

The toughest time was when my wife Mabel passed away 11 years ago. I miss her every single day. We had a good life here on the farm, milking cows and selling eggs. We were blessed with 2 daughters, Martha and Cathy, and 3 grandchildren. Mabel and I were married 54 years. We were neighbors back then, that is how I met her. She was within walking distance, which worked out good since I didn't have money for a car.

I enjoy having coffee with the guys at the cafe. I haven't been able to get out much this winter because of the cold and ice, so I miss the cafe and going to church. I do enjoy listening to it on the radio. The days get long and lonesome here at home every day. I love to visit, so if you feel like visiting a little, call me at 294-5477. Let the phone ring, it takes me a few minutes to get there.

Adam & Dawn Stout

Adam & Dawn Stout are members of Pease CRC but have moved to Cedar Spring, MI. Adam grew up in Cedar Springs and Dawn grew up in Lowell, MI. They met when they both worked for Rockford ambulance. Adam is a Paramedic and Dawn was an EMT.

They married in 2003 and now have 3 children, Riley, 9, Olivia, 5, and Paige, 3. Olivia and Paige were both born in Minnesota. They moved out here in 2005 and Adam worked for Mora ambulance and then for North Memorial Ambulance in Brainerd.

In 2010 they decided to move back to Cedar Springs and Adam now works as a paramedic in Muskegon, MI. Riley and Olivia both attend Kent City Elementary School. Riley is in 4th grade and Olivia is in young 5's.

Dawn is a stay at home mom at this time. In November of 2012 Dawn was diagnosed with TTP (Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia Purpura). This is a blood disease that was very serious and Dawn spent 7 days in the ICU in very serious condition and then another week in the hospital. Dawn has since then been in the hospital twice with other blood issues. Dawn and her family are very thankful for all the prayers offered up for her and her family from the Pease Church congregation. Dawn continues to have a lot of back pain and muscle pain from the disease and this can take months to resolve.

They enjoyed their time in Minnesota and they enjoy coming back to grandma's house to visit. Riley enjoys seeing the kids that he went to CCS with.

Thank you again for your continued prayer support.

Adam, Dawn, Riley, Olivia & Paige



Perspectives

In consideration of the traumatic occurrence of school shootings in America, the Reflection Team contacted several persons regarding: "Do Christians have a responsibility toward gun control?"

There are no easy answers to this difficult problem and we thank them for their insightful response.

The question was asked, "What is our responsibility, as a Christian, on gun control?" We feel gun control has nothing to do with being a Christian or not. We as Christian parents, grandparents, have the responsibility to teach our children the Sanctity of Life and the respect of guns. We feel a better background check before selling a gun would prevent some of these mass killings. It is our duty, as a Christian, to teach the value of life God has given us. We need to instruct our children in the safe use of firearms through hunting and target shooting. The government is slowly taking our freedoms away if they ban semi-automatic firearms with large clips. Where is it going to stop?

Jerry & Peggy Baas



Managing Sin

Shortly after the Sandy Hook shooting, the tragedy was posted on the Internet. Within minutes a troubled mom called me about how secure CCS was; two more visited with me before the end of the day.

Recently we invited Frontier Communications and a Twin City security company to see how we can improve in-school communication and protect ourselves better against the unthinkable. We quickly came to realize that while improvements could be made, apart from creating a fortress, we could never totally protect ourselves against someone bent on doing serious harm to others.

The NRA said the 'only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is with a good guy with a gun.' Some missionaries in Mali, Africa, now holed up in the US Embassy, recently underscored that point when they reported that while the country is still in tact, it is because 'the good guys' (French troops) averted the collapse of the Malian army. If the Mali capitol had fallen, many would have fled the country

Some perspective on the gun control issue may be helpful. It's been several generations since our Supreme Court banned prayer and Bible reading in government-financed schools. Lois and I have served Christian and public schools since graduating from college. In that time both of us have seen significant downhill trends on many levels since the 70's, all this while (since 1973) over 50,000,000 children were snuffed out in the womb, a practice also endorsed by our Supreme Court and President.

What can come of a nation that has turned its back on the God who was acknowledged and honored as our Constitution was framed? We are witnessing some of the fruit of Godlessness.

The call for a Christian today is the same as what it was for Esther, Daniel and Paul in their cultures – we must be salt and light. Being salt and light includes protecting ourselves and the vulnerable. It also means speaking out for justice and mercy, as we retain a humble posture (Micah 6:8).

Does that mean barring windows or doors, or training teachers to carry guns...just in case...? Maybe. While the Scriptures call us to turn the other cheek when someone hurts us, they also tell us to defend the weak and defenseless, a teaching that has sprinkled American troops around the globe. Romans 13 reminds us that government does not carry the sword in vain. But what do school officials do when it cannot protect children from Sandy Hook-type assaults?

We *pray* for wisdom (James 1:5) in managing the fruits of the Fall, our own shortcomings and sins as well as those whose hearts rage in hell-bent darkness.

Dick Ritzema, Principal of
Community Christian School

I was asked to give my perspective on gun control as I work in the school system. I think that Christians have a responsibility to pray for our country and continue to demonstrate God's love through our actions and words. There is a lot of evil and sin in the world, but I believe that love and kindness outweighs the evil. Unfortunately, new reports emphasize the evil & horrible things in the world and rarely talk about the good in the world.

I rarely watch the news due to this, because what we listen to and see can influence how we think and act. So, should there be laws or government control on guns?

Maybe, however, if someone wants to get a hold of a gun, they will find a way to get a gun. Guns don't kill people, people kill people. So, I don't think we should make it more difficult for an honest person to purchase a gun for the sport of shooting. I am not aware of all the laws and am not sure if more laws would make it any more difficult for someone to get a gun. I definitely think they should not take away the conceal and carry permits or the ability for individuals to purchase guns because that allows people freedom to carry arms. Should there be guns allowed in the schools? I think that if someone has a conceal and carry permit then they should be able to carry a gun into a school setting. The people that have the permit to carry a gun have taken the classes to learn about when and how to use the gun in different situations. It might also deter school shooting if they are unaware of who may have a gun. I don't think that it should be mandatory for a principle or any other school employee to carry a gun, because if they are not properly trained or afraid to carry a gun, then they will be more of a detriment then a benefit should a problem arise. What is our responsibility? We need to support our government to make appropriate and safe decisions on gun control. But most of all, I feel that we need to continue to show our love and kindness by our actions and words.

Michelle Schluender



Everyone can agree that the massacre that happened at Sandy Hook was a big tragedy in American history and our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone affected by it. It is hard to comprehend how sick someone must be to be able to carry out an attack on kids that are so innocent.

I think it is important to remember that the shooter was responsible for the shooting, not his guns. Obviously guns themselves are an amoral object. The fact that sinners use the gun to commit sin does not mean that the gun is the problem. Sin is the problem. Since the beginning of time people have been killing people with or without the use of weapons.

The idea that the new proposed legislation will stop school shootings is not realistic. It is unfair to say that nobody needs a certain type of gun. I know a lot of people that use "AR" style rifles, myself included, for hunting and target shooting. Just because you do not have one and don't want one does not give you the right to say I don't need one and shouldn't have one. Would taking my AR style rifle away from me and other responsible sportsman make our schools more safe? The truth is that stopping the sale of AR style rifles and limiting magazine capacity will have zero effect on the number of school shootings. This will only limit the guns that good guys have. There is no way to keep guns out of the hands of bad guys. If they don't have one, they can just buy one off the streets or just simply steal one.

I worked at Scheels in St Cloud for 8 years and have sold guns several times to people after their life was put in danger and they were unarmed. Sometimes in their own home with their family, sometimes out in public where they would never expect to be put in that situation. If you would like I can give you real stories. Which begs the question. If you and your family were caught in a situation that you felt your life was in danger and I was nearby carrying a concealed gun, would you want me to help? Would you rather wait for the police to come? The old saying goes, "When seconds matter, police are only minutes away."

Jay Goslinga

Ever since the disaster in Newtown, CT there has been much talk about gun control. The President has suggested a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines. The Vice-President has chaired a panel to discuss gun control. Our Senators and Representatives all have different ideas on gun control. Our local officers have different ideas on what should be done to prevent disasters such as what happened at the Sandy Hook school. The NRA has suggested permitting teachers to have weapons in the classrooms. It also suggested having armed police officers in all schools. I feel that all these suggestions will not prevent future tragedies in schools. I don't believe that gun laws and regulations will prevent people from obtaining guns.

Many people already own them, and people may steal them if they can't obtain one legally. In the last month, talk of banning certain types of guns as only increased gun sales. In the last month, more guns have been sold than in the previous six months. The question is how can we prevent these tragedies from happening? Will stricter background checks prevent the taking of innocent lives? I don't think so. There are no easy solutions. In Chicago alone last year, there were more than 500 murders. Is our society becoming more violent? Where do we look for answers?

Jim Kragt

I was asked to write a short article on my opinion of gun control. Since I work at a school, this is an important issue to me. As we watch the news each evening, there have been many tragic, heart wrenching reports on school shootings. The Sandy Hook tragedy seems to have become the springboard for the latest debate all over our country.

When I think about guns, I think about all of the things they are used for. As I was growing up, many family members used guns for hunting. Hunting has been enjoyed by many as way of feeding the family, but it is also a great sport offering relaxation—a time to enjoy the nature God has created for us.

Guns are a tool. They are used for hunting, entertainment, and defense. They are owned by good people. Some bad people also own guns, often illegally, and they do bad things with them. Guns are capable of killing people. So are cars. It is the driver of a car who decides to drive after consuming too much alcohol who can become a killer. It wasn't the car alone. In the same way, guns are not the problem. The shooter is the one who takes lives. Almost no one would support getting rid of cars to save human lives.

We have a big problem in our world. But it's not our guns. The problem is evil. Trying to get rid of guns does not even begin to solve evil. Why would a person who ignores our laws on murder, robbery, rape, and assault, obey gun control laws? It makes no sense at all. Does anyone think that someone planning to rob a bank would be stopped because they would first be required to register their guns before they started the job?

Our founding fathers believed. . . "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." The right for people to bear arms should not be taken away because when respected and used properly, guns are not a danger.

Carol Kragt

Over the last few months, all of us know about the shooting massacre at Sandy Hook schools in Connecticut. I have also heard in the news since then that we need new gun laws and banning of assault rifles. I used to think that this was absolutely wrong of banning guns to us, the average U.S. citizen, but then I thought more about it.

They are thinking more of what killed the kindergartners and teachers at that school instead of who shot them. After the shooting, they investigated and found that the teenager shooter had mental health issues. Also, they found out that his mother gave him access to the guns and ammo, though she knew he was mentally challenged. It was the kid that shot the gun, but it was his mother who neglected his disability and wanted him to be "normal" by giving him a gun, which was a fatal mistake.

I live in a house where everyone knows where the guns are, and most know how to get into the safe. We have also been taught how to load and shoot each gun, but are only allowed to touch them with adult supervision. My parents would not have given us kids that kind of responsibility unless they knew we would take it seriously and not abuse the privilege of handling firearms.

People kill people with guns, but the guns can't do the killing by themselves. More regulations could be put into screening those that want guns, but banning guns will not fix the problem.

Cole Patten

Palate Pleasers

You may enjoy this refreshing desert to follow a hearty winter meal. We thank Joyce Kiel for supplying the recipe.

Lemon Lust

Preheat oven to 325 degrees

Mix 1 cup flour and ½ cup soft butter. Press into a 9x13 pan and bake 12-15 minutes.

Cream: 1 cup powdered sugar, 8 oz cream cheese, 6 oz Cool Whip. Mix well and cover cooled crust.

Mix well 3 cups milk, 2 packages instant lemon pudding mix. Let set and then cover the 2nd layer.

Top with 6 oz. Cool Whip and chopped nuts. Refrigerate a couple of hours before serving. Serves 15.

Single's Valentine's Brunch

'What's in a Name?' was this year's theme for the Single's Valentine's Brunch held Saturday with about 60 in attendance. Canadian Red Green [impersonated by Tom Kittok] joined us along with Professor Tracey Finck from Phoenix University [Minneapolis Campus]. As each shared their perspective on the theme: "God Knows Your Name." We also heard music from over several decades via the World Wide Web. Sharing jokes, riddles, and door prizes was topped off by a delicious brunch served by Brenda and Kelly. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success! Thanks to the students at Pease Community Christian School who made Valentines for our guests.



We wish to thank the following who donated towards this event: Pease Church, Bremer Bank Milaca, Kiel's Appliance, Anonymous Donors, Jeannie's Serenity Salon, Kristi Santema consultant for: The Pampered Chef, Pease Produce, Premier Designs Jewelry, K&W Farms Organic Foods.

Kidz Club

Kidz Club is having an exciting year traveling around the world and learning how families and communities through "Free A Family" are improving their lives: nutritious food, clean water, good health, increased income, and better education. We are using World Renew's Children's Giving Project materials which also teaches us about service, dignity, and stewardship.

Our annual fundraiser at Christmas has been very successful due to the support of our church family. We have raised enough money to help our Compassion International friend, Ahmedin in Ethiopia, for another year. We are also supporting 10 families, each for 1 month, through Free A Family from our fundraiser and the offerings from the Kidz at each meeting. God has blessed us and we are thankful we can share our blessings with others around the world.

We asked a few of the Kidz what they like about Kidz Club:

Stephanie: "I like to learn new things with my friends and just hang out."

Alyvia: "I like making crafts."

Lucas: "We worship and learn about kids around the world."

Jack: "I like making the goats and seeing Adam at Kidz Club."

Alexis: "I like the Bible Studies."

Gracie: "I get to see friends and do crafts."

Adam: "I like making crafts and eating snacks."

It takes a group effort to prepare Bible lessons, crafts, and activities for our 31 Kidz who come to Kidz Club each time we meet. We are blessed to have 9 leaders who are willing to use their talents and time serving God. A big thank you also to Brenda & Kelli who helped with our fundraiser, Phil who made the rhythm sticks we gave to the children in Guatemala, and Eddy who made wooden hearts for our craft in February.

You are welcome to join us at our meetings and share an activity or passion you have! Peggy B, Jayne, Dennis, Kris, Sharry, Debbie, Shirley D, Danielle, Carol L.



WOW's

An Invitation to the WOW's (aka Women of Worth)

The WOW's are not an organization sponsored by Pease CRC, however, many of the attendees are part of this congregation. The WOW's are a community based group of widowed women who enjoy the fellowship of others who have shared their experience and have found their lives immeasurably changed by the death of a spouse. Much of social life is formed around couples; therefore we no longer seemed to fit in. That was the impetus for beginning this group.

If you are new to this church and are recently widowed or if you have been alone for many years, you may enjoy sharing a few hours each month with us. We are a loosely knit group; there are no membership dues, no officers, meeting times vary, as well as the activities. An example, last month we met in our Fireside Room for a game day and snacks. In December we lunched together at Embers Restaurant in Milaca and were then invited to Mary Kyle's home to see her beautiful and extensive collection of nativity sets.

We have taken day trips, launch rides, musical events, theater productions, etc. and we can personally recommend several good restaurants. We love to "eat out!" We have formed friendships with many women of our community whom we may have never met or shared our widowed journey.

How do you find us? The Mille Lacs County Times generously allows us to be listed in the "Area Calendar." Please check our local paper each month and if you aren't sure this is for you, please call Karen Bouma at 983-6292. She will be glad to answer any questions you may have and you will be warmly welcomed if you choose to join us.



HOPE HAVEN PRESENTS THE VALLEY MALE CHORUS OF ROCK VALLEY, IOWA



**PEASE CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH
PEASE, MN
SUNDAY MORNING
MARCH 17, 2013
9:30 AM**



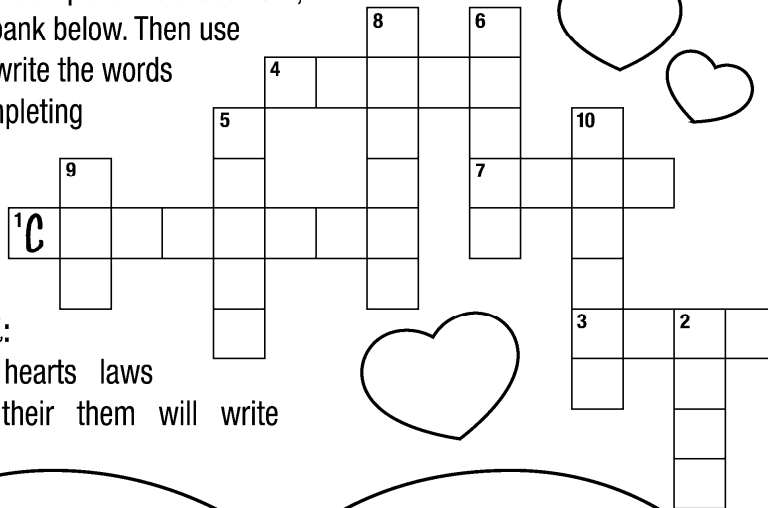
**June 24-27
3 year olds through entering 4th grade.**



ON THEIR HEARTS

God made a special promise about a relationship he wants to have with people who love him.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the crossword, using the word bank below. Then use the numbers to write the words in the heart, completing God's promise.



WORD BANK:

covenant God hearts laws
minds people their them will write

“This is the 1) _____ ... I 2) _____
put my 3) _____ in 4) _____ 5) _____ and
6) _____ 7) _____ on 4) _____ 8) _____ .
I 2) _____ be 4) _____ 9) _____ ,
and they 2) _____ be my
10) _____ .”

HEBREWS 8:10, NIV

Answer: “This is the covenant ... I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”
Hebrews 8:10, NIV