

The AMERICANews

of the American Reformed Church
of Hull Iowa



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THE
PASTOR'S
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"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" — 1 John 3:1

Many fathers know a certain moment well. It might happen in a hospital room, at the end of a long driveway, or across a crowded gym. It is the moment when a child looks up and simply says, "Dad". That word changes something in a man, to the point where his identity becomes clearer. His sense of responsibility grows, and the love he already feels takes on a new meaning.

This is very similar to what we read in 1 John 3:1, where he has this sense of wonder about our Heavenly Father. In fact, in the original Greek, he uses the word "idete" for see which expresses this moment of astonishment. This word is not a calm or academic word, it is a reaction of someone who can hardly believe what he is seeing. *Look at this. Do you see what has happened?*

And it makes sense that John could say these things because he walked with Jesus, he leaned against him at the Last Supper, and stood at the foot of the cross. He is amazed at who Jesus is and says how the Father's love has been *lavished* on us.

So what comes from this lavished love? We are *called* children of God. John does not treat this as just a title or a theological idea. He emphasizes it with urgency: "And that is what we are!"

This is not just a hope or a goal. It is a statement of fact. The name is not just honorary; it describes our true identity. It changes who we are, not just what we are called. Those who trust in Christ have been adopted into God's family, not as servants or guests, but as sons and daughters who share in the full inheritance.

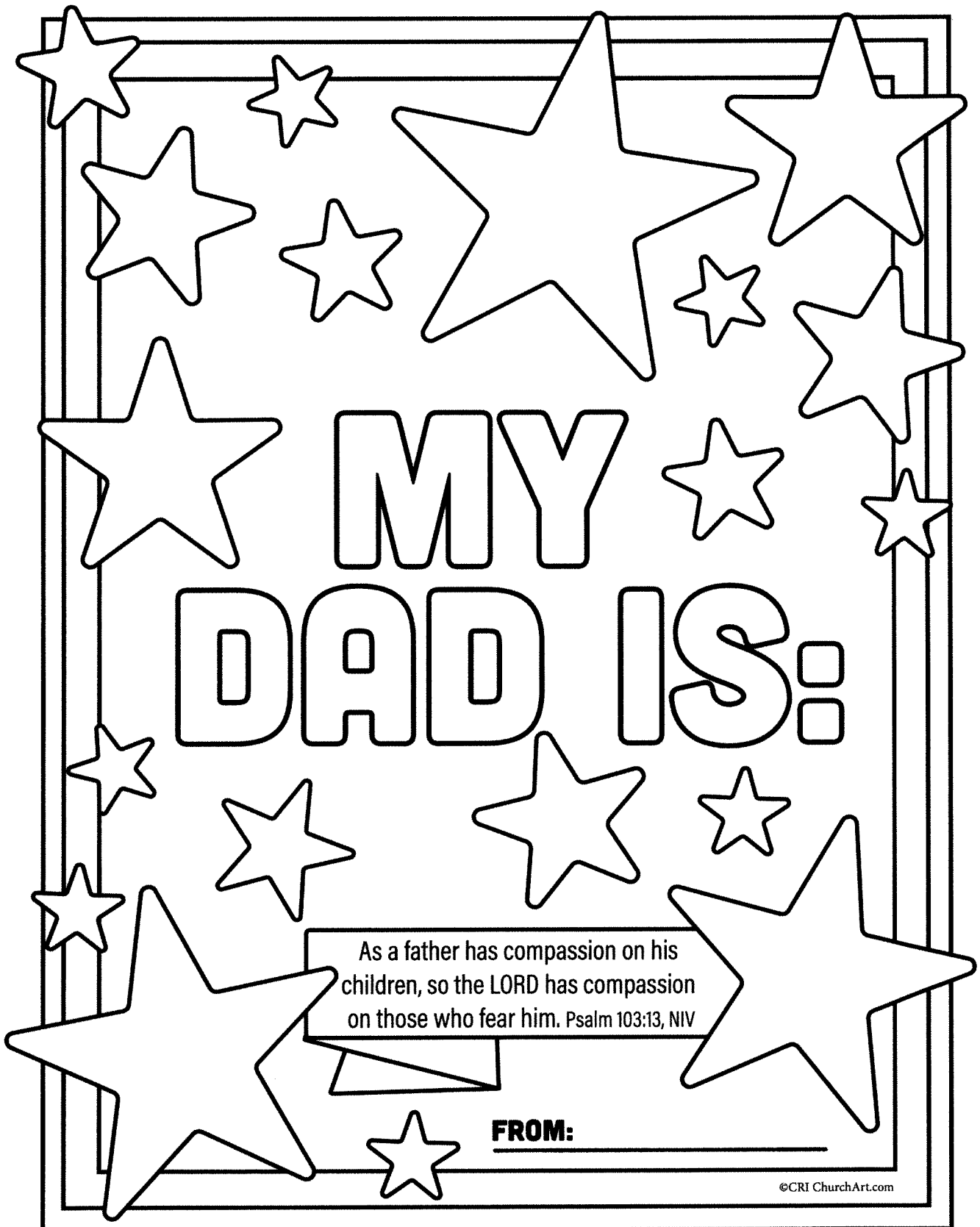
On this Father's Day, it is worth pausing to sit in this reality.

For those who are fathers, 1 John 3:1 is both an invitation and a mirror. The love we show our children—in patience, in being present, in forgiveness that comes easily, and in discipline that is steady—is meant to reflect something true about God. We will always fall short of that perfect image. Even the best earthly father is only a faint reflection of the Father who gives love without limit. But this is not a reason to feel hopeless. It is a reason for grace. We parent from the overflow of being parented by God. We give love because we have first received it.

For those who have complicated memories of their fathers—whether their fathers were absent, harsh, indifferent, or hurt by their own struggles—this text offers a gentle word of healing. Your view of fatherhood does not have to be limited by your own experience. The Father shown in Scripture runs to meet prodigal sons. He knows every hair on your head. He notices even a sparrow that falls. He disciplines because he loves, and he loves because it is his nature, not because we have earned it.

For all of us, no matter what Father's Day brings up, there is a foundation that does not change: *we are called children of God, and that is what we are.* This is not something we are trying to become or hope to earn one day. It is the present identity of every believer, made secure not by our faithfulness but by his.

This June, no matter what your table looks like—whether it is full or quiet, joyful or tender—may you know that you are held in the household of the Father who gave everything, even his own Son, to bring you home. *Thanks be to God. —Pastor Mark*



As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. Psalm 103:13, NIV

FROM: _____

PROJECTION

JUNE 7 Outdoor Service
JUNE 14 Jacob Gaul
JUNE 21 Mel Reuvers
JUNE 28 Loree Walton

VIDEO

JUNE 7 Outdoor Service
JUNE 14 Brian Sipma
JUNE 21 Reid Van Voorst
JUNE 28 Laura Woelber

USHERS

JUNE 7 Outdoor Service
JUNE 14 Josh Wissink, Kevin Roozing
JUNE 21 Josh Wissink, Kevin Roozing
JUNE 28 Lyndon Moss, Mark Sipma



Nursery will not be staffed during the summer months, but it will be available for you & your children to use during worship

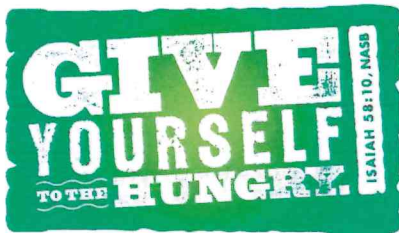


Spend time with God this summer

Reserve WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
to serve at **THE BANQUET**
in Sioux Falls.



We will need 6 volunteers to prepare the meal from
2:00pm-5:00pm
20 volunteers to serve the meal
from 5:15pm-8:00pm



SIGN UP AT THE CONNECTION
CENTER TODAY!

ADDRESS: 900 E 8TH St, Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Ages 10 & older may serve in the dining room, 13 and older may serve in the kitchen
No open-toed shoes, casual pants/long shorts



We are excited to be a part of the
Heart & Soles Ministry program!

This program is designed to meet the shoe need
of families that have extra financial challenges
during the back-to-school season.



Look for the clothes line in the great hall mid-June
and prayerfully consider helping a child with a
new pair of shoes!

GRACE COVENANT MINISTRIES MISSION TRIP UPDATE July 26-August 1



No special skills needed, just a willing heart to serve. There are jobs for everyone.

Transportation costs and room & board will be paid for with money raised at the Church Mission Auction for any member of ARC.

Join us as we be the hands & feet of Jesus! **A sign up sheet is at the Connection Center.**

If you have any questions, please contact Ken or Ida Evertse.

We again plan to take donations for the Trade Store with us. Last year your donations were greatly appreciated by the workers and the shoppers at the trade store!

There is a table in the Great Hall to bring your donations.

Here is a list of some of the things that are appreciated:



- **Kids' Clothes of all sizes**
- **Adult Clothing**
- **Shoes**
- **Blankets**
- **Home Decor**
- **Books (especially kids) games, toys and puzzles**
- **Kitchen Items**

This year we have made arrangements with JFA to transport some larger items that we have not been able to transport before.

Possible items:

- **Chairs**
- **Bar stools**
- **Bed frames**
- **End tables**
- **Dressers**

All that are in good condition

Please contact Ken Evertse (441-0265) to make arrangements for the large items.





OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2026

Thank you again for all your donations and willingness to sign to help with projects this summer. Ida will be calling in early June to make arrangements to start the repacking phase of operation Christmas child

Thank you so much for your interest in spending the Gospel message to child around the world !

We can still use more of the following:

- **Ribbon** (Ex satin, polyester, fabric, etc) any size between 1/4" up to 1". Any bright color or patterns are great! Any length can be used.
- **Organza Gift Bags** The kind used for wedding favors or other gifts. Any size, color or amount.
- **Jewelry** Can be used if not broken or something you don't wear anymore and don't know what to do with it. For girls aged 1-14 - rings, bracelets, necklaces.
- **Old T-Shirts** Any size. Logos are ok, but they can not have side seams on the body of the shirt. These are needed as we will be making jump ropes again.
- **Used Prescription Bottles** Keep saving these. Last year we used them for bead and fishing kits. We will be making those again and adding mending kits for the 10-14 year old group.



MAY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

by Josh Wissink



- ▶ Had a nice update with Seth Sundstrom from the Alliance on how it is functioning and what the Alliance can offer. Recommended people look at ARC21.org to see details about the Alliance.
- ▶ Outdoor Service will be held June 7
- ▶ Next Lord's Supper will be June 14

Prayer Warrior

APRIL
2026

It is finally time to announce some big news about the Trade Store! But before we do that, we want to take a moment to explain a little about the ministry that is the Trade Store.

The Trade Store is a vital part of our ministry here at Grace Covenant Ministries. The funds that come from the sales at the Trade Store help to support our Summer Camp ministry, help to provide funds to continue having a swimming pool available for the county, help to pay for staffing and is a place for the community to receive goods at a discounted price. GCM pays for the trucking of these goods from other ministries around the country. Some of the goods we receive are brought here by short-term mission groups who come to serve the community during the summer. The funds we receive from the sales of these goods goes directly towards ministry! The Trade Store itself is also a hub of ministry! The more goods we sell the more people we are able to help! The more people we are able to help, the more we are able to share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Last year we began using social media to share the goods we have for sale with the community and the surrounding area. The result has been a huge increase of sales which in turn results in an increase of our ability to minister to the community. This summer is going to be filled with summer camps! Also, due to more people coming into the Trade Store, there have been many more opportunities to minister to those in need, whether it be helping a family whose home burned down or someone who doesn't have funds to purchase clothes or simply someone who came into the store needing "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."

But wait, there's more! God has been working in the heart of a man who grew up in Annville. He loves GCM and the people of Annville. He wants to see to it that the ministry continues to thrive and so he has donated all of the funds to build a NEW TRADE STORE! God is so good!

Prayer Warrior

APRIL
2026

The new Trade Store will be across the street from GCM, on the corner across the street from the Pond Creek Fire Station. The old Trade Store will be repurposed for other ministry opportunities. We will be using the old warehouse as a woodworking shop. We also want to use the space to teach home-maintenance/repair classes, as well as an opportunity for young people to learn a little about electrical, plumbing, HVAC, construction basics, etc. — so they can gauge their interest in the trades. We hope to begin construction by July 1st.

We are excited and humbled at this opportunity. Our theme at GCM this year is "**BUT GOD!**" We have had some trials this past 12 months—esp. Lincoln Hall burning to the ground and some of our equipment being stolen ... **BUT GOD!** Two verses have been quoted many times in the middle of those trials:

Genesis 40:20 — "What you intended for evil, God intended for good!"

Romans 8:28 — "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

God is good. God is at work. God is faithful! Thank you for your prayers as we continue the planning for the new Trade Store. Please also be in prayer for our Board Retreat on May 8th & 9th as we continue seeking God's will for GCM.



A concept photo of the new Trade Store

PASTOR

Pastor Mark Cercone439-2057
Email – mark@hullarc.com

CONSISTORY

Eric Schafer ('28).....348-6089
Dennis Smit('28).....470-2167
Jeff Verhoef('28).....470-1691
Josh Wissink('28) Clerk..... 540-5071
Galen Breuer('27)..... 460-3331
Tim Brunsting('27). 441-5442
Todd Visscher('27). 441-5663
Todd Woelber('27)..... 441-6628
Mike Mesman ('26)..... 470-5455
Craig Moss ('26) Chair of Deacons 441-0948
Colin Sandbulte ('26)..... 441-7457
Kevin Roozing ('26) Vice-President 441-4849

CONSISTORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Property Colin S, Jeff V
Pulpit Supply Kevin R
Sacraments..... Dennis S, Todd W
Christian Education Craig M, Todd V
Worship & Music Mike M, Eric S
Mission & Evangelism Galen B, Tim B

SECRETARY: Donna Wallenburg: 441-1289
CUSTODIAN: Loree Walton: 470-2947
CHURCH TREASURER: Denny Kelderman.. 470-3652
MEAL MINISTRY:Jeanne Breuer, Ruth Moss
NURSERY SUPERVISOR: Amy Moss

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Jeanne Breuer, Mike Mesman, Harlan Moss,
Eric Schafer, Loree Walton, Alex Van Der Wilt,
Sara Vink

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Heather Mesman, Aaron Moss, Amy Moss, Craig
Moss, Hayley Moss, Kevin Roozing, Joyce Sipma,
Aleisha Wissink

MISSION & EVANGELISM:

Galen Breuer: Chairman: 460-3331
Tim Brunsting, Ida Evertse, Ken Evertse, Carolyn
Goold, Julie Marra, Tony Van Der Zwaag

SPECIAL BENEVOLENT FUND OFFERING

January Bethesda Midwest
February Sr. ARCYF
March The Bible League
April Sunday School Anniversary Fund
May Living Stone Prison Church
June Amistad Cristiana
July Hope Haven
August Jr High RCYF
September.....Grace Covenant Ministries
October Inspiration Hills
NovemberBruce & Tamar DJ
DecemberCenter of Hope

FELLOWSHIP SQUAD:

Pastor Mark
Jeanne Breuer, Andrea Kelderman, Sara Vink,
Aleisha Wissink, Todd Visscher