

The AMERICANews

of the American Reformed Church
of Hull Iowa



2026

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the American Reformed Church
Hull, Iowa

Vol.36 No. 4
September 2026



As backpacks once again come out of closets and school supply lists get checked twice, our community is turning its attention to a new academic year. It's a good time to ask a foundational question: what is education actually *for*?

Now there are different answers all of us could come up with to this question, but I believe one of the best answers to this question comes from Proverbs 1:7—

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." — Proverbs 1:7

Solomon, at the very beginning of his book on wisdom, gives us this important thesis statement: the fear of the LORD is "the beginning" of knowledge. He is highlighting that "the fear of the Lord" is not a beginning among many, not an optional add-on once the real learning starts, but the foundation on which all other kinds of knowledge are built.

This is why the Hebrew word Solomon uses for "beginning" carries the sense of "first principle," meaning it is the starting point for everything else to make sense. He is telling us that facts divorced from the fear of the Lord aren't wisdom at all; instead, they are just information, untethered and ultimately unstable.

Now please hear me out, I am not making the case for Christian Education in our public schools. Our children should be in the world, just not of the world. This is how they can learn to interact with the world around them and be a light in it. But it does highlight the importance of how we should raise our children here within the church.

In fact, Deuteronomy 6:6-7 commands parents to teach God's commands to their children "when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" — in other words, in every context, every day, without exception. There is no square inch of a child's education, formal or informal, that falls outside the fear of the Lord. And this statement is given as a command, not as something optional for us to consider.

Which is why our Sunday School ministry matters so much, and why every church must do its best to maintain it on Sunday mornings. Sunday School is not daycare or a chance for parents to get a one-hour break from their children. It is where our children learn, week after week, the first principle that governs all their other learning: that the LORD is to be feared, trusted, and known.

Long before a child can articulate a doctrine of Scripture or defend their faith in apologetics, Sunday School plants the seed that all wisdom starts with God. That foundation will do more to steady a child through algebra, friendships, and the future than any other single thing we can give them.

This is why we place such a high emphasis on Sunday School here at American Reformed Church. It is why we continue to seek out volunteers to teach our children each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. This is why we make every effort to have a Christmas program and sing songs on Sunday mornings. These are all moments when we have the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life.

Therefore, as we start the new year and begin a new season of Sunday School, let us consider how all of us can be part of this opportunity to not only teach many things, but also teach the most important thing—the knowledge of God and how much He loves them.

-Pastor Mark



Puzzle!

NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A ____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High
God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One

Bread Painting



When you eat this fun snack,
be thankful for Jesus,
who is our Bread of Life.

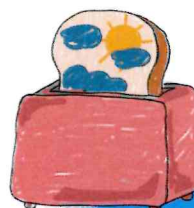
What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional



What you do:

1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder:

Ask an adult for help when using a toaster or toaster oven.

"I am the
bread of life."
John 6:35, NIV

PROJECTION

Sept 6 Heather Mesman
Sept 13 Loree Walton
Sept 20 Mel Reuvers
Sept 27 Loree Walton

VIDEO

Sept 6 Reid Van Voorst
Sept 13 Laura Woelber
Sept 20 Aisayah Moss
Sept 27 Carter Wallenburg

USHERS

Sept 6 Aaron Moss, Russ Goold
Sept 13 Chris Kelderman, Dean Hoogeveen
Sept 20 Chris Kelderman, Dean Hoogeveen
Sept 27 Craig Moss, Denny Kelderman

NURSERY

Sept 13 Heather Walton, Jack Van Der Zwaag, McCoy Moss
Sept 20 Casey Schafer, Grady Noble, Alex Gaul
Sept 27 Josh & Aleisha Wissink



August Consistory Highlights

by Josh Wissink



- Sunday School Kickoff is September 13. There will be a prayer tunnel walk and snacks after.
- Roster for Sunday School kids has roughly been cut in half from last year.
- The Kentucky Mission Trip was a big success, thanks to those who served!
- Next Lord's Supper will be October 4.

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android

Our church directory is a great resource tool to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



We're Updating Our Church Directory

**WANTED: New Pictures
Updated Contact Information.**

Pictures and information can be emailed to the church at amrefdch@mtcnet.net or text to Donna at 712-441-1289



EVERY SHEEP COUNTS!
IS YOUR INFO UP TO DATE?



We are looking for and encouraging volunteers to participate in Sunday morning worship

You are invited to join us by using your talents in these worship positions.

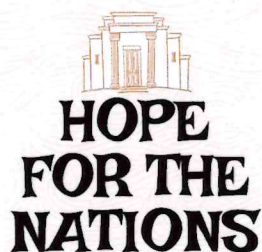
SINGERS
ACCOMPANISTS
PROJECTIONIST
VIDEOGRAPHERS
SOUND TECHS

There is a sign-up form in your mailbox. Please prayerfully consider how you can participate in worship. Then fill out the form and return it to the box at the Connection Center by **Wednesday, September 9th**. There will also be extra forms available at the Connection Center.

SMALL
ACTS.
**BIG
IMPACT.**

ADULT *Sunday School*

Secret Church happens once a year in the spring in April...or it used to. ARC now brings Secret Church to the adult Sunday school class.



A STUDY OF
JONAH

Learn from a stellar instructor, David Platt. Dive deep into a Bible study. And unlike Secret Church in the spring, you'll make it to bed on time.

Join us on September 20 in the Fireside Room for the study of Jonah--it's about so much more than big fish.

All ladies of the Hull community are invited to
the Coffee Break Kick-Off on
Wednesday, September 16th at 10:00am at
Hope CRC, 1407 6th St in Hull.
Childcare is provided.



Coffee Break is a one hour weekly interdenominational Bible study with a program for preschoolers and nursery for young children. Please pick up a registration form from the connection center or contact Diane Bonestroo at 712-451-8907.

Prayer Warrior

AUGUST
2026



Summer at a Glance:

- 9 short term mission teams
- 6 week-long day camps, with 250 kids in attendance
- 8 deliveries from Doc for the Trade Store
- 15 backyard gardens started through Grace Grows
- 8 families assisted with large home projects, such as repaired roofs, complete floor replacements, replaced siding, new bathrooms, handicap ramps, painting, and more!
- 1 Community fireworks show



Prayer Warrior

AUGUST
2026

God was on the move this summer! In addition to day camps, housing repair, and mission groups, there has been a lot of work done on campus, as we seek to be good stewards of the beautiful land God has given us! We want to use this campus for His Kingdom!

The newly completed deck at the Reflection Center is one way we are doing this. Because it is handicap accessible, we've been able to minister to local nursing homes, and host larger events for the community!



PRAYER REQUESTS

- ***Please pray for staff to continue to focus on reaching the community with the redeeming love of Jesus Christ. It can be easy to get focused on projects and not people.***
- ***Please pray for our county and for wisdom for us as we seek to minister to their needs, knowing that the greatest need is a relationship with Jesus Christ.***

To God Be the Glory. Great things HE has Done!

September 2026

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to another great education year with your family. As a committee, we are very grateful for the teachers and helpers who willingly give of their time and talents! Please take note of the following information.

Our Sunday School Kickoff will be on September 13. During the service that day, we will hand out Bibles to the 4th graders. Right after the service, we will dismiss the children by classes (through 8th grade). All classes will meet their teachers and see where their classroom will be held. There will not be a Sunday School lesson on this day.

Beginning September 20, Sunday School classes will begin at 11:05am and end at 11:45.

CHANGE-Singing precedes Sunday School for the students in 6th grade and lower. Children in 6th grade and younger will meet in the church basement. They will meet at 10:50am and be dismissed to their Sunday School classes at 11:05am. The Sunday School offering will be taken at this time. The offering goes to pay for the class materials.

We encourage students in the 4th grade and up to bring their Student Bibles to class, both Sunday and Wednesday.

For the younger students, 3rd grade and below, a parent or close family member should pick up the child from their classroom. If someone else will be picking up your child on a regular basis, please give the teacher a written note so the teacher can feel comfortable releasing their child to a non-family member.

We will be starting our Wednesday night programs on September 16. ARK (1st-3rd grade), 4th-6th grade, 7th & 8th grade, and Aftershock (high school) will meet from 7pm to 8pm. NOTE: Wednesday night programs will be canceled if Boyden Hull has no school or lets out early that day. . Also there will be no programs when Boyden Hull students participate in district and state events.

Parents of ARK students, grades 1, 2, and 3: please pick up your child promptly at 8pm. No child will be allowed to leave the church unless accompanied by a family member or well known adult.

We appreciate your support in our programs here at ARC. Together we can make this another great education year for all involved. If you have any questions or suggestions for us, please contact Todd Visscher (712-441-5663) or any of the Christian Ed committee members.

Thank You!

Christian Education Calendar

2026-2027

September

Teacher Orientation	Sept 9
Sunday School Kickoff (Bibles to 4th grade class, dismiss by class)	Sept 13
Midweek Programs Start	Sept 16
First Sunday School Lesson	Sept 20
First Quarter Sunday	Sept 20

October

Quarter Sunday	Oct 11
Mission Sunday (4th grade-adult attend Sunday school).....	Oct 25

November

Quarter Sunday	Nov 8
No Midweek Programs/Thanksgiving weekend.....	Nov 25
No Sunday School/Thanksgiving weekend	Nov 29

December

Quarter Sunday	Dec 13
Sunday School Christmas Program (One Performance after a.m.worship).....	Dec 20
Sunday School Christmas Program Snow Date	Dec 23
No Sunday School or Midweek programs.....	Dec 20-Jan 2

January

Sunday School Classes resume	Jan 3
Midweek Classes resume.....	Jan 6
Quarter Sunday	Jan 10
Youth Sunday	Jan 31

February

No Sunday School/Congregational Meeting.....	Feb 7
Fundraising Auction/No Midweek programs	Feb
Quarter Sunday	Feb 14

March

Quarter Sunday	Mar 14
Palm Sunday.....	Mar 21
No Midweek (Easter break)	Mar 24
No Sunday School/Easter Sunday	Mar 28

April

Sunday School Anniversary Offering.....	all April
Quarter Sunday.....	Apr 11
Inspiration Hills Discount Deadline	Apr 15
Junior High Retreat/Hidden Acres.....	Apr
Last Midweek Programs.....	Apr 28

May

Last Sunday School Classes	May 2
Last Quarter Sunday	May 9
Quarter Presentation	May 16
Graduation Sunday.....	May 16
Aftershock/JHRCYF Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.....	May 31

Christian Ed Roster 2026-2027

4 YR OLD-KINDERGARTEN

Teacher: Leanne Gaul

Helper: Joyce Sipma

Fisherman Room: Room 1-7

Curriculum: Dwell Play

Moss, Henry

Wissink, Natasha

Moss, Abram

Mesman, Aspen

Rens, Dexter

Schafer, Nina

FIRST/SECOND/THIRD GRADE

Teacher: Annie VanDer Zwaag

Pentecost Room : Room 2-2

Curriculum: Dwell: Year Wonder

Behrens, Emmalyn

Gaul, Carson

Gaul, Shelby

Moss, Penelope

Arteaga, Jon

Van Roekel, Jerrod

FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH GRADE

Teacher: Craig & Hayley Moss

Lenten Room: Room 2-4

Curriculum: Dwell: Year Marvel

Stilson, Spencer

Mesman, Tyson

Cannegieter, Sadie

Gaul, Isabella

Overman, Pierce

Arteaga, Ana

Van Roekel, Peyton

Moss, Asher

Wissink, Royce

SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE

Teacher: Merrill Nettinga

Easter Room: Room 2-3

Curriculum: Dwell Dive

Gaul, Alex

Den Besten, Tristan

Moss, McCoy

Cercone, Milana

Mesman, MaKenzie

Rozeboom, Levi

4 yr old-6th GRADE PRAISE SINGING

Joyce Sipma/Aleisha Wissink
Becky Haansman, Glenda DK

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

ARK(1st-3rd)

ARK Room: Room 2-7
Leaders: Julie Visscher, Todd Visscher
Helpers: Laura Van Der Zwaag, Laura
Woelber

Memory Work: Year 1: 10 Commandments,
Year 2: Lord's Prayer,
Year 3: Apostle's Creed

4th-6th Grade

Room: Church Basement
Teacher: Luke DeKoster

VBS COORDINATORS

Heather Mesman
Danielle Overman

RESOURCE ROOM

Room 1-4

AFTERSHOCK/ARCYF

9th

DeKoster, Mali
Moss, Merritt
Overman, Boston
Van Zanten, Jerzy
Wissink, Vanessa

10th

Cannegieter, Maci
Hopkins, Parker
Keizer, Cameron
Sipma, Jessica

11th

Noble, Grady
Verhoef, Blake

12th

Cannegieter, Carson
Gaul, Jacob
Moss, Aisayah
Sipma, Justin
Teunissen, Brady
Van Der Zwaag, Jack

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Pastor Mark Cercone
Craig Moss (deacon)
Aleisha Wissink
Hayley Moss
Heather Mesman
Aaron Moss
Amy Moss
Joyce Sipma (secretary)
Todd Visscher (elder/committee chair)

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

COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

Ruth Moss: Chairman: 441-4170
Mike Mesman, Harlan Moss, Eric Schafer,
Loree Walton, Alex Van Der Wilt, Sara Vink

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Todd Visscher: Chairman: 441-5663
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
Andrea Kelderman, Sara Vink,
Aleisha Wissink, Todd Visscher