I want to be known by this God who has my well-being in mind.

Unfortunately for our 21st-century brains, which crave gratification instantly and are attracted to this idea of being prospered, God’s timeline and ours do not always line up. God does not act solely as a supervisor, as some architect who knows his plans and removes himself from the process.

In the 18th chapter of Jeremiah, the prophet is sent to a potter’s shop to receive a message from God. He watches as the craftsman begins forming a pot. But as the skilled artist gently turns his creation, he realizes it is defective; it just won’t do. Being the master of his craft he is, the potter begins again, using the marred clay to form a new vessel as he sees fit.

As if he needed to explain the situation to his prophet, God reaffirms his illustration. “Can I not do with you as this potter does?” God asks.

The mighty Lord of Israel declares at this moment, like many before, the affirmation of his sovereign creatorship. I am reminded of God’s conversation with Job, where God asks Job rhetorically where he was when the foundations of the universe were laid. Are we ready for that kind of commitment? Can we as young people really believe that the same God who had all our days written out for us before we took our first breath is willing and able to shift and change our lives so dramatically? We may feel uncomfortable at the idea of our Creator God remaking us, but we can take comfort that our Father declares, “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand” (Jer 18:6).

DARLENE ZSCHECH WROTE a beautiful hymn some 20 years ago called “The Potter’s Hand” that is still sung in congregations today. And we mean it; we still earnestly sing the lyrics “take me, mold me, use me, fill me.”

I was reading through some of the prophets—that chunk of books in the middle of our Bible that forms a pause between the Old and New Testaments—and the anger the Lord had against his adulterous children Israel was abundantly clear. If you know the story, God was so frustrated with his people that he allowed them to be sieged and exiled by the Babylonians; out of that catastrophe we get the books of many of the minor prophets. What a change in narrative this was for the mighty nation of Israel, promised greatness generations before!

One of the books written around this time of exile was Jeremiah. Many Christians know much of Jeremiah’s writing by heart, including chapter 29 verse 11, where God declares through the prophet: “I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to prosper you . . . ” This verse, and many others in Jeremiah, are a comfort—rightfully so—to believers. What joy we can have that the Lord carries us gently in his hands, and that our futures are planned out in his perfect will. For people today, especially those like me still growing up in a culture demanding independence, it is a foreign idea that we can be monitored so closely, especially with such care. I want to be known by this God who has my well-being in mind.

At 25 years old, Justin Verwoerd is a synod veteran. He studied Christian counseling, and is currently a deacon at Trinity CRC in Abbotsford, B.C.
He graduated from Calvin Seminary ('78), MA from McMaster University ('93), DMin from Gordon Conwell Seminary ('05) and Certification as Gallup Strengths Coach ('16). Rev. Baker has served the following congregations prior to 3rd: Ebenezar CRC, Leduc Alberta, Immanuel CRC, Hamilton, Ontario, Conquitlam CRC, Conquitlam, BC.

His service to the denomination includes: delegated to Synod 7 times, Calvin College and Seminary Board, Faith Alive Board, the Board of Trustees and Regional Pastor for Classis Kalamazoo. We give praise to God for Pastor Baker's many years of faithful service. If you wish to share pictures, stories or well wishes, please direct them to 3rd CRC, 2400 Winchell Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008 or email revbaker@3rdcrc.org.

Pastor Tim Brown Retires

The First Christian Reformed Church of Edgerton, MN, wishes to congratulate Pastor Tim Brown, together with his wife Jean, on their retirement in June. Our congregation gives thanks to God for their 22 years of humble and faithful ministry to our church and classis, along with 39 years to our denomination.

Denominational and Classical

**Announcement of Candidacy**

We are pleased to announce that Jantje Femke Visser-Elenbaas has now completed her academic requirements and is eligible for call as a candidate for the ministry of the Word.

Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director

We are pleased to announce that Jungsong (Sam) Kim has now completed his academic requirements and is eligible for call as a candidate for the ministry of the Word.

Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director

We are pleased to announce that Darrell Delaney has now completed his academic requirements and is eligible for call as a candidate for the ministry of the Word.

Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director

**Retirement**

Pastor Ken Baker has served 3rd CRC, Kalamazoo for the last 25 years. A service of celebration will be held on November 5, 2017, at 9:30 am to mark his retirement with a reception immediately following.

**Miscellaneous**

**Reformation Day Lecture** Please join us for a lecture at Crete PRC, 1777 E. Richton Rd in Crete, IL on October 31 at 7:30 PM. Rev. Nathan Langerak will speak on the topic Martin Luther: A Christian's Quest for Assurance. This can also be live streamed from our website at preconre.org.

**Celebrating the Reformation** Classis Grand Rapids South has a combined service at Cutlerville East CRC on October 29 at 5 PM. Rev. Stan Mast is scheduled to preach at that service. Join Us. To learn more: onefaithmanyfaces.org/always-reforming

**Birthdays**

90th Birthday

Brock, Margaret (Rozeboom) will celebrate her 90th birthday on November 1. Her children, Sheryl and Don Van Eck, Ken and Kathy Brock and Roger and Kathy Brock; 7 grandchildren and 2 soon-to-be-born great grandsons thank God for her love and Christ-like example. Family and friends are invited to join us for an OPEN HOUSE celebration on Saturday, November 4 from 2-5 pm in the Town Square at Sunset Village, 725 Baldwin Street, Jenison, Michigan. No gifts please.

**Dordt College**

Dordt College is seeking applications for the following areas beginning August 2018:

**Faculty Positions**

Agriculture  
Chemistry  
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Farm Operations & Management  
Graphic Arts

Application reviews will begin immediately. Qualified persons committed to a Reformed, Biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to follow the faculty application procedure at the link below.

Dr. Eric Forseth, Provost  
Dordt College  
498 4th Ave NE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697  
provost@dordt.edu  
www.dordt.edu/prospective_employees/faculty/

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Give a duck, seeds, or water pump TODAY and help “stand in the gap” for people who face oppression and poverty.

800-552-7972 (US)  
800-734-3490 (Canada)  
worldrenewgifts.net
LAMAIRE, ANNETTE (BUURSTRA) VILARO of 3229 19th St W, 
#305, Bradenton, FL 34205 will celebrate her 90th birthday on Octo-
ber 17 with family and friends. We praise God for filling her life with
many blessings.

100th Birthday

WITH THANKS TO GOD for a century of
blessings, the family of Rulie Nanninga
nee Schoonekamp, celebrated her 100th
birthday on August 26th, 2017. Born and
raised in Neerlandia, Alberta, she still
attends Sunday services at Neerlandia CRC
and is their first member to reach this
milestone. At the worship service on Sunday, August 27th Pastor Bill
Tuininga, nephew to Rulie and whose roots are also in Neerlandia,
encouraged our congregation to “Trust in the Lord with all your heart...”
Proverbs 3:5 a Scripture passage chosen by Rulie. Two of her favorite
hymns were sung: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” and “I Know Not
Why God’s Wondrous Grace”. Rulie resides at Jubilee Manor where she
cherishes visits from family & friends and blesses them in return with
her gracious engagement with life.

Anniversaries

60th Anniversary

MAsselink, Wm. J and Glenda (Oberschmidt), of Lake Worth, Fl
will celebrate 60 blessed years of marriage on Oct. 3. Their children, W.
Ted and Heike, and Marsha and Kevin Lange, along with their 5 grand-
children give thanks for God’s faithfulness and the love of their parents.

MoEKe - Buron & Sharon of Mancelona, Mi celebrated 60 years
of marriage August 31. It was celebrated with an open house. The
couples children are Burton Moeken ll(Sharon) and Jill Moeken. They
have 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Church Position Announcements

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: First CRC in St. Thomas, Ontario is seek-
ning to fill a 16-20 hour per week position for a Worship Coordinator.
This position requires music proficiency and an ability to plan a
variety of worship styles in a multi-generational setting within the
Christian Reformed perspective of Blended Worship. Visit our website
at www.firstcrcstthomas.com for more details. Email a cover letter
and resume to firstcrcstthomas@gmail.com or by mail to 320 Elm
Street, St. Thomas, ON N5R 1R7

SEEKING LEAD PASTOR: Do you hear God’s call to serve Bethel
Christian Reformed Church, an authentic grassroots community
situated in the picturesque riverfront town of Dunnville, Ontario
(pop. 12,000)? Bethel CRC needs a dynamic preacher and caring
shepherd who models a close relationship with God, to minister to
all ages. We are seeking spiritual growth and discipleship opportu-
nities within and outside the church building, and welcome a servant
leader who inspires and encourages the same. We are actively
visioning how our facilities and programs can take us confidently
into the future. To find out more, please contact the calling commit-
tee in confidence at: bellscalling@gmail.com or contact the
correspondence clerk directly at 289-880-2225 or mail to Calling
Committee, Bethel CRC, 17 Robinson Road, Dunnville, Ontario N1A
2W1. We look forward to meeting you!

PASTOR IN CENTRAL ALBERTA Bethel CRC in Lacombe, Alberta,
is seeking a pastor to serve and lead our loving community of believ-
ers. Established in 1953, Bethel is an active church with a passion
for serving our community through a wide variety of programs.
Lacombe is a small city that has a strong Christian community with
excellent access to Christian Education. With an active Renewal Lab
team in place we are being re-invigorated and are excited about the
future of Bethel and anticipate the arrival of a new leader to guide
our church. For more information email corahoe@netscape.net or
peruse our website at lacombebethelcrc.org.

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70th Anniversary

BOSSCHER, Jim & AngE 2111 Raybrook, #4010, Grand Rapids, Mi
49546 will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on October 2, 2017.
Their children, Jack and Joan Bosscher, Bob and Beth Terborg, David and
Mary Bosscher, Marcia Bosscher, and Steve and Barb Timmermans, 17
grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren celebrate with them God’s
faithfulness, love and continued blessings. To God be the glory!

GroEn, Ben & ADELINE Congratulations to Ben & Adeline Groen as they celebrate
their 70th anniversary on October 2. They
along with their children, grandchildren
and great grandchildren, are thankful how
God has blessed their life together and
pray for his continued faithfulness.

Obituaries

PasMA, ARnold John, 89, of Ripon, CA entered into eternal rest
on July 27, 2017. He is survived by his beloved wife, Marjorie (Bouw-
man) Pasma of 64 years; children: Michael (Barbara) Pasma, Melinda
(LeRoy) Costa, Tami (Roger) Auwers; 9 grandchildren, 13 great
grandchildren and his sister, Clarice Van Dyken.

Van BAAk, FRAnces RUTh RiBBEnS passed away on Sunday,
August 13, 2017 in Grand Rapids, Mi. She was predeceased by her
husband, Rev. Edward A. Van Baak; and is survived by her children
Andy (Arlene) Van Baak of Steamboat Springs CO, Shirley (Bill) Van
Baak Martius of West Olive MI, David (Nancy) Van Baak of Buffalo NY,
Tom (Lesley) Van Baak of Seattle WA and Ruth (Keith) van baak Gifforno
of Williamsburg VA; 13 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

Van DyK, brent, age 54, of Elmhurst went home to be with his
LORD on August 11th. 15W745 Harvard St, Elmhurst, IL, 60126. Beloved
husband of Linda Van Dyk, née Van Kampen; loving father of Brandon,
Corey, and Bonnie (fiancé Logan VanProyen) Van Dyk; dear son of
LaVerne, nee Swets, and the late Arthur Van Dyk; fond brother of
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LaVerne, nee Swets, and the late Arthur Van Dyk; fond brother of
Beverly (Kurt) Nelson, Donald (Gerry) Van Dyk, and Deb (Scott) Mels;

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SENIOR PASTOR POSITION Rochester CRC, a mid-sized western
New York state congregation, seeks a senior pastor for preaching,
spiritual leadership and pastoral care. We value exegetical, insight-
ful and inspired preaching of the Word, and seek someone who will
challenge us to live out our faith in the culture around us. We have
a strong desire for church growth and seek leadership to realize that
vision in our community. Can you lead us as we face these challenges?
To learn more about this opportunity, or if you know of someone who
may be a good fit, visit our website at www.rochestercrc.org or
contact our Pastor Search Team via office@rochestercrc.org

PASTOR Fresno CRC, located in California’s central valley, is seeking
a pastor who is passionate about preaching and relationships. We are
a family of believers desiring to grow in our walk with Jesus and
attract others to follow Him. Please view our website and profile at
www.fresnocrc.org.

PASTOR Sherman Street CRC, seeking to be a living testimony
of God’s grace and justice in the city, is looking for a lead Pastor to join
us in our mission. See our website at shermanstreetchurch.org/
pastorssearch for more information. Women and men of all ethnicities
are encouraged to apply.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR Ladner Christian Reformed Church (Delta,
BC, Canada) is seeking an Associate Pastor to fill a part-time position
with a focus on seniors. Contact Rev Bandstra, Clerk, at
office@ladnercrc.com.
uncle of many nieces and nephews. Memorials to Timothy Christian Schools, 1070 S. Prospect Ave, Elmhurst, IL, 60126, are appreciated.

**VOLKERS, SARAH MARION**, age 90 of Grand Rapids, MI, passed away Thursday, August 24, 2017. Sarah is survived by her husband, Jay Volkers; her children, Marianne Triezenberg, Herman and Elizabeth Triezenberg, Marcia and Jack DeBaar, Ryer Triezenberg, and Jane and David Tiesenga, 11 grandchildren, and 9 great grandchildren.

**Employment**

**CHRISTIAN ADULT FOSTER CARE** Home in Zeeland, MI is searching for live-in houseparents to care for 12 developmentally disabled adults. For information, contact Jennifer Letcher at: admin@parkviewfchome.org

**PRINCIPAL OPENING** Trinity Christian School in Burlington, Ontario invites applications for the full-time position of principal. Trinity Christian School is a junior kindergarten to grade eight, multi-denominational Christian school, with over 250 students in a new facility. A detailed job description is available on the school’s website at tcsonline.ca. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, statement of faith and their philosophy of Christian education to jessica.nicholson@tcsonline.ca. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

**SEEKING CAREER MISSION NURSE** Seeking a nurse to be a RCA career missionary at a 100 year old Christian hospital in Aswan, Egypt. This is a good story. This is a love story. The primary purpose is to be a role model for nursing, and to encourage indigenous Christian Egyptian men and women to go to nursing school in Egypt. For more information contact William Ruggles Church, MD, wrkchurch@gmail.com, mp 231 409-1818.

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Just in the past few weeks, your peers:

**Shared**
- Training Videos for Sound Technicians
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- Does Contemporary Christian Music Imply Sin
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Get involved today! After all, ministry is more fun together.

Visit crcna.org/network

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**Winter Getaway** in San Diego Jan-Feb-Mar 2018. Elegant, fully furnished condo, 2BR/2BA one-level, panoramic views. $2000 per mo. Min. stay 1 mo. 619-251-5914 or mkratzenstein@cox.net


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**South Fort Myers Rental** 2BR/2BA one level condo, sleeps 6, pool, 15 minutes to beaches, cable/wifi. 484-988-0519 enhoman@gmail.com.

**Lauderdaile by the Sea, FL** One bedroom condos. Pools, laundry and wifi/cable. 3 min stroll from beach. manaloacondos.weebly.com Jon 616-446-7195

**Michigan Lake Rental Wanted** 2018: July and/or August dates. Looking for a cottage rental on a ski lake for next summer. One month rental. Prefer 3+ bedrooms but open to all options. tdkgr67@gmail.com or 708-790-0307

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**Caring for Aging Parents?** Visiting Angels offers in-home assisted living. Our caregivers will prepare meals, do light housekeeping, run errands, provide transportation to appointments, and joyful companionship. Whether you need a few hours a day or live-in care, for assisted independent living in your home anywhere in West Michigan call Trish Borgdorff at 616-243-7080 or toll free at 888-264-3580. TRIP Participant.

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**True Blue Caregivers** offers in-home (non-medical) care to seniors. Contact us at truebluecaregivers.com or call (616)406-6819. Owned by Calvin alumni, serving the Grand Rapids area. Bonded and Insured
Think you can change the world through research?

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CHANGE can be big, like decoding the human genome big. Or it can be small, like molecular structure small. It’s about what you choose to do on the one hand, and who you are on the other. We are more than our jobs, and God has a calling for each of us, wherever we go. That changes everything. Including you.

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The CRCNA’s Ignite Fund matches visionary disciples with venture capital, helping to kickstart innovative and collaborative ministry ideas in your neighborhood, your church or your classis. The Ignite fund has equipped and advanced more than 85 denominational and local ministry projects.

Yours could be next.

crcna.org/Ignite
Grant applications are invited for year-long projects that foster vital worship by:

- studying and theologically reflecting on liturgy and the practice of worship
- nourishing intergenerational and intercultural relationships and gifts in worship
- exploring how public worship expresses and informs pastoral care, faith formation, and Christian discipleship
- exploring the many facets of worship: Bible reading, preaching, public prayer, baptism, the Lord’s Supper/Eucharist, music, arts, architecture, storytelling, and more

Serving congregations, parishes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and other worshiping communities in North America

**Reformation Themes:**
*Commemorating the 500th Anniversary New*

October 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, an event that changed the course of Western history. This collection includes a series of articles focusing on Reformational themes along with a retrospective by Dr. Karin Maag, “The Reformation: What Did We Gain? What Did We Lose?”

**Reformed Basics**

What does “Reformed” mean anyway? A compilation of previous *Banner* articles by award-winning writer and former Banner editor Rev. Len Vander Zee on topics including election, the Trinity, original sin, and more.

**The Banner Study Series**

[thebanner.org/study-series](http://thebanner.org/study-series)

Presenting free online resources with questions for discussion for:
- personal study and reflection
- small group discussion
- adult education church groups

FREE Reformation Study Resource for individuals and groups.
With over 50,000 copies sold, *Lift Up Your Hearts* is used in hundreds of churches and ministries throughout North America.

This hymnal, also available in digital format and as an app, includes more than 850 songs, readings, and prayers that can be used in worship services and in other settings.

Download the free Apple/Android app!

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LiftUpYourHeartsHymnal.org
- Webinars and videos with background information
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Hymnary.org/hymnal/LUYH2013
- Resources related to each song
- Background information
- Audio clips
- Musical scores for public domain songs
- Transpositions for musical instruments

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For the past 16 years, *God Loves Me* storybooks have been a well-loved and much-used resource in church preschool ministry. Newly revised in 2015, these storybooks will provide families and churches with a wonderful way to nurture faith while establishing devotional habits of Bible reading and prayer.

Visit FaithAliveResources.org/GodLovesMe to see samples and learn more.

More resources for preschoolers, children, and youth are available at FaithAliveResources.org

800-333-8300
Orders@FaithAliveResources.org

Worship materials? Large print? Mental health ministry? Congregational care for individuals and families living with a disability? Funding for accessibility?

We have ideas and resources.

*This ad is sponsored by Congregational Services. Visit us at crcna.org/services.*
Punch Lines

My Cranium Conga Word Worm card read: “I think my hair looks especially ______ today.”

My 6-year-old grandson immediately commented, “Grandpa’s hair is blank!”

—Virgil Michael

Going over our church finances I found a receipt from a local paint store signed by someone named “Christian.” I wasn’t aware of anyone from our church buying paint, so I called the store to point out the mistake. “I’m sorry,” I told the manager, “But there are no Christians here at First Church!”

—Cyndi Boss

Tom and his son, Bill, went to a restaurant for dinner. As soon as the waiter brought out the two steaks, Bill quickly chose the bigger steak for himself.

Tom wasn’t happy about that. “When are you going to learn to be polite?” he said.

Bill replied, “Which one would you have picked?”

Tom said, “The smaller piece, of course.”

Bill said, “Then what are you complaining about? The smaller piece is what you got, right?”

—Jan Veltkamp

Little Dewey was at football practice. The coach said, “Who here thinks they can jump higher than the goal posts?”

Immediately Dewey answered, “Oh, oh, me sir. Me!”

The coach replied, “Dewey, you’re the worst player on the team.”

“I know,” said Dewey. “But goalposts can’t jump.”

—Marie Albers

What tickles your funnybone? We’re looking for original humor, including either true or fictional anecdotes (300 words max), original cartoons, or visual humor. Please send yours to editorial@thebanner.org.

In vacation Bible school this summer, I told the story of Joshua’s spies hiding under flax on the flat roof of the wall of Jericho, Rahab, the red rope, trumpets, and stone walls that came tumbling down. When I finished, a little boy raised his hand and asked me, “Were you there when that happened?”

I don’t know if it was my enthusiastic telling of the story or my gray hair that prompted the question.

—Ruth Vander Zee

Susan, age 4, was drinking orange juice when she got the hiccups. “Please don’t give me this juice again,” she said to her mother. “It makes my teeth cough.”

—Marie Albers

The other day I went out to lunch with two of my granddaughters. I invited the 4-year-old to pray before the food came. She started her prayer thanking Jesus for her mommy, daddy, sister, and grandparents. Then she went on to pray for our sandwiches, ending with a very loud “THE END.”

—Diana Leyendekker
Two things stopped their violence against Christians:

1. This radio.
2. Someone like you.

Read the story of how love and the Gospel triumphed over hatred at backtogod.net/story.

You can help conquer hatred by shining the light of the Gospel in even the darkest places.