

# Thorn Creek

Reformed Church

## News Review

VOLUME LVIII

October 2015

Number 2



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Sunday School is in full swing. Everyone is getting back into the habit of the Sunday School hour once again. It has been wonderful to see the faces of the children in K-8th grade coming to the kitchen for snack time and visiting with them. The toddler department has grown this year to 6 children with another starting in January. I had the pleasure of visiting with them their first week, what a sweet "little group", We are continuing with the post-hi SS started last year by Lynn Pickard. We are very thankful to Lynn for getting this class started and this year it continues with Rich Aring leading the class. If you are in this post hi to young adult age group, please come and join the class, they meet in the Narthex on the sofa side.

October 4th will be the last Sunday we will be collecting jars of peanut butter for the "Spread the Love" mission project. As of September 20th you, as a church have donated 62 jars of awesomeness. Thank you so much for your support in this endeavor. Our mission project is serving those in NW Indiana, who need help in feeding their families.

Look for the "Sunday School Memory Work" bulletin board. Hopefully, I will have it done at the time you are reading this. It is across from the water fountain near the Library. Hopefully, over the course of the year, many students will have completed many bible verses and scrolls and have their names added to the board. I am very excited about this. It is a throw back to the bulletin board Mrs. Karen Huizenga had in the Pre-k and Kindergarten rooms in the late eighty's. I remember seeing my own children's names on different memory work pieces.

One more thing, it was mentioned to me about having a Men's Class. I am still in need of someone to facilitate this group, before it can start. If, you would desire such a class, please let Lorna Bischof know. Thank you to all our teachers and helpers. We couldn't have SS without you! Also, welcome back to Mrs. Alice Boersma, she missed you all so much, she had to come back.

## CROSSWALK/CROSSTRaining

Oxford Dictionary definitions for engage:

1. Occupy, attract, involve
2. Cause someone to become involved in
3. Participate or become involved in
4. Enter into conflict or combat with

This is a "Call out" for all interested in CrossWalk/CrossTraining, especially those in grades 6 through 12, to become engaged in CWCT. For people within the age range, it's a call to come together:

1. to study God's word **TOGETHER**
2. to pray **TOGETHER**
3. to have fun **TOGETHER**

For those who do not fall into the "age range", it is a call to pray for the people who do. Our CWCT group needs your prayers to become engaged... involved participants who build each other up to prepare for combat with the world and all it has to offer. We need your prayers to become engaged as a group who commits to studying God's word **TOGETHER**.

**CWCT participants, please save the date!**

Sunday, October 11 from 12 to 2pm- Potluck... picnic style @ church in the "Upper Room". Bring something yummy to share. A bag of chips, salad, fruit or veggie stuff you like. Hot dogs and dessert will be provided. RSVP to Christine (text 708-822-8393, email [castegs@hughes.net](mailto:castegs@hughes.net), call 219-690-0722), so I know what you're bringing by Sunday, October 4. We will discuss future dates, events, study materials, games, etc.

Thank you!

Christine Stegenga

# MEET YOUR NEW CONSISTORY



**ELDER BILL HUTTON**

My name is Bill Hutton and I am serving my second term as Elder. I have served as Deacon since the seventies. I am married to Teri my wonderful wife and mother of our four children. We have been married for 46 years. We have owned a sign business for 28 years. I enjoy long walks on the beach...not. I have a few hobbies. I like to hunt, shoot, fly, ride motorcycle, raise bees, horses and chickens. I served 23 years in the army reserve and retired. Two of our children have blessed us with 7 grandchildren. We're patiently waiting for the other two to get started. A favorite passage for me is Ephesians 6:10-18.

## GEMS

The GEMS theme this year is "Choose Truth" based on Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." The Bible is like no other book. It's God's story. It reveals His character and His heart. In short, it's truth! The storyline of the Bible is redemption, and all of its pages point to Jesus. Each path in His Word uncovers both His radical love and His rescue plan for rebels. As His children, it shines His light on our lives. Life is full of choices, and when we know what God's Word says, we'll be better able to choose what is good and pleasing to Him. His story lights the way for our story, giving clarity to our lives with Christ.

GEMS kicked off the season with a family dinner combined with the Cadets on September 9. It was a great turnout! We met with the girls and their families, explained the program, theme, and enjoyed a time of fellowship.

We have another fun year planned! We'd like to ask the congregation to keep GEMS in their prayers. Please pray that we teach them to "Choose Truth", and that they learn more about God's word and apply it to their lives so it truly lights their path.



**DEACON BOB CAIN**

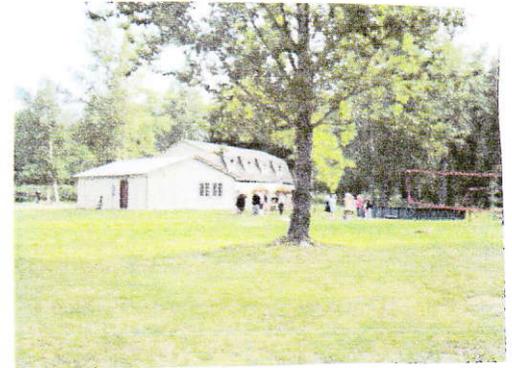
## LIBRARY NEWS

*The fiction (west) wall in the church library was overflowing with books, so some of them had to be moved to make room for the newer books. A while ago, the Gilbert and Lynn Morris books were moved to the top of the fiction bookcase. Recently the Al & Joanna Lacy and the Michael Phillips books were moved to the east wall where the VHS tapes used to be. Also located there are the novellas, books which include three or more shorter stories.*

*The shelves on the east wall also contain biographies, books on family and Christian living, inspirational reading, and books for children and teens. There is something to read for everyone. Just check the shelf labels for what interests you. It is important to keep reading!*

## PEOPLE & PLACES

This summer we had the opportunity to go to Alaska! This has always been on our "bucket list" of vacation places but we did not think it would happen for some time yet. Our daughter Kalee had been invited back to intern at Eaglecrest Alaska Missions in Sutton, Alaska, this past summer. This is a place that she has held very close to her heart since her first visit in 2013. We thought that this would be a great time to make Alaska our vacation destination. We were very excited to see just how beautiful Alaska is and to take time to see why Kalee just loves being part of Eaglecrest. We flew into Anchorage AK and Kalee picked us up in a 15-passenger van, which is ironic because when we had our "big blue beast" she **would not** drive it and this summer that was all she drove, up, down and all around the mountains of Alaska! From the time we flew in until the time we left we were overwhelmed by God's creation. The mountains were so amazing, beautiful, and majestic and we were constantly in awe of all that God made and placed in that area of the country. While in Alaska, we stayed at Eaglecrest Alaska Missions (director Jim Smith is supported by Thorn Creek missions). Eaglecrest is a mission camp that hosts groups that come there to do mission/service project work in the Sutton community. We helped out, that first week, by doing different projects that included building a deck, splitting wood, building walls and hanging chain link fence. These were projects that the community people needed help with and turn to Eaglecrest for assistance. It was an incredible week of helping, giving and getting to know some of the community people. Just hearing some of the stories of the lives of these people were amazing and heartbreaking at the same time. Sutton is a very poor community and Eaglecrest is a beacon of light for so many there.



Eaglecrest Alaska Missions



Deck Building



Wood Splitting



Matanuska Glacier



Top of the Butte

In addition to the work we did there, we did some sightseeing. We visited and walked on the Matanuska Glacier. This ice flow is about 10,000 years old and at this time is about 27 miles long and 4 miles wide. It was amazing...what looked like dirt on the glacier was actually rock that had been ground down to small pieces and even silt by the constant moving of the glacier each year. We also visited an historic gold mine in Hatcher's Pass. It was so cool to see what is left of the buildings that were operating in full force in the 1930's. I also had a personal victory as I climb a mountain called the Butte. It really look like a small hill in comparison to the grand mountains that surround the Butte, but it was pretty much a straight up steep climb from bottom to top. I was ready to give up but Kalee kept saying that I would be so glad I climbed it once I got to the top. I stuck with it and felt so victorious when I reached the rocky peak. She was right!