

Thorn Creek

Reformed Church

News Review

VOLUME LVII

March 2015

Number 6



Easter Concert

Sunday, March 29, 2015

6:00 pm

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*Join in an evening of celebration for the*

*Gift of Salvation*

*through the sacrifice of our*

*Lord Jesus Christ*

~~~~~

Celebration Singers

Junior Choir

Junior Bells

Celebration Quartet

~~~~~

*Coffee And Fellowship will follow*

*Childcare will be provided*

## GEMS



The GEMS have had a pretty exciting start to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year. We had a surprise baby shower for counselor Jenn VanderMolen at our January 7 meeting and then on January 21 we had our annual Soup Dinner. Thank you to everyone that came and helped support us. We were able to raise \$500 to go towards the GEMS program. We could not have done it without you!

In February, Roger Boersma came and helped us with our woodworking badge. The girls each had an opportunity to use a variety of tools and learn about different types of wood and what they are used for. In addition, we continue to learn about our theme this year of "Here Am I! Send Me!" and understanding what it means to be a messenger of God.

GEMS Sunday will be March 8, please join us as we help lead worship that day for the morning service. We look forward to sharing with you what we have done so far this year! Again we would like to thank you for all your support, and ask that you continue to pray for this ministry and everyone involved. If you are interested in helping out with this program or have any questions please see a GEMS counselor.



## CADETS



This past year in Cadets is flying by! For our Christmas party we teamed up with the GEMS and went rock climbing at Climb On in Homewood. Everyone enjoyed it, and there were no injuries! It's now that time of year for the Pinewood Derby. Wednesday March 4 we will be racing. Come on out and cheer on our Cadets! The popcorn machine will be popping!



There is a table of free items located in the hallway across from the church library doors. On this table are children's VHS tapes and a few books, both fiction and nonfiction. Please help yourself to these items. Share them with family and friends.

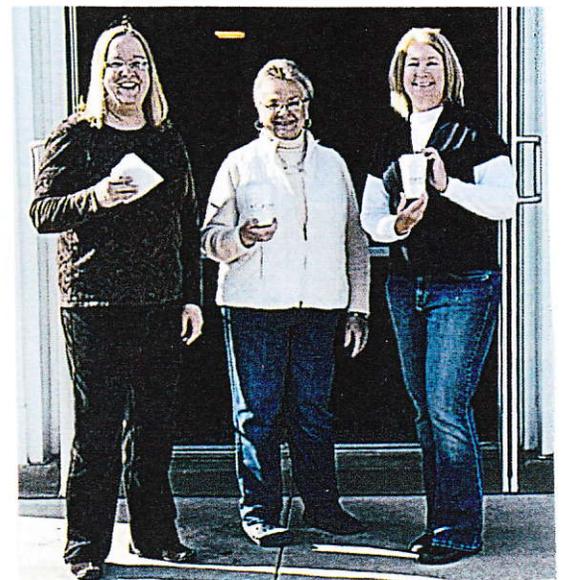
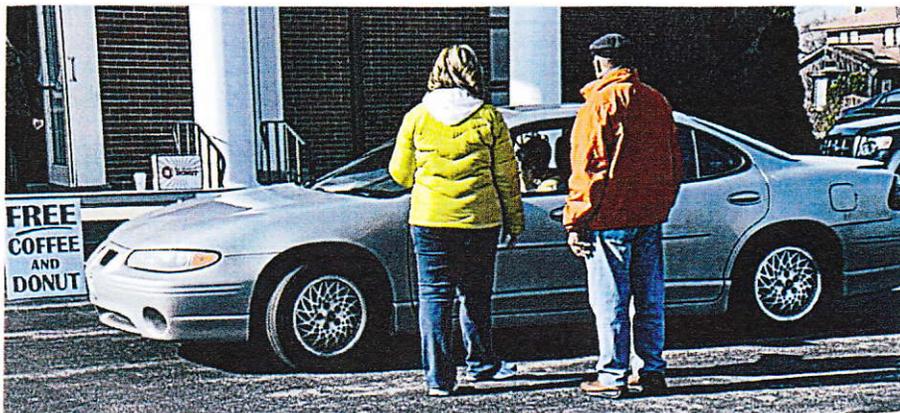
If you know of a charity that could use the VHS tapes, please take and donate them or see Betty McGlone. Also see Betty if you have any Christian books to give away on the "free" table.



# COFFEE & DONUT DRIVE THRU



On Wednesdays, March 18, 25 and April 1, leading up to Easter, the Outreach team, along with **many needed volunteers**, will again be handing out coffee and donuts to all our neighbors who drive by the church each morning. They simply have to "drive thru" and we will hand them a hot cup of coffee, a donut and a postcard invitation to our Easter Concert and Easter services on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. We had the biggest response to this event last year. Many who stopped last year were surprised and thankful for our efforts to be part of the community in this way. We are hoping for a great turnout again so start praying now for those who stop and those who will be volunteering this year! Please take time to volunteer for this incredible opportunity meet some of the people in our community. The committee will be going around and asking for your help. Please say YES! And, if you are in the area stop by and have a donut and coffee on us ☺



## PEOPLE & PLACES

**Esther Stell recently celebrated her 97th birthday and she's someone you should know.**

Esther was born on a farm in northwestern Iowa in February of 1918 near the town of Boyden. Her dad was a farmer, she had four older siblings and four more came along after her. When she was just six years old her father died from a ruptured appendix leaving her mom to manage the farm along with nine small children... and there wasn't any government help back then! They stayed on the farm



for two more years but eventually moved to Waupun WI to be near her mom's family. Six weeks before Esther graduated from high school she landed a job sewing linings into shoes at a local factory. She also earned a little extra money by getting up at 4 a.m. on Saturdays to heat water so she could do laundry. Right around that time her mother passed away from cancer. By the age of twenty-two she had enough money saved up to pay for business school. While away at school she worked serving dinner to the others who lived with her at a boarding house. After nine months the money began to run out so it was time to look for another job. She heard about an opportunity in Chicago through family friends from Waupun, the Jellema's, who had relatives living on the south side. She applied, got the job, and moved

to Chicago to take a clerical position at Chesterfield Savings & Loan, and to live with the Jellema family whom she hardly knew. While a guest in their home, she attended church with them at Bethany Reformed in Roseland which is where she met her future husband, Ken. They both sang in the choir and, as the story goes, Ken's mom told him that he "should ask that girl in the choir out", so he did. It wasn't long before they were married, so soon in fact that Esther's boss told her that he was concerned that she hadn't known him long enough to be marrying him! Esther quit her job to move to Galesburg IL to follow Ken's career and that's where their first son, Lance, was born. Scott came along later after they had been transferred back to Fernwood. In 1967 the Stell family moved to Lansing where they started looking for a church to attend. They decided on Thorn Creek, which had now moved from Roseland, because they already knew so many of the people attending there. So how you might ask did she become such good friends with a young girl from Germany named Birgit? Interesting story... Sometime around 1990, a young German fellow named Helge was in the Chicago area on business and was staying at the Lansing Holiday Inn. It was then when he heard the chimes playing from Thorn Creek's steeple and decided to go and check out the church because of his love for organ music. Upon entering the church, Ken Stell promptly greeted him and "could tell by the kind of shoes that he was wearing that he was from another country". Ken and Esther invited him out to lunch that day and they made a friend for years to come. Sometime later when Helge returned to Lansing he brought his girlfriend (and soon to be wife), Birgit, and the Stells became friends with her too! ... and now even though Ken and Helge are both gone, Esther and Birgit have remained very close friends (in spite of their generation gap). Only one of Esther's siblings is still alive, and that's her youngest sister, Dorothy, who still lives in Wisconsin. Esther's two son's are both now retired... Lance (Susan) recently from his Philosophy professorship at Davidson College in North Carolina, and Scott (Barbara), who lives in Pontiac IL, from his job of over forty years at RR Donnelley. Esther has three wonderful grandchildren, Dean, Ginger, and Audrey, and two lovely great granddaughters, Meg and Penny, who all live in North Carolina. When Ken was still alive he and Esther traveled extensively so she has experienced many places, including Europe (four times), Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, winters in Arizona, and has even gone twice to Africa, once on a safari hunt. She now enjoys church events, dinner out with friends, watching her favorite TV shows like Wheel of Fortune and Dancing with the Stars, and the Golf channel... and every Friday morning she volunteers at church by folding bulletins, making up name tags, and stuffing the mailboxes. Thank you Esther!

# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Craig and Jenn VanderMolen on the birth of Judah Alan on Friday, February 13. He weighed 9 lbs. 7 oz. and was 20 inches long. After being in labor for 27 hours, Jenn had a c-section. Judah was in the NICU receiving antibiotics for an infection until Thursday. While Judah was in the NICU, Craig and Jenn stayed at the Ronald McDonald house.

Craig and Jenn thank you for the love and prayer support they have received. God bless this new addition to their family.



# MARCH

- March 1 Barendregt, Arie
- March 2 Cain, Robert
- March 5 Jenkins, Rosalind
- March 6 Mc Glone, Betty
- March 7 Archer, John
- March 8 De Vries, Jane
- March 8 De Vries, Jean
- March 8 Kallemeyn, Arlo
- March 9 Boersma, Sr., Russell
- March 9 De Young, John
- March 11 Schutt, John
- March 13 Bartel, Alan
- March 13 DevSatro, Carrie
- March 16 Miedema, Judith
- March 17 Brandsma, Melvin
- March 17 De Young, Britney
- March 17 MonteMayer, Mia
- March 17 Wagenaar, Kevin
- March 19 Hofstra, Elaine
- March 20 Panozzo, Lorraine
- March 20 Ritzema, Edward M.
- March 21 Pickard, Lynn
- March 22 Stegenga, Samantha
- March 23 De Young, Kyle
- March 23 Klein, Donald
- March 25 Schutt, Julia
- March 28 Alderden, Alice
- March 29 Bultema, Dan
- March 29 Ebbens, Wayne
- March 31 Spyksma, Julia



**NEWS REVIEW**  
**STAFF**  
 Gay Ebbens  
 Idell Ebbens  
 Thea Stienstra

If you were previously receiving the Thorn Creek News and are now not getting it, please contact the Church Office ([office@thorncreek.org](mailto:office@thorncreek.org) or 708-474-4043). If you were not on the list to receive the Thorn Creek News and would like to be, also contact the Church Office.

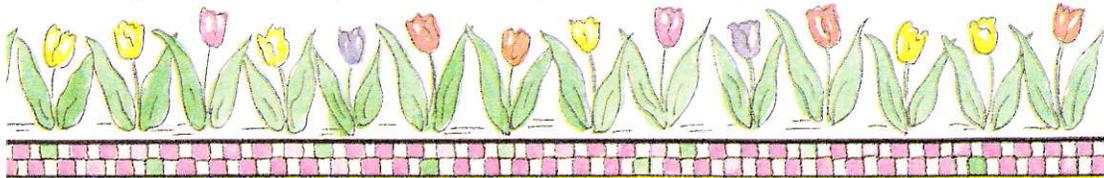
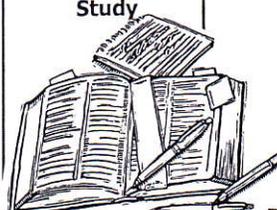
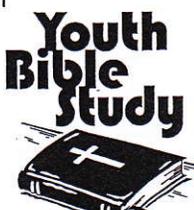
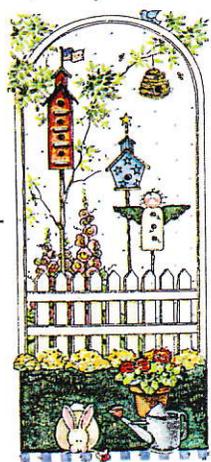


*Anniversaries  
and Birthdays*

Please turn in all articles for the  
 April issue on  
 March 22<sup>nd</sup> following the  
 morning service (11:00a.m.)

- Rich & Carol Aring March 4, 1967
- Dave & Kim Pickard March 22, 1997
- Warren & Gay Ebbens March 25, 1967
- Bill & Candi Stegenga March 27, 1971

# MARCH 2015

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                         | Tuesday                                                                                                      | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                     | Thursday                                                                                                                                         | Friday           | Saturday                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>*9:30am:<br/>Worship Service<br/>Junior Choir<br/>following<br/>service</p> <p>*10:45am:<br/>Coffee<br/>Fellowship</p> <p>*11:00am:<br/>Sunday School</p>                                                              | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">*DENOTES WEEKLY ACTIVITIES</div>  |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                  |                  |                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>1</b> *</p> <p>5:30pm:<br/>CROSSwalk &amp;<br/>CROSStraining</p>                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>2</b> 7:00pm<br/>B.O.B.</p>                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>3</b></p>             | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>5:30pm:<br/>Junior Bells<br/>6:30pm:<br/>GEMS, Cadet<br/>Pinewood<br/>Derby &amp;<br/>Celebration<br/>Singers<br/>8:05pm:<br/>Worship Team</p>                             | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:15am:<br/>Women's Bible<br/>Study</p>     | <p><b>6</b></p>  | <p><b>7</b></p>                                                 |
| <p><b>8</b> *</p> <p>AM:<br/>GEMS Sunday</p>                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>7:00pm<br/>B.O.B.</p>                                                                     | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>6:30pm:<br/>Elders Mtg.<br/>7:00pm:<br/>Deacons Mtg.<br/>8:00pm:<br/>Consistory Mtg.</p> | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>6:30pm:<br/>Celebration<br/>Singers<br/>8:05pm:<br/>Worship Team</p>                                                                                                      | <p><b>12</b></p>                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>13</b></p> | <p><b>14</b></p>                                                |
| <p><b>15</b> *</p> <p>5:30pm:<br/>CROSSwalk &amp;<br/>CROSStraining</p>                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>7:00pm<br/>B.O.B.</p>                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>17</b></p>          | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>7:00-9:30am:<br/>Coffee &amp; Donut<br/>Drive Thru<br/>5:30pm:<br/>Junior Bells<br/>6:30pm:<br/>GEMS, Cadets<br/>Celebration<br/>Singers<br/>8:05pm:<br/>Worship Team</p> | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>9:15am:<br/>Women's Bible<br/>Study</p>  | <p><b>20</b></p> | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>8:00am:<br/>Men's Prayer<br/>Meeting</p>  |
| <p><b>22</b> *</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>7:00pm<br/>B.O.B.</p>                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>24</b></p>                                                                                             | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>7:00-9:30am:<br/>Coffee &amp; Donut<br/>Drive Thru<br/>6:30pm:<br/>Celebration<br/>Singers<br/>8:05pm:<br/>Worship Team</p>                                               | <p><b>26</b></p>                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>27</b></p> | <p><b>28</b></p>                                              |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Please turn in all articles for the<br/>April issue on<br/>March 22<sup>nd</sup> following the<br/>morning service (11:00a.m.)</p> </div> |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                  |                  |                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>29</b> *</p> <p>6:00pm:<br/>Easter Choir<br/>Concert</p>                                                                         | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>7:00pm<br/>B.O.B.</p>                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>31</b></p>         |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                  |                  |                                                                                                                                                    |