

Ebenezer Happenings



June 2024

The Monthly Newsletter of
Ebenezer Reformed Church
of Morrison, IL



Inside this Issue:

- ♦ The Pastor's Note
- ♦ Sunday Worship
- ♦ Elder Care Group Gatherings
- ♦ Calendar & Birthdays
- ♦ Ladies Aid & Bible Studies
- ♦ Prayer Concerns
- ♦ Meetings-at-a-Glance
- ♦ Monthly Memory Verse
- ♦ Service Team Schedules
- ♦ Vacation Bible School
- ♦ Update from Kendra
- ♦ Just for Laughs
- ♦ Missionary Spotlight
- ♦ Resthove Walk and Wheel
- ♦ Attendance & Giving
- ♦ Consistory Reports

Ebenezer

Reformed Church

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Our Mission: Helping
people find & follow Jesus

Dear Friends of Ebenezer,

As many of you know, last month I had the privilege of attending a preaching conference at the Billy Graham Center on the campus of Wheaton College. I didn't know what to expect because I hadn't been to this particular gathering before and I didn't recognize any of the names of those who were keynote speakers. To my surprise and delight, it was a diverse group of preachers. Most of them were African-American pastors and the worship band was a black gospel group from an inner-city church in Chicago. So, as you can imagine, it was a much different kind of environment than what we are all used to here in Whiteside County at our Dutch Reformed, Ebenezer Church!

Because of the diversity of background and skin tones, there was a great variety of preaching styles that I was exposed to. Each pastor had profound insights to share on how and why we are to preach. The keynote topics included:

- Crafting Compelling Preaching
- The Sacrifices of Pastoral Ministry
- Illustrating the Word
- Preaching the Love of Christ
- Biblical Application
- How Compelling Preaching Changes Lives
- Reaching the Nations by the Power of the Spirit

Each session and workshop was a worthwhile lesson for me as your pastor. Since the conference, I have been going over my notes often to continue gaining greater insights.

The weekly preaching responsibility is every minister's most important task. Some weeks it is a challenge and a chore to prepare a decent sermon. But honestly, my friends, most weeks it is a privilege and a pleasure! I enjoy the work of sermon preparation as much as I do the delivery. And I do my best each week to feed you solid food (meat, not milk) from the pulpit. A pastor's biggest mistake is not providing solid biblical content to his congregation. When I am finished with my current series on the Apostle's Creed, I will be starting a new summer series which will be a verse-by-verse study of the book of Galatians. Something to look forward to!

A Joy to Serve You,

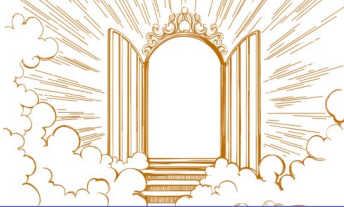
Pastor J.T. Bean

Sunday Worship - June 2024



2

Series: The Apostles' Creed (Part 18)
Sermon: **The Resurrection of the Body**
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:35-42
Speaker: Pastor J.T. Bean



9

Series: The Apostles' Creed (Part 19)
Sermon: **The Life Everlasting**
Scripture: Revelation 21:1-5
Speaker: Pastor J.T. Bean



16

Pastor will be gone: at General Synod
Sermon: **TBA**
Scripture: **TBA**
Guest Speaker: Rev. Bob Hoffman



23

Series: Galatians (Part 1)
Sermon: **No Other Gospel**
Scripture: Galatians 1:1-10
Speaker: Pastor J.T. Bean



30

Series: Galatians (Part 2)
Sermon: **Called By God**
Scripture: Galatians 1:11-24
Speaker: Pastor J.T. Bean

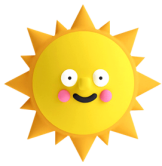
Elder "Care Group" gatherings are coming in July!
 The gatherings are scheduled as follows:

- July 2 - Jan Renkes** (Ottens-Smith)
 & Keith Hamstra (Snyder-Vegter)
- July 9 - Teresa Stout** (Callihan-Harksen)
 & Barney Habben (Hook-Orlowski)
- July 30 - Martha Kophamer** (Adolph-Bush)
 & Ken Jansma (Vos-Zuidema)

Whichever elder corresponds with your last name grouping, that is the also the date to which you are requested to attend. If your assigned date does not fit

into your summer schedule, you are invited to attend one of the other 2 meetings. The goal is to have EVERYONE attend (members, attenders, and friends) at least one of the scheduled gatherings. Each meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. and will meet in the fellowship hall for approximately one hour. There will be desserts, snacks and drinks provided.

The purpose of the meetings is to discuss our church vision, finances, and future association with the RCA. We will also open up for prayer requests and take time to inquire of your personal needs and concerns. Ultimately, we would like these gatherings to unite our hearts in prayer for our Ebenezer family as a whole. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor J.T. or your elder.



June 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Worship Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. ↓			 ERC Summer Games 9-10:30am (K-5) Women's Bible Study 1pm		May 31	1 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
2 Youth & Educ. Cmt 10:45am Mid-High Youth 10:45am	3	4	5 ERC Summer Games 9-10:30am (K-5) Women's Bible Study 1pm	6 Food Bank 9:45am Worship Team Mtg 5:15pm	7 GARAGE SALE FRI 8am-3p SAT 8am-Noon <div>Garage Sale - Youth Fundraiser</div>	8 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
9 Mid-High Youth 10:45am	10 Exec Team 1pm Elders 6pm Consistory 6:30pm	11	12 ERC Summer Games 9-10:30am (K-5) <div>Pastor J.T. at General Synod</div>	13 Food Bank 9:45am	14	15 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
16 Father's Day 	17	18	19 ERC Summer Games 9-10:30am (K-5) Ladies' Aid 1:30pm <div>Pastor J.T. at General Synod</div>	20 Food Bank 9:45am O.M.E. Task Force 6pm	21	22 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
23 Mid-High Youth 10:45am	24	25	26 Church Staff Mtg 10am	27 Food Bank 9:45am	28	29 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
<div>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Weeknights 6-8 p.m. at Emmanuel Church</div>						
30 Mid-High Youth 10:45am	July 1 Exec Team Mtg 9am Church Life Cmt 10am	2 Elder Care Grp. Gathering 7pm	3 Women's Bible Study 1pm	4 Independence Day	5	6 Men's Bible Study 7:30am

June Birthdays

6/4-Deb Swearingen, Hailey Wiersema 6/5-Pam Gorzny 6/8-Dawn Meurs, Jeff Brooks
6/9-Brian Tichler 6/10-Austin Edwards, LaVonne Dykema 6/11-Verne Pessman
6/13-Allison Taylor, Cambell Buikema, Gracyn Schmidt 6/14-Marilyn VanOosten,
Ron Wiersema 6/16-Garry Seaman 6/18-Pam Grismore 6/23-Martha Kophamer
6/24-Marilyn Tichler 6/25-Jenny Patton, Ron Buikema 6/26-Roberta Bush
6/27-Brandon Jansma 6/28-Kaleb Damhoff 6/29-Karen Price

Ladies Aid

Ladies Aid will meet on June 15th. The program will be presented by Lorie Snow from the new "God's Will" store. All items are donated and all items are free to anyone in need. Please join us as Lorie tells us about her new venture that the Lord has called her to do!

Women's Bible Study

Please join us for a Bible Study the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Noah's Ark room. Our leader is Doris Bielema.

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study is open to young and old. We meet every Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your Bible. Coffee and donuts will be served. We are currently studying the Old Testament book of Exodus.

Mid-High Bible Study

Our weekly class for middle-school and high-school age students. We meet in the Upper Room (3rd floor) for a time to talk, study the Bible and try to "stump the pastor" with Bible trivia questions.

Teen Class

Prayer Concerns

- Pray for those who need restored health, healing, and encouragement: Ruth Rosenow, Linda Hook, Ron Wiersema, Jonelle Hook, Kathy Vanderlaan, Keith Morine, Arlyn Zuidema, Velma Dean, Jenny Patton, Neva Baar, Joyce Medema, Fred Hadley, Barb Geerts, Betty Voss, Joanne Barnes, Elmer Huizenga, Diane Boelkins, Jeg Weets, Joyce Wilkins and the Hugg, Perry & Baker families. Pray also for those with special needs or unspoken prayer requests, as well as our shut-ins and nursing/assisted-living residents.

- Pray also for our military men serving in the U.S. Armed Forces:

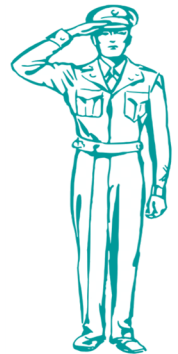
Elijah Bean (Air Force)

Gregory Bush (Air Force)

Brevin Pruis (Navy)

Luke Wilkens (Marines)

Tyler Haan (Air Force)



- Pray for our missionaries: Andrew & Sophia Pitcher with Wycliffe bible translators, Roger & Sue Scheenstra in Africa, Ben & Kelita Johnson in Honduras, and Jeff & Chelsea Lampen to Germany, and Angel Lopez in Mexico.

- Prayer is available after each Sunday worship service. There is always an elder there to meet in the prayer room to pray about whatever concerns are on your heart.

- Contact the pastor or church office to put a prayer request on the email "prayer line". Prayer requests will be sent out as soon as the pastor is able to do so.

June Meetings At-a-Glance

Sun June 2 – Youth/Ed. Cmt. 10:45am

Thurs June 6 - Worship Team 5:15pm

Mon June 10 - Exec Team Mtg 1pm

Mon June 10 - Elders/Deacons 6pm
Consistory 6:30pm

Thurs June 20 - O.M.E. Task Force 6pm

Wed June 26 - Church staff mtg.

* Church Life will not meet this month.



Nursery Schedule

June 2 - Angie Tichler & Allison Weaver

June 9 - Jackie & Alicen Wiersema

June 16 - Shawn & Kevin Soenksen

June 23 - Beth Milnes & Kinlee Prins

June 30 - Angie Tichler & Allison Weaver

Sunday Greeters

June 2 - Jane Haan

June 9 - Michelle Hook

June 16 - Doris Bull

June 23 - Harvey Zuidema

June 30 - Karen Landheer



Memory Verse of the Month

Deuteronomy 31:8

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged.

Welcome Center

June 2 - Sharon Reisenbigler

June 9 - Ken & Glenda Jansma

June 16 - Verne & Pat Pessman

June 23 - Keith & Joyce Hamstra

June 30 - Nick & Melinda Hamstra



Fellowship Hour

June 2 - Courtney Bruckner & Jane Haan

June 9 - Verne, Pat & Mark Ardapple

June 16 - Father's Day (No Fellowship Hour)

June 23 - Keith & Luann Morine

June 30 - Jack & Susan Bland



June is VBS month!

Vacation Bible School for all our Morrison churches who want to participate is going to be held the week of Monday, June 24 through Friday, June 28. The VBS committee is in need of volunteers from each church to make this work. If anyone from our church would be willing to help during the week of June 24-28, it would be greatly appreciated. We need extra hands to supervise kids in each room with crafts, games and transitioning to each classroom. We are looking for at least two people but would love to have as many who love kids and would be willing to help! And if you are in high school, we could use you too! This year it will not be at the jr. high but will be held at Emmanuel Church from 6:00 to 8:15 p.m. Contact Jennie Gowan or Pastor J.T. to let them know you are interested in serving!

Also: We need supplies! Help by donating items from Wal-mart or Amazon.

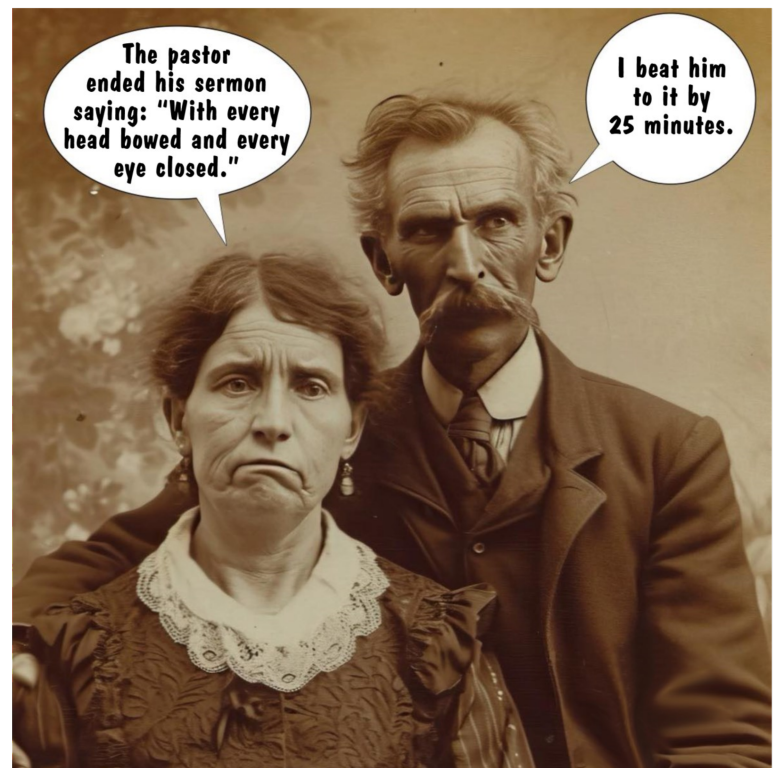


Kendra Remrey
Office Manager

As many of you are aware, we are working to update the internet and phone services at the church. The process has taken a bit longer than originally anticipated, as there were scheduling delays with the installation. Now that the new internet service has been installed, we are now able to move forward with getting set up with the new phone service. We are hopeful that this can be completed in the next couple of weeks. We appreciate your patience!



JUST FOR LAUGHS



**Wal-Mart
Wish List**



**Amazon
Wish List**



Missionary Spotlight

Angel Lopez



Angel Lopez, who is supported by our church and serves with the Reformed Church of America, is our missionary focus this month. Angel serves the needs of migrating people who are hoping to find a better life for themselves in the United States. As they cross the border from J Juarez, Mexico into El Paso, Texas, Angel is there to meet and greet and help prepare them as they continue their approved journey into the U.S. The border crossing where Angel serves is called “Frontera de Gracia” or the Border of Grace. While at the border, people will find just that through Angel’s efforts! They will also find temporary refuge and a place of worship, which in turn, gives Angel many opportunities to be the “hands and feet of Jesus”—and to share the Gospel of Good News with these immigrants.

Angel grew up in Chiapas, Mexico. As a child he saw firsthand how RCA missionaries could make a difference as they shared the gospel and cared for those in need. Today Angel is doing the same thing as he serves the needs of those who need help and hope. His responsibilities include educating people about the border situation and providing resources for immigrants. He also works with local churches to develop congregants who can build relationships with these individuals as they look to build a brighter future for themselves in the United States.

Please pray for Angel Lopez as he serves the Lord at the Frontera de Gracia, located just minutes from El Paso. Pray that the border can be a safe place where people will come to know Jesus as their Savior and that the Holy Spirit will move in the hearts of these travelers as they move to new locations in the United States.

Resthave Walk & Wheel

We will be starting our Resthave Walk and Wheel program on Monday, June 3 at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers who are willing to give wheelchair rides to the residents can just show up. It usually takes less than an hour and if you need to leave early, that is fine. It not only delights the residents to get out and enjoy the sun and fresh air, but it

also is a joy to spend a few minutes with them and get to know them. You will be blessed.

Just show up a little before 9 on the nursing side. This will be every Monday until

Labor Day. If you have questions call Martha Kophamer at 815-238-7005.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

*** We have an online directory. Find out how you can access it by calling Kendra in the church office.**

*** If you do not have internet ask Kendra to print a hard copy for you.**

*** Please contact the church office to make sure your birthday is on our list.**

*** Also: If you are married, tell us your wedding anniversary.**

Giving & Attendance

Here's an update on our numbers for the month of May:

Date	Attendance	Offering
May 5	126	\$7,389
May 12	118	\$2,970
May 19	109	\$4,245
May 28	110	\$4,104
	Avg. 115	Total: \$18,708

May Breakdown:

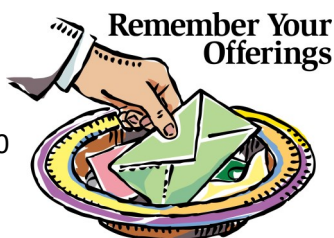
General Fund: \$17,498

TV: \$70

Mother Daughter Banquet: \$1,140

Tithe.ly (online giving): \$1,155.⁴⁹

Total: \$19,863.⁴⁹



Join the E-mail List

Stay informed of everything that's going on at Ebenezer: J.T. sends out a weekly **"Note From the Pastor"** as well as regular prayer chain emails as they come in to him. To get on the list, simply email Pastor J.T. and request to be added: ercpastorjt@gmail.com

Note & Disclaimer

All *Ebenezer Happenings* article submissions need to be received by the 20th day of each month to guarantee inclusion in the next edition. We apologize for any missing or inaccurate information within this newsletter. If there are additions or corrections to be made, please call the church office at (815) 772-2472 or e-mail Kendra Remrey at erc.kendra@gmail.com



Keep up with current happenings, watch videos, and browse through photos and new posts.

Be sure to **"Like"** the Ebenezer Reformed Church Facebook page.

"Share" our posts to help spread the word about what's happening here.

Watch the Sunday morning Live-stream and post a comment to let us know who's watching and where you're watching from!

This newsletter is a publication of:

Ebenezer Reformed Church

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♦ Rev. J.T. Bean, Lead Pastor

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♦ Kendra Remrey, Office Manager

erc.kendra@gmail.com

Office hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.-1p.m.

Sunday Morning Worship:

Worship Celebration - 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hour - 10:45 a.m.

Youth Bible Study Hour - 10:45 a.m.

*Helping people
find and follow Jesus*

2024 Consistory

Elders: J. T. Bean, Barney Habben, Keith Hamstra, Ken Jansma, Martha Kophamer, Jan Renkes, Teresa Stout

Deacons: Marcia Blean, Scott Meurs, Jenny Patton, Pat Pessman, Dave Weber, Nancy Weber

2024 Executive Team

J.T. Bean (Pastor)

Ken Jansma (Vice President)

Marcia Blean (Deacons Chair)

Nancy Weber (Treasurer)

Martha Kophamer (Clerk)

May Consistory Meeting

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:26pm. The entire consistory was present!

Devotions and Prayer: Pastor J.T. opened the meeting with devotions from Psalm 33:6-9 and prayer.

Where have we seen God at work at ERC? Healthy attendance and givings. Mother-Daughter ticket sales are going well. 21 kids are signed up to attend summer camp at Manitoqua. We received a new/used big screen TV for the upstairs conference room. (William will work on getting it hooked up and make sure it works for us.) The fellowship time is active-good attendance. The Woman's Bible Study also has had good attendance.

Elders Report: Martha: (See Elders minutes.)

Deacon's report: Nancy discussed how all of the "funds" on the budget are actually only 1 checking account.

Finance: Nancy asked for approval to add Marcia Blean to the checking account and remove Ron Williams from the same. It was approved. M/S to give Courtney Brucker a credit card for church expenses. Deb Adolph's credit card is being cancelled. She distributed "Committee Spending Guideline" form. All committees should use this as guidelines and be cognizant of what they are spending and IF there is money allotted for it. It will be reviewed annually at the beginning of the year after the committee chair persons are determined and the new budget is approved. The April numbers were reviewed and discussed. M/S to approve April budget.

Property: Marcia gave updates on Bob Wiersema's projects and building repairs/upkeep. Marcia would like to get the kitchen floors stripped and rewaxed. It has been many years since it has been done. She found someone that will do it for \$350. Ken Jansma said roof discussion continues. Perhaps we should form a "Roof replacement" committee. Martha suggested that if this happens, some non-consistory members should be on it.

Church Life: Ken Jansma – The Mother-Daughter banquet is May 14th. There will be prizes! They are working on the city-wide garage sale.

Endowment: Ken- No report this month.

Worship/Music: Scott Meurs- Carol Kent who filled in for pulpit supply April 7th was well received Graduation Sunday is June 2nd. June 16 is Father's Day. We will have a Women's choir. Bob Hoffman will fill the pulpit. The requested drum set, microphone and amp was approved to be paid for by the Endowment Fund. Jenny Patton is working on a Youth band.

Youth/Education: Jan Renkes- Heaven's Express final day will be May 12. Twenty-one campers are registered. The church cost is \$6,247 and the bus will be around \$1,800. Books will be handed out to the graduates on June 2 when they are recognized. VBS is looking for a few helpers to assist with crafts. Let Jennie Pruis know if you can help out. On 3 Wednesdays in June, there will be activities for kids. July there will be a Family Fun night and August will be an ice cream social and After Shock registration.

Assistance/Memorial: Dave Weber- The bathrooms remodeling projects came to \$9,414.78. The lower level men's bathroom flooring was \$1,478.54. It still needs to be painted. Remaining balance in Memorial is \$1,251.85. Assistance balance is \$2,186.99.

Sacraments/Communion: Barney Habben- Communion will be served June 2. Home visits will be done that week also.

O.M.E. Task force: Pat Pessman- They discussed the Elder Care District get togethers in July. The focus of the meetings will be prayer, giving, random acts of kindness, and discussion about our status with the RCA. Gary Gray will have a presentation in the fellowship hall on May 26 about his recent mission trip to Guatemala. We reviewed the current missionaries we support and discovered we needed more information on Angel Lopez. He is currently positioned on the border between the U.S. and Mexico. Pat will submit more information to the congregation. On August 21, Brad Hurtig will have an inspirational program at the Morrison High School auditorium. This will be sponsored by the Morrison Ministerial Council. It is geared for middle and senior high students.

Consistory Meeting Minutes Continued

Approve Minutes: M/S to approve April, 2024 minutes.

Old Business: None.

New Business: -Insurance: Ken had some numbers he gathered from Guideone Insurance. This is a different company than we are currently using. The total figure is \$20,361.00 which is less than we are paying, but still a lot. There was discussion about eliminating insurance on some buildings/garages. It has been learned that we cannot just have personal property insurance. We must ensure the building if we want to insure the contents. Further discussion with the committee is needed.

-Alliance of Reformed Churches: Pastor Luke Schouten and elder Loren Tenboer from Emmanuel Church shared about their experience with leaving the RCA and their alignment and experience with joining the ARC. The ARC has been in existence since March 2021. They follow the Reformed Church theology and use the same liturgy for communion and baptism etc. Nothing in the church services has changed. Most change is seen in the structure/hierarchy. Instead of "dues" as we currently pay to the RCA, the churches make a donation to the ARC of 3% of their budget. It is not mandated and no one checks the finances. It is on the honor system. Of the 3%, 1% goes to the denominational staff. 2% goes to the networks (which is similar to the "Classis") Emmanuel belongs to the Upper Mississippi Valley Network. Within the Network is then "Clusters". Emmanuel is in a Cluster with a couple of churches in Fulton, Eldridge and Davenport. There are currently 200 churches in the ARC most of which are churches who have left the RCA. The biggest difference is that the ARC takes a stand against homosexuality and gay marriage. This has been adopted into their By-Laws. The RCA has some churches that do and some that do not allow it. [They allow them to worship and attend. They just will not perform a gay wedding.] ERC needs to continue to discuss this. Pastor J.T. is attending the RCA General Synod in June and we hope to have deeper discussions after he returns.

Next meeting: June 10, 2024. Jen is assigned to prayer.

Adjournment: M/S to adjourn post prayer. MC.

Closing Prayer: Ken Jansma closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted: *Martha Kophamer*, Clerk

May Elders Meeting Minutes

Devotions and Prayer: Pastor J.T. opened the meeting at 5:58 with scripture Psalm 33:6-9, discussion and prayer.

Attendance: All elders were present.

Constitutional Questions: The constitutional question was asked and answered in the negative.

Grieving Members in need of care: Discussion occurred.

Care Districts: July 2, 9 and 30 are the dates for our gatherings. Elders will provide dessert and will also reaching out to their members to encourage them to come. If unable to attend the assigned date, members can attend any of the dates. We will focus on church finances, RCA affiliation, Random Acts of kindness, and prayer.

Prayer Room: Reminder to cover your assigned Sundays or find a replacement.

Communion: Our next date is June 2. Teresa will be going to Resthove to serve them during the service. Home communion will be that following week.

Approve Minutes from previous month's meeting: Motion and made and seconded to approve the April 2024 minutes with the correction of the next Elders meeting date.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn after closing prayer.

Closing Prayer: Keith Hamstra closed in prayer.

Next meeting and Closing Prayer assignment: Next Elders meeting will be June 10. Barney is assigned to prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Martha Kophamer*, Clerk