

# ANNOUNCER

*Adams Protestant Reformed Christian School*

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adamschristianschool.org

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***Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. Is. 60:1***

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## **Administration & Staff**

### ***The Generation That Forgot***

Mr. Rick Mingerink  
Administrator

**I**t is the fourth generation that forgets.

This was the message of Pastor John MacArthur in a sermon recording that was given to me by an elderly man when I first started working at Adams. The first generation fights the battle and the truth is seared into their soul. The second generation observes the fight firsthand and witnesses the cost on

their father's face and in their mother's meditation. The third generation hears about the fight at the feet of their parents and grandparents and carries their testimonies with them. The fourth generation is neither a participant, nor an observer, nor a hearer. It is the fourth generation that forgets.

I have never forgotten this message: it only takes one generation to forget.

God reveals this message to us in His Word, too. In Joshua 2, we learn about the generation that forgot. In vs. 10, we read "... and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel." This was a generation that arose after Joshua had died. It was a generation that did not fight the battles with Joshua nor hear the stories of those who fought. It was the generation that forgot.

But forgetting is not the beginning of the sin; forgetting is the result. The forgetting began when the preceding generations did not teach. Not only did they not teach, they also did not care enough to remove the evil influences in the lives of their future generations. We read in vs. 2 that the generation who fought the battles with Joshua made league with some of the Canaanites and did not throw down their altars. They left idols in the land, and in this disobedience their children's children paid the price. The fourth generation "forsook the Lord God... and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them" (Judges 2:12).

The sins of the fourth generation are sown in the first generation. This is why God commands His people repeatedly to teach and train their children. There is no forgetting when fathers diligently teach their children, and talk to their children when they sit together at home, or when they walk together in the way, or when they go to bed and rise up together to start a new day, as we are instructed in Deuteronomy 6:7. The message of Judges 2 is not a message to the fourth generation about their forgetting; it is a message to the preceding generations about their instructing!

The direct result of an instructional failure is forgetting. And a direct result of forgetting is wickedness in life. This is clear in verse 11. About the generation that forgot, we read “and the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim, and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers...”

They did not do evil because they were not well fed, clothed, or cared for. It was not a failure of parents to care for the well-being of their children; it was a failure of parents to train. They did evil because they were not properly instructed.

God has given our generation an immensely valuable treasure to help us instruct our children. It is the gift of a Christian school. It is a treasure beyond measure. To those who continue to expend themselves for her: your work is not in vain! To those who are worn out by caring for her: renew yourself and give again! To those who have let others carry the burden: gird up your loins and do something! To those who are indifferent to her: open your eyes to her worth! May she be maintained and supported by all of us in our own capacity. Let this generation not sow the seeds of forgetting in the generations to come.

## Solomon's Temple

Miss Heidi Gritters  
Second Grade

The temple was a building renowned for its beauty. From the moment king David began preparing supplies for the temple, it was clear this was going to be a special building. Even the way they built the temple was especially unique. It was carefully planned and meticulously built. Every aspect of the temple was according to the plan of God.

Before the temple was built, the Israelites had been using the tabernacle to worship God. While this tent was special and beautiful in its own way, the Israelites were no longer moving from place to place. They no longer needed a tent that could be carried with them. It was time to build something permanent. It could be built with care and precision over many years. David wanted to be the man to do this, but in God's perfect plan, David was not chosen by God for this high calling. He was a man of war. God needed a man of peace to build His house. This man would be David's son, Solomon.

After seven and a half years of work, the temple was completed. No sounds were heard in the building process. It turned out exactly as God had determined. It was covered from top to bottom in gold and precious stones. It is hard to even imagine the spectacular splendor of this temple.

Over time, God caused enemies to come to Judah and take the temple apart piece by piece for their own profit. This was a sad time for God's people. Eventually they would rebuild a new temple, but this new temple wouldn't even come close to the beauty of the first temple. Many of the people cried with sadness after seeing the new temple because they could remember the incomparable beauty of the first temple.

One of the most amazing things about the temple is that every little part had more than just an outward beauty. The temple was filled with beautiful meaning. God gave his people beautiful pictures that taught them about their great God. Just as the people of Judah could see these promises of Christ, we too can look around us today and see pictures that God reveals to us. Our day-to-day lives are filled with these pictures of our God. Ecclesiastes 3:11, *“He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.”* Take time today to look around and see the beautiful promises that God has revealed to us in every little thing. Our God is a great God!

The second graders wrote a little to explain the outward beauty of the many parts of the temple along with the beautiful pictures that each one holds.

### Who Built the Temple

The temple was the most gorgeous place in the land. The priests worshipped in and out of the temple. King Solomon built the temple. He was the most

wise king to ever live. Solomon's name means "Peaceable". Solomon was A prince of a peace but Jesus is THE Prince of Peace.

~Maylee Zandstra

### Working on the Temple

The temple was a reverent place of God. David could not build because he had bloody hands. The Levites worked on the temple very quietly because they had already cut out the stones before they built the temple. The Levites worked on the temple quietly because they were building a reverent place.

~Jordan Pipe

### The Laver

The temple was big and reverent. Solomon built it. David could not build it because his hands were bloody. The laver was a bowl of water with twelve oxen under it. The priests washed themselves in it. It was found in the priest's court. The laver pictured God washing away our sins.

~David Lubbers

### All About the Twelve Bulls

The temple was covered in gold. It was very, very beautiful. Outside the temple, under the laver, were the twelve bulls. The twelve bulls were in the priest's court. As the laver was covered in brass, the twelve bulls were too. The twelve bulls showed God's godly people. The number twelve means God's godly tribes.

~Charlotte Kaiser

### The Altar of Burnt Offerings

The temple is built with very heavy bricks. Also most of the stuff has gold. Outside the temple, in the priests court, there was the altar of burnt offerings. It looked like a big block that probably had wood. They used it for sacrificing animals. It pictured our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to save us from our sins.

~Tate Postma

### God Lifts Us Up

The temple had gold, silver, precious stones, tree wood, marble, and other stuff. It was special because they did not make any sounds. Outside the temple, in the priest's court, was a pillar named *Jachen*. It was covered with bronze with cherubim,

flowers, and palm trees. *Jachen* is a picture that God lifts us up. It means, "He Supports."

~Logan Oosterbaan

### Boaz The Pillar

God's people needed the temple to worship God in. Solomon built the temple because God's people wanted to worship God. David could not build the temple because he was a man of war. Outside the temple, there was a pillar called "Boaz". It was by the entrance of the temple or the temple porch. The things that were engraved in Boaz were flowers, palm trees, and cherubim covered with bronze. It means 'In Him Strength' and it pictures God is our strength and shield.

~Eloise Kregel

### The Rooms of the Temple

The temple was very beautiful. The temple was covered in gold and brass. Inside the temple were all the rooms. There is the Most Holy Place, the Holy Place, and the Priests Court. Only the high priest could go in the Most Holy Place once a year. For the Priest's court only the priests could go in it. The priests offering sacrifices could go in the Holy Place. Most of the rooms were covered in gold.

~Jade Pipe

### The Table of Showbread

The temple was beautiful. The temple was special. The table of showbread was found in the holy place. There were ten tables of showbread. The showbread was a picture of Christ. It pictures Christ as the Bread of Life.

~Tillie McKinney

### All About the Altar of Incense

The temple was covered with gold. It was so beautiful and they built it so quietly. Inside the temple is the altar of incense. It was found in the Holy Place. In real life, they used it to offer sweet smells up to heaven. It pictures the people's prayers going up to heaven.

~Colin Kortering

### The Candlesticks

The temple was built with rock and the rock was one hundred tons. Only the priests could go in the priest's court. The candlesticks were found in the side of the Holy Place. They used the candlestick to light up the temple. The candlesticks had seven

branches and were made of gold. They pictured God being our light but sin is darkness.

~Travis Hanko

### About the Ark

They worshipped God in the temple. It was quiet when they built the temple. The ark was in the Most Holy Place. The ark was beautifully built with gold and cherubim on top. The ark pictured God with his people.

~Brahm Mingerink

### Angel on The Ark

The temple was covered in gold. They made the temple because they didn't need to move any more. The angel was on the ark in the Most Holy Place. The angel is a picture of our sins getting covered. Another name for an angel is a cherubim.

~Sam Elzinga

### The Ten Commandments

The temple was one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. It took seven and a half years to build. Is that a lot or is that a lot? Inside the temple where only the priests could go, which is the Most Holy Place, was a box known as the ark. The ark had something no one has ever seen. The Ten Commandments were in it. There were two tables too. Have you ever noticed during Bible, you are taught more and more about God's law? Well here is something to remember! Here is what the two tables mean: God's people knowing and following God's commands.

~Isaac Mingerink

### All About Dedication

The temple was very beautiful and it was also covered in gold! Why did they build the temple? Well, to worship God! The temple was dedicated to use for a special use. They dedicated the temple because they wanted to worship God. They did it at the Feast of Tabernacles. When the dedication of the temple ended, the cloud went into the temple.

~Miriam Miersma

### All About the Cloud

The cloud went into the temple when they were done building it. When the cloud went into the temple, the people started having a party. The cloud

was above the temple when the people were building it. It pictures God dwelling with his people.

~Josie Langerak

### Apples of Gold

Miss Lynnae Miedema

Second Grade

For the last few weeks, the students and I have been studying the life of King Solomon. We heard his request for wisdom, we saw the glorious beauty of the temple he built, and we heard about his fame, wealth, and power, which were known throughout the world of that time. Then we got to see his wisdom for ourselves by studying parts of the book of Proverbs. In this book, Solomon writes as a father teaching his children.

One of the first proverbs we studied was Proverbs 1:7, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*" We learned that all knowledge begins with the fear of the Lord. Because we love God, we stand in awe of His beautiful creation. Only fools despise wisdom and instruction. God's children love to learn because of Who we learn about.

As part of their study on the book of Proverbs, the students were each assigned one of Solomon's proverbs and asked to explain its meaning. Please enjoy these practical truths of Scripture from the understanding of these covenant children.

### Josie Bodbyl - Proverbs 15:16

*"Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith."*

We want godliness more than anything. It is way better to have little and be poor and love the Lord than having riches because then it will lead to trouble. A lot of treasures will bring a lot of trouble.

### Mason Griffioen - Proverbs 10:28

*"The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish."*

What is the hope of the righteous? To go to heaven and serve God. It brings us gladness. The wicked hope for treasures like money, idols, and fame. But these things will only bring trouble, and soon they will go to hell.

**Theodore Hoekstra - Proverbs 6:6**

*“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.”*

You should go to the ant if you are lazy. Watch the ant and how it works. The ant is up and at it, and you are just sitting there like a sluggard. You should work hard.

**Anthony Kaiser - Proverbs 18:10**

*“The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”*

God keeps us safe. If we are afraid, we should run to God. Pray to Him so that He will protect us.

**Holland Kamps - Proverbs 18:24**

*“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”*

A man can have friends, but he must help his friends by showing himself friendly. And did you know that there is a friend closer than a brother? It is Jesus! But our brothers are also close friends.

**Micah Koerner - Proverbs 15:2**

*“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”*

This proverb tells us that God is always watching us. When he sees us do something bad, He does not laugh at us. He helps us do good things. We should obey Him. When God is watching us, we cannot see Him. He sees the good things we do and the bad things we do.

**Jayla Kooienga - Proverbs 15:5**

*“A fool despiseth his father’s instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.”*

This proverb teaches us about how if the foolish don’t listen to their parents they will fall into sin. And if their parents don’t correct them they will fall into sin. If you listen to your parents you will do righteous things. What will happen to you? You will do better things.

**Caleb Koole - Proverbs 25:11**

*“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”*

This proverb is about our good and kind words. It is good for other people to hear good and kind words. It is good to be kind and speak kindly to other people.

**Oliver Looyenga - Proverbs 10:1**

*“A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.”*

A godly son will make a happy father. But a bad son makes an unhappy father. We should love God and Jesus. If you are a wise son, you will make a glad father.

**Fern Pastoor - Proverbs 12:10**

*“A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.”*

A beast is an animal like a pet. We take care of our pets and do not hurt them. God taught us to take care of them. It is wicked to treat them badly.

**Rose Schipper - Proverbs 17:22**

*“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”*

A merry heart will lead you in a good path like medicine leads you to a healthy body. But a broken spirit will hurt. It could make you sad also.

**Remy Spriensma - Proverbs 22:6**

*“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

This proverb is for parents and teachers. It tells them what to teach their children. Teach a child godly things, and when he is older he will not depart from it. If you show your kids the right path, they will never go away from it. Also if you teach them God’s commandments, they will not want to go astray from it.

**Davis Van Overloop - Proverbs 16:18**

*“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”*

Do not be proud. Being proud makes trouble. It brings destruction and a fall into sin. Act godly.

**Sally Van Til - Proverbs 20:11**

*“Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.”*

People will know if you love the Lord or not by your doings. If you are naughty, people will think you do not love the Lord. If you are good, people will think you love the Lord. Why do you want to be good? Because people will know you love the Lord.

**Everett Vander Kolk - Proverbs 15:1**

*“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”*

You should speak nice so people will be nice back. But mean words will stir up mean words. So we should not be mean back.

**KayLeese Wassink - Proverbs 23:23**

*“Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”*

If you put truth in your heart then you will not want to put it out. If you read the Bible that will help you learn to be good and then after that you will have fun on the righteous path. You can sing and pray on the righteous path. And if you keep God’s commandments you will go to heaven to be with God the King.

The amazing truths of God’s Word are precious to us and to our children! From the Scriptures, we learn wisdom. We learn about our attitudes and motivations. Ultimately, we learn about God’s amazing love and grace that has saved us from our sins. In thankfulness, we try to obey Him and live as He commands us. The Proverbs provide excellent guidelines for godly living through the instruction of a wise father to his children. May God use this instruction to help us live wisely.

**Wholehearted Service**

Miss Marissa Holstege

Third Grade

When you wake up in the early morning and pull yourself out of your cozy bed, what are you thinking about? Are you thinking about the fact that you have to get ready for school? Are you thinking about the yummy breakfast that Mom or Dad has prepared for you before you head out the door? Are you thinking about the amazing lessons that your teachers have carefully prepared for you? Or maybe you’re thinking about what you’re going to talk about with your friends, or what games you’ll play with them? These are all fine questions for students to ask—but are they the right questions when it comes to school?

At the end of this past summer, I was a chaperone at the amazing Young People’s Convention. The theme centered around the word “serve.” Throughout the week, the young people were encouraged to think deeply about a life of service: How can I serve God? What are the dangers of serving self?

How can I best serve my neighbor? One of the leaders summed up the week in a simple but powerful way—words that I truly took to heart:

**Serve God.**

**Serve Others.**

**Create memories and have fun.**

I decided to make these three goals the expectations for my students this school year. They’re posted on our classroom wall for every student to see and reflect on each day. These are expectations that all students—not just mine—can benefit from reflecting on, not only before school, but during and after school as well.

These are the questions they should be asking: “How can I serve God today?” That should always come first. He is the reason we attend Adams Christian School. We are here to learn for Him and to praise His name. “How can I serve others?” God calls us first to love Him and second to love our neighbor. So what did you do for your brother or sister in Christ today? And finally, “What fun can I have?” What memories did you create that might last a lifetime?

As parents, teachers, and friends, these are questions we can ask our children and each other and think about ourselves too. Our whole hearts should be devoted to the service of God. How amazing it is that we are able to serve Him because of what He has done for us! At the end of each week, my students and I revisit these expectations together. We talk about how we served God first, then how we served one another, and finally, how we had fun. Here are some of their responses so far this school year:

**Serve God**

- Have devotions every morning
- Pray
- Sing together in the lobby
- Attend chapels
- Love our neighbors
- Try our best
- Talk about Him in our different subjects

**Serve Others**

- Let others join in on playground games
- Take turns
- Help each other out
- Listen to one another
- Respect our classmates’ ideas and thoughts

**Have Fun!**

- Field Day
- Celebrating birthdays

- Recess
- Examining bones in owl pellets
- Wheel Day
- Art projects
- Field Trips
- Mr. Impossible!

As we journey through this school year, may our hearts be ever mindful of the call to serve. Let us serve God above all, seeking His guidance and grace in everything we do, and serve our brothers and sisters in Christ with love, kindness, and patience in every interaction. Let us embrace the joy and blessings that come from learning, growing, and creating lasting memories together. The questions I posed at the beginning are not wrong in themselves but let us strive to think more deeply. I humbly ask for your prayers, that we may remain faithful in our service, steadfast in our love, and ever grateful for the gift of this school community—and please know that I will be praying for you as well.

## A Glimpse into Third Grade

Mrs. Heidi Pipe

Third Grade

The start of each new school year can be both exciting and intimidating - new teachers, new routines, and a new group of classmates. Our focus at the beginning of the year was to recognize how God has placed us together for a reason. As a class, our job is to support and uplift each other with the gifts God has given each of us. The more we know about our classmates, the better we can love and serve them.

One of the most important steps in building a friendship is simply learning things about the other person. Friendships grow when we take time to listen, ask questions, and learn what makes another person unique. Knowing those small details - a classmate's favorite food, pets, or favorite vacation - help us see what we have in common and appreciate the differences that make our class so special.

At the beginning of the school year, each student was asked to share three interesting facts about themselves. We enjoyed guessing who the clues belonged to, and finding out how God made each student in a unique, wonderful way.

Enjoy the clues below, and see how well you know our third graders!

1. I can stand up while tubing. I can drive my side-by-side in the woods. My head has gotten cut open before.

2. I love pumpkins. I love playing games. My favorite sport is soccer.

3. We got a mother and a calf, and the mother was pregnant. We went to an Airbnb and went tubing. We have 1 dog, 2 cats, 3 cows, and about 80 chickens.

4. I do not like mac & cheese. I do not like tomatoes. I do not like mustard.

5. I went to DC, Harpers Ferry, Gettysburg, Hilton Head, and camped in Pentwater. My grandparents stay two months out of the year. I have relatives in California.

6. I have no pets. I have 2 brothers and a sister. I went to my cottage for a sleepover.

7. I do not like frosting. All the boys in my family are born on holidays. I have had 6 shark teeth (teeth that grow in before the other one falls out).

8. I learned to rollerblade this summer. I am a real Dilly person (that means I like pickles). My favorite animals are dogs. I adore fluffy dogs.

9. I got a dog last year. I have 8 people in my family. I love Michigan (the team).

10. I was born in Indiana. Sometimes I have to wake up at 5:30. I have Mario Kart World on Nintendo Switch 2.

11. I like to rollerblade while playing basketball. I really like mini golf. When I grow up I want to be a minister.

12. I love to go fishing. This summer I was gone more days than I was home. I went to the Conference Grounds.

13. I live by my classmate Alice. I have cows. I know a dentist.

14. My favorite food is roast. I am a Michigan fan. My favorite animal is a shark.

15. I went to Australia when I was 1. A day before preschool I picked up a bird. I went to Great Wolf Lodge for a week.

1. Asher Boddy 12, Gabe Brummel 3, Bridget Vandendool 4, Jude Van Til 5, Every Van der Kolk 6, Blair Van Ree 7, Alice Elzinga 8, Emmalyn Karscemeier 9, Theo Knott 10, Milo Dykshoorn 11, Mason Dykstra 12, Remi Korreling 13, Hayden Langgerak 14, Holten McKimney 15, Luke Ophoff

## Home Sweet Home

Mrs. Renae Baas  
Fifth Grade

Writing this on the heels of parent-teacher conferences, I noticed that many parents inevitably ask how they can best support their children at home. Thousands of articles address this topic, and a quick Google search will offer a myriad of suggestions for success. Summing it all up in one word would be impossible—but two simple words come to mind: **be home**.

So how does “being home” help your child physically, emotionally, and spiritually?

Children crave structure, order, and a space that feels physically calm. Being home gives parents the presence of mind to create quiet work times and organized areas for their children. In short, it provides time to truly keep the home!

Time at home also enables parents to support their children with short review sessions in challenging subjects. Spending a few moments together in the evening allows a parent to both learn from her child and share lessons from her own education. Children long to be heard—so let them talk about their work. As they verbalize what they’ve learned, they reinforce their understanding and take ownership of their learning.

Simple activities such as playing math games, racing through flashcards, or researching a topic together are all meaningful ways to show support. Taking an active interest in what your child is learning makes a tremendous difference. Of course, reading together is a wonderful pastime—but it also becomes a springboard for rich discussion, reflection, and growth.

“But my child seems stressed as he or she develops emotionally. How can I support them when it feels like nothing is right?”

Being home with our children gives us time to prepare good meals and ensure they get quality sleep. When we arrive home late at night—parents and children alike—it often takes longer to unwind, and both sleep and meals tend to suffer.

Does your child feel pressured to earn a perfect grade? Unintended pressure from us as parents can create anxious students. Recognizing that your child’s best effort doesn’t always result in an “A” helps build confidence and peace rather than perfectionism.

When we are home, we might hear the first squeaky notes from a new instrument—or a sweet song rising from our child’s lips that reminds us to say, “Great is Thy faithfulness.” Being home also helps us welcome the “loud” moments when our children need to play outside, and we’re less likely to turn to screens as an easy fix. Since exercise benefits us all, a simple walk with your teen or a quick game of catch with your youngster might be exactly what you both need to reconnect.

It sounds simple—and perhaps that’s because it truly is.

Does being home really affect my child spiritually? Indeed, it does! Consistent Sabbath observance is more likely when we aren’t completely burned out. Life happens—and because of that, sin happens too. We handle sin best when we see and address it firsthand. Simply being present may prevent a child’s outward sin or at the very least, it can provide the opportunity to respond appropriately because we are home.

When your child faces something difficult and wants to give up, leading them to Scripture and helping them remember that they “can do all things through Christ who strengthens” them is often the best remedy. Reminding our children of their godly responsibilities at school becomes much easier when they see us living out our faith and dedication within the home.

Moments of playground drama or times of family sorrow are powerful opportunities to sit down together and ask, What might God be teaching us through this? But how can we do this if we are never home? Before sending our children off in a morning rush, are we taking a few moments in God’s Word and in prayer? A structured devotional life lies at the heart of a well-run home. Being home isn’t just an option—it’s often the antidote to the troubles that surround us.

At this point in my life, I have the privilege of teaching second-generation students. As I look across the table during conferences, I see former students who have grown into responsible adults. Many influences have helped shape them into the people they’ve become. The parents of today’s students are wonderful examples, and their children recognize it! When I asked my fifth graders what stands out most about their parents, their answers reminded me that we are, indeed, “at home” with our children.

*“My mom is an awesome cook. She makes lots of healthy meals for us. This is important because without healthy meals we would get sick and would not grow well.”*

*“My parents explain the Bible super well. This affects me in my day because I always think about it when I am doing something wrong. The verse they explained helps me significantly. I am super glad that my parents raise me in the fear of the mighty LORD.”*

*“My mom and dad help me study and do homework very well. Sometimes she copies the remainder of my homework, and I teach her while she teaches me. Sometimes my dad races me to spell the spelling word correctly. My mom and dad help me study.”*

*“They make sure that I pray diligently every night and if I haven’t, they always remind me.”*

*“They willingly teach me catechism because they know that on Monday I have it. They examine how I learn catechism, memory work, and written work. They teach me the Bible after dinner. Right now, we are reading from Joshua.”*

*“I am glad because my parents are eager to see my grades. They also walk faithfully with the LORD.”*

*“My mom is good at scanning my emotions. If I’m sad, she comforts me!”*

*“They go to conferences and explain to me slowly what they heard because they think that is right. They also don’t enforce an A. But they always tell me to do my best because that’s what the teachers always say.”*

To God be the glory for blessing us with such godly parents and homes. In today’s fast-paced world, it can seem almost impossible to “stay home.” Yet when we do, we are often rewarded with children who are strong—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Sitting down with your teen may even remind you of lessons from your own education that you had long forgotten. As you make parenting decisions, be careful not to stray too far or too long from the “box

of your home.” Good thinking and wise choices often happen when we spend meaningful time there. Perhaps that old saying, “Home Sweet Home,” carries a deeper truth than we realize!

## **One Goal, One God**

**Miss Jori Baas**

**Sixth Grade**

**A** little over 200 students, and 35-40 staff members enter the doors of Adams Christian School every weekday morning, each from different walks of life, each with different home lives, different routines, each possessing different gifts and abilities. Yet, there is one tie that binds students, staff members, school board, and parents together. It’s a spiritual tie that can never be taken from us. We belong to Christ. In belonging to our faithful Savior, we ultimately have one purpose and goal here below. Though our enemy, Satan, seeks to distract us from that goal each day by making us immensely busy and filling our lives with noise, the Spirit’s work within us makes it our goal to live unto the glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is a goal we remind our students of often, a goal that requires discipline and can only be accomplished by the grace of God.

Recently the sixth graders studied God’s work in preserving His church through the work of the Reformation. Following our study of the Reformation, the sixth graders and I discussed the Heidelberg Catechism, a well-known and cherished document that sprang forth from the Reformation. I asked my students to spend some time thinking about Lord’s Day 1 from the Heidelberg Catechism. After discussing the truths of Lord’s Day 1, I asked the students to write about this treasured confession. They could also meditate on the proof texts and what it meant to them. Some chose to explain it personally, while others told a short story in which the character learned a lesson from Lord’s Day 1. Below are some of their reflections, which is an encouraging reminder that students, teachers, and parents alike have this one goal of glorifying their Savior. Enjoy!

## **Learning to Trust in God**

A confident young catholic girl, who loves Christ, is preparing for worship at the All Saints’ Church (Castle Church) in Wittenberg. Hildegard belongs to a middle class German family and wonderfully is able to read. Upon arriving, Hildegard had to confess her

sins to a priest then she could listen to the bishop preach in Latin, which no one could understand. Then she went home. Three days later, on a Wednesday, Hildegard was cleaning sheets when she heard her parents conversing about a monk at her church, Martin Luther, who had risen up against the church and how he'd nailed a list of protests on the church doors. While her parents were disgusted, Hildegard was interested, so she secretly snuck out of the house and went to visit the church. Slowly she took in each word and pondered every single one. In that moment God worked in Hilde's heart and converted her. At this time Hilde was 12 or 13. Later she went on to visit Martin's home along with other converts and listen to him speak. When she had earned enough money, she even bought a Bible (which had been translated into German thanks to Martin)! On January 19, 1563, the Heidelberg Catechism was published. Hildegard, now a widow at 58, purchased one and proceeded to read it. Her favorite part was Lord's Day 1, sections five and nine, "[Jesus] hath fully satisfied for all my sins.... By his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life." Hildegard is made-up, but I hope her story isn't.

~Sylvia Mingerink

### I Am His

In Lord's Day 1, I am told that, "I belong unto my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ." I found it comforting to know that I'm not alone because I know that God is with me. Also I know that my life is in Heaven with Jesus. I love Him because He rescued me from the devil. I desire to serve Jesus every day, and I should want to. I do that by loving my family, friends, and neighbors. I also do that by doing my homework diligently. Since my life is not my own and my Father in Heaven is in control of all things, I can thankfully trust that all things work for my salvation.

~Addison Dykstra

### The Comfort of Matthew 10:29-31

I have been comforted by Matthew 10:29-31 many times. I chose these verses because it tells me that God is watching over even the sparrows. This verse also tells me not to worry because I am worth many sparrows. It is comforting to know that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my heavenly Father. When my grandpa passed away, my dad told me that grandpa had gone home. I was very joyful

because my grandpa had been struggling with a mix of Covid and other diseases. I thought that he had gone back to his earthly home. My sister then explained to me that Grandpa had passed away. I was comforted to know that this was God's will. I was comforted immensely when I read Matthew 10:29-31.

~Mary Schipper

### Live Unto God

On this day when the world tempts us to live for ourselves, there is great comfort knowing that the Holy Spirit is working inside me to make me seek God. In Romans 8:14 the verse reassures us that we are his sons and are led by Him. If we focus on ourselves, we become alone and scared. The Holy Bible gives us comfort because it says the Holy Spirit is working inside us. One way we can live unto God is by following after Jesus, who is our Savior. We need to deny our selfish desires and have a desire to follow after God instead. So if the world wickedly tries to tempt you, just know that there is great comfort because the Holy Spirit is working in us to follow after God.

~Caleb Mingerink

### The Grace of Belonging to Christ

"I belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ." That is what the Heidelberg Catechism says in Lord's Day 1. This passage announces to us that we are Christ's children. It is very comforting to us as unified Christians who read this passage that whatever happens, we won't lose our salvation as it says in the P of the acronym TULIP (Preservation of the saints). We know all that occurs is in Christ's hand and everything that happens to us is for our good. I Corinthians 6:19 & 20 states that we are the temple of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit, which is in all true Christians, makes us willing to live a life dedicated unto Him. So today, as children of God, may we thankfully give praise to Him because of His amazing grace!

~James Van Til

### Jesus Died For You and Me

Lord's Day 1 of the Heidelberg Catechism, part three states that Jesus came to this wicked world to die on the cross for us."With His precious blood, Jesus has fully satisfied for all my sins and delivered me from all the power of the devil." This truth is found in I

Peter 1:19 which states, "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot." This teaches us that Jesus graciously died on the Cross to save us from our sins. This is comforting for us because we sin so many times a day, so we need Jesus! If we sin one time, we deserve hell! Jesus blots out all these sins so that we will appear clean in front of God! Here is an example: you speak cruelly to your brother, now you will go to hell if you do not have Jesus! This comforts us that no matter the sin, we will go to Heaven if we believe in Jesus. So remember that every time you sin, your mountain is growing, and Jesus died to wash that mountain of sins and you, clean!

~Saydie Spriensma

### And So Preserves Me

"And so preserves me." Lord's Day 1 of the Heidelberg Catechism tells us that without the will of our heavenly Father not a hair can fall from our head. This means that nothing can transpire unless it is part of God's plan for us. Even when grievous tribulations do happen, we are comforted, because we know that God is making us ready for our heavenly home. God preserved my grandpa and Aunt Shari when they fell in the mountains. If one of many things had gone differently, they would have died. But God spared their lives, and for many hours on the mountain they sang and prayed to God, which taught them to be patient and trust that God's will was good for them. In Matthew 10:29-31 it mentions, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs on your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore ye are of more value than many sparrows."

~Zac Hanko

### The Truth Behind Everything

*"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* Rom. 8: 28.

Tim Timo's math teacher: Mr. George hands out so much homework that Jeff, Tim's friend, said he's drowning in assignments. Tim is struggling to hand in all the assignments he has in his math folder. Tim is already late on multiple sheets, and his grade in math is not looking marvelous. Tim was so depressed that he brought it up to his parents and asked if they had any advice or encouragement. Dad casually reached for the Bible and opened to Romans

8:28. The next day, Tim managed to hand in eight of his late assignments and more homework pages on time. Although Tim was depressed about his grade dropping like an anvil in the ocean, the verse that Dad read the night before told Tim that even though his grade dropped, he now knows that the truth behind everything is for his good.

~Elijah Mingerink

### All For Good

In a wood with a few houses, a small school, and farms a bit of curiosity and imagination were forming together to spark a friendship that would change two lives forever. Leslie Hope Whittle was an eleven-year-old girl who lived in the small town of Kettlesville next door to her best friend Evan Johnson. They particularly enjoyed reading their favorite Fairy Tale together which was a thrilling tale of a castle, a princess, a knight, and a dragon. When Leslie was six, her sister Lila was fourteen and was hit by a car. Leslie often wondered why her sister had been hit. To take Leslie's mind off of her sister, she and Evan would go on adventures together in hopes of finding a castle and, to their delight, they finally did! They went inside (which was a very bad idea because it was extremely old) and found an old book, which Leslie carefully deposited onto her lap and read. It made no sense but they took it home anyway. Leslie poured over a particular sentence in the book and eventually understood it. The sentence read: "...Yea that all things must be subservient to my salvation..." Leslie understood now that God is ruler over her and that her sister getting hit was an important part of her life. Without it she would not have been used to turn her family from unbelief. It was important, even though she didn't see it at first. It was all for good.

~Malia Bleyenberg

### Solomon's Great Estate

Mr. Ryan Kregel  
Seventh Grade

Teachers instruct students in the hope that they gain skills and knowledge that will help to mold and shape them as individuals within the body of Christ's church. Each student and teacher is and always will be a steward. Each student and teacher will need to work (broadly speaking) for the entirety of his life. That work involves stewardship of whatever

God places in front of them. What each student or teacher is or will be steward over is different. Regardless of these differences, the calling remains to act as a steward. Gustaf Wingren, in his analysis of Martin Luther's theology of vocation described it this way: "He who engages in the lowliness of his work performs God's work, be he lad or king." It doesn't matter what your work is, it is God's work, and you are a steward of that work. It doesn't matter if you are flipping burgers at Burger King, or you are performing a life-saving emergency brain surgery; that work is God's work, and you are steward of that work. It doesn't matter if you are a student facing *another* math assignment, or if you are the teacher assigning and grading *another* math assignment; that work is God's work, and you are steward of that work. If students and teachers alike shared this theology of work and stewardship, the day-to-day operations of schools would be exceptionally efficient and productive.

The Christian in the Christian school is steward over many things. One of those things is learning itself. The Christian's stewardship of learning leads him to see the value of knowledge and obtaining that knowledge through the exercise of learning. Solomon's determination in this endeavor is a lesson for students and teachers alike: "I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith" (Eccl. 1:12-13).

Solomon, even in the busyness of being king, saw the value of spending time in learning. He saw it as a gift from God of which he was a steward. When God asked him what he wanted most, he asked for wisdom (1 Kings 3:9). Solomon was even overwhelmed by what he had been given in the gift of wisdom and knowledge: "I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate [exceeding great honor], and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge" (1:16). Solomon also saw the importance of a broad education. You might say he left no stone unturned. This is demonstrated in verse 17, "I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly." In this passage he speaks of opposite things and in doing so expresses the totality of his learning. He was learning not only from wise men,

but also from the poor example of the foolish man. He "went by the field of the slothful" (Prov. 24:30) and learned something there. Solomon was given time and opportunity in learning over which he acted properly as a steward.

Teachers and students are stewards of knowledge, of the facts themselves. Knowledge is something given by God; therefore the calling to stewardship. God is the fountain of all knowledge and wisdom. He has provided the means by which we can obtain that knowledge with the expectation that we act as stewards of those means and actually strive to get that knowledge. But, Solomon says, "I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow" (1:17-18). Getting wisdom is hard work. The Christian is tempted often to either be slack in his work or to give up entirely.

The body of knowledge or collection of facts and concepts is the curriculum. How a teacher views and treats the curriculum must also be governed by the doctrine of stewardship. There are a couple of ways a teacher might mistreat the curriculum and its management. One temptation is to try to get through the curriculum just for the sake of getting through it all each year. The problem with this is that the teacher can end up viewing the students as a hurdle that prevents the accomplishment of this goal. Pat Cross from UC Berkeley said: "If it weren't for students impeding our progress to the end of the term, we could certainly be sure of covering the material. The question, however, is not whether we as teachers can get to the end of the term, but whether our students are with us on that journey." Teachers are not called to "get through the material" but to get the material through to the student. Different classes take up different amounts of time in this regard.

Another temptation for a teacher is to become obsessed with the curriculum as a thing in and of itself. A teacher ought to immerse himself into his content area in order to be as prepared as possible to instruct students in that subject matter. However, in pursuit of subject mastery, one must not forget the point of this: master the subject for the betterment of the students and the glory of God, not first the advancement of self. Abraham Kuyper addressed a lack of looking toward God in the process of subject mastery: "To be so occupied in the investigation of the secrets of nature, as never to turn the eyes to its Author, is a most perverted study; and to enjoy

everything in nature without acknowledging the Author of the benefit, is the basest ingratitude.” While mastery of a subject is admirable and good, it must not be done simply for selfish self-advancement. Mastery without acknowledging the Master who has made us stewards of knowledge is empty. Pray for us as students and teachers that we act as proper stewards of our “great estate.”

## **From Judges to Detectives:**

**Mrs. Tara Flikkema**  
**ESS**

Every teacher knows what it feels like to face a challenging moment with a student. A child blurts out in frustration, refuses to work, or retreats into silence. In those moments, our instinct is often to assign motives: She’s lazy. He’s disrespectful. They just don’t care. But Jesus calls us to something far richer than snap judgments. He invites us to see with the eyes of grace.

In Matthew 7:1-2, Jesus warns, “Judge not, that ye be not judged.” His words are not a call to ignore sin or accountability; they’re an invitation to humility. We are not called to sit as judges, handing down verdicts, but to act as detectives, patiently seeking to understand the heart behind the behavior.

### **Seeing Beyond Appearances**

In John 7:24, Jesus cautions, “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgement.” Appearances are often deceptive. Just as the Pharisees misjudged Jesus, we too can misread our students, colleagues, or even our own children. What looks like defiance may be fear. What looks like laziness may be discouragement or confusion.

Proverbs 20:5 offers a powerful image: “Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.” To reach the heart of a child, we must be willing to draw out what lies beneath the surface. The deep waters of a child’s soul may be clouded with family struggles, learning difficulties, unspoken pain, or behavior modeled at home. Understanding takes time, patience, and prayer. Consider a student who constantly disrupts class. A “judge” may say, “This child is defiant.” A “detective,” however asks, “What’s going on beneath the surface?”

The detective doesn’t excuse sin but seeks context. With empathy and discernment, we can

respond in a way that corrects while also restoring. We hold students accountable with compassion that mirrors Christ’s heart.

### **God’s Example: The Perfect Judge**

Psalm 7:11 reminds us that “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.” God alone is the perfect Judge; righteous, holy, and all-knowing. Our role, as Christian teachers and parents, is not to take His place but to reflect His character. We model His patience, His discernment, and His mercy.

We know that every child we teach is both an image-bearer of God and a sinner in need of grace. Misbehavior, then, is not simply a problem to fix, it is an opportunity to shepherd a heart. Grace acknowledges both the dignity and the brokenness in each child.

### **Four Ways to Practice Grace-Filled Investigation**

- 1. Pray before responding.** Before reacting, pause. Ask God for wisdom to see beyond the behavior to the heart.
- 2. Ask questions instead of assuming.** A gentle, “Can you tell me what’s going on?” can open doors that harsh words would slam shut.
- 3. Look for patterns.** Detectives study clues. They notice when and where behaviors occur, what triggers them, and what soothes them.
- 4. Remember God’s grace.** We have each received undeserved mercy. How can we withhold that same grace from the children in our care?

### **Shepherds, Not Judges**

Luke 6:36-37 sums up this calling beautifully: “Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.”

When we step into our classrooms (or into our homes), we are not called to be the final judges of our children’s hearts. That is God’s role alone. We are called to be loving investigators, that is, teachers and parents who patiently seek to understand, who listen before we lecture, and who discipline with both truth and tenderness.

In doing so, we reflect the heart of our Savior, the One who truly knows every motive, yet extends mercy beyond measure.

## Let All That Breathe

Mrs. Lauren Dykstra  
Elementary Choir Director

Some time ago, there once was a young lady that stood before a classroom door trying to breathe past the nervous anticipation of being greeted by her new voice teacher, Mrs. L Dykstra. She didn't know what to expect. She didn't really even know what exactly voice lessons were. She just wanted -felt called, really- to get better at this thing she loved to do. That young lady was me! I didn't know at that moment that I would eventually become a Mrs. Dykstra that taught others how to sing. I didn't know how much the command written in Psalm 150 "Let all that hath breath, praise ye the Lord" would become a center-point of my life or how voice lessons and teaching children to sing would bring that concept to the fore in unanticipated ways.

I spend a fair amount of time throughout all my classes reminding children to breathe well and teaching them how to do that very thing. All of your children, except the kindergarteners whom I haven't yet taught, have heard me say this: "Singing is a physical activity, much like playing basketball. You can do things to improve your ability to sing, much like you can do things to improve your ability to do a layup." Breathing is a major part of that process.

First and foremost, breathing is the foundation of singing and must be highly intentional, especially as you are learning. Normally, breathing is autonomic - as in our brain and body just regulate that for us. (Side note: now that I'm talking about breathing you are likely experiencing awareness of your breaths, and this can feel a bit uncomfortable. Don't worry. After about 10 seconds of no longer thinking about it, your body will take over again.)

When you sing, especially if you are trying to sing well, you will need to be more intentional with your breathing. You'll need to take deeper breaths for longer phrases and release that breath with steady intention as you sing. Breathing deeply can be a challenge for some, especially as we age. Here is how to do it. Relax your shoulders and allow your stomach muscles to adapt to the expanding of the lungs. Then try to get into a feeling of supporting the lung of air, avoiding the feeling of pushing or loosely allowing

the breath to escape too quickly as you release that air.

For a fun challenge, take a deep breath just shy of feeling like you are going to burst using the technique above. Then loosely close your lips and attempt to make a "motorboat" sound. See how long you can make that sound. The longer you can go, the healthier you are and the more control you have of your breath when you sing. (It can help to moisten your lips prior or, if you are a bit older, gently lift your cheeks close to your ears to provide a bit more tension to the lip muscles so they can relax enough to make the sound.) Keep trying to go longer and improve the steadiness of the sound you are making. Perhaps add in the additional challenge of doing this breathing process quicker! This is the same sort of breath support you'll need to make it comfortably through some of the longer phrases and sentences that you'll sing in the Psalter.

The next thing we work on very regularly is the timing of our breathing. Our children are quite used to being led in song by church instruments. This learned habit results in them being often late with their entrances. As they progress through the music program, I lead them slowly into the expectation of collaborating with the piano as equal partners in this musical group project we are doing. This requires them to be mindful to breathe prior to their entrances enough that the sound starts when it needs to rather than waiting on the piano to cue them. This takes a lot of practice! That being said, it does become a bit like riding a bike. Eventually it becomes habit.

I teach all these things to your children for two purposes. One is obviously because it is a necessary skill for the scheduled performances, but the second is higher: I want them to be able to sing the beautiful truths of God with their whole heart and mind and soul without the distraction and difficulty of running out of breath every few seconds.

I hope you'll think of this as you sing in church and as you raise your hearts and minds to God in song. Breathe with intention, sing whole musical sentences with joy and ease, doing all things to His glory and praise.

## Compelled to Sing

Mrs. Gracia Schipper  
Junior High Choir Director

Jesus sang. The night before Jesus died for us, Jesus told his disciples to drink of the cup as a sign of His blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Appropriately, they concluded the Lord's last supper by singing a hymn before they went out to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus would pray in agony and be arrested (Matthew 26:30). As our Savior approached his darkest hour, he was compelled to sing and led his disciples in singing.

Even on the cross, Jesus' anguish was expressed in the words of a Psalm-song that he grew up knowing and inspired David to write down by his Spirit several hundred years before.

*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?  
why art thou so far from helping me,  
and from the words of my roaring?  
~ (Psalm 22:1) ~*

The songs that Jesus was trained in as a child sustained his human flesh and heart through his anguish and suffering! Jesus, who was fully God and man, expressed his need to sing. Do we recognize our innate need to sing?

Furthermore, how could we ever be passive or expressionless while singing? By passive, I am referring to the times we may be caught with slumped posture, dull countenance, scattered minds, distracted hearts, lazy lips, and lusterless body language. *How we sing* reveals how we think and feel about something. Can others see and hear that *what we are singing is truly important to us?* In this sense, our singing betrays the truth about us, for better and for worse.

To sing with thankfulness in our hearts to God is declared with our whole body! The Psalmist agrees that worship involves the expression of the whole body spiritually, physically, psychologically, and emotionally in Psalm 84:2.

*My soul longeth, yea,  
even fainteth for the courts of the LORD:  
my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.*

The intensity of this longing suggests that our hearts and minds are gripped by deep, overwhelming gratitude for what God has done for us! Therefore

our posture should be open, poised, and strong. Our faces ought to be bright and telling. Our articulators aim to be precise in enunciating words to teach, admonish, and praise! Thankfulness produces a sound from our voices that is robust and enthusiastic. Undeniably, Christians are compelled to unleash a sound of conviction in God!

The more we hate our sin and know God's grace, we understand more personally that we have been freed from sin and freed to glorify God. I Corinthians 6:20, reminds us that we are bought with a price: therefore we glorify God in our body and spirit, which are God's. This motivates us to sing with heartfelt desire to convey the gospel truth to admonish and refresh ourselves, each other, and draw others to Christ by *how we sing*. Worship comes as a response to revelation.

The truth is that we praise what we love. Just as we burst out of our bleacher seats at Covenant basketball games to praise and punctuate a thunderous dunk, we ought to explode-open our mouths in praise to God - to complete our enjoyment in him! It is the most appropriate and appointed expectation. C.S. Lewis captured this well when he wrote, "I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation."

As we process the Word set in song and respond with thankfulness with our whole heart, mind, and body, we are guided into God's path of peace. We can't help but praise all that is praiseworthy. We cannot keep quiet about what we are pleased with. How can we keep from singing? Singing is one of the greatest ways we have to "complete the enjoyment" for all that the Lord has done for us. The truth of God's word is so freeing and important to us that it compels us to break open our mouths in singing, which is matched with strong posture and a shining countenance. God's word set in song will accomplish God's purpose and it will prosper...We will respond by "breaking forth into singing" with the creation as God describes through Isaiah.

*For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace:  
the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you  
unto singing,  
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Isaiah 55:12*

## School Board

### Christian Teachers: What a Gift!

Mr. Joe Van Overloop  
School Board President

Parents, reflect with me on the day when you brought your child to their first day of kindergarten...your vulnerable, innocent, precious little child, so full of hope and promise sweet! The vast majority of their brief five years of life to this point have been under your direct care and supervision. Now (all of a sudden!) it's time to hand them over to someone else to care for and nurture for much of the day.

It's the morning of the first day of kindergarten and your child tells you they are excited, but you can sense they are a little nervous. A new outfit is put on that has been specially selected for this big day! The car ride from home to school is abnormally quiet. You pull into a parking spot and they quickly grab their new backpack and pillow. They are wide-eyed looking out the car window searching for any familiar faces. You can tell that suddenly their excitement has dwindled, and they don't seem quite as eager as before. Their little hand grabs yours as you walk together towards the school building to join the other children. Through your tear-filled eyes you attempt to take some pictures in order to try and capture this special moment. Before you know it, they bravely walk in a line following their teacher into school and out of sight. You retreat back to your car with a pit in your stomach and empty-handed. Driving home, it seems to all be a blur as you attempt to recall some of the details. It is likely at this point when it hits you as never before what a tremendous blessing our Christian schools and teachers are!

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are a special time of the year that gives us the opportunity to reflect on the many gifts that we are thankful to God for. I trust that we all could generate quite a list and if we claim to not be able to... well, then perhaps a little self-reflection is in order. The unspeakable gift of our Savior is front and center of course. Followed perhaps by our families, friends, churches, etc... Could I suggest that near the top of everyone's list should also be the good Christian schools? Many of us have firsthand experience having attended a Christian school as children and now as adults we have the great privilege of sending our children to them as well! Perhaps this familiarity can even lead

some to take them for granted, since we haven't really experienced anything different.

What is it about a Christian school that makes it such a reason for thanks? Maybe you think that's a silly question, but I submit to you it's worthwhile pondering. Certainly, our Statement of Purpose states one of the top reasons: *to provide primary education in a school system where instruction is based upon the infallible Word of God, the Holy Bible.* Many other good reasons could be listed as well but one that I want to focus especially on is the amazing gift of godly teachers.

Just think of how much time our children spend with their teacher: a better part of their non-summer childhood I would say. And then to think of who these teachers are? Not necessarily their specific names but rather their spiritual identity as those who also have the life of Christ in them. Besides this, they are not just fellow Christians who are yet strangers to us but often times they are teachers whom we know personally. They capably stand in the place of us as parents and play a special, even vital, role in our children's lives. This should be more than enough reason to fill us with thanksgiving in our hearts!

Adams Christian School is a special place, and a large part of that is because of our teachers who diligently labor day after day. One of the highlights of serving on the Board is having the opportunity to sit in on classrooms and witness the godly instruction that takes place! I think I can speak confidently for my fellow Board members that these men and women make our job as a Board a whole lot easier.

In order to recognize them in a small way, I sought out some data showing all of our teachers' years of service at Adams as well as total years of service for those who have also taught elsewhere. You will notice the variety of some who are more tenured and others newer to the field which really creates a healthy mix. Be sure to express your appreciation to them for the important work that they do on behalf of God's kingdom and pray for them regularly. Not only on the first day of school, or just during this special holiday season, but throughout the duration of the school year!

**THANK YOU, TEACHERS!**

Teacher	Years Teaching (at ACS, total)
Nancy Decker	30th year, 34 total
Sara Kalsbeek	7th year, 12 total
Karen Ensink	11th year, 28 total
Annica Kuiper	9th year
Heidi Gritters	5th year
Lynnae Miedema	6th year
Marissa Holstege	4th year
Heidi Pipe	2nd year, 5 total
Brianna Meulenberg	4th year
Mike Feenstra	8th year, 25 total
Renae Baas	21st year
Jon Mingerink	18th year
Jori Baas	3rd year
Kristin Dykstra	22nd year
Gracia Schipper	2nd year, 9 total
Ryan Kregel	8th year
Sue VanKoevering	22nd year
David Harbach	46th year
Tara Flikkema	4th year, 9 total
Rick Mingerink	17th year, 20 total

## Transportation

Mr. Tedd Van Solkema

Transportation Committee Chairman

*Isiah 26:3 “Thou shalt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee”*

Trusting in God is essential in all aspects of life, and especially true when we consider travel. Every time we get in our vehicle and commute, or send our children to school on the bus, there is danger. Danger from our own distractions, other distracted drivers, objects or people in the roadway, weather and road conditions, the list goes on. But, when we consider this danger in the light of God's promises in Isiah 26:3, we find perfect peace. We are comforted knowing that God is in control of all things, including our travel.

God has granted us safety thus far this year with the busing of our children, and we pray that He continues to grant us safety in our travels. We are so

very thankful for the bus drivers that He has given to this school, for their willingness to interrupt their day to drive, for their care for our children when they are on the bus, and for their dedication to the project of getting our covenant children to and from school. Driving a bus is much more than just hopping in the rig and heading out in the morning and afternoon. There is a ton of planning that takes place over the summer and in the weeks leading up to the start of the school year. Much of this work is done by our amazing transportation supervisor, Mrs. Melissa Looyenga. Many hours of her time go into route planning, overseeing inspections, and making sure the drivers have what they need each day. The drivers are also instrumental in making sure the routes work well by driving them unloaded before our children ever get on the bus, making sure they can have a safe, timely arrival at school each morning.

The buses themselves had a rocky start to the school year, but with some skillful repairs and some help from our friends at Zion Christian School, we were able to keep the routes going. Special thanks to Zion for letting us use one of their buses, and special thanks to the substitute drivers who helped out while one of our drivers recovered from surgery. ACS has experienced the true blessing of the communion of the saints this year already and we pray for God's continued care over the drivers, the children, and our school.

## Federation Report

Mr. John Kalsbeek

Federation Committee Chairman

The Federation of Protestant Reformed School Societies has been busy with matters pertaining in common to the Protestant Reformed Christian Schools. Teacher Training continues to be the main work of the Federation. Mentoring new teachers to provide them with spiritual and professional development is the goal of the Teacher Training Committee for the benefit of our schools. Additionally, the Federation is sponsoring a course on the History and Principles of Reformed Education at the Protestant Reformed Seminary. Prof. Dykstra is teaching this course, which has 12 sessions from November through April, and it is beneficial for anyone with a conviction for Reformed education. Another important work of the Federation is the sharing of information. A shared folder has been created for all schools to aid and foster transparency on

projects in common. Included in this folder are current policies and procedures, resources on information regarding AI, teacher development, as well as a list of prospective teachers.

In a recent survey sent to all school boards, the Federation asked what the biggest challenge or goal for this school year would be. Responses included “rising costs, teacher shortages, controlling AI in the school, growing special education programs, maintaining secure facilities, and declining enrollment”. Another question to the school boards was how the Federation could further support them. Responses included “assistance with curriculum, board-member training, and ways our schools could share resources”. The schools expressed appreciation for the sharing of information between the schools as well. Additionally, the Federation asked for testimony of the benefits of the mentoring program. Responses were positive and expressed how young teachers have been able to grow more quickly by connecting with the experienced mentors. Also, for mentors it reinforced the importance of Reformed teaching principles. Another benefit that was expressed was that the mentoring program promoted unity among the staff.

In all of this we can see the benefits of the work of the Federation: working together with the goal of teaching our covenant children. But we can also see the need for continued support from the supporters of Protestant Reformed education and the need for more teachers. We covet your prayers and encourage your continued financial support. Above all we give thanks to our heavenly Father for the wonderful gift of our Protestant Reformed schools.

## Technologies Next Season

Mr. Nate Bodbyl  
Technology Committee Chairman

Serving on a technology committee can feel a bit like tending a garden: just when one season’s work is finished, a new set of needs begins to grow. There are always new tools to evaluate, systems to strengthen, and challenges to address. In a Christian school, this ongoing cycle is not a burden but a calling to faithfully cultivate an environment where technology supports learning, safeguards our students, and honors God.

There was the regular work this summer season of replacing computers for teachers. Chromebooks were updated and cleaned to start the year. New printers replaced old models, resulting in faster printing and better quality. *Go Guardian* is up and running, ready to help protect hearts and minds. Melissa Looyenga’s ESS

room received a projector to enhance the learning environment.

At parent teacher conferences parents with keen eyes may have noticed cameras in classrooms. This project has been in the works since last December and this past summer, KVO was able to install the cameras as the final step. The Board believes these will help protect both teachers and students.

Not all the work is directly in the garden at Adams. Over the summer, the committee has been updating and pruning the website. Many Christian schools use their websites as marketing tools, inviting new families and selling the “why” behind their school as the best choice for their child’s education. This is not the case for Adams. The website’s primary use is a tool for parents and supporters of the school. There were many web pages with information and schedules that required constant maintenance and updating by staff, and which were also outdated. The committee has been working to simplify the site while maintaining its value to parents and supporters.

Our garden experts, or as we call them, Tech Advisors, and David Harbach, are the engines behind the work. They make sure our money is wisely spent on hardware and software and ensure all things tech related run smoothly. Like so many Adams volunteers, one may not notice their work, but could see the effects of their labors. One of our advisors, Mark Van Dyke, retires this year after several years of service. We thank him for the use of his gifts. In addition to David Harbach, Matt Oosterbaan and Kyle Ten Broeke continue to lead and guide the committee. Jared Pastoor will be the newest member of the team as he takes up this important work.

The news cycle continues to talk about Artificial Intelligence and how this is changing the world, including education. A future article may be able to do this more justice. The Board continues to look at policies to provide guidelines around the use of AI at Adams.

Pray for the Board as we assess new and changing technology and how best to instruct our covenant children in the next season of harvest.

*Proverbs 3: 21 -23 “My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: so shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. Then shalt thou walk in the way safely, and they foot shall not stumble.”*

## Other News

### Boosters Update

Mr. Tedd Van Solkema  
Boosters Club President

The Boosters Club is off to a great start with another year of fundraising! Our recent auction wrapped up, and we're thankful to report that we raised around **\$35,000!** We extend a big thank-you to the men who gathered donations, the generous donors, and all of you who supported the auction by bidding on such great items.

This past summer's Father-Daughter canoe trip was another beautiful day on the water! If you haven't joined us for this event before, you're missing out on a wonderful day of fellowship with fellow fathers and covenant young women. And even if you don't have a daughter, consider joining next year with your nieces. We'd love to see you there!

You may have noticed the new banners along the fence by the parking lot. These advertising spaces were sold by the Boosters as another way to support our fundraising efforts. We are grateful to the many businesses who participated and are excited to build on this program next year.

Looking ahead, we are planning a restaurant night at **Red Robin in Grandville on March 3**, where 20% of food sales will be donated back to the Boosters. Mark your calendars! It's a great excuse to enjoy a delicious meal while supporting a great cause. More details to come soon including a flyer that must be brought with you to Red Robin.

Finally, we are still looking for more men to join the Boosters. If your child participates in ACS athletics, you are already benefiting from this group's efforts. The Boosters cover **100% of the athletic budget each year**. Please consider getting involved to support the work that directly benefits your student athletes. You are welcome to join at any meeting. If you have questions about membership or what's involved, we'd be happy to talk with you!

### Mothers Club

Mrs. Tina Mingerink  
Mothers Club President

The work of the 2025/2026 Mothers' Club is off to a great start. Our ongoing fundraisers of TRIP, Pizza Friday, and Box Tops are underway. The

Adams Apparel sale is wrapped up. By the time you're reading this our Freezer Meal Fundraiser should be almost complete. Our Grandparents Day Committee was excited to host our grandparents again. We're looking forward to our annual Soup Supper in February and another Family Fun Night in April. Our other committees are busy making plans for the rest of this year as well. We thank you for your generous support so far!

In the midst of all of our work, we had some questions come up that prompted the Executive Board to do a deep dive into the old Mothers' Club notes. It was quite an interesting read! We couldn't help but be impressed by the beautiful cursive handwriting of the secretaries from years ago. We saw the start of SCRIP and then the transition to TRIP. The Adams Soup Supper has always been a staple, (even though some of the recipes may have changed), but many fundraisers of the past are long gone, and new ones have taken their place. We were reminded that there used to be a Program Committee that organized things like teacher presentations to the club, cake decorating classes, and volleyball games after the meetings. We appreciated being able to see what was done in the past and it helped us find answers for questions we have today.

The thing that most consistently shines through in all of the decades of notes is a love for Adams Christian School. It was encouraging to see that there were many generations of moms before us who came to meetings. They worked hard on fundraisers and committees. They built a community of moms that enjoyed each other's fellowship and supported one another. They loved their school and took time out of their busy schedules to serve it in this way. They kept diligent records of all that they did in the hopes that the Mothers' Club would be around for years to come and maybe the future members would find the notes about their work helpful.

By God's grace, we're still here and we certainly appreciate the work that was done before us! We may keep our notes in Google Drive now and haven't played volleyball in a while, but we still have a dedicated group of moms with a love for Adams and a desire to serve. Reading through the old notes reminded us to be diligent in our work today so that we too might be able to help and encourage the Mothers' Club members of the future. It is our prayer that God will continue to use our efforts as a Mothers' Club past, present and future for the good of our beloved school and for the glory of His name.

# Adams Christian School

## 2026-2027

### August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

19: P/T Conferences (no school)

### September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

7 - Labor Day  
8- First Day of School

### March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

19: Q3 ends  
26: Spring Program (half day)

### October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

14-16: PRTI Convention (Loveland, CO)

30: P/T Conferences (no school)

### November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

6: Q1 ends

26, 27: Thanksgiving Break

### April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

2-9: Spring Break

### December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

23: Half day  
24 – 1: Christmas Break

### January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

15: Q2 ends

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

169 school days