

SIoux RAPIDS BULLETIN PRESS

SOUTH ON 71

Done!



GINNY SMITH

BULLETIN PRESS EDITOR

This following quote so resembles me and my shopping to-do list!

“Someone told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far, I’ve finished two cinnamon rolls and several ‘fat’ sugar cookies. I feel better already!”

The to-do list and the endless hours “shopping by finger” is finished. I’m so proud of myself! The remaining gifts have been arriving regularly to our front door, and two of the three Chinese slow-boat packages have come too!

This is shaping up to be a stellar shopping holiday! But ... and there’s so always a few “buts,” and beings how I have to write this column early for layout, I’m (we’re) still looking at several items on our calendar that have to be finished.

First theater event — check it off the calendar! Tuesday morning, the pre-K kids came to watch a movie at the theater. Each of the 37 kids got popcorn. They behaved so well but as one of the teachers left, she told me the kids had left a “hot mess” on the floors. So glad it was only popcorn. The term “hot mess” could have meant something so much worse than popcorn.

Checked off! On the home front, Rusty made cookies for the Model Railroaders to the tune of at least 10 dozen, which we had to start frosting on Tuesday evening — only because these have to go out on Friday. This task is just one of those

fun “couple” things we get to do together on a cold winter’s night. (At least I don’t have to play Canasta, I’ve been on the losing side of the count for a while.) Anyone have any guesses on how long it will take to frost 120 cookies?

Rusty has already mixed up more dough to use on Christmas day for our family. Oh, boy! More fat cookies for me!

Speaking of Christmas day, my grocery list for the beginning of the week should be an epic adventure. The list is a two-pager already as of Tuesday. I don’t understand how exciting my sisters and I thought our “stocking stuffers” were when we were kids — we may have got one toy from Santa and an apple and an orange. Unless my two sisters recall, I don’t even remember getting any candy. We were so happy when we found our stockings on Christmas morning!

On my grocery list, I have the stuffers food listing for all eight stockings that are hanging on the south wall that I will purchase next week and I can guarantee that list doesn’t have apples and oranges listed on it. Try snack crackers, potato chips, and candy. Rusty is always telling me to “not forget the candy!” I did forget it one year, and the adults in the family gave me the raspberries for forgetting.

I definitely won’t forget the raspberries or the strawberries or mac and cheese for the two granddaughters that most likely won’t eat the soup and sandwiches. And for sure I better not forget to bring the big bucks that I will need to pay for my cartful! Ching! Ching!

PASTOR’S COLUMN

The second blank page



EMIL LIKO

ROADSIDE FREE PRAYER BWBMINISTRIES.COM

Luke 4:18-19 NKJV “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

There is a second “Blank Page” time in the Bible. Jesus is 12 years old, amazing the Jewish leaders in the temple for three days. Then silence for 18 years. He reappears when He gets baptized. Suddenly, the sky rips open and the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in bodily form. A voice speaks and says, “This is My Son in whom I am well pleased!” So God goes from 400 years to dead silence to three angelic visitations and ripping open the sky twice! Suddenly God goes from 400 years of silence to walking among them as God in the flesh in the full power and authority of heaven on display! He makes this incredible announcement,

“My Son is here and I am back! Everything is now changed!”

What can we learn from it? It’s time for a change as 2026 approaches. We’ve seen the enemy’s tactics to not just silence the church, but to destroy it. The enemy’s trying to make these the silenced years. He has silenced many pastors and many believers for many years now as churches became more seeker-sensitive The Gospel is more and more diluted, the congregation more content to sit in the pews and leave the harvest to “The Professionals.” Blatant sin is now fully acceptable in many churches as Christians accept evil with open arms, even criticizing those who don’t accept it. And again, God is not putting up with it!

But we don’t have to be part of this. Maybe you feel like you’re in the silent years, like your pages are blank! “I just don’t know my place!” This is the greatest time for your faith to shine. Author Wanda Alger made a great statement: “God wants to show off His kingdom through us, His people! Love, power, signs, and wonders and miracles.”

What is my specific part, Lord? Pray this daily: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me because He has anointed Me to \_\_\_\_\_.” As you do, He will fill in the blank! Count on it!

WRITER’S CORNER

‘THE WIDOW’ — BY JOHN GRISHAM

Simon Latch is a lawyer in rural Virginia, making just enough to pay his bills while his marriage slowly falls apart. Then into his office walks Eleanor Barnett, an elderly widow in need of a new will. Apparently, her husband left her a small fortune, and no one knows about it. Once he hooks the richest client of his career, Simon works quietly to keep her wealth under the radar. But soon her story begins to crack. When she is hospitalized after a car accident, Simon realizes that nothing is as it seems, and he finds himself on trial for a crime he swears he didn’t commit: murder. Simon knows he’s innocent. But he also knows the circumstantial evidence is against him, and he could spend the rest of his life behind bars. To save himself, he must find the real killer.

CHURCH CALENDAR

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
4840 40th Ave., Alta  
712-286-6222  
Pastor Rhonda Wykoff

Sunday, Dec. 21  
11 a.m. — Worship  
Wednesday, Dec. 24  
4 p.m. — Christmas Eve Services at Our Savior’s with Communion  
5:30 p.m. — At Trinity with Communion

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
105 High St., Linn Grove  
712-296-4438  
Pastor Rhonda Wykoff

Sunday, Dec. 21  
8 a.m. — Worship  
Wednesday, Dec. 24  
4 p.m. — Christmas Eve Services at Our Savior’s with Communion  
5:30 p.m. — At Trinity with Communion

OUR SAVIOR’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### REBEL OF THE WEEK

**SHAYLEY BONIN**  
Shayley is the daughter of Brady and Emily Bonin. She has two siblings, Addalee Bonin, 12, and Rory Bonin, 9. Shayley likes to dance, swim and color pictures. When she grows up, she wants to be a dance teacher.

*Ranco Fertiliservice, Sioux Rapids*

RiversideChurchIowa.com

Sunday, Dec. 21  
9:30 a.m. — Worship  
6:30 p.m. — Ignite  
7:15 p.m. — Salt Youth

FIRST UNITED CHURCH  
Sioux Rapids  
Pastor Kari Etherington

Sunday, Dec. 21  
11:15 a.m. — Worship

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Sioux Rapids  
Pastor Tonna Parsons

Sunday, Dec. 21  
11 a.m. — Worship  
Wednesday, Dec. 24  
6 p.m. — Christmas Eve Service

BAPTIST CHURCH  
Sioux Rapids  
Pastor James Marshall

Sunday, Dec. 21  
10 a.m. — Sunday School  
11 a.m. — Worship

PASTOR’S COLUMN

Time for rebuke?



MIKE CURRIER

HALLELUJAH MINISTRIES

If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him; and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.” Is it time for you to forgive?

SINS

Jesus warns and instructs not only those who cause others to sin, but to those who sin against others. His disciples are to be contrary to the world. They will forgive.

How many times? Up to seven? Understanding the Bible “literally” does not mean slavishly wooden literal. It means understanding according to the normal use of language in the literary genre. Any special use of language would be explained elsewhere in Scripture. A “literal” understanding means the way it was written and spoken by the original hearers.

SEVEN

So “seven times” actually understates the reality of Jesus’ words. In Matthew 18, Simon Peter thought the Jewish idea of forgiving three times was going the extra mile, but Jesus said not seven but 77 times! So actually, we’re not to count at all.

Matthew 18 also clarifies that you are to go alone to the one who has sinned against you, and reason with him. Because ordinarily, Jesus’ followers simply forgive one another, as “Love covers a multitude of sins.” But there’s an aspect of people not realizing their grievous sins, and needing to be restored to right fellowship with others. Isn’t that what you’d want?

REPENT

It gets tricky. Does it mean that you only forgive if they repent? Are you obligated to forgive someone who sins against you if they do not repent of their sin? Problem is, many times people don’t know they’ve offended, and some people are offended by the slightest things that no one could possibly avoid offending them if they didn’t know. Complicated?

Trigger words, masks, memes, micro-aggressions, almost anything can offend someone.

SCHOOL MENU

MONDAY, DEC. 22  
TO MONDAY, JAN. 5  
Christmas vacation

MONDAY, JAN. 5  
No school

TUESDAY, JAN. 6  
Breakfast — Cheese omelet, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt  
Lunch — Hamburger, french fries, baked beans, apple, milk

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7  
Breakfast — Biscuits with sausage, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt  
Lunch — Crisпитos, corn, pears, rice, milk

LEGAL

SIoux RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 10, 2025.

The regular meeting of the Sioux Rapids City Council was called to order Jim Wise on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 6:30 pm. Roll call: Jim Wise, Lacy Garberding, Mike Gunderson, Mike Katschman, and Joel McCoy. Kevin Thompson, was absent. Amanda Caraway, Andrew Wetrich, Randy Koenig and other community members were also in attendance.

A motion was made by Katschman, seconded by Garberding, to approve the agenda. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by McCoy seconded by Katschman to approve the consent agenda, which included minutes from November 12, 2025 meeting, accounts payable report, and the financial reports from the month of November, along with the 1PAT statements, and BV County Sheriff’s Report. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2025**  
Alliant Energy-Utilities-\$4,607.74; Harold Rowley Recycle Cen-Landfill Invoices October-\$3,713.97; Ipers-Ipers Regular-\$2,871.22; Iowa Lakes Electric Coop-Utilities-\$1,292.00; Iowa Lakes Regional Water-Utilities-\$56.00; Iowa Rural Water Assoc-2026 Dues-\$315.00; Menards-Shop Supplies-\$275.27; Sioux Food Center-Library Program Materials-\$20.06 Sioux Lumber-Supplies-\$122.85; The Daily Reporter-Legals-\$466.66; Town & Country Disposal-Trash & Recycling Contract-\$6,253.78; Treasurer State Of Iowa-October 2025 Sales Tax-\$448.96; United States Post Office-4 Rolls Of Stamps-\$505.44; Eftps-Fed/Fica Tax-\$4,093.12; Spencer Hospital Clinics-Service Dates - 10/01-10/31/25-\$24.00; Gworks-Gworks Yearly Subscription-\$6,000.00; Hawk-I Electric, Inc.-Hydro Vac For Water Leak-\$1,085.00; Bomgaars-Antifreeze Shelter House-\$183.88; Wellmark Blue Cross Blue-Healthcare December-\$1,603.15;Evertek, Inc.-Library Phone-\$75.48; Usa Bluebook-Manganese-\$239.86; Unity Point Clinic - Occu-Random Test & Pre-Employ Test-\$107.00; Buena Vista Co Engineer-Sand For Sand Berm - Flood 24-\$85,166.08; Randy Koenig-November 2025 Cell Phone Reimb-\$58.45; Amold Motor Supply-Led Light & Lamp-\$185.84; Mack,Hansen,Gadd,Armstron-Legal Services For City-\$1,251.00; Main Street Checks-Deposit Slips-\$68.24; Karl Chevrolet-2025 Silverado 3500 Servicetrk-\$58,900.24; Treasurer, Excise Tax-October 2025 Excise Sales Tax-\$1,074.23; Andrew Wetrich-November 2025 Cell Phone Reimb-\$50.00; Storm Lake HydraulicsSight Gauge-\$32.86; Foundation Analytical Lab-Testing-\$483.50; Amanda Caraway-November 2025 Cell Phone Reimb-\$50.00; Ag State-Fuel For Street Department-\$1,098.97; North Lake Truck Repair-New Radiator And Labor Sterlin-\$2,293.91; Malwarebytes, Inc-Threatdown Ultimate-\$583.10; Creative Product Source-Program Supplies(Coloring Pst)-\$696.42; Gfc Leasing-Copier Contract 12/05-01/04/26-\$210.62; Team Lab-Ez Dose Lt-\$772.00; Gordon Flesch Company-Extra Copies-\$167.06; Elan-Employee Appreciations Luncheon-\$424.21; Trionfo Solutions, Llc-Sid, Ad&D, And Life Insurance-\$102.91; Veenstra & Kim Inc-Fema Administrative Work-\$149.00; Cmba Architects-Professional Services Thru 10-

31-\$6,600.00; Angie Neilson-Mileage Shared To Budget Wkshp- \$30.80; Payroll Checks-Total Payroll Checks-\$14,462.10; -Claims Total-\$209,271.98; -General Fund-\$74,608.15; -Ieda Grant Health Clinic Fund-\$6,600.00; -Road Use Fund-\$4,554.57; -Employee Benefits Fund-\$510.31; -Fema-Flood 2024 Fund-\$85,315.08; -Water Fund-\$12,617.81; -Sewer Fund-\$11,514.21; -Garbage Fund-\$13,534.84; -Storm Water Fund-\$17.01

**NOVEMBER 2025 RECEIPTS**  
General-35,643.67; Road Use-8,900.05; Employee Benefits-1,909.41; Local Option Sales Tax-53.86; Fema-Flood 2024-84,868.25; Debt Service-2,553.62; Water 17,072.06; WaterMeter-1.41; Sewer-10,51 1.42; Garbage-9,338.73; Storm Water-1,378.98; **Report Total-172,231.46**

In the suggestion from residents Kayla Koenig asked if the Hometown Pride Committee could use City Hall for their focus groups. Council said they did not see an issue with that at all.

Kayla Koenig requested that the City of Sioux Rapids sponsor her in your project to rehab her building into an Event Center/Laundry Matt with Apartment upstairs to apply for the Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program through Iowa Economic Development Authority.

Garberding made a motion to approve this project to move forward for now, and it was seconded by Gunderson. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

Steve Hallengren presented three proposals to City Council two for City Zoning Enforcement and Nuisance Abatement (one for payment per year, and one for payment per hour and per mileage), the third proposal was to help administrate the Community Catalyst Building Grant. City Council has decided to table the two City Zoning Enforcement and Nuisance Abatement proposals to be able to talk to Simmering-Cory first and give them a chance. However, Katschman moved to accept the IEDA Grant proposal, and it was seconded by Garberding. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

Ginny Smith with Sioux Rapids Historical Society came before the City Council to ask for the yearly donation for the 2026/2027. City of Sioux Rapids usually donates \$1,200.00, City Council discussed that they were impressed with the programs and progress of the Historical Society this last year, so McCoy moved for the City of Sioux Rapids to up the donation to the Sioux Rapids Historical Society to \$1,500.00 and it was seconded by Katschman. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

Mike Katschman, Christy Wemimont and Susanna Pierce all took their Oath of office for the next term.

McCoy moved to approve Resolution No. 912 - Amending Resolution No. 908 Employee Compensation, which is changing Andrew Wetrich to Public Works Supervisor and wage rate to \$27.00/hr. effective January 10,2026, it was seconded by Garberding. Roll being called: Ayes: Garberding, Gunderson, Katschman, McCoy. Nays: none Absent: Thompson Motion carried.

Amanda gave update on the Sioux Rapids Health Clinic and the letting bids and the funds available.

McCoy moved to approve Resolution No.

913 - Accepting and Awarding Bids on the Sioux Rapids Health Clinic Project, it was seconded by Mike Gunderson. Katschman abstained from voting. Roll being called, Ayes: Garberding, Gunderson, McCoy. Nays: none, Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

Garberding moved to approve Resolution No. 914 - Approving Contract with Grave Construction of Spencer, Iowa for the Sioux Rapids Health Clinic, it was seconded by McCoy. Katschman abstained from voting. Roll being called, Ayes: Garberding, Gunderson, McCoy. Nays: none, Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

The City Council with the questions from Simmering-Cory for the Code Codification and the Planning and Zoning Board Recommendations. It was moved to make those changes by McCoy and seconded by Katschman. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

Katschman moved to approve payment to T.P. Anderson & Company,P.C. in the amount of \$2,500.00 for Preliminary work & field work for Annual Exam, it was seconded by Garberding. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

Gunderson moved to approve payment to BV County in the amount of \$1,755.00 for 300 tons of gravel, it was seconded by Katschman. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

Garberding moved to approve payment to GWorks in the amount of \$6,000.00 for yearly subscription software, it was seconded by Katschman. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Gunderson and McCoy. Motion carried.

McCoy moved to approve payment SEH (Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc) in the amount of \$4,170.00 for Design & Permitting for the USDA Grant, it was seconded by Katschman. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

Gunderson moved to approve payment to ANP (Advanced Network Professionals) in the amount of \$1,440.00 for Agreement Firewall Management, it was seconded by Katschman. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

McCoy moved to approve payment to Sioux Rapids Fire Protection Agency in the amount of \$18,169.97 for the City’s Share of the Fire Protection, it was seconded by Gunderson. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

Katschman moved to approve payment to SEH (Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc) in the amount of \$7,089.00 for Design & Permitting for the USDA Grant, it was seconded by Garberding. Ayes: all; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried.

The next regular city council meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 6:30 pm at City Hall, 100 Front Street.

Garberding made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by McCoy. Ayes: All; Nays: none. Absent: Thompson. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm. ATTEST: Amanda Caraway, City Clerk /s/ Mayor, Jim Wise #377

---  
This and other legal notices from around Iowa are searchable at iowapublicnotices.com.