

## History of Alive @2012

It was a small request. We had no idea that it would change our lives.

It was spring of 2010, The request; put together a committee to help First Jenison Christian Reformed Church figure out how to be relevant in our community. What would we need to do to really make a difference?

A hand-picked committee of 7 started the hard work of creating a re-vision for the church we had all called home for many years. Lots of meetings, discussions and focus groups led to a point of view. Lots of change would be required. A new building, a new name, and a more contemporary worship style. A breath of fresh air for some, but a traumatic change for others. This would not be easy.

In the fall of 2010, after painful debate it was decided that this amount of change was just too much for some. We agreed that the best path forward was to plant a new church in Jenison. Those that would stay promised to bless those that would leave. Those that left promised to be truly missional as we worked to bring Life to the community.

10 minutes after we decided to plant a new Church in Jenison, we realized that we had no clue how to actually do this. We became aware that there was a local group of leaders from the Christian Reformed Church that had been working for years to plant a new church in Jenison. This group had money and know-how, they just needed someone to supply the effort. Our new church (now with 6 members) had lots of energy, but no knowledge or money. It really was a match made in Heaven.

Jenison did not need another church....it needed a different kind of church. Our goal from the first day was to create a place where we could invite the 30,000 people in our community who did not have a church home where they could encounter Christ.

We held an informational meeting at Hager hardwood park. Around 70 people showed up and many agreed to join in the mission. 70....a huge number. We were blessed. We continued to have midweek meetings during the fall and winter at the park. In the least surprising move in the history of mankind we called Terry Scholten to be our pastor in December of 2010. Terry had been the pastor at First Jenison CRC. The committee of 7 was back together. This group added 2 members and became your first Board of Directors.

Mother's Day 2011 was one of the best days of my life! Our first worship service. We met at the park. It was perfect weather. I can't describe how I felt that day. Perhaps the best word is ALIVE!

....and now we are on the journey. It has led us to a warehouse, and an old library. It kind of makes you wonder what God has in store for us next. We look forward to knowing that God has a mission for us right here in Jenison.