

# THE COMMUNICATOR

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER | 605.336.1475 | DECEMBER 12, 2018

## PASTOR'S UPDATE

Advent is moving along. December is nearly half over as well, and the days continue to move quickly. I think that has to do with so much going on this time of year. I do wish it would slow down some, but then again, I do so love the things I get to do at this time of the year...so I am not going to complain too much. The weather was very cooperative this week as well and that sure does make a difference. I got some reports from back in Burke that they got 16 inches of snow during this last snow storm. They got smacked good with the snow. We can feel pretty good about missing that. Let's hope that all that keeps working for us as well try to get all these special events done in the next few days.

I still haven't heard any results yet from my gallbladder test. I know I don't have stones, but I'm not sure about the efficiency test results. Once I get that then I can make some plans on what to do with that crazy thing. I know I'm not waiting very long if that is what it turns out to be. I don't like waiting around for things like that. Get it done!

The choir's performance on Sunday was very good. If you were watching online that doesn't do justice to what the room sounds like. We would have to spend some serious money to get that to sound like it does in the room live. So, choir, if you listen...it didn't sound anything like that. Too stark on the recording. (I'm picky) The performance was great! I enjoy that Sunday so much with all the carols and Christmas coming to life that way in music. I had so many nice compliments from folks who were listening.

I know it takes a lot of hard work on the choir's part to get that all together. The music this year was difficult. Each piece had its own challenges and each message was so wonderfully set in song. I hope it made your weekend. It was great! Thanks everyone!

I will be singing at the Cathedral this week as well. I do enjoy that so much. I don't have to do anything but sing. Someone else does all the planning and preparation. I just show up and sing! It is also a way to connect with the greater community of Sioux Falls. I meet people there at the concerts and in places around town who have been to that and recognize my face in the choir. It opens up some good conversations to be sure. It is amazing how quickly connections can be made. It is a highlight of my Christmas. I also get to do it with Liz and Abbie. There is just something right about that as well. I'm very blessed to have that opportunity. It is a wonderful program and one that is very inspirational. If you would like to go there is a website to get tickets. I know they are nearly sold out, so you will want to get right with that.

Sunday's message is more on the "Celebration of Christmas" with this week's theme the words of the prophets. They said he was coming. They said it for a long time. Their words told of a coming Messiah who was going to be a new King, but this king would rule from a very different kind of throne. We'll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

**December 16: 9:00am—**

Kenny & Carrie Hartzell  
Lynette Deutsch  
Kari Kraayenbrink  
**11:00am-**  
Brent & Sue Dekker  
Andrea Fisher

**December 23: 9:00am—**

Jason Stubbe  
Megan Timmer  
Chris & Briana Behrens  
**11:00am-**  
Brent & Katie Kennett  
Dustin Brouwer

## THE LINK SCHEDULE

**Dec 16:**

**9:00am—** Mike & Jolene Hilbrands  
**11:00am—** Mark & Pat Koll

**Dec 23:**

**9:00am—** Dick & Jeannette Jennings  
**11:00am—** Karen Roetman

## COFFEE SCHEDULE

Dec. 16: Dick & Jeannette Jennings  
Dec. 23: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen  
Dec. 30: Daryl & Char DuBois

## GREETER SCHEDULE

**Dec. 16**

**9:00am—**  
Jerralynne Tjeerdsma  
Tom & Amy Bosch  
Dave & Trish Mayer  
**11:00am—**  
Jerralynne Tjeerdsma  
Ken & Deb Meyer

**Dec. 23**

**9:00am—**  
Jean Nollmann  
Rich & Carolyn Odens  
Dennis & Helen Robinson  
**11:00am—**  
Bert Roetman  
Mike & Jolene Hilbrands



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

MONDAY, DEC. 24

4:00PM & 6:00PM

Celebrate the real reason for the season! Join us for one of our Christmas Eve Communion Services.

## **(NEW)** RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS SCAVENGER HUNT

THURSDAY, DEC. 27

6:30PM

Meet at church and we'll send you on a scavenger hunt with clues to help you complete acts of kindness in our community. Fun for all ages! \$40/ carload. To sign up, either comment below or sign up at The Link at church. Grab a friend or two or five, fill a car and get ready for a night of blessing others:)

## **(NEW)** HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

**NO MIDWEEK**— DEC. 19th & 26th

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**— DEC. 23 & 30

**OFFICE CLOSED**— DEC. 24 & 25/ DEC. 31 & JAN. 1

## **(NEW)** NEWSLETTER INFO

Due to the holidays, there will not be a newsletter on Wednesday, Dec. 26th. The following week (Jan 2), the newsletter will be delayed 1 day. Thanks for understanding!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Wednesday, Dec. 12

6:00pm— Tacos

7:00pm— Classes for all ages & Youth groups

### Saturday, Dec. 15

7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)

10:00am— Closed AA meeting

### Sunday, Dec.16

10:10am— Sunday School

### Monday, Dec. 17

7:00pm— Men's Bible Study

### Tues, Dec. 18

11:30am— Joy Circle (Callaways)

6:00pm— Hope Circle

7:00pm— Book Club (E. Panera)

7:00pm— Open AA Meeting

### Wednesday, Dec. 19

NO MIDWEEK

## UPCOMING MINISTRIES

### COMMUNITY BOOK CLUBS

The evening book club will meet Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7pm at the E. Panera. We will be discussing Sarah's Key By deRosnay.

**New participants welcome.** Book Club  
Contact Trudi Nelson 371-3512

### AA BIG BOOK MEETING

Every Tues at 7pm at Community— Open meeting. Use east door. Every Saturday at 10am Closed (Addicts/Alcoholics only) meeting.

## FINANCES

Sunday, December 9, 2018

General: .....\$12,926

Vision: .....\$73,845

Missions: .....\$2,008

Wed Night: .....\$373

General YTD: \$747,037

Vision YTD: \$260,282

Vision Account Balance:\$176,753

# PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Pete Valentine**
- **Natallie Baker** (seizure disorder)
- **Clayton Bierwagen** (heart)
- **Jodie Jensen** (cancer)
- **Chelle McMurrey's dad** (multiple myeloma)
- **Ellen Nelson** (chronic airway disease)
- **Lexi Valentine** (auto-immune disease) (surgery 12/18)
- **Jessica Vander Weide** (heart)
- **Lindsey Vander Weide** (heart)
- William VamBram's wife, **Cynthia** (heart)
- **Gloria Wierda**. Laura Maloney's mom (stage 4 breast cancer)
- **Sara Van Ruler's dad** (throat cancer)

- **Joe Johnson** (cancer)
- Lori Hein's mom, **Joan** (heart)
- Wade Persson's mom (cancer)
- **Randy Grotenhuis** (inflammation of the inner ear)
- **Kara Schouten** (kidney transplant)
- **Al Hoogendoorn** (multiple health issues)

## MISSIONS

### THE GIVE

Check out THE GIVE wall in the lobby. It's a place to donate to local ministries. We'll highlight 4 each month.

**Love Lexi & Friends Christmas Closet: gifts for children hospitalized over Christmas- all ages**

**The Banquet-** new hoodies & socks

### MISSION OF THE MONTH:

Bishop Dudley House

### UNION GOSPEL MISSION:

December's love gift to Union Gospel Mission is: cash. You can make checks payable to the church and designate "Union Gospel" in the memo line.

*Thank You*

Thanks to Pastors Clyde & John for the support & help in seeing our family through this sudden loss. Thank you too, Community, for your kindness and prayers.

Hen Timmer & family

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

### JOY CIRCLE

Tuesday, Dec. 18th Christmas Party  
CJ Callaways @ 11:30am  
Please RSVP to Char at 366-1341

### HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle meet on Dec 18th at 6:00pm.  
Hostess: Helen.

### FAITH CIRCLE

Faith Circle will not be meeting the months of January, February and March. If anyone has ideas for the April meeting, please contact Dolly, Florene or Connie.

We want to thank those of you who made it to our Christmas gathering. We had 13, which is amazing since there was still icy parking lots. We got someone else's dining room because they cancelled (they must be older than us). ☺ Merry Christmas!

### MOMS OF NEWBORNS

#### MONDAYS from 6:30-7:30pm

This is a new group at Community open to any woman who is caring for a newborn. Do you feel overwhelmed? Do you have more questions than Jmlarson@alliancecom.net

Dates: December 17.

# Adult Discipleship/Worship



What a Sunday! I was so proud of the choir and how both of their performances went this past Sunday. Choir, you worked incredibly hard for weeks to prepare for this concert, and Sunday was a true culmination of your work. I am so honored that I get to work with you, and I'm thankful for your time and commitments to this group. Thanks for all you brought to our worship on Sunday! You were a blessing!

My Christmas music experiences continue this week with Christmas at the Cathedral. This will be my 5th year to play the piano with the orchestra for this event. It's one of my favorite things I get to do all year! Rehearsals start Tuesday of this week, and we present our concerts Thursday through Sunday. The theme this year is "Unto Us," and most of the narration for this year's performances comes from the book of Isaiah. One of the things I love most about this event is that I'm not in charge of it! But seriously, what I truly love about Christmas at the Cathedral is that it is an event that brings all Christian faiths together. We have people participating who are Baptist, Methodist, Reformed, Catholic, and Lutheran, just to name a few. I believe this is one of the reasons Christmas at the Cathedral is so powerful; it's God's people coming together in unity to share the best news this world has seen – God

coming to earth as a baby to save His people from their sins. If you've never been to one of these concerts, I strongly recommend that you try to go. It is truly life changing. And if you're unable to attend in person, you'll be able to watch the concert on KELO TV on Christmas night.

Since Christmas at the Cathedral rehearsals run through Wednesday night, I want to remind my Just Ask class that we will not be meeting this week. Also keep in mind that all Mid-Week classes take a break December 19 and 26 and resume January 2. Most of our adult classes will carry over into the new year. Here's what I have so far:

Clyde will continue to teach his adult class on Romans. Trudi will continue her Bible for 3rd graders for Adults class. Josiah will teach the second part of the FPU class, Legacy. Andrea and Susan will continue their classes for women. And I will wrap up my Just Ask class at the end of January, and after that we'll dive into Dallas Willard's book, "Hearing God."

Have a good week!

Liz  
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

## DOYLE'S UPDATE

# HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

It's Christmas party week! Wednesday night the high school group will be getting together at our house as we celebrate Christmas together. We will start at 6:00 and will be done at 8:00. There will be soup, elk pie, hot apple cider and some other Christmas goodies. We will also be doing a white elephant exchange and wearing ugly Christmas sweaters. I'm looking forward to celebrating and enjoying the season together. Our party will be the last Wednesday night we have together before the new year, and this next Sunday will



also be the last Sunday school of 2018. As we get closer to the end of the year, I hope that you all get to enjoy the Christmas season and students have a great break from classes. Hope has come to us and it is a great reminder for us all.

I am also working on the new year calendar a little and am looking forward to it – not that I'm ready to skip ahead yet. With that, I'm also looking forward to implementing a few new things; including a service opportunity throughout the year, some small group break outs Wednesday nights, and offering a small group study another night for those who are able/interested. Some of these will help with my Seminary work as well, so it will be a great addition while working toward my MDIV.

That's it for this week. If you have any questions about the high school ministry feel free to contact me anytime!

Doyle Burnside  
[Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org](mailto:Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org)  
605-310-2561

## HEATHER'S UPDATE

# Kids MINISTRY



Hi!

I have been thinking about Christmas and family lately. I feel like I should offer some deep thoughts or insights but instead, I find myself wanting to give you some encouragement.

If you have kids or grandchildren, you may be wanting to establish traditions that will be memorable. However, I think some of the best traditions happen by accident. You may not even realize that you have great traditions.

Don't get me wrong, I still think we need to be intentional about keeping Jesus in the front of Christmas. Without a focus on time with our Savior, the season can get too busy. Spending time with our family in God's Word won't happen on accident. We have to carve out space in our lives and make it a priority.

The traditions that I am referring to are the little quirky extras that somehow become memorable for our kids. When my oldest daughter was tiny, my wonderful in-laws took care of her when I was at work. One silly tradition that stuck for us was that one of the sheep from their nativity became prone to wandering. I don't even remember who moved it the first time. It would move across the living room, to another room or even hide. Over time, new animals would randomly arrive in the nativity. Once there was even an alligator (or was it a crocodile?) The nativity scene wasn't just



sitting. The kids look for it and sneak things into and out of the nativity. When my mother-in-law passed away, the nativity moved to our house. Most recently, the nativity at our house was visited by two Malayan tapirs (my daughter's favorite rain forest animal.) Not only does it bring some joy and giggles, it gets us talking, thinking and researching what the Bible actually says about

when Jesus was born. We have been surprised by what we've learned so far. Our silly nativity may not be deep or profound but it is us. I suspect you have some fun traditions of your own. Remember that those are enough! Don't stress. My kids really don't remember the gifts they received in previous years or what they ate. They don't even really remember the times when I forgot something or messed up food or even got grumpy. They remember things like wandering around to find a unique Christmas tree, slowly opening gifts while chatting on Christmas morning, going to spend time with each branch of our family, snuggling up to read or watch movies and of course heading to Christmas Eve church. These are not complicated traditions or fancy. They are just us. Your traditions are good too! Relax, the memories and special times will happen because the season is completely about Jesus. God's love coming to earth is an incredible gift for us and change our days. When that is the focus, the traditions reflect love and joy. Speaking of traditions, this Wednesday the kids and youth will enjoy their annual celebration. The Middle School Youth Group party is at church. Check out Sarah's article for the details about when and what to bring. They are even partying in their pajamas! Doyle and his wife are welcoming the High School Youth to their house for the party, complete with white elephant gift exchange and Christmas sweaters. Check out his article for more information.

The K-5 kids will be enjoying relaxing and listening to the Christmas story. We have a variety of beautiful picture books and of course the Bible. The teachers share the story with the kids while they enjoy candy canes. I think this is our 3rd year of doing this and I might look forward to it as much as anyone. I hope for all of the kids and youth that time with their church friends brings some joy to their hearts.

I have had a long week of being sick and spending time with my doctors. My Sioux Falls doctors and Mayo Clinic doctors are working together so I am looking forward to many more good days. I am so, so thankful for the people at Community who were so willing to step in and make things go smoothly at church when I had to be away. You are so kind and that means so much to me! I am doing better and can't wait to see you all on Wednesday. It has been too long! See you soon!

Heather  
Heather.DeWit@communityrc.org

**Community Reformed Church**  
6800 E 41 Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

December 12, 2018

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
Permit No. 7119

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## INFO YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW...

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Baptism Service**  
MARCH 31

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### NEED GROCERIES? OR GAS?

Gift cards for HyVee,  
Fareway & Sunshine can  
be purchased on a Sunday  
morning at the coffee bar.  
5% of that purchase will go  
toward our vision fund at  
church.

### REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM...

If you would like to request  
membership or baptism,  
please e-mail the church of-  
fice at  
connect@communityrc.org to  
set up a time to meet with the  
Elders (2nd or 4th Sundays of  
the month @ 10:10am).

For baptism, one of the par-  
ents needs to be a member at  
Community. **Next Baptism  
Service: Sunday, March 31 @  
3pm.**

**Pastor Clyde Teel**  
pastor@communityrc.org

**Liz Teel**  
Director of Discipleship & Worship  
Liz.teel@communityrc.org

**John Thornton**  
Part-time Visitation Pastor  
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**Holli Jans**  
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**Josiah Dunlap**  
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