



December 20, 2017

# COMMUNITY

## Pastor's Update

Here we are at the end now of December and Christmas is right around the corner. It is hard to believe it is already here. I know there are lots of things being planned in the next few days for many of you. Drive careful and enjoy your family time. Please remember to pray for those who's Christmas this year might be a little sad. There is always that part of the season as well. It does sound like winter is going to come knocking on our doors this weekend. I hope that doesn't affect too many of your plans. Just be careful out there.

I want to thank everyone for the nice cards I have been receiving throughout the season. They are very nice. I read them all. I am truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful family of people here at Community and I only see more and more amazing things happening here as we draw nearer to each other and to the calling I believe God has on this church in the cornfield. It is a special place.

I had mentioned on Sunday that a group of us participated in the Christmas at the Cathedral this year. I want to say that our Community people represented all of us in a very special way. They were all so gracious with their gifts and their presents with our new friends there. That program will be televised on Christmas Eve if you would all like to watch it. I'm not sure of the time, but a quick search on KELO's web page should give you that info. There...now I've even given you an assignment in this week's newsletter. I do enjoy this season so much and music was just amazing this year. However, the most powerful part of the program is the message that is being presented. You will be blessed.

I'm not going to go on and on about too many things this week. Most of our programs are now finished up. Just a quick reminder that we are only doing one service this next Sunday morning at 10 am and then our special Christmas Eve services will be at 4pm and 6pm. I hope you can all be a part of that. I love this time of year and the opportunity we get to share a little music together during this blessed season.

Sunday's message is about the birth of Jesus. After all, it is Christmas Eve day. Joseph is starting a long journey with this new family. I'm sure his head is still spinning from everything he has witnessed. None of it has been an easy calling for him and that isn't going to change much. We'll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Serving Schedules.....2

Prayer List .....2

Christmas Eve Volunteers .....3

Kansas City Mission Trip .....4

What's Happening.....5



Just a reminder:  
No newsletter next week:  
Dec. 27th.



10:00am—Combined Sunday Morning Service  
4:00 & 6:00pm—Christmas Eve Services

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

### December 31:: 9:00am—

Eric & Jamelle Van Donge  
Amy & Owen Van Es

### 11:00am—

Abbie & Tanner Van Meeteren  
Kristi Olson

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### January 7:: 9:00am—

Melissa Beek  
Wanda Houtsma  
Mike & Angie Boyenga

### 11:00am—

Brent & Sue Dekker  
Donna DeRuyter

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## COFFEE SCHEDULE

Dec. 24: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen

Dec. 31: Dick & Jeannette Jennings

Jan. 7: Jim & Kathleen Ludens

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## THE LINK SCHEDULE

### Dec 24

10:00am— Brian & Holli Jans

### Dec 31

9:00am— Gerald & Deb Teunissen

11:00am— Jerralynne Tjeerdma

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## GREETER SCHEDULE

### December 24:

10:00am— Dan & Kathy Carlson,  
Wade & Diane Friese, Doug &  
Sharon Harms

### December 31:

9:00am— Stan & Elaine Deelstra,  
Wilmer & Marilyn Rensink, Darrin &  
Sherri VanBeek

11:00am— Donna Humme, Wilmer &  
Marilyn Rensink, Jerralynne Tjeers-  
dsma

## December Mission of the month is

### Bethany Christian Services— Safe Families for Children program

- 1) Keep children safe during a family crisis such as homelessness, hospitalization or domestic violence in an effort to prevent child abuse or neglect.
- 2) Support and stabilize families in crisis by surrounding them with caring, compassionate community.
- 3) Reunite families and reduce the number of children entering the child welfare system.

## COMMUNITY BOOK CLUBS

**Morning Book Club** will be meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 9am at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave. We will be discussing *The Language of Flowers* by Diffenbaugh.

**Evening Book Club** will be meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7pm at the Panera on E. 10th St. We will be discussing *The Hunger Games* by Collins.

**Both book clubs welcome new participants.** Contact Trudi Nelson at 371-3512 for more information.

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**The Union Gospel love** gift for December is money for the Christmas Day meal. Please make the check payable to church and designate Union Gospel Mission in the memo.

# Prayer REQUESTS

**Join us for a time of prayer on Saturdays from 7am-8am at church.**

- Connie Evenson, daughter of Rika VanDenTop (brain cancer)
- Pete Valentine
- Natallie Baker (seizure disorder)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurrey's dad (multiple myeloma)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Susan Payne (cancer)
- Ryan Kortemeyer's grandma
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Ember
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Marlys VanBruggen (breast cancer)
- Annetta Wiese
- William VamBram's wife, Cynthia (heart)
- Marilyn Bosch's mom, Vivian
- Cleone Groen (leg surgery)
- Denny Robinson (broken leg)
- Jaron DeWit's grandpa

# Heather's Update



Hi Everyone!

Between the kids' Christmas Program and the Choir Concert, I'm certainly in a "Christmasy" mood. :) I've been thinking about something and I'm not sure if I'll be able to capture it in words but I'll give it a try. I love Christmas time, like REALLY love Christmas and this year I feel like I'm longing for soaking it up even more than before. What struck me though, isn't how much I love celebrating the birth of Christ, but how much the whole world seems to buzz with anticipation before Christmas. Before you stop reading, I should note that I know that we can all get carried away with present buying, food preparing, decorating, events, etc and begin to lose ourselves in the chaos. However, I also think that in some small way, even people who don't believe in Jesus long for something at Christmas that they manage to ignore the rest of the year. We become more sentimental, we hold onto traditions, we create memories, we long for family. I even think sometimes it is a time of year that people search for meaning and purpose. I guess that is the Yearning we were singing about in choir. They may not know yet that they yearn for Jesus but they do.

While Easter is the highest attended service in most churches in America, Christmas Eve is actually the service that the most people who are "unchurched" attend. It is the day churches meet the most new people, even if it is for only one night. (That makes me even more thankful for our great Christmas Eve service at Community!) I guess what I'm trying to say is that God may use this season as a way to pull us all in, remind us we are loved, help us heal and find hope and of course capture a little joy. When I see the crazy Christmas shopping traffic, the piles of lights, the grocery store lines and all of the rest of the things that fill up this season, I say a little prayer that our minds don't get so full of clutter that we can't listen to God as He warms our hearts. Maybe this season of anticipation, hope and longing can bring some new people to Jesus this year. Maybe in the chaos there is great hope.

The Bible.com app has many free advent devotions for children, adults, youth, families, etc. I'd encourage you to try to fit one into your routine, even if it is just for a little while. I also ran across a fun idea for an advent calendar DIY. [Here's the link: http://miraclemama.blogspot.com/2012/11/diy-advent-calendar-with-easy-devotions.html](http://miraclemama.blogspot.com/2012/11/diy-advent-calendar-with-easy-devotions.html)

We won't have Midweek on December 20 or 27 but I really encourage you to come to the Christmas Eve service and also plan to participate in the Random Acts of Kindness Scavenger Hunt. I'm really excited for both!

I'll see you soon!

Heather DeWit  
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org

## Can you help?

We need some teachers for  
Midweek at 7pm- 4/5 graders

- 1/10/2018 service
- 1/17/2018 cooking
- 1/31/2018 art
- 2/21/2018 science
- 2/28/2018 service
- 3/14/2018 art



For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government  
will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
**Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.**  
Isaiah 9:6

# KANSAS CITY MISSIONAL JOURNEY ROAD TRIP 2018

**DATE:**

Depart MARCH 29, 2018 -approximately 3pm

Return APRIL 1, 2018, approximately 10pm

**GROUP SIZE:** 40 Maximum

If you are interested in any way, it is important to sign up now.

Signup deadline is January 3, 2018

Those getting preference to attend will be those who sign-up.

It is a first-come, first-served mission journey opportunity for high school youth, then their parents, then general adults.

Number of adults that can attend will be based on our youth number on the commitment date.

Sign up at The Link, the KC table, or contact Rhonda at 605.310.5120, or Lisa at 605.728.6660.

**ITINERARY:**

Random Acts of Kindness during travel to and from mission site.

Acts will be identified and arranged by final group.

Partner at Mission Site, directed by Youthfront!

**COMMITMENT DATE:**

January 3, 2018

**COST:**

\$150 per person at the mission site, which includes lodging, meals, and service involvement at mission site.

Transportation, travel meals and random acts cost to be determined by number of participants.

Partial scholarships are available from church.

**FUNDRAISING:**

Midweek BBQ January 17, 2018 - All participants are encouraged to help and serve!

Other opportunities to be determined, as necessary.

**SITE INFORMATION:** Argentine, Kansas City, Kansas

"Youth missional journeys (YMJ's) are trips in the sense that we're about seeking conversion. But each week is different and we're not always learn whom and how they're being saved. We don't assume that our friends in our under-resourced neighborhoods are the ones with all the problems (spiritually, economically, culturally or otherwise) and that we have the answers. So, YMJ's are not mission trips in the sense that outsiders come in to help and save others in poor neighborhoods. Rather, it's about recognizing that the privilege of some and the poverty of others are connected to each other through complex histories and injustices.

Through YMJ's, we help to unpack that complexity so that we can better understand one another and reveal the poverty (spiritual, relational, etc.) and gifts in each one of us. That makes YMJs just as much of a camp or a school for formation, as much as they are mission trips because we approach them with postures of learners rather than teachers. It's from this place of recognizing our mutual brokenness that we can truly help one another, We look towards Jesus Christ together as the one who saves all of us and who refurbishes us with an imagination for life in our world as it was truly meant to be."



Thank you Community for the generous donations for Angel Tree this year. We got to get gifts/food more people than we did last year!

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Thank you Community for all the gifts donated to help fill the Sanford kid's Christmas closet at the castle. It is so appreciated!

Lexi Valentine

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Cynthia Vambram, William's wife (who is in Liberia with his children) extends her thankfulness for the Christmas gifts they received from Community.

# January 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2	3 6pm- Midweek Meal- Soup 7pm- Classes	4	5	6 7am- Prayer Time
7 10:10am- Congrega- tional meeting	8 Noon- Seniors @ Pizza Ranch 7pm- Men's Bible Study	9	10 9am- Book Club (Bagel Boy on MN) 6pm- Midweek Meal- Chicken/ Taco Salad 7pm- Classes	11	12	13 7am- Prayer Time
14	15 7pm- Men's Bible Study	16 7pm--Book Club (E. Panera)	17 6pm- Midweek Meal- ham/cheesy potatoes 7pm- Classes	18	19	20 7am- Prayer Time
21 3pm- Baptism Service	22 7pm- Men's Bible Study	23	24 6pm- Midweek Meal- Tacos 7pm- Classes	25	26	27 7am- Prayer Time
28	29 7pm- Men's Bible Study	30	31 6pm- Midweek Meal- Pork Sandwiches 7pm- Classes			



# What's Happening @ Community

**Wednesday, December 20**  
NO MIDWEEK

**Saturday, December 23**  
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)

**Sunday, December 24**  
10:00am— Sunday Worship Service  
No Sunday School  
4:00 & 6:00pm— Christmas Eve Services

**Monday, December 25**  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**Tuesday, December 26**  
Office Closed

**Wednesday, December 27**  
6:30pm— Random Acts of Kindness  
Scavenger Hunt  
No Midweek meal

**Friday, December 29**  
Office Closed @ Noon

**Saturday, December 30**  
7:00am— Prayer ministry (chapel)

**Sunday, December 31**  
8, 9 & 11am Services  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Monday, January 1**  
Office Closed

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Offering Envelopes  
Now Available.

Look for table in the lobby. If you don't see your name and would like envelopes, please tell the person at The Link and we'll get you envelopes the next week.

## Finances at a Glance: December 17, 2017

General:..... \$38,404  
2017 Weekly Goal:..... \$15,033  
Ahead/(Behind):..... \$23,372  
Vision: ..... \$8,680  
Missions: .....\$170  
Wed. Night: .....\$243  
Sunday School:.....\$2

### YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS 12/17/17

Year-To-Date Offering: \$789,527  
Year-To-Date Goal: \$766,687  
Ahead (Behind): \$22,841  
Year-To-Date Vision: \$349,696

Vision Account Balance: \$192,219

**NEW**



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

## SCAVENGER HUNT

Wednesday, Dec. 27th  
6:30pm

Meet at church and we'll send you on a scavenger hunt around Sioux Falls to complete acts of kindness.  
Fun for all ages! \$40/ carload.  
Sign up at The Link or email [connect@communityrc.org](mailto:connect@communityrc.org).

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 7th  
10:10am

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION- 2017 Donations

Please note that due to IRS regulations on charitable contributions, the church will not be able to accept any 2017 donations after December 31. Please make sure everything is to the deacons by 11:15am on Sunday, December 31.

**NEW**

Can you help by preparing a dish for the MIDWEEK YOUTH MISSION FUNDRAISER on January 17, 2018?

There is a sign up on the KC table and The Link for Hasbrowm casserole, Calico beans, and Coleslaw. Recipes are attached to the sign up.

Thank you and see y'all at the KC BBQ!

## REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM...

If you would like to request membership or baptism, please e-mail the church office at [connect@communityrc.org](mailto: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 parents needs to be a member at Community.  
**Next Baptism Service: Sunday, January 21 @ 3pm.**

## Community Reformed Church

6800 E 41 Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

December 20, 2017

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

### Health Concerns / Congregational Needs

All needs should be called into the church. Leave a request with the office or on the office Voice Mail. For prayerline, please contact Susan Bierwagen, 331-3996 or John Thornton, 331-3028 ([prayerline@communityrc.org](mailto:prayerline@communityrc.org)). For emergencies during non-office hours, please call Pastor Clyde or the elder on call.

Dec. 17— Gerald Teunissen

Dec. 24— Cleone Leistra

**Join us for worship at 8am, 9am or 11:00am.**  
**Deaf Interpreting available at 9am service. Check us out on**  
**the web: [www.communityrc.org](http://www.communityrc.org) or like our Facebook page!**



## STAFF:

### Pastor Clyde Teel

[pastor@communityrc.org](mailto:pastor@communityrc.org)

### Liz Teel

Youth/ Children's Ministry Director  
[youthpastor@communityrc.org](mailto:youthpastor@communityrc.org)

### John Thornton

Part-time Visitation Pastor  
[prayerline@communityrc.org](mailto:prayerline@communityrc.org)

### Holli Jans

Ministry Coordinator  
[connect@communityrc.org](mailto:connect@communityrc.org)

### Heather DeWit

Director of Children's Ministries  
[Heather.dewit@communityrc.org](mailto:Heather.dewit@communityrc.org)

### Sheri Brouwer

Part-Time Nursery Coordinator  
[Sheri.brouwer@communityrc.org](mailto:Sheri.brouwer@communityrc.org)

### Lisa Blankers

Part-Time Financial Administrator  
[accounting@communityrc.org](mailto:accounting@communityrc.org)