So I made a comment about having snow on Saturday night last week and of course that’s what we got. I think I need to learn how to keep my mouth shut about such things. It didn’t turn out too bad and actually it did make for kind of a pretty morning. February is now here! I quickly these days seem to be going by. There is still plenty of winter coming. We all know how that goes, but there is a difference now. Even Sunday some of us were standing in the lobby with the sun coming through the windows and we were enjoying the feel of the warm sun on our shoulders. We just need to be patient. I have to work on that all the time.

This week I want to shout a big thanks to Gary McCain for bringing a good word for the men on Saturday morning. It was a good morning and a good turnout. What we all discovered is that the guys wanted to talk and share about the subject at hand and not just sit and listen. It was great to see that happen. There will be more to come and make a few changes to help facilitate that ministry even better. We are just trying to find the right combination of scheduling and content. I also mentioned the great contribution that Lisa and Joel Blankers made to the day. Those rolls and cookies sure put a nice “home touch” to the morning. I love it when folks just do what their gifts seem prompt them to do. It all matters!

As spring begins to come at us we are all busy planning ahead of course because if you don’t you get caught and then time gets away. I hope you all saw the announcement to pick up ballots for nominating Elders and Deacons. It is that time of year again. Get those in as soon as you can. You can pick those up at “The Link”.

My Vision team has been very busy working on ideas and thoughts for our future and we have some great ideas to present. There is still some work that needs to be done on that before we present it to the Consistory and then once Consistory has given it their approval I will be sharing these ideas with you. That group has been wonderful to work with! What I find most amazing is how God brings us together and just how we all seem to know at the same time what needs to happen. It’s just as though the same voice was speaking to all of us. I think there might be a sermon in that statement somewhere. I hope you all picked up my point in that last statement. God has been good to us Community! He has been leading and guiding us through many days and I don’t believe He has left the building. We are humbled by His grace to us and His amazing presence that gives us direction. There are good things coming. Change? Yes...but we can see God’s hand in all of it.

This series of messages I have been sharing on “Robes” has turned out to be a wonderful set of words for all of us. I too have learned so much more about the meaning of those in the Bible. I find is so amazing that we read through those stories dozens of time and then one piece, these robes, just gives that story a whole new meaning for us. It is the work of the Spirit in this place. This week we are going to be sharing about the robes of the redeemed in Glory. We all exchange our rags for the robe of salvation and then one day with all the saints in heaven we gather around the throne. I’m pretty excited about this message! We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
NURSERY SCHEDULE
February 4: 9:00am—
Jeris & Maylène Van Zee
Eric & Jamelee Van Donge
11:00am—
Angie, Ali, Justin Cable
February 4: 9:00am—
Matt & Erin Weerheim
Kenny & Carrie Hartzell
11:00am—
Josiah & Kris Dunlap
Kelli Fantroy

COFFEE SCHEDULE
Feb. 4: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen
Feb. 11: Dick & Jeanette Jennings
Feb. 18: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen

THE LINK SCHEDULE
Feb 2:
9:00am– Tom Van Roekel
11:00am– Tom & Robin Jacobs
Feb 11:
9:00am– Chad & Diane McKee
11:00am– Ross & Jolene Larson

GREETER SCHEDULE
February 4:
9:00am– Dave & Trish Mayer,
Randy & Gayle Grotenhuis, Daron & Sherri VanBeek
11:00am– Bert Roetman, Larry & Gloria Smyrak
February 11:
9:00am– Josh & Molly Kuehl, Wade & Diane Freise, Lyle & Wilma Drenth
11:00am– Jean Nollman, Ken & Deb Meyer

February Mission of the Month:
Feeding South Dakota– Backpack Program.
This program provides at-risk children with nutritious, easy-to-prepare foods during weekends and holidays when school is not in session. Food is distributed through the schools because of their relationship with students, easy access and safe environments.

Monthly Mission
The love gift for the Union Gospel Mission in February is pasta. Please place in designated bin in the lobby.

Community Book Clubs
Morning Book Club will be meeting on Wed, February 14 at 9pm at the Bagel Boy on MN Ave. We will be discussing Double Bind by Bohjalian.

Evening Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 7pm at the Panera on E. 10th St. We will be discussing Girl With All The Gifts by Carey.

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

Faith Circle will not be meeting in February. We will let you know about March at a later date.

Joy Circle will not be meeting the months of January, February and March. Please study lesson 9 for the month of April.

Hope Circle will meet Feb. 20th at Helen’s house. Lesson: Jerralynne

The love gift for the Union Gospel Mission in February is pasta. Please place in designated bin in the lobby.

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)
• William VamBram’s wife, Cynthia (heart)
• Cleone Groen (leg surgery)
• Denny Robinson (broken leg)
• Dianne Friese-hip replacement
Heather’s Children’s Ministry Update

Hello,
This week I’m writing to the parents of kids age 1 to around 4 so if that doesn’t describe you, feel free to skip me this week! :) I want to let you know I’m praying for you. The phase of parenting you are in is a tough and beautiful one all at once. I miss it but I also wouldn’t be in a big hurry to go back. My own kids can use the restroom independently and that is pretty awesome. :) One word that I want to share is that when God chose you to be the parent for your little one, He knew what He was doing. He is with you and He knows everything about you. He knows exactly how many hairs are on your head. Not only that, He knows your child that well too. He knew your child before they were even conceived. He knew you before then too. When parenting seems overwhelming, because it does for all of us, please remember that He’s with you. He has it all figured out. When our daughter Addi was small, she was very sick. We heard a quote that meant a lot to us then and continues to impact us now but essentially the idea is that God loves our children even more than we do. That feels so good to me even though it is a little hard to fathom.

I’ve got some practical ways to build faith foundations into life with the under 5 years old crowd:
It seems so obvious to suggest reading Bible stories but some of the children’s Bibles are too long for small children. Don’t let that deter you. Find a book you love and read it over and over. Talk about the big idea. God loves you. God is with you. The Bible is true. Jesus cares. Oh, and one of the great things about little kids is that it is good for them (and they love it) when we read the same book over and over and over and over so if you can stand the repetition, don’t be afraid to re-read.
Little ones are often awesome at noticing things. It can even get annoying sometimes. Get in the habit of telling God thank you for the butterflies, rocks, clouds, friends that your child notices. It doesn’t need to be a long fancy prayer. Just a simple, “thank you, God.”
Does your child notice fire trucks, ambulances, police cars? Many do. This is a good chance to practice praying for people who might need help because they have a fire or are sick and for the safety of the first responders that are in those vehicles. Most toddlers like to say, “amen.” I pray when I hear sirens even when I don’t have kids with me. If you can, try to pray through the moments. Now, don’t get me wrong, I don’t do this all of the time and I didn’t when my two girls were little. When it comes to helping a “tantrum” stop, one strategy is to move on and disregard the behavior. This is not always as easy as it sounds but it helps a little to use this otherwise wasted three (yeah right, ten...fifteen?) minutes to chat with God (in your head) about your child. Ask Him to protect, grow, change, teach, prepare the little person that is currently using an unpleasant strategy to get what he or she wants. Somehow it makes the moment more bearable. Sometimes. :) Now that my kids are bigger this looks different. It is waiting for packing backpacks, getting ready in the morning, cleaning rooms, in the car, etc but the time looks the same.
I’ll see you soon!
Heather DeWit Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org

Donations Needed For the Haiti Mission Trip:
The Mission Team will be distributing hygiene kits to the people of Haiti while they are on their trip in March. Please consider donating a few kits or money for supplies. There is a table in the lobby.

In a Quart Sized Ziplock (stronger type):
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Soap
- Shampoo-hotel or travel size
- Deodorant
- Washcloth
- Fingernail Clipper
- Lotion– hotel or travel size
- Comb
- Bandaids– 2 or 3
(other small items are fine if they travel well but are not necessary.)
Tickets for the Spring Fling Fundraiser go on sale this week! Tickets are $25 each and can be purchased at the table in the lobby or by contacting the church office.

Let’s recap the details for this event:

* This is the only fundraiser the high school youth group does all year.
* The money made at this fundraiser goes to offset costs for fun activities as well as to pay 100% of the expenses for Spiritual Life Retreats like Sully Peaks. We also use this money to fund service projects and missions. In fact, this year, we have been blessed to make donations to both the Haiti mission trip and the Kansas City mission trip! (High School students are participating in both trips)
* The meal is catered by Chef Dominique. This year, the catered meal is gluten free and consists of: a field green salad with tomatoes, onions, and caramelized almonds, which is served with hazelnut dressing, Roasted Creamy Peppercorn Pork Loin with Yukon Gold Potatoes with Fresh Apples. We also offer homemade cookies for dessert. We are able to accommodate for vegetarian meals. Just let us know!
* There is a highly entertaining dessert auction after dinner where tables combine their money and try to win specially prepared desserts by our long time youth group supporter and dear friend, Mary Burggraaf. The auction is one of the most entertaining things that happens at Community all year!
* We follow up the meal and auction with a rousing game show of Let’s Make a Deal, which consists of incredible prizes donated by many people from Community! If you’d like to make a donation, please let me know. We accept prizes as well as money to put toward prizes. And if you have a fantastic “ZONK” prize lying around your house, let me know!
* We offer free childcare for the evening. All you have to do is register them when you reserve tickets, and then feed them before you bring them that evening. 😊

Something new this year for the Spring Fling is that we will be handing out tickets for this event. Every year it’s a bit challenging to avoid duplicate entries and to figure out exactly how many tickets have been purchased. So this year, when you reserve your tickets, you will receive actual tickets. You can still pay for the tickets anytime, but my hope is that having a ticket in hand will be helpful for everyone!

Upcoming Senior High Youth Group Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Red Carpet Night at Minerva’s at 6:00pm. FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Decorating for Spring Fling Fundraiser at 4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Spring Fling Fundraiser Banquet at 6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>South Dakota Symphony Concert at 7:30pm FREE-You must RSVP by 1/28</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6-8</td>
<td>Sully Peaks Weekend Retreat FREE</td>
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That’s it for me this week.

Until next time,

Liz
youthpastor@communityrc.org
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/24</td>
<td>7am-Prayer Time</td>
<td>H.S. Red Carpet Night</td>
<td>6pm-Soup</td>
<td>6pm-Chicken/Taco Salad</td>
<td>7pm-Mens Bible Study</td>
<td>7pm-Mens Bible Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/25</td>
<td>7am-Prayer Time</td>
<td>9pm-Sleep up Your Marriage</td>
<td>7pm-Sleep up Your Marriage</td>
<td>7pm-Class</td>
<td>7pm-Mens Bible Study</td>
<td>7pm-Mens Bible Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/26</td>
<td>7am-Prayer Time</td>
<td>6pm-Chicken/Taco Salad</td>
<td>7pm-Class</td>
<td>7pm-Mens Bible Study</td>
<td>7pm-Mens Bible Study</td>
<td>7pm-Mens Bible Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/27</td>
<td>7am-Prayer Time</td>
<td>6pm-Chicken/Taco Salad</td>
<td>7pm-Class</td>
<td>7pm-Mens Bible Study</td>
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<td>7pm-Mens Bible Study</td>
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**February 2018**

Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat
What’s Happening @ Community

Wednesday, January 31
6:00pm– Midweek Meal– Tacos
7:00pm– Classes for all ages

Saturday, February 3
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)

Sunday, February 4
10:10am– Sunday School
10:10am– Adult Sunday School (chapel)
10:20am– The Best Yes (children’s wing)

Monday, February 5
7:00pm– Men’s Bible Study

Wednesday, February 7
6:00pm– Midweek Meal– Pork Sandwiches
7:00pm– Classes for all ages

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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.

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FINANCES AT A GLANCE:
January 28, 2018

General: $12,407
Vision: $4,560
Missions: $75
Sunday School: $19
Wed. Night: $315

General YTD: $60,076
Vision YTD: $27,943
Vision Account Balance: $151,311

REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM...
If you would like to request membership or baptism, please e-mail the church office 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 parents needs to be a member at Community.
Next Baptism Service: Sunday, April 8 @ 3pm.

SUNDAYS @ 10:25-10:50am
In the Children’s wing (Based off of Lisa TerKeurst’s book “The Best Yes”)

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SPRING FLING
Saturday, March 10th
6:00pm
Tickets are $25 and can be purchased in the lobby on Sunday or by contacting the church office.

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NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN
Check out the blue sheet at The Link to nominate 3 elders and 3 deacons for the upcoming year’s consistory. Nominations due: Feb. 25.

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TICKETS ON SALE NOW
Spring Fling
Saturday, March 10th
6:00pm

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MARRIAGE SEMINAR
JC Chambers from Stronghold Counseling is back to present a 4 week marriage class “Spice Up Your Marriage in Seven Steps” based off of John Gottman’s book.

Wednesday January 31, Feb. 7, 14, 21
7:00-8:00pm

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CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE
www.communityrc.org

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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). For emergencies during non-office hours, please call Pastor Clyde or the elder on call.

Feb. 4—Jolene Larson
Feb. 11—Bob Hein

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 or like our Facebook page!