I am writing my newsletter early in the week so, I am wondering if this forecast for snow is really going to materialize? It is October and it is not that out of the realm of possibility that you can have snow at anytime during this month. I am sure it won’t be around that long, but I also know we aren’t really looking forward to it. Let’s just all hope that after the cold snap, we can return to some nice fall weather. I have been surprised at just how slowly the leaves have been turning this year. I don’t think they are ready for fall either. I don’t blame them! It sounds like the weekend is supposed to be nice, so we will just wait for that and enjoy it when it comes.

I have a couple of items to highlight this week. The first thing is saying thanks to everyone who has signed up to help with all the MidWeek things. I know we still need some help with a couple of the teaching nights for children. Talk to Heather folks. She would love to get all of that taken care of soon. Also, we need a few more dessert folks as well. I know we can do this! If you can help us out just talk to me because I am a great dessert expert, and I’ll get you hooked up. I think there is a signup at “The Link” for that as well. It is a big project getting things into place for MidWeek, but it is so worth our efforts. We had a terrific turnout last week with nearly 200 adults signing up for classes. That is the most ever! I do love that! Great job Community!

My second item this week is to talk about choir. We had a very skilled group of singers showing up last Sunday afternoon, but we are a little short-handed.

The singers who were there did a fabulous job of reading through all the material...we have some great music again to do. (I’m not just saying that...ask the choir folks who were there.) I know there were several folks who couldn’t be there because of conflicts, but even taking them into consideration we are falling a little short in numbers. I know that you all have so much going on and we don’t want the church to become one more burden in your life. It’s a difficult ask on our part. It really is. It seems like life has just gotten so full for you all. I’m not sure what to make of all of that or how to help. All of that said...we are short singers, and we really do need more in order to really do this right. If it works, it works. If it doesn’t, it doesn’t. I don’t want to push or guilt you. Pray it up. We will live into it however that goes.

The Consistory is working hard right now on next year’s budget. It is a busy time for them. They always do a great job with all of this and the process we use is such an efficient way to get the job done. Each year they all are so aware of the needs and demands of our church family and prayerfully we work through each area. Pray for us as we work on the numbers. It is important work that we do.

Sunday our story is from the book of Esther. She, too, has a strong connection to the coming Messiah. There will be parts of that story that will point us to Jesus in a most unique way. She was in a place at the right time to do what only she could. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Oct 9
9:00am– Book Club @ Bagel Boy on MN Ave.
6:00pm– Midweek meal-Chicken Salad/Taco Salad
6:30pm– K-5th grade singing
6:45pm– K-8th grade classes
7:00pm– Classes for adults
7:30pm– H.S. Youth Group

Thursday, Oct. 10
7:00pm– Elders/ 8:00pm– Consistory

Saturday, Oct 12
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
10:00am– Closed AA meeting

Sunday, Oct 13
10:10am– Sunday School
4:00pm– Choir

Monday, Oct 14
Noon– Senior Citizens (E. Pizza Ranch)
7:00pm– Men’s Bible Study

Tuesday, Oct. 15
7:00pm– AA
7:00pm– Hope Circle
7:00pm– Book Club (E. Panera)

Wednesday, Oct 16
6:00pm– Midweek meal-Soup
6:30pm– K-5th grade singing
6:45pm– K-8th grade classes
7:00pm– Classes for adults
7:30pm– H.S. Youth Group

FINANCES

Sunday, Oct 6, 2019

General: $15,932
Vision: $8,445
Missions: $265

General YTD: $598,286
Vision YTD: $150,086
Vision Account Balance: $97,640

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

BOOK CLUBS
The evening book club will meet Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 7 pm at the Eastside Panera. They will be discussing Those Waves These Are by Dykes.

AA BIG BOOK MEETING
Every Tues at 7pm at Community– Open meeting. Use east door. Every Saturday at 10am Closed (Addicts/Alcoholics only) meeting.

THE GIVE
The GIVE wall in the lobby is a place to donate to local ministries.
Union Gospel Mission– regular coffee
Operation Christmas Child– School supplies
LSS of SD– Board Games or Legos
Community Youth Group– old cell phones

FAITH CIRCLE
Faith Circle will join the event on October 21 at noon for a salad luncheon. (See side info about ALL WOMEN LUNCHEON.) Please sign up at the Link.

JOY CIRCLE
Monday, Oct. 21– Church in the street with Rebel Hurd

HOPE CIRCLE
will meet at 7:00 pm on Oct.15. Hostess is Helen and lesson is Wilma.

SENIOR CITIZENS
Join the seniors at the E. Pizza Ranch at Noon on Monday, Oct. 14th.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: The Gideons
LIZ’S UPDATE

Adult Discipleship/Worship

Our first night of Mid-Week went very well! We had nearly 190 adults register for our classes. This is almost twice as many adults as we had last year! What a wonderful thing to celebrate! Please remember that you are welcome to join any of the classes at any point during the year. So, even if you weren’t able to join us last Wednesday, you can certainly jump in this week. Supper is always served at 6:00, and classes run from 7:00-8:00pm. Below are the room assignments for all of the adult classes. I’ll also have signs up around church with this same information to guide everyone to the proper places for the classes. And as always, if you have any questions, just let me know!

Clyde – Myths of Christianity – Chapel
Liz – The Bible Says What?! – Fellowship Hall
Larson/Jacobs – Becoming Men of God – Sanctuary, west side near the organ
Andrea Dick – Our Beautiful Purpose – The Corner
Kyle Wigg – The Gospels – The Office Area
Pastor John – Marriage – The Office Area

And lastly this week, I want to chat a bit more about choir. We had our first rehearsal this past Sunday afternoon, and it went very well! I was extremely pleased at how well everyone read through the new music. I know we were missing several people that first night, so I’m looking forward to having everyone there for a full rehearsal. Remember, rehearsals are Sunday afternoons from 4:00-5:30. We always have free nursery care during that time, and we only rehearse through December 1. The concerts are December 8 at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. This is the only time of year we do a church choir, so if you are the type of person who enjoys singing in a choir setting, I strongly encourage you to join us. The music is challenging but not impossible, and the connections you make with each other during this time are priceless. We could use about 20 more voices, so if you’re feeling the urge to sing some Christmas songs, please join us!

Have a great week!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

PRAYER REQUEST

- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Cheille McMurry’s dad (multiple myeloma)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Bruce Heinen (Laura Maloney’s brother-in-law) lymphoma
- Diane Johnson (liver disease)
- Gary Jensen (cancer)
- Sara Van Ruler’s dad (throat cancer)
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Al Hoogendoorn (multiple health issues)
- Dave Sells (surgery recovery)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- Melanie Oden’s dad, David (motorcycle accident)
- Jane Klemme (breast cancer)
- Harriet Valentine (knee replacement)
- Brian Bartscher (rotator cuff surgery)
Hi Everyone!

Believe it or not, it is time to get started on the CHRISTMAS PROGRAM! The 3 year olds and preschool age kids will do their practice during Sunday School so you don’t need to sign them up or go to a separate practice. For the K-5 kids, practice starts Oct. 27 and is at 2:30pm on Sunday afternoons.

The K-5 kids (and youth volunteers) will bring home a registration form or you can sign up online at: https://vbspro.events/p/events/christmas19

I could use some youth and adult volunteers if anyone is willing.

Our year is off to a great start. Here’s what we are learning so far:

Sunday School:
3 year old and PreK Classes: We have learned that God made our World and God Made us and now we’re starting to learn about Noah’s Ark and how God takes care of us.
(A little reminder for parents of little ones: Please stop at the restroom before Sunday School so they don’t all need a potty break each week. 😃)

- Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade: In just a few weeks we spent time in the book of Genesis to learn about creation and what happened when Adam and Eve sinned. Then we learned about Noah and his ark. On 10/13 we’ll learn about Joshua and the Battle of Jericho.

3rd, 4th and 5th Grade: The 3-5 graders use “Grapple” curriculum and they tackle tough questions with Bible answers. They started the year talking about how such a big God can be a best friend to us and how God knows and cares about us. Then they dove into what it means to conform to the image of Christ. They’ve chatted about relying on faith rather than feelings and now they’ll be talking about sharing their faith with others.

Midweek:
We’re using a fun curriculum as our “jumping off” point this year but putting our own spin on it. I think the kids are going to love it. It is called “13 Very Bad Days and How God Fixed Them.” When we finish that, we’ll wrap up the year with “13 Very Amazing Animals and How God Used Them.” We won’t do all 26 but we WILL get to dive into a lot of the Bible.

This week, we’re making Noah’s Ark for our snack project and learning about how God wants us to obey Him. Noah’s bad day has a lot of truths for us. Next week, we’ll do a Joseph art project with (you guessed it) a very colorful coat while we learn about how God is in control, even when it feels like everything is out of control.

Just a reminder for Midweek:
- Singing time is 6:30-6:45
- Then lesson starts at 6:45
The Fun Zone play time is at 7:30 (Please encourage your kiddos to keep toys tucked away until 7:30.)

We’ll be praying for the 3rd Graders and handing out Bibles in church at the 9am and 11am services on October 27.

Thanks everyone and I hope to see you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.Dewit@CommunityRC.org
October is Pastor Appreciation Month and is the perfect time to commit to prayer, love, and encouragement for our pastors and others in ministry on a regular basis.

MEALS SERVED WEDNESDAYS
6:00-6:50PM
Oct 9: Chicken Salad/Taco Salad
Oct 16: Soup
Oct 23: Tacos
Oct 30: Italian Night

INFO MEETING & LUNCH for Mission Trip to Haiti!
SUNDAY, OCT. 27TH @ NOON
TRIP DATES: MARCH 1-7, 2020

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW APP
INFO YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW...

IMPORTANT DATES

Baptism Service
FEB 9

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 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, Feb. 9 @ 3pm.

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pastor@communityrc.org

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John Thornton
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