Pastor’s Update

The last week of October...November is now upon us. Can you believe that? The weather is starting to feel a little like that though. Many of the leaves have fallen and it looks like late fall. It is so good that the weather has dried up a bit so these farmers can get those crops out of the fields. I sure see a lot of that activity around the area. We are soon to lose our cornfield to the west of us. I’ve got a feeling this might be the last week we see that. I’m going to miss those tall stalks on my way to work. The seasons are changing. Life keeps moving forward. I’m hoping to get in some hunting in the next few weeks. I can only go a couple of days at a time, but I sure hope the weather lets me get back to that Hertz ranch a bit I sure do enjoy that place. Those people have been so good to me. I’m very thankful to them for that privilege.

Sunday’s Mission Fair was a great success. Great job with that Holli! I know the folks who take part in that day very much enjoy the visits they have with all the people who come by. I think it is still one of the best things we can do to show all of you just how much we really do support so many different groups around the area. It is exciting to see how many different ministries there are in the area and how very effective each of them are in their own areas. It is people being driven by a desire to make a difference in the kingdom. Thanks to everyone who took part in that for the many ministries represented. It was a good day.

The Consistory has been working very hard on getting the new budget put together for the coming year. I know that much of that has been completed. It is a big task and those folks who work on that for us do an amazing job. We are so blessed to have the kind of skills and talents of many of our leaders who do this with such precision and care. We’ll be showing those numbers to all of you in the couple of months. Right now, just know we are working hard to get it all done.

Christmas programs and concerts are being prepared. You are all in for some amazing things. I hear great things about the kids program and I can tell you first hand that the choir is going to be outstanding this year. I sure do hope the weather is nice to us on those event days. It is a lot to plan for and we need a little help from the weather to make things go smoothly. Pray it up Community because these programs can make a big difference in the lives of many people. It is the work we do around here.

I have sure been getting some nice cards and fun gifts for pastor appreciation month. I kind of hate to see the whole thing end, but I have to say it’s probably a good thing because my waistline is showing the result of a few too many of those tasty treats. I am blessed. Thanks everyone so very much.

Our message for Sunday is the last of this series on questions of God. It was most difficult to know which ones to use and which ones to pass over. This last one was easy. It was one of the very first ones I thought of. Jesus is going to ask this final question. It is one that will cause each of us to consider much of just who God really is in our lives and to realize at hopefully a new level of just how amazing Jesus really is. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
October Mission of the month is

Angel Tree

Angel Tree®, a program of Prison Fellowship, reaches out to the children of prisoners and their families with the love of Christ. It’s an opportunity to share God’s love by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners.

Prayer Requests

- Connie Evenson, daughter of Rika VanDenTop (brain cancer)
- Marilyn Bosch’s dad (hospice)
- Pete Valentine
- Natalie Baker (seizure disorder)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurrey’s dad (multiple myeloma)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Susan Payne (cancer)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)

- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Marlys VanBruggen (breast cancer)
- Annette Wiese
- Jan Mellema (wrist surgery)
- William VamBram’s wife, Cynthia (heart)
- Tracee Eltwein’s dad (knee surgery)
- Hunter Merkley (broken arm)
- Carson VanBeek
- Troy Hartman (prostate cancer)

Our condolences go out to Marty & Randi VanDerSloot on the recent passing of a close relative.
I can’t believe it’s the end of October/beginning of November already! These days are flying by, and I’m trying to slow down and really begin to appreciate this season of thanksgiving and celebration we are invited to enjoy! I hope you are able to slow a bit as well. 😊

I’d like to begin my article by saying thank you to everyone who sent me a card or gift for Pastor Appreciation Month. I’m always humbled by your words of kindness, encouragement, generosity, and thoughtfulness. Thank you for making me feel very appreciated! I consider it an honor and a privilege to work here!

The Women’s Retreat was a huge success this past weekend! Over 50 women joined us for a morning of worship, teaching, and quiet devotional time. And we had women present who were from several different churches in the area as well! It was a lovely morning of learning and fellowship, and it was deeply encouraging to see and hear about how God used that time to move powerfully in the lives of these women. Thanks to everyone who came out! (And thanks to all you dads who stayed home with the kids that morning! 😊)

The next high school youth group activity will be Cosmic Bowling November 17. I’ll be sure to send out a postcard next week with all of that information! As always, please let me know if you have questions about high school youth or our activities.

I think that’s it for me this week.

Until next time,

Liz
youthpastor@communityrc.org

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NOTES from the Library

Fall is always a good time of year in the church library. Publishers tend to release new items, our people read more as cool weather comes, and the holidays inspire us. Take a moment and notice our display outside the library door. On one side, we are celebrating the seasons with items that match; on the other side, we are featuring books and videos on grace, the center of Clyde’s Wednesday evening class and of our faith.

We add new items each week. Several favorite authors have released books you may like: Max Lucado’s Anxious for Nothing, Mark Batterson’s Whisper, Randy Singer's Rule of Law, Melody Carlson's The Christmas Blessing, and Lynn Austin’s Where We Belong. That's just a few of many great items. Karen Kingsbury’s brand new Baxter book In This Moment is due to be released November 7, already ordered. Remember that we are always willing to put your name on a waiting list for the hot item that you want.

We are trying out a number of new series for our young readers (grades 2-5) so you may want to check these out if you have readers in that range. We are working at getting more for boys. We just added the Bill the Warthog series which is very popular. We started with the first three and had an immediate demand: "Get them all! Are they in yet?"

We librarians love doing what we do. Come in and visit. Let us help you find your next good read or your next good video. Check it out!

Trudi, Lois, Lorena, and Merry
Hi Everyone,
I know I’m starting to sound like a broken record a bit, but we just have such great kids at Community! I can’t get over it! I’m loving my time with them. This week at program practice there were 3 different kids that prayed out loud for our group and even more kids that were willing to pray for us. They speak with God with such sincerity. I love that.

November is already here so Pastor Appreciation Month is over but I just want to use my article to say an enormous thank you to the pastors at our church. Clyde, Liz and John all bring such beautiful gifts and dedication to our church and now that I work here full time I am getting to see even more of how they pour themselves into making a difference for Community. God is using them in big ways and that requires great dedication on their part as well. THANK YOU

I want to give another reminder for Operation Christmas Child. Boxes are due November 12. We’ll pack boxes together at Midweek on November 8 so please send some toys and supplies. We really need bars of soap for the boxes the kids will pack as well as maybe some more toys and calculators. Again, no toothpaste or candy please.

I’ll see you soon! -Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org

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Operation Christmas Child Boxes are due
Nov 12
The Midweek kids are packing boxes as a
group on Nov 8 and we’d love it if some of
you could donate some of the supplies we
need for filling our boxes. Then we can
pack even more!

Neil Conover has generously volunteered
to head this up for
Community this year!

If you are packing your box at home:
1. Grab a box and brochure in the lobby at church
2. Start with a “wow” toy like a doll or soccer ball with pump
3. Add other fun toys, hygiene items or school supplies
4. PRAY for the child and family who will receive your gift and God’s
   Word.

If you want to provide supplies for the Midweek kids to pack, please
bring:
Bar soap (our biggest need right now)
Stuffed Animals,
Dolls
Ball with Pump
Brushes and combs
toy cars
hair accessories
solar calculators
flashlight & extra
batteries
Sunglasses
Washcloths
jump ropes
art supplies
plastic cup
Small toys
Bandaids
Nail clipper
Little tools
Flip Flops

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Kids Christmas Program
December 3 at 4pm
3 year olds through 5th grade

The 3 year olds and Pre-K kids do ALL of their
practicing during Sunday School on Sunday
mornings.

Kindergarten through Fifth Grade kids interested
in participating in the program will use the follow-
ing practicing schedule: We had our first prac-
tices but it is not too late to join the fun.
- Nov 5, Nov 12 – 4:45 to 5:45 – Practice in Sanctuary
- Nov 19 Practice IN the Children’s Wing (I may
cancel this one but we’ll tentatively plan to do it.)
  4:45-5:45
- Nov 26- 4:45 to 5:45 – Practice in Sanctuary
  (with costumes)
- Dec 2 – Dress Rehearsal in Sanctuary 11am
- Dec 3 – All kids arrive at 3:30pm – Parent volun-
teers needed to help keep everyone calm while
we get ready to start. :)
**Wednesday, November 1**
6:00pm– meal– Soup
7:00pm– Classes of all ages

**Saturday, November 4**
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
Wedding

**Sunday, November 5**
10:10am– Mission Haiti Meeting
(sanctuary)
10:10 am—Adult Sunday School (Chapel)
10:10am– Sunday School
4:45-5:45pm– Kid’s Program Practice
6-7:30pm– Choir

**Monday, November 6**
7:00pm– Men’s Bible Study

**Wednesday, November 8**
9:00am– Book Club @ Bagel Boy on MN
6:00pm– meal– Chicken/Taco Salad
7:00pm– Classes of all ages

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**Mission Trip to Haiti Meeting**

A team from Community is going to Haiti in early March! If you’d like to learn more or if you are planning to go on the trip, please join us.
Sanctuary at 10am on November 5th.

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**Correction.**

In last week’s communicator, the midweek meal for Nov. 29th was wrong. The meal will be pork sandwiches instead of soup.

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**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, January 21 @ 3pm.

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**Thank You!**

Thank you to Marvin Hassenbank & Roger Leistra for the ramp they installed at my house. It works great and makes it easier for me to get around. Thanks!

Rika VanDenTop

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Thank you so very much for the cards, gifts, and nice wishes you expressed to Marcia and me over this last month. It has been outstanding! God bless you all.

John Thornton

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**Kids Christmas Program**

December 3 at 4pm
3 year olds through 5th grade

The 3 year olds and Pre-K kids do ALL of their practicing during Sunday School on Sunday mornings.

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**Kindergarten through Fifth Grade**

-Nov 5, Nov 12– 4:45 to 5:45– Practice in Sanctuary
-Nov 19 Practice IN the Children’s Wing 4:45-5:45
-Nov 26- 4:45 to 5:45– Practice in Sanctuary (with costumes)
-Dec 2– Dress Rehearsal in Sanctuary 11am
-Dec 3– All kids arrive at 3:30pm–

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**We Need Your Help**

I am putting together a crew again this year to rake lawns for those unable or could use a little help. **Saturday November 4th** will be the morning of raking.

Volunteers willing to help serve on this morning can sign up or call/email me at 612-730-7754 robinmjacobs98@gmail.com.

If there is a family in need of our service, feel free to contact me.

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**Finances at a Glance: Oct. 29, 2017**

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**YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS 10/29/17**

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Vision Account Balance: $125,356
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 (crcprayerline@gmail.com). For emergencies during non-office hours, please call Pastor Clyde or the elder on call.

Oct. 29— Laura Maloney
Nov. 5— Randy Grotenhuis

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!