PASTOR’S UPDATE

Another week of nice weather and then cold! It sounds like maybe the next week will be more normal for Thanksgiving. I do hope so. I am planning on spending a little more time with my mom this week and some warmer weather would be nice for that. I am sure many of you will be traveling around for the weekend so do drive carefully. Enjoy your time with your family as we are entering into this new season now. That’s right, the holidays are upon us. There will be lots of programs and busy evenings. It is my favorite time of the year. I hope it is yours as well. I just don’t want snow yet. We can all wait for that, right?

The choir continues to prepare itself for the concert coming a couple of weeks. It is hard to believe we are already that far along on the calendar, but November is moving fast. Thanksgiving is this week already and you all know what that means? I won’t even say it…but it’s coming.

I know the kids have been practicing as well for their program coming on December 2. There is always so much work to be done for all of that. They have a pretty fantastic afternoon planned for us and I am looking forward to hearing what they have put together. I want to say thanks already to those of you who are working with them getting this ready…it takes time and patience. Good job everyone!

I am sure you all enjoyed Seth on Sunday. It is always good for me to be away, but I do miss being with you all. My Sundays are just not the same. Thanks so much for those of you who did a little extra to put all of that together when I am away. I appreciate the time very much and am very grateful for the effort that you all make when I am away. You know who you are.

The Consistory has finished up next year’s budget and will be voting on that in a couple of weeks. We will be meeting as a congregation early in January for the church to approve that budget. There are not a lot of changes for the coming year. The only thing I could see that was different is that we needed to budget for an entire year the for the new positions we added last year. We only needed to budget for half the year last year. This year is a full year so there is that change. Those folks do an amazing job of putting all of that together. We are blessed by their talents and skills.

I have one message left in “The Boat Rocker” series and then we are into Advent. We are all going to asked to get the boat and go to the other side. I will be reminding you of storms that can come on the lake, but not to fear because Jesus is in the boat! He might be sleeping at the front of the boat, but he’s there with us. He might even let us get started and then join us walking on the water. He might even ask us to get out of the boat and join him on the water. Now that would rock our boats! We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, NOV 21
7:00PM
Give thanks and join us for our Thanksgiving Eve service.

KID’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
PRACTICE: SUNDAYS @ 2PM
(No practice 11/25)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:
DEC. 2ND @ 4:00PM

CHRISTMAS CHOIR
SUNDAY, DEC. 9
9:00am & 11:00am
’Tis the season! Join us for a special Sunday where our Christmas Choir performs at our 9:00am & 11:00am services.

FINANCES
General: ................... $12,838
Vision: ....................... $2,135
Missions: .................... $265
Wed Night: ................... $327

General YTD: $684,998
Vision YTD: $182,422
Vision Account Balance: $110,643

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Wednesday, Nov 21
No Midweek meal
7:00pm—Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thursday, Nov. 22
Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, Nov. 23
Office Closed

Saturday, Nov 24
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
10:00am—Closed AA meeting

Sunday, Nov 25
No Sunday School
6:00pm—Choir

Monday, Nov 26
7:00pm—Men’s Bible Study

Tuesday, Nov 27
7:00pm—Open AA Meeting

Wednesday, Nov 28
6:00pm—Chicken Salad/Taco Salad
7:00pm—Classes for all ages & Youth groups

UPCOMING MINISTRIES
COMMUNITY BOOK CLUBS
The evening book club will meet Tuesday, Nov. 20 at 7pm at the E. Panera. We will be discussing Cutting for Stone by Verhese.

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

SENIOR CITIZENS
Meet at the E. Pizza Ranch on Monday, Dec 10 @ Noon.

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

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS
SAFE FAMILIES INFO MEETING
Monday, December 3, 7-8pm
At the Bethany Christian Services office
400 S Sycamore Ave, Suite 103-1
PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pete Valentine
- Natallie Baker (seizure disorder)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurray’s dad (multiple myeloma)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- 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)
- Carolyn Hink’s sister, Marilyn Woodden (hospice)
- Randy Grotenhuis (inflammation of the inner ear)
- Cahlen Vanderlip (grandson of Mike & Jolene Hilbrands)
- Grace Vanden Hueval (surgery recovery)
- Kara Schouten (kidney transplant)

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

FAITH CIRCLE
We will not meet the third Monday in November. Mark your calendars for our Christmas Gathering on Monday, Dec. 3, 11:15am at CJ Callaways, (500 E. 69th St.)

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 19th at 7:00pm.
Hostess: Helen.

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 answers. Then this group is for you! Hosted by Jolene Larson.
Jmlarson@alliancecom.net
Dates: December 3, 10, 17.
As I mentioned in my article last week, I wanted to elaborate a bit more on the idea of thankfulness this week. In church on Sunday, I touched on the basic idea, but if you’ll allow me, I’d like to offer a few more thoughts about this.

A few years ago, in the middle of the winter, there was an evening where it had snowed, and I needed to go outside to shovel my driveway. It was bitterly cold, and there was just enough snow to need a shovel. At the time, my mom was well into her chemotherapy treatments for pancreatic cancer, and she felt pretty miserable most of the time. As I was getting ready to go outside and shovel, I found myself lamenting the fact that I was going to have to go out and do this work. Then it hit me. I thought of my mom, lying in her bed resting, feeling sick from surgery and sick from chemo, and I wondered, “What would my mom give to feel well enough to go outside and shovel snow?” In that moment, I realized that no matter our situations, if we have eyes to see it, we can always find something for which to be thankful.

Are you dreading cleaning your house for your Thanksgiving guests? You can be thankful that you not only have a home, but that you have a home large enough to host guests. Are you annoyed that you have to go grocery shopping? American grocery stores are an amazing wonder. You can thank God that we live in a place where food of many varieties is easily available. Does your car need gas…again? Thank the Lord that you own a working car. Has your son or daughter done something to try your patience for the millionth time? Raising children is one of the most honorable and holy jobs there is. Difficult? Yes. But certainly holy.

Friends, I’m not saying it’s easy. And it’s ok to feel negative emotions. Some situations can seem impossibly dark. But our God is a God of love and light. He sees each person and each situation with hope and love. I believe we can see things the way He sees them if we are willing to ask for His help and His vision. It makes the world look very different if we can begin to see the light in even the darkest of circumstances.

So this Thanksgiving, whether you find yourself in wonderful situations or in situations you can’t wait to leave, I invite you to ask God to give you His eyes. What do you see? What do you notice? Where is the Light of thanksgiving shining through? And then take time to talk to Him about those things. Blessing awaits!

I hope you all have a blessed week of thankfulness!

Liz
Hi Everyone!

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sunday School is continuing to go well. We heard the word “thankful” often this week. I am thankful for the way the kids connect with one another and are kind to others. Wednesday has been fun as well. This last week the kids packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child. They packed, prayed and laughed together. The adult volunteers for Sunday School and Midweek are just incredible. I’m so thankful for who they are to all of us!

Christmas Program time is coming soon. The 3 year old and PreK kids are adorable with their jingle bells and joyful noise! They are practicing during Sunday School. Our K-5 and Middle School kids have been working hard and they have just one more big practice. They’ll also practice songs during Sunday School. They are singing “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”, “Angels we have Heard on High”, “Silent Night” and “Joy to the World.” It would be great if they can practice at home too. We want all of the kids to have their lines memorized before the next practice if possible. We DO NOT have practice on 11/25/18 because of Thanksgiving. OUR DRESS REHEARSAL is on SATURDAY, DEC 1 AT 2:00 PM. This will probably be a longer practice so please plan to stay until 3:30.

See you soon everyone!
Heather
Heather.DeWit@communityrc.org

We need some more volunteers to teach Midweek classes. Can you do one week or even a few in 2019? 1/2/19, 1/23, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27 Email me or go to our Sign Up Link: https://bit.ly/2Dj3YPw
The kids went to Air Madness last Friday and had a great time. They have a ton of different things to do there. They even have a mechanical bull! I did find out that is not something in my skill set.

I have just a few other things to note. Last Wednesday, the kids packed 61 Operation Christmas Child boxes! Next week we will be picking back up on our social media series and talking about ways that we can connect with people through social media and honor Christ in some unique ways. I will be working on getting postcards out this weekend, as we have our Christmas party coming up. I will have more details for you on that next week. I hope you all have a good Thanksgiving break and are able to get some time away from work!
Thank you Community for all your prayers, thoughts and cards after the passing of Pete’s brother.

Pete & Harriett Valentine

Thank you for the prayers, cards and kind words of sympathy on the loss of Ruby Overweg. Your thoughtfulness has been such a blessing to our family.

Family of Ruby Overweg

Thank you to Neil & Linda Conover for coordinating the efforts for Operation Christmas Child! Community packed 474 boxes!

Thanks to those who supported this ministry!

“JESUS THE BOAT ROCKER” t-shirts will be on clearance THIS SUNDAY. Grab your t-shirt for $5 instead of $10. (THIS IS COMMUNITY shirts are still $10.) Cash or check only please.

BE BACK SOON!

The church office will be closed on Friday, Nov. 23rd.
Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

We’re social!
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram @communityrc

'TIS THE SEASON
CHRISTMAS CHOIR
DECEMBER 9TH
9:00AM | 11:00AM

kids Christmas program
DECEMBER 2
4:00PM
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, March 31 @ 3pm.**

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.

INFO YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW...

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Baptism Service**
MARCH 31

**NEED GROCERIES? OR GAS?**

**REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM...**