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!
NURSERY SCHEDULE
December 31: 9:00am—
   Eric & Jamelle Van Donge
   Amy & Owen Van Es
11:00am—
   Abbie & Tanner Van Meeteren
   Kristi Olson

January 7: 9:00am—
   Melissa Beek
   Wanda Houtsma
   Mike & Angie Boyenga
11:00am—
   Brent & Sue Dekker
   Donna DeRuyter

COFFEE SCHEDULE
Dec. 24: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen
Dec. 31: Dick & Jeannette Jennings
Jan. 7: Jim & Kathleen Ludens

THE LINK SCHEDULE
Dec 24
   10:00am— Brian & Holli Jans
Dec 31
   9:00am— Gerald & Deb Teunissen
   11:00am— Jerralynne Tjeerdsma

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 Tjeerds-
             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 home-
lessness, hospitalization or
domestic violence in an
effort to prevent child abuse
or neglect.

2) Support and stabilize fami-
lies in crisis by surrounding
them with caring, compas-
sionate community.

3) Reunite families and reduce
the number of children en-
tering the child welfare sys-
tem.

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 Flow-
ers by Diffenbaugh.

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

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

The Union Gospel love gift for Decem-
ber is money for the Christmas Day
meal. Please make the check pay-
able 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
- Natalie Baker (seizure disorder)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Shelle 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
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
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

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
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 lear 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!

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

Cynthia Vambram, William’s wife (who is in Liberia with his children) extends her thankfulness for the Christmas gifts they received from Community.
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January 2018
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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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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FINANCES AT A GLANCE

December 17, 2017

YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS 12/17/17

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Vision Account Balance: $192,219

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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.

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 Hasbrown casserole, Calico beans, and Coleslaw. Recipes are attached to the signup.

Thank you and see y’all at the KC BBQ!
Community Reformed Church
6800 E 41 Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

December 20, 2017

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 con-
tact 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.

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 or like our Facebook page!