PASTOR’S UPDATE

It’s Advent. It’s Christmas time, and yes, we have snow now. Not as much as we thought, but it has turned everything white. It does sound like we are going to have a rather cold week ahead of us, but at least no more storms in the forecast. That would be just fine with me if we could get all these programs finished up around here before the snow gets too deep. I know getting around this past weekend wasn’t too much fun with the ice and all, but things seem to be a little better now. We all know how to do winter that is for sure. Whatever it throws at us, we will just make do the best we can. We always do try to let everyone know as soon as we can if there are changes to the schedule. We use the prayer line, the church app, the church’s Facebook page and email to get the word out. So, check those things if you ever have questions about something going on.

The kids did manage to get their program together for Sunday’s performance. I thought they did a great job considering they didn’t get to have their big rehearsal on Saturday. They had lots of moving parts to their play and thought they did an outstanding job putting all that together. Thanks to Nick Sittig and his fine helpers for leading all that and also to mention Heather because she does do such a great job in keeping everything moving in the right direction. Doug and Eric Harms lead the little kids and that is always so good. There is just something right about children and Christmas. Thanks to everyone who helped with the music and decorating. There are too many names to keep track of. I think there is something right about that as well. Good job Community!

The choir finished up their last rehearsal on Sunday night. They are ready! It is a very nice group this year once again and I believe you are all in for a great morning of Christmas music this coming Sunday. Remember, we don’t do 8am this week because of the choir concert. Help us get that word out. The choir will be singing and this year a little more audience participation as we talk about the Praise of Christmas. It will be a nice morning. I’m looking forward to that!

There have been so many folks looking to do some extra things for folks in need around the church and that is so special. I am always so moved by the generous hearts of people in this place. We are truly blessed as a church. I do not ever take that for granted. Go Community Go!

I have some test this week to see how my gallbladder is doing. I am pretty sure there are issues, but I am so hoping that I can put off a surgery until all of this Christmas stuff is finished. I am praying I can do both things. I guess we shall see. I’m not in charge of any of that.

Sunday is the choir concert so I won’t be preaching. There is still a message to bring though and I believe the choir will do that in a very powerful way. Christmas is here and we will be singing the praise of the season. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Dec. 5
6:00pm—Soup
7:00pm—Classes for all ages & Youth groups

Saturday, Dec. 8
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
10:00am—Closed AA meeting

Sunday, Dec. 9
9:00am & 11:00am—Choir Concert
10:10am—Sunday School

Monday, Dec. 10
Noon—Seniors @ E. Pizza Ranch
7:00pm—Men’s Bible Study

Tuesday, Dec. 11
7:00pm—Open AA Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 12
9am—Book Club (Bagel Boy on Minn. Ave)
6:00pm—Tacos
7:00pm—Classes for all ages & Youth groups

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUBS
The morning book club will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 9am at the Bagel Boy on MN Ave. We will be discussing The Joy Luck Club by Tan.

The evening book club will meet Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7pm at the E. Panera. We will be discussing Sarah’s Key by deRosnay.

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

FINANCES

General: $27,631
Vision: $3,055
Missions: $405
Wed Night: $132
Sunday School: $200

General YTD: $734,111
Vision YTD: $186,437

Vision Account Balance: $102,908

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
MONDAY, DEC. 24
4:00PM & 6:00PM
Celebrate the real reason for the season! Join us for one of our Christmas Eve Communion Services.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS SCAVENGER HUNT
THURSDAY, DEC. 27
6:30PM
Meet at church and we’ll send you on a scavenger hunt with clues to help you complete acts of kindness in our community. Fun for all ages! $40/ carload. To sign up, either comment below or sign up at The Link at church. Grab a friend or two or five, fill a car and get ready for a night of blessing others:)
PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pete Valentine
- Natallie Baker (seizure disorder)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurrey’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)
- Randy Grotenhuis (inflammation of the inner ear)
- Kara Schouten (kidney transplant)
- Al Hoogendoorn (multiple health issues)

MISSIONS

THE GIVE
Check out THE GIVE wall in the lobby. It’s a place to donate to local ministries.
We’ll highlight 4 each month.

Love Lexi & Friends Christmas Closet: gifts for children hospitalized over Christmas—all ages

Union Gospel mission: Hooded sweatshirts XL-5XL

The Banquet—new hoodies & socks

MISSION OF THE MONTH:
Bishop Dudley House

UNION GOSPEL MISSION:
Hooded sweatshirts XL-5XL
Please place in the designated bin at The Give in the lobby.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

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 18th at 6:00pm.
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 Jmlarson@alliancecom.net

Dates: December 10, 17.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Steve & Becky Hinderks on the birth of their son, Alexander Isaiah, on Nov. 27th!

Congratulations to Ryan & Emily VanDeraa on the birth of their son, Tanner Douglas, on Dec. 1st!
The church Christmas Choir concerts are coming up this Sunday at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services! The choir has worked extremely hard this year on some very challenging pieces, and I’m excited for them to share their work with everyone. Remember that this is an excellent Sunday to invite a friend or two. It’s going to be a powerful morning!

And lastly this week I gently ask, “Are you taking to be still in the Presence of God this holiday season?” I for one, find myself scrambling to complete the mile long lists I keep during the holidays; decorating, shopping, baking, gatherings, practicing, etc. And it always takes a jarring moment from God to be reminded that He loves it most when I am still and in His Presence. Did you catch that? He loves it most when I am still and in His Presence; not when I’m doing work or planning good things or running around at a ridiculous pace trying to do things I think He’s asked me to do. His favorite thing is when I choose to stop and spend time with Him. That’s a pretty sobering thought, and it embarrasses me at how difficult that can be for me. But thankfully, God is a gracious, loving, and patient God, who is never frustrated when I mess this up. Hallelujah! This Christmas season, I encourage you to give God the greatest gift you could ever give Him; yourself.

Have a good week!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

I’d also like to talk a bit about what’s coming up for Mid-Week after the first of the year. Remember that our Mid-Week gatherings take a break December 19 and 26 and resume January 2. Most of our adult classes will carry over into the new year. Here’s what I have so far:

Clyde will continue to teach his adult class on Romans.
Trudi will continue her Bible for 3rd graders for adults class.
Josiah will teach the second part of the FPU class, Legacy.
Andrea and Susan will continue their classes for women.
And I will wrap up my Just Ask class at the end of January, and after that we’ll dive into Dallas Willard’s book, “Hearing God.”

I’m excited about all that will be happening for adults at Mid-Week in 2019. If you have any questions about these Mid-Week classes, please let me know!
Hi Everyone!

The kids did a lovely job at the Christmas Program. I was so impressed by their passion and I hope they had fun! I need to thank all of the people that made the program happen this year. The 3 year olds and PreK were led by Doug and Eric Hamms. They sing with the little ones each week and I know that the kids look forward to it! Their theme this year was Joyful Noise and that certainly came through loud and clear! For the K-5 kids, Nick Sittig took the lead this year and did a great job.

Incase you missed it, part of the message the kids shared is:

Devyn (Playing a Kid at the Mall): So, are you saying the busyness and fun is a part of the celebration of Christmas which is a super big deal?

Seth (Playing a guy at the mall that shared his Bible and message with everyone): That’s right. We just need to be cautious that being busy doesn’t replace being with Christ. Jesus is what it is all about.

Great job kids! I’m so proud of ALL of you! It takes a lot of courage to stand up front and sing, act, play an instrument or control the lights and screen and you all did it with such joy.

I’ll see you all soon!

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

We had many adults help with decorations, music, conducting our pit band and many other roles. We didn’t get to have our last rehearsal so we had a few bumps but like Nick said, it was like a behind the scenes look at our play! The play was all about being busy.
Then, December 12th will be our last Wednesday night together in 2018. We are having a Christmas party and will be meeting at my house. We will be celebrating with a meal, a white elephant gift exchange, ugly sweaters, and some Christmas goodies. **Students, we will meet from 6:00 – 8:00.** Bring a white elephant gift (no more than $5) and wear a Christmas sweater if you have one. If you didn’t receive my post card (which had my address) let me know and I will get you my address!

That’s it for this week. Please let me know if you have any questions!

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org
605-310-2561

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**SARA’S UPDATE**

Hey Community,

By the time you will be reading this I will actually be on vacation in New York City, which is crazy for me to think about.

This week there are not a ton of updates on my end. During Sunday School we discussed what it means to be selfless, where we have benefited from others selflessness, what opportunities we have to do that for others, and why we would do that. (que Sunday School answer Jesus ;) )

Also, a reminder we have our Christmas party on the 12th, so pack a pair of unused Christmas socks with fun treats or trinkets to bring that night. The kids have asked if they could wear pjs that night and I thought that was a fun idea. So yes, if your middle schooler tries to wear pjs to church, they aren’t just pulling your leg. I guess that’s it for me! I will be back from New York Sunday night, but if you have questions prior to that just give Heather a holler and she can help you out! Laura Maloney will be filling in for me on Wednesday night.

Sarah Powell
Middle School Youth Group
powell.sarahellen@gmail.com
Community Consistory  
November 8, 2018  
Community Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD

Attendance: Jim Fisher, Mike Boyenga, Eric VanDonge, Michael Dick, Chad McKee, Nick Langerock, Russ Robers, Doug Harms, Mark Koll, Jolene Larson, Bob Weerheim, Gerald Teunissen, Pete Mellema, and Clyde Teel.

Curt read a devotion from Billy Graham based on Ephesians 5:19-20 entitled “How to be thankful in all things”.

MSA the October 2018 minutes.

MSA the October 2018 finance report given by Russ Robers.

Full consistory will be meeting on Wednesday, November 14th at 8:00 to finalize the 2019 budget.

New Business:

Heather gave the following reports:

Doyle is planning a retreat for the senior high youth group November 9-11. His “You Asked It” series continues to go well.

Sarah and the middle school youth group put a lot of work into leading the costume crawl for the K-5 kids. This month Sarah is leading a discussion on social media.

Christmas program practices are going well. Nick Sittig is leading K-5 program and the Harms family is leading the pre-k-3’s program. Heather attends both practices and helps out when needed. Sunday school continues to go well. Three new families had children attend on Sunday.

Liz submitted her report. Highlights are as follows: There are a record number of adults involved in our Mid-Week Classes. The Corner continues to be busy, Liz will be adding hosts on Sunday. VP3 is going well and Liz has been meeting with adults one-on-one, when requested, to providing spiritual direction.

Sunday morning worship continues to come together. Liz would like to find one more drummer to fill in when needed. Christmas choir is going well but it’s been a challenge to get consistent numbers each week. Liz will be involved in Christmas at the Cathedral again this year. Discussion followed concerning extra security measures that will be put in place. The developers of the property behind the church have spoken to Bob W. and Gerald about moving forward with the road that will be going in.

Next Meeting: December 20th.

MSA to adjourn.

We closed with a time of prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Jolene Larson, Clerk
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

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

Pastor Clyde Teel
pastor@communityrc.org

Liz Teel
Director of Discipleship & Worship
Liz.teel@communityrc.org

John Thornton
Part-time Visitation Pastor
prayerline@communityrc.org

Holli Jans
Communications Coordinator
connect@communityrc.org

Heather DeWit
Director of Children’s & Youth Ministries
Heather.dewit@communityrc.org

Doyle Burnside
Part-time Senior High Youth Director
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

Sarah Powell
Part-time Middle School Youth
Powell.sarahellen@gmail.com

Sheri Brouwer
Part-Time Nursery Coordinator
Sheri.brouwer@communityrc.org

Lisa Blankers
Part-Time Financial Administrator
accounting@communityrc.org

Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator