PASTOR’S UPDATE

The weeks are flying by! February is past the midpoint now and March is getting closer each day. The days are getting longer and we have been seeing rays of sunshine now and then with some warmer days. Then, of course, you have to throw in a couple of days of the coldest mornings we have seen all winter. That’s what we do here! Adjust, adapt, make provision...keep moving forward. It is life in a nutshell. I guess all this change is to help do our daily life. See, the weather is actually an instruction platform to teach us about life. In other parts of the country they are not blessed with such blessings. I love South Dakota!

We have placed the ballots for this year’s election out in the lobby. Try to get one of those completed as soon as possible. I know there are going to be dozens of names on there you won’t know. The size of the church makes that the case. We try very hard every year to make that list current, but it is not easy to ensure that we have all the names. It is so easy to miss someone. If you notice that, let us know. Vote for 6 elders and 6 deacons. Get it done please. We need your votes!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the movie night last week. The Haiti crew put in a good amount of work to make things look like a movie night. They raised a nice bit of money for their trip. We will be doing a commissioning for that team coming up on Sunday morning. Thanks again everyone!

I had a nice birthday. It was a little busy, but that was ok. I did get dozens of nice cards and lots of good wishes on Facebook. I had several messages in my email folder and a couple of nice letters from folks who are too far away to be with us anymore on a regular basis. It was so nice to hear from them. I enjoy all of that. The kids and I will be doing a nice “something” in the coming weeks. We are planning that. Bill Klein took me out for lunch and we always have a good time...so it was a good day. Thanks everyone!

The annual youth fund raiser we call the “Spring Fling” is coming up very soon. I haven’t checked with Doyle, but I am sure there are still plenty of good tickets left out there. Let me remind you once again, this is the only fund raiser they do so it is important that we get involved. Let’s go Community! Jump into the “Spring”...the water is fine. Buy tickets for a friend. Join us for a wonderful evening!

We are doing a short mini-series before Lent called “Free.” Last week was the beginning fo the series and this Sunday, we’ll finish it. That’s right, only two parts. Last week, we set the nation of Israel free and now this week we are going to see what they do with this new-found freedom. We are all so familiar with this story, but sometimes it’s good to look at the entire story from a “total” perspective. What is really going on? What’s the big picture story? What does the story say about us? What does it say about God? This week we are all going to the desert to complain! At times we will be afraid! We will get off track! What will God do? We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!

March 7th @ 6pm

NURSERY SCHEDULE
Feb. 23: 9:00am—
Andy & Tessa Benson
Chris & Briana Behrens
11:00am-
Grace & Joe Maciejewski
March 1: 9:00am—
Tyler & Laurel Wolf
Melissa Beek
Val Huber
11:00am-
Michael Dick
Zariah Sittig

THE LINK SCHEDULE
Feb. 23: 9:00am— Jerraylnne Tjeerdsma
11:00am— Karen Roetman
March 1: 9:00am— Gerald & Deb Teunissen
11:00am— Mark & Pat Koll

COFFEE SCHEDULE
Feb. 23: Gerald & Deb Teunissen
March 1: Daryl & Char DuBois
March 8: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen

GREETER SCHEDULE
Feb. 23:
9:00am—
Tom & Amy Bosch
Dave & Trish Mayer
Trent Kooima
11:00am—
Jean Nollman
Ken & Susan Vos

March 1
9:00am—
Stan & Elaine Deelstra
Brad & Janelle Ellis
James & Jennifer Baumann
11:00am—
Donna Humme
Ken & Deb Meyer
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 19
6:00pm– Italian Night
6:30pm– K-5 Singing
6:45pm– K-8 Classes
7:00pm– Adult Classes
7:30pm– H.S. Youth Group

Saturday, Feb. 22
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
10:00am– Closed AA meeting

Sunday, Feb. 23
10:10am– Sunday School

Monday, Feb. 24
7:00pm– Quilting Group

Tuesday, Feb. 25
7:00pm– AA Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 26
6:00pm– Breakfast for Supper
6:30pm– K-5 Singing
6:45pm– K-8 Classes
7:00pm– Adult Classes
7:30pm– H.S. Youth Group

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

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

SENIOR CITIZENS:
Seniors will meet on March 9th at noon at the eastside Pizza Ranch.

MISSION OF THE MONTH
Call to Freedom provides supportive services for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

THE GIVE
THE GIVE wall in the lobby is a place to donate to local ministries.

Union Gospel Mission– canned veggies
Sleep in Heavenly Peace– normal sized twin bedding (pillow, pillow cases, sheet sets)
Haiti Mission Trip– bungee cords, sheets, work gloves, silverware, nail clippers, duffel bags. Here’s the Amazon Wish List:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3Q8CO94R74AUIH?ref_=wl_share

FINANCES

Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020

General: .......................... $12,851
Vision: ................................ $2,460
Missions: ............................ $335
Wed night: ........................... $190
Faith Ave: ............................. $275
Sunday School: ....................... $2
Mission Haiti: ........................ $2,160

General YTD: ........................ $82,469
Vision YTD: .......................... $23,732
Vision Account Balance: $134,042

SPRING FLING
SATURDAY, MARCH 7
6:00PM

Don’t miss out on this fun event to raise money for Community’s H.S. Youth Group. Come for a delicious catered meal, dessert auction & game show! Tickets are on sale Sunday in the lobby! Tickets are $25/person.

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Last week, I wrote about one of my college friends, and this week, I want to write about my grandma. I thought we needed a little variety in my newsletter articles at this point in the winter season.

Most of you know that my dad celebrated a birthday last Thursday, and my Grandma Lucy will celebrate her 87th birthday this Wednesday! Very often when Dad and Grandma’s birthdays roll around, I do some historical reminiscing about the Teels. (I do this with my mom’s family too, but since Dad and Grandma’s birthdays are this week, it’s Teel week.)

I think about the fact that my dad is the oldest sibling in his family, and I am the oldest sibling in my family. I also happen to be the oldest grandchild (and great-grandchild!) on the Teel side, which means I get the distinct honor of having known Grandma Lucy longer than any of my cousins. As I’ve gotten older, I have found it a cherished privilege to be able to say that I have known my Grandma Lucy for 46 years! Not many people can say that they have known a grandparent for 4 and ½ decades! When I was born, Grandma Lucy was a young 40 years old, just getting ready to turn 41. As I continue to grow older, I am able to see just how valuable all of those years of relationship with my grandma have been.

It’s pretty remarkable to be able to look back over the course of decades gone by and see how God has challenged, changed, and grown the people who loved me so well. I distinctly remember what Grandma Lucy was like in her late 40s. I would have been in elementary school at the time. Every Saturday morning, she baked anywhere from 8-16 pies for the Burke Livestock Auction, her gardens were huge and prolific, and she worked fulltime for the Gregory County Highway Department. In her 50s, Grandma usually had a remodeling or painting project going on in the house. Once when I was home from college, my friend, Karen, and I were driving around Burke one night, and I suggested we swing into Grandma’s to say hi. It was about 11:00pm. Karen said, “Won’t they be sleeping?!” Not a chance. And sure enough, when we pulled into the driveway, Grandma was painting her living room! After my grandpa died, I lived with Grandma for a year. Grandma was in her early 60s then. It was a marvelous year of getting to know my grandma at new and deeper levels. And since then I’ve made numerous visits to spend several days at a time with her, many times with youth group kids.

I know my grandma pretty well, and she knows me pretty well too. I guess what I’m saying is that a long history of relationship with someone is truly a gift! So, if you are fortunate enough to have known a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, friend, or whomever for an extended period of time, then I encourage you to take time to celebrate the longevity of that relationship. Consider the past. Contemplate how God has used that relationship to change you. Reflect on the blessing of extended time. It is a huge gift from God!

Anyway, those are my thoughts this week. Happy Birthday, Grandma! I’m very thankful for you and for all the years we’ve known each other! I hope to get home for a visit soon! Have a great week, everyone!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

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**LIZ’S UPDATE**

**Adult Discipleship/Worship**

- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurry’s dad (multiple myeloma)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Laura Maloney’s brother-in-law, Bruce (lymphoma)
- Diane Johnson (liver disease)
- Gary Jensen (cancer)
- Jamelee Van Donge’s dad, DeLyle (cancer)
- Sara Van Ruler’s dad (throat cancer)
- Pete & Jan Mellema’s grandson, Henry
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Al Hoogendoorn (multiple health issues)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- Melanie Oden’s dad, David (motorcycle accident)
- Audrey Landegents’ son, David (cancer)
- Matt Marcus’ dad (prostate cancer)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (prostate cancer)
- David Baker (triple bypass surgery)
- Jan McDowell (surgery recovery)
- Dree & Hawk Mayer’s sister-in-law, Beth (stoke)
- Marv Sturing
- Mike Boyenga’s mom, Anita (cancer)

Prayer Group meets at 7:00am on Saturdays in the chapel. Everyone Welcome!
Hi Everyone!
I’m back to our little series featuring different age groups in the newsletter. Past newsletters for younger age groups are at [https://www.communityrc.org/news-feed/newsletters/](https://www.communityrc.org/news-feed/newsletters/). I think of Older Elementary around grades 3-5 but honestly, the range of development as kids grow is so wide it could apply to an occasional 2nd grader or even 7th grader as well. So, how do we make the most of the years we have with upper elementary kids as we seek to nurture our child’s growing relationship with Jesus?

- **Set an example:** Just like with younger kids, be sure your child gets to hear and see you talk with God, read your Bible and enjoy church. Invite them to join. They are now starting to develop patterns and habits that may last long term and they are able to understand big ideas more effectively.

- **Be Aware:** Think carefully about what you say and how you live in front of your kids. They will follow you, whether you want them to or not. If we talk often about the flaws we see in others, our kids will begin to believe that judging others is part of a normal life or that others are judging them. If we are constantly anxious, they learn that is the way to deal with challenges. None of us are perfect and we don’t have to be! However, it becomes critical to ask God to work in us and to be open to His help in our lives.

- **Engage:** Kids this age are starting to step away from their parents a bit and find themselves far more concerned with what friends think and how friends act. Some kids at this age withdraw a little and are more comfortable in a book, drawing or using technology than talking with people. As parents, whether our kids are with peers or set in to an activity, we must be alert to the moments that our kids are actually interested in engaging with us. When those moments occur, set aside what you are doing and give undivided attention to the extent possible. Listen now when the conversation seems small so they know they can come to you when the conversation is big.

- **Protect the Family Schedule:** There are wonderful activities, responsibilities, people and much more fighting for time in our children’s days. Time with family and time alone with God can’t be neglected. We need to demonstrate that over-scheduling is not “normal.” In addition to alone time with God, our kids need time to relax, play, move and grow for healthy development. It is so easy as a parent to buy into the lie that our kids will be as successful if we don’t sign them up for every opportunity. Reflect often before saying “yes” to new opportunities for kids and consider removing a few things from the schedule if needed.

- **Be Consistent:** At this age, many kids test boundaries. Structure, rules and routines make them feel safe, even if they complain. Kids are developing their sense of right and wrong but don’t always remember that other people have feelings and needs that may not mesh with their own. Tell them what is expected of them and hold them accountable with age appropriate consequences. Your kids really are listening to you, even though they probably won’t admit it. Statistically, kids who have parents speak to them about dangerous activities like drugs, alcohol, vaping, etc. are far less likely to do dangerous things than kids who only learn about dangers in school. Ask questions and listen to what they say and don’t say. You may be surprised.

- **Support Unique Identity:** You may be surprised at some of the phases your upper elementary age kids go through. Try not to panic and be sure to listen to understand your child’s perspective. This doesn’t mean letting them do or say whatever they want but it does mean realizing that your child is a unique person who may not see the world exactly the same way you do. An example that applies to the context of this article is church. Most kids love Sunday School, Midweek or VBS to connect with God. However, once in a while kids struggle with their peers and teachers or don’t love the activities. Particularly when a parent a child to church often, a child suddenly wanting to stop going to church activities can be disorienting for the parent. I recommend still coming together as a family but talking with the child about what makes it challenging for him. Doing things that challenge us is an important part of life. If it is social, empower them with strategies that they can use at school, church, etc., like finding someone who is sitting alone, inviting others to join them, or introducing themselves. In all activities, keep in mind, sometimes kids this age like to complain as a way to demonstrate independence so don’t be afraid to parent and give instructions, even if you hear some negative feedback from your child.

- **Incorporate music:** Kids are exposed to music outside the home and peers who listen to different music. Don’t be afraid to say “no” to music that is not appropriate but also be sure to keep an open mind. Not all music tweens like is bad so if you aren’t sure about a song, do a quick internet search of lyrics and have a good conversation with your child about the meaning. Try to find music in styles they like with positive messages. Listen to music you enjoy and music they enjoy together.

- **Be careful with technology:** The body of research regarding the damage technology has on children continues to increase. However, the pressure on kids to use technology for maintaining their social circle, completing homework, having fun or even reading a book increases just as quickly. I use technology often and even read the Bible on my phone so I’m not anti-technology at all. However, I continue to see that kids desperately need their parents to set appropriate, healthy boundaries regarding technology. There are apps to deal with amount of time, content, etc., and those are a good start but not enough. Kids NEED limits for their spiritual, social, mental, physical and emotional health. When our kids are little, we don’t let them cross the street without holding the hand of an adult. In the same way, we must help them practice using technology appropriately with our support. Talk about which apps they will be allowed to use and why/why not. Talk about and demonstrate why phones aren’t used at the dinner table and setting aside technology when having a face-to-face conversation. Be sure screens are used in group areas of the home like a kitchen or family room to allow good conversations. I’ve even sometimes apologized to my kids for having my phone out of my pocket when I shouldn’t and talked with them about how social media can sometimes get in the way of my relationship with God and how God is helping me with that.

- **Prayer:** Don’t be afraid to ask your child about his or her prayer life but understand that most kids don’t want to pray out loud in front of others. However, praying in front of them and talking about prayer are still critical. Leave time/space in the day for praying and spending time with God. As kids get older, they naturally talk to their parents a little less and peers a little more. However, what they continue to need most is to talk with God.

See you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
(605)336-1475
Thank you for all the support through your prayers & calls after Bob’s passing.

The Family of Bob Wesselink

Now accepting nominations for elders/deacons. A list of eligible people can be found at The Link in the lobby.

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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).

Next Baptism Service: Sunday, June 7 @ 3pm.

INFO YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW...

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.

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