Next week is Palm Sunday! Yes, you did read that correctly! I am just so amazed that we are at this point in the year already. Where has the time gone? I realize that Easter is coming earlier this year, but even then this is pretty amazing. March is marching! It does seem a lot like March with the wet rain/snow and then cloudy kinds of days. That is very typical of this month. I’m really getting anxious for things to start turning green. It can’t be that far away, but you never know. It’s a busy time right now with school activities and all, but I do hope you have found some time to do a little bit of quiet reflection of the journey of the King. It has been a good study for me. I hope you have all found it to be helpful.

Our group got back from Haiti and they are going to be sharing in church on Sunday morning. We are giving them the 10am hour to show pictures and share stories. I have seen and heard many of them already. I can tell those guys have all been touched very deeply by what they experienced there. It was the joy of those people. The deep Christ-like joy that doesn’t take “stuff” to make it happen. I am looking forward to hearing all about it next Sunday morning. Grab your cup of coffee and come back in the worship center to hear all about it.

Then of course next week our second group takes off for Kansas City. I am hoping for some good travel weather and for a great time for them as well. It will be a whole different kind of experience for them. I spent one whole summer in KC myself back in the 80’s and we did a number of projects just like this one. It is amazing what you experience by only driving a few miles down the road. Actually, we would probably be amazed at what we might experience in our own neighborhoods sometimes. That’s kind of sad to thing about, isn’t it? I do hope they have a deep time of connecting. There is something very bonding for folks when they get together and reach out beyond their comfort zone a bit. Those kinds of things change us. Pray for that group.

That does bring me to our backyard. On Sunday we kicked off our church’s involvement in “Safe Families” in Sioux Falls. Robyn and Jamelee are going to a great job with this simply because they themselves are so committed to this ministry. I saw lots of people gathering around their table on Sunday morning which made me smile. Remember that this Wednesday, March 21st, we will be having some special guest come share more about all this amazing program does.

Don’t forget about our Easter morning breakfast coming up in Easter Sunday. That would be an outstanding day to invite someone to church with out on that Sunday. I promise it will be a good day together. I am praying for the word to speak to our hearts in a fresh new way for lives to be changed. After all, it is Easter!

Palm Sunday! The King is coming! I have often said I don’t like Palm Sunday so much, but this year I am going to take a new look at this event and see if I can’t bring a powerful/uplifting word to it. The King was coming, and even though the folks were missed guided it wasn’t as if it was all for nothing. It was for something. Something that Kings do. We’ll talk on Sunday, have a great week!

Join us on Sunday April 1st for our 3rd annual Easter Breakfast! It’s Free! No tickets needed. Breakfast served from 8-11am.
NURSERY SCHEDULE
March 25: 9:00am—
Bob & Katie Deelstra
Tanner & Larissa Corbin
11:00am—
Randi VanDerSloot
Katie Hansen
Jordan Lipp

April 1: 9:00am—
Kari Kraayenbrink
Lynette Deutsch
Nathan & Amber Van Roekel
11:00am—
Jamie & Jason Van Sloten
Becky Hinderks

COFFEE SCHEDULE
March 25: Dick & Jeanette Jennings
April 1: Jim & Kathleen Ludens
April 8: Daryl & Char DuBois

THE LINK SCHEDULE
March 25: 9:00am– Laurie Long
11:00am– Jerralynne Tjeerdsma

April 1: 9:00am– Dick & Jeannette
Jennings
11:00am– Mike & Jolene Hilbrands

GREETER SCHEDULE
March 25
9:00am– Carl Tonjes, Bruce Wentzel
& Bonnie Overweg, Dave & Trish Mayer
11:00am– Carl Tonjes, Mike & Jolene Hilbrands

April 1
9:00am– Josh & Molly Kuehl, Irwin &
Helen Van Leeuwen, Darrin & Sherri
Van Beek
11:00am– Jerralynne Tjeerdsma,
Larry & Gloria Smyrak

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUBS
The morning book club will meet
Wednesday, April 11, at 9am at the
Bagel Boy on MN Ave. We will be dis-
cussing Story Jar by Hatcher and Bed-
ford.

Evening Book Club will be meeting on
Tuesday, April 17 at 7pm at the
Panera on E. 10th St. We will be dis-
cussing Where We Belong by Lynn
Austin.

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

Joy Circle will not be meeting in
March. Please study lesson 9 for the
month of April.

Faith Circle will meet at church on
Mon. April 16th at 1pm. Program and
devotions by The Kansas City Mission
Guests are welcome!

March Mission of the Month:
Mission Haiti—They desire to reach
the people of Haiti one village at a
time and keep Christ at the cen-
ter of their ministry.

The Union Gospel Mission love gift
for March is plastic forks & spoons
and disposable bowls. Please put
in designated bin in the lobby.

Prayers appreciated  for our Kansas City crew! We will be leaving Thursday, 3/29 in a 15 passenger van for the
Argentine community, where we will be participating in spiritual formation activities and community work projects!
Warmer weather and sunshine would help us complete our project at “Mary’s House!”

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
• Natallie Baker (seizure disorder)
• Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
• Jodie Jensen (cancer)
• Chelle 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)
• William VamBram’s wife, Cynthia (heart)
• Denny Robinson (broken leg)
• Dianne Friese-hip replacement
• Lori Hein’s mom, Joan (open heart surgery)
• Jill Hanson
• Randi VanDerSloot (surgery recovery)
• Beth Vroman– knee replacement
• Al Brink (knee replacement)
• Judy VanMeetern (ankle replacement)
Heather’s Children’s Ministry Update

On March 25 for Palm Sunday the kids will walk through the church waving palm branches. Meet us at the back of the sanctuary or grab a palm branch to wave where you are. Please feel free to join us with your child if they are feeling a little shy or even if you don’t have a child if you are willing to help with other little ones or just want to worship with us! We’d love some company!

SIGN UP ON FACEBOOK OR AT THE LINK
- Event for parents to do with their child
- Fun hands-on activities to check out.
- Bring a friend!
- We’ll have a few different stations you can stop at with your child(ren) and you can stay for as long as you have time.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED
I need more volunteers for this event! I need some adult volunteers to help with the stations and to welcome everyone and would also love some Middle School/ High School age volunteers if any are interested and not busy that weekend. Please email Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org if you can help.

MIDDLE SCHOOL Midweek Minute
- Last week we talked about Missions and the Worldwide Church. Tom shared some of his pictures from Haiti.
- This coming week is our GAMES WEEK event. The kids have been planning this all year. It will be at our regular Midweek time and place but is a special event.
- We’ll take a week off on 3/28/18 for Easter Week
- On 4/4/18 is our 8TH GRADE SEND OFF WEEK. This is a special day for the eight graders where we pray over them, send them off with words of encouragement and of course give them a little high school survival kit.

The Middle School Escape Room was great!
- 28 kids!
- (some were friends that kids brought!)
- 42 minutes to escape
- A whole bunch of cookies
- 6 locks
- 4 bonus hints
They had a fun time, learned a few things, worked as a team and met new friends.
As we work our way through March get closer to the weeks before and during Easter, I want to encourage you all to take some time to deeply consider this season and all it means. Take time to really think about the sacrifices of Christ, the pain and suffering He endured on our behalf, the love it took for Him to do what He did, and how we can live our lives in honor and celebration of that sacrifice. He was beaten beyond recognition and took the punishment that we deserve. It’s nearly unfathomable, and yet He did it! I pray your days leading up to the celebration of His resurrection can be powerful and life changing.

I promised the final numbers from our Spring Fling Fundraiser! This is an incredible statistic: we actually sold about 20 tickets less this year than we did last year, and yet we set a new record for the amount of money we made! This year, after expenses, we made $9624.59! I am in awe and incredibly humbled by the way you came out and supported the high school kids! Thank you for being such wonderful examples of what it looks like to be generous, and to “give with a cheerful heart.” My prayer is that you will be blessed in your giving. I know we, as a youth group, have been deeply blessed by your generosity!

The next activity for the high school youth group will be a night out to hear the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra! We are able to do this even because of a generous donation from a Community person. We had to buy tickets in advance of this event, so I’ve sent a postcard of information to all of the students who are going, and we’ll discuss the details at youth group this week as well. We are winding down our year of events and activities for high school. After this weekend, our next big event is our weekend Sully Peaks Retreat. Here is a breakdown of our activities.

- **March 24**: South Dakota Symphony Concert at 7:30pm
- **April 6-8**: Sully Peaks Weekend Retreat FREE
- **May 2**: Last night of Youth Group (SYG Awards and Elk Pie)

Recently, I’ve been thinking about my years as a youth pastor. As of May 31, 2018, I will have completed 16 years of full time ministry in this job at Community. I’ve been thinking about how many miles I’ve traveled with kids, how many rollercoaster rides we’ve taken, how many youth group lessons I’ve prepared and taught, how many adults I asked to be sponsors for this group, etc. So at some point this spring, I’m going to generate a list of Crazy and Fun Factoids, which document these crazy years of youth ministry. The point of this isn’t to draw attention to Liz Teel. Goodness, no! It’s to show what God can do when we as regular human people, are willing to do a “long obedience in the same direction.” What seems small at first can grow into something way beyond what we imagined! Anyway, I’m working on that, and my hope is that it will inspire at least one person to stay obedient to the work God is asking him or her to do!

That’s it for me this week.

Until next time,

Liz

youthpastor@communityrc.org

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**Notes from the Library**

Spring is a great time for new books. Some favorite authors have fresh books out. These include *The Masterpiece* by Francine Rivers, *The Kremlin Conspiracy* by Joel Rosenberg,*If I Live* (final book in that amazing series) by Terri Blackstock, *In Places Hidden* (start of a new series) by Tracie Peterson, plus many more favorite and new authors. We already have books preordered for the next months including new ones from Karen Kingsbury and Colleen Coble. Ask the librarians for ideas on suggestions on a good read.

Spring is also a great time for cleaning—whether that is cleaning out items to be returned or volunteering to help us with some upcoming inventory. Maybe you are looking for something fresh for spring. We are always looking for readers to try out new authors and give us feedback. If you are interested in trying that role out, let us know. :) There are new items in the library every week.

Check it out!

Your church librarians,

Trudi, Lois, Lorena, and Merry
Wednesday, March 21
6:00pm– BBQ
7:00pm– Classes for all ages
7:00pm– Safe Families Presentation

Saturday, March 24
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
1:00-3:00pm– The Great Surprise

Sunday, March 25
10:10am– Sunday School
10:10am– Adult Sunday School (chapel)
10:20am– The Best Yes (children’s wing)

Monday, March 26
7:00pm– Men’s Bible Study

Wednesday, March 28
NO MIDWEEK

Thursday, March 29
7:00pm– Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 30th
Near Chamberlain

Supper at Al’s Oasis, Friday at 7:30pm
Come for just the day or stay the night. If staying, you are responsible for making your own reservation under the block of rooms for Community at the Quality Inn, Oacoma, SD for $75. 605-734-5593 (includes 2 queen beds & hot breakfast.)

Sign up at The Link and answer these questions:
1) Do you have your own boat?
2) Do you have room in your boat? (if you are a boat owner & have extra space, let us know)
3)Don’t have a boat? No problem! Just indicate that when you sign up and we’ll pair you with someone who does.

?s contact Arlan Burggraaf– 359-9563

Maundy Thursday Nursery
Looking for volunteers to help in the nursery for the Maundy Thursday service @ 7pm. Contact Sheri if you can help. 261-2153.

Community Fishing Trip
Friday, March 30th
Near Chamberlain

Black quilted coat with gloves & ear muffs in pockets. Found in coat room, black quilted coat & gloves with Alaska embroidered on them. Please exchange.

REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM...
If you would like to request membership or baptism, please e-mail the church office at connect@communityyc.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, April 8 @ 3pm.
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!