I don’t know if you remember how I started last week’s newsletter, but it had something to do with the weather we are having in April. This week…I just don’t even know what to say. It has been a long go for us, and now it seems we are fighting the weather events on weekends. I don’t like that so much. I am now on the series that is so my heart for ministry and of course…we can’t get a good Sunday in. I’m not sure what all to make of that. If you get this on Wednesday, and some of you do if you get it on your email or phone. We are doing church tonight at 7pm. I guess we you might say we are just trying to keep up the fight. I’m not one to give up! This is getting old though and I really don’t see much change for the next week either. This will be one we will talk about for a few years. There you have it! We are making memories.

The job listings will be coming out this week in a number of places. The committee has been working very hard to get all this right and that takes time. If you have any interest, check the website and the newsletter. It should all be there. I’ll be glad to have this moving along. We have lots of work to get done.

I want to say thanks again for all the people of MidWeek that helped throughout the year. I will never be able to make a complete list of all of you, but I know it takes dozens of people to make that program operate. It still remains one of the best things we do at Community. It is the main focus of most of our adult education program as well as the best way to connect people to our church family. There will be more added to those areas in the coming months, but for now MidWeek was that important piece. I can’t say enough to all of you who work on that. It is a very special ministry. There are a number of churches in town and in the area who have copied our system. Great job Community! Oh, and one more thing. We can go through a lot of pizza!

Next Sunday morning, providing there are no snow issues, we will be doing our annual Congregational meeting to choose the new members of Consistory. We changed that method a couple of years ago and it seems to make a difference. We have the candidates come forward and choose a bible. Inside that Bible is a colored paper. Then in a sealed envelope we have someone write down one of two colors. We break the seal and read the color… those are the ones. I know it sounds silly, but God is faithful. I’ll be anxious to see how it goes. Here is a list of the candidates. Nominees for Elders: Bob Weerheim, Curt Zwart, Al Bolton, Russ Hoogendoorn, Tom Van Roekel, Mark Koll. Nominees for Deacon: Chad Odens, Michael Dick, Ryan VanDeraa, Matt Marcus, Chad McKee, Steve Bonnema. They are all wonderful people, whom God will qualify. That’s how that goes!

Consistory went through the surveys you completed a few weeks ago and we are going to making that information available to all of you. It is pretty self-explanatory. It’s not a perfect system, but I believe it does show we are on the right track and we are healthy.

My message this next Sunday will be from Philippians. I’m sure the verse will be one that many of you have read before. The message will focus on what God can do through us. How does that work? How does God work through us? What part do we do? We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
**NURSERY SCHEDULE**
April 22: 9:00am—
Logan & Chelsea Veurink
Andy & Tessa Benson
11:00am—
Irwin & Helen VanLeeuwen
Kelli Fantroy

April 29: 9:00am—
Mike & Angie Boyenga
Jolene Larson
Melissa Beek
11:00am—
Spencer, Rachel & Sage Larson

**COFFEE SCHEDULE**
April 22: Joel & Lisa Blankers
April 29: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen

**THE LINK SCHEDULE**
April 22:
9:00am– Daryl & Char DuBois
11:00am– Arlan Burggraaf

April 29:
9:00am– Brian & Holli Jans
11:00am– Tom & Robin Jacobs

**GREETER SCHEDULE**

**April 22**
9:00am– Gail Babcock, Gerald & Deb Teunissen, Nic & LaDonna Freiborg
11:00am– Bert Roetman, Ken & Susan Vos

**April 29**
9:00am– Bruce Wentzel & Bonnie Overweg, Dave & Trish Mayer, Donna Humme
11:00am– Jerralynne Tjeerdsma, Den & Deb Meyer

**April Mission of the Month:**
Bethany Christian Services– Safe Families.

The Union Gospel Mission love gift for April is regular coffee. Please put in designated bin in the lobby.

**Community Book Clubs**

**Morning Book Club** will be meeting on Tuesday, May 15 at 7pm at the Panera on E. 10th St. We will be discussing Long Way Home by Laskin.

**Evening Book Club** will be meeting on Wed. May 9 at 9am at the Bagel on MN Ave. We will be discussing Year of Wonders by Brooks.

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

**Faith Circle** will meet for lunch at Panera Bread, 505 S Foss Ave (off of Arrowhead), 11:30am on Monday, May 21. Hope to see you there. We need your thoughts and ideas on the future of Faith Ave.

**Requests**

- 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)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Marlys VanBruggen (breast cancer)
- William VamBram’s wife, Cynthia (heart)
- Jill Hanson
- Gloria Wierda. Laura Maloney’s mom (stage 4 breast cancer)
- Randi VanDerSloot (surgery recovery)
- Beth Vroman– knee replacement
- Al Brink (knee replacement)
- Judy VanMeetern (ankle replacement)
- Phylis DeHaai (lymphoma)
- Dree Mayer (bypass surgery 4.18)
- Betty Carnes (Jeff Carnes mom)
- Brad Hanson

**Prayer Requests**

Join us for a time of prayer on Saturdays from 7am-8am at church.

Our condolences go out to Tom & Rhonda Van-Roekel on the recent passing of Tom’s mom. Please pray for their family.
Hello,
I'm going to step out of my comfort zone a bit this week and tell you about something that has been on my heart lately. I suspect I'm not alone in my parenting woes when I confess that I rarely feel like I'm succeeding at parenting. I often ask myself if I'm doing it right. Are they overscheduled? Are they missing out on opportunities? Am I too strict? Do I need to require more responsibility from them? Actually, I wonder often how I haven't messed them up completely. Parenting is not an exact science. I wish it was simple sometimes.

"Do these ten things and you will have a healthy, well-adjusted child when you are "done" parenting." There's probably a blog post somewhere that says something like that but if we are honest, we know there is no formula. There isn't a recipe. If there was, we'd just all buy the book! ____+_________+_______= Good Kid
I have to think that all of the great information that we have available to us as we parent is both a gift and sometimes a tool that the evil one uses to convince us that God's love and Grace is not enough. We hear the lie that must parent with great skill not great need. Did you see what I did there? It isn't really so much about us after all, is it?
Being a “successful parent” doesn’t really exist because it isn’t a formula and we aren’t the only factor.
It isn’t about getting them into the right activities, cultivating the right friendships, supporting the right academics or even coming to the right church– but all of that matters. It is really about “keeping the main thing the main thing.” Oh how the world makes that a challenge.

When we start to convince ourselves there is a formula or begin comparing ourselves to others, we have no option but to fail. Either we look at our friend’s Instagram post about their genius (kind, musical, athletic, Jesus loving, thoughtful...insert your weak spot here) child and feel as though we are inadequate or we think about our own child and how they are (and the logical extension, what great parents we must be) and our pride causes us to fail. Jealousy, inadequacy, fear, pride– regardless of which, we put something on our kids that isn’t theirs or ours to bear.

So, then what? I’m reminded that my children are not my own and their future does not rest in my hands. They are God’s children and we are to follow His lead in raising our children. It is a big job. Holding them for their growing years is a weighty responsibility. We are not capable on our own of doing it successfully. We need to lean on the only one who actually has it figured out.

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

There isn’t a blog or parenting expert that can declare that! I believe we are called to live our imperfect lives in front of our children, to show them our imperfect attempts at loving like Jesus and to lead them toward our God who loves them even more than we can. Our failures sitting at the foot of the cross are a powerful lesson.
I don’t do that perfectly. I think that’s sort of the idea. Imperfect people counting on our perfect God to show us how it’s done. His Word is FULL of life changing power. He wants us to spend our parenting time on our knees. I don’t think it is a coincidence that we need to get on our knees to see a child eye to eye. I believe God designed it to be that way. Parenting requires prayer so being on our knees already doesn’t hurt a thing.

See you soon!
Heather DeWit Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org

Coming Up:
• May 6– Last Day of Sunday School
• August 5-8 Evenings- Vacation Bible School– Shipwrecked–Rescued by Jesus!
Good grief, what a snowstorm we had over the weekend! I hope everyone was able to stay safe and warm. **Spring is coming. Spring is coming.** We just have to believe. 😊

As most of you probably heard, there will be a make up church service this Wednesday at 7:00pm. However, I will be having youth group for the senior high youth as promised. So the kids and I will meet at 6:00 for supper and a lesson at 7:00. We’ll finish by 8:00! Here’s the rest of the high school schedule for the end of the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Supper and a Lesson for Senior High Youth Group Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Supper and a Lesson for Senior High Youth Group Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>SYG Awards and Elk Pie for Senior High Youth Group Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7-9</td>
<td>Sully Peaks Retreat (see next paragraph for more info!)</td>
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The **Sully Peaks Retreat** has been scheduled for June 7-9. **The deadline to RSVP to this event will be May 15** since I need to have time to reserve a bus or vehicles, depending on how many students are able to attend this retreat. So please let me know ASAP if you are planning on going. I’ll be ordering sweatshirts and t-shirts for this retreat as well, so you can text me your shirt preference and size anytime you know you want one. I’ll be talking to the kids about all of this at youth group for the next 3 weeks, and more information will be available as we work our way through May.

And lastly this week, I found myself thinking a lot about the **parallels of spiritual growth and winter**. Sometimes in our spiritual lives, there are seasons where things seem cold and stalled. It seems we will never see the warmth of the joy of a significant new growth in our spiritual lives. We wonder where the sun has gone, and we wonder just how many inches of snow will cover the ground. We wait and wait and wait for spring. The other thing about winter is that it often keeps us still, and we all know how challenging stillness can be. Snowstorms keep us in our homes and force us to keep company with others or even with ourselves. And have you ever noticed how quiet the winter season is?? Again, at times, that silence is deafening and uncomfortable.

But now, make the turn with me. **The most influential times of growth in my spiritual life have come from “winter” seasons.** These were seasons where things seemed cold and stalled. And even God, like the sun, felt distant, even though He never was. The hardships seemed to pile higher and higher, and I wondered how long it would be until the spring thaw. When the snow finally melted, what I learned was that the important thing wasn’t to get the snow to thaw. It wasn’t that I just wanted the hardships to end. The important thing was that underneath the snow of burdens and hardships were strong little flowers just waiting to bloom. And these flowers needed the snow, darkness, and cold in order to bloom to their biggest potential. I am so often reminded that the best qualities that God is trying to grow in me often need winter-like circumstances to grow to their best potential. So when it’s cold and miserable outside, I really try to refocus on God to see what things He might be trying to grow and develop in me. And I find it puts a new perspective on the winter…even the winter in April. 😊

I think that’s it for me this week.

Until next time,

Liz

youthpastor@communityrc.org
Wednesday, April 18
6pm– H.S. student’s meal
7pm– H.S. Youth Group
7pm– Wednesday Night Warm-up

Saturday, April 21
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)

Sunday, April 22
10:10am– Sunday School
10:10am– Congregational Meeting

Monday, April 23
7:00pm– Men’s Bible Study

Wednesday, April 25
6:00-8:00pm– H.S. Youth Group

Spring Kitchen
Cleaning Day
Saturday, May 5
9:00am-Noon

Last day of Sunday School
May 6

Happy 90th birthday
Florene Meier!
She’ll be sharing donut holes
on April 29th to celebrate!

Congregational meeting
April 22nd @ 10:10am
Electing elders/deacons
Nominees for Elder:
Bob Weerheim, Curt Zwart, Al
Bolton
Russ Hoogendoorn, Tom
Van Roekel, Mark Koll
Nominees for Deacon: Chad
Odens, Michael Dick, Ryan Van-
Deraa, Matt Marcus, Chad
McKee,
Steve Bonnema

CRACK OF DAWN
Connection
FOR ALL LEVELS OF RUNNERS
STARTS WED. MAY 9
MEET AT CHURCH AT 5:15AM

Crack of Dawn Connection– A Short devotion and Run
Starting Wed. May 9th @ 8:15am at church

There will be routes mapped out for all running abilities
More info to follow. Questions? Contact Kate Hansen– 759-0370.

Church Softball Schedule

April 26th
8:30pm– Field H
9:30pm– Field H

May 3rd
6:30pm– Field G
7:30pm– Field F

STAFF SEARCH COMMITTEE
The consistory has appointed a 5-member Staff Search Committee to fill the following positions:

1. Senior High Youth Director (part time)
2. Director of Discipleship (3/4 time to full time)
3. Worship Leader (part time)
IT Coordinator (part time) (does not include audio/video)
Job descriptions for these positions will be posted on the Community Re-formed web site under “Employment”. Hard copies can be picked up at the link after the congregational meeting April 22.

Applications will be taken for these positions until May 14, 2018 after which interviews will be conducted. The committee plans to make hiring recommendations to the consistory at the June 14 consistory meeting.

If you have questions about these positions or the process, please contact one of the committee members:
Randy Grotenhuis 605-201-2693 randyg@sio.midco.net
Jolene Larson 605-553-1177 jmlarson@alliancecom.net
Lori Blom 605-261-8322 lablo40@gmail.com
Mike Hilbrands 605-929-6118 hilbrands@q.com
Russ Rober 605-351-5911 rerobers@sio.midco.net
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 contact 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.

April 15—Bob Hein
April 22—Pete Mellema

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!