It’s April 2 and it’s snowing. They are predicting nearly 6 inches of the stuff for the evening and of course 40 mile and hour winds. Yes, it is still winter. I don’t care what the calendar says. It is winter! This is really something. I am so glad we got the day we got yesterday for Easter Sunday. It was cold, but at least the sun was shining and everyone was smiling about that. At some point all of this will change. I don’t want to say when that might be, but just know it will. I was going to go back home today to see my mom, but of course I’m not going to fight a snowstorm to get that done. It seems that every time I make that plan…it does this. Mom and I were talking this morning that maybe we are the ones causing all these winter calamities. I make a plan…it snows. I don’t think so, but it sure does get old. I’m making plans to go next week. So let’s just see how this works.

Sunday was a wonderful day in church. Great music and fun day with what I hope was a good news message. It was Easter! Thanks to everyone for making it such a special day. There was a lot of work that went into all of that behind the scenes. The breakfast, the tables, and the photo area…it was all good. We saw a large mass of people as well. I believe we did it all up just right. Churches should make a big deal of such an event. Jesus is worth our efforts. He does it for us!

I don’t know how many of you noticed the photo wall in the lobby. We had lots of folks looking that over. It is a few photos from the old church and a little of the past history on display in the lobby. We debated for days about where to put that. We thought about the hallway back in the new addition and then reconsidered that option. I think it makes sense were it is. It gives everyone who comes into the place a look into our past. Something about that seems very right. I guess we can always move it if we have too.

I had so many positive comments on the way we did communion on Maundy Thursday. I think we were all very curious as to how that would all go. Those long rows of chairs have always been our concern as to how that would all go as those plates would pass down those rows, but it all seemed to go very well. I sure know it takes much time and surely not near the preparation time to set it all up. I think we will be doing that more in the future. Change…sometimes it’s not so bad. I like the sound of that too.

Our group from KC made it back safely. We will be hearing more from them in a couple of weeks. I’m sure they have some great stories to tell. I did get word that somehow they returned with two puppies. I’m not kidding! They really did bring back little dogs. I’m not sure what the story is behind that, but I am most curious to hear about it. Thanks for praying them up while they were gone.

I start a new series this coming Sunday on the new life we are offered because of the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus crown of glory is ours. He offers us a new life right now. That life is a new creation. We need to look into that matter a bit. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
NURSERY SCHEDULE
April 8: 9:00am—
  Keith & Laura, Emma Maloney
  Wanda Houtsma
  11:00am—
  Andrea Fisher
  Jamie & Jason Van Sloten

April 15: 9:00am—
  Tyler & Amber Wolf
  Amy & Owen VanEs
  11:00am—
  Tyler & Amber Nieuwsma
  OPEN

COFFEE SCHEDULE
April 8: Daryl & Char DuBois
April 15: Steve & Becky Lee
April 22: Joel & Lisa Blankers

THE LINK SCHEDULE
April 8: 9:00am— Marshall & Angeline Lavin
  11:00am— Karen Roetman

April 15: 9:00am— Bonnie Overweg/Bruce Wentzel
  11:00am— Bob & Lori Hein

GREETER SCHEDULE
April 8
  9:00am— Wade & Diane Friese,
    Dennis & Helen Robinson, Lyle & Wilma Drenth
  11:00am— Donna Humme, Dennis & Helen Robinson

April 15
  9:00am— Stan & Elaine Deelstra,
    Randy & Gail Grotenhuis
    Jerralynne Tjeerdsma
  11:00am— Jean Nollmann, Myron & Kathy Garrels

MONTHLY MISSION

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

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 meet on Monday, April
16 at Community Reformed at
7:00. We will be studying Lesson 9
which completes our study on Joy. Please bring ideas for 2018. Every-
one is welcome.

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

April Mission of the Month:
Bethany Christian Services

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
- 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)
- Phyllis DeHaai (lymphoma)
- Dree Mayer (bypass surgery TBD)
- Betty Carnes (Jeff Carnes mom)

Our condolences go out to the family of Steve Maciejewski
who passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday. Please keep
Rhonda, Grace & Joe in your prayers.
Hello,

I hope you had a wonderful Easter. I certainly did. I wonder how many visitors we had this year. It seemed like we met quite a few new people. I hope we see them again soon.

Recently I have been thinking about our **children and the way that they worry** sometimes. I think as adults, it is easy to brush off their worries as small or insignificant in comparison to what we are facing but to a child, the worries seem substantial. Kids worry about friends and their social circles. Kids worry about being successful in school, sports and music. Kids don’t want to let anyone down. Social media leads some kids to believe everyone else is perfect and causes them to worry about having their vulnerability and flaws show. Some kids worry about their parents marriage or the health of their family members. Kids worry about safety. They catch stories on the news and online and feel worried that they could be hurt. Some kids feel anxious because we have allowed their schedule to become too busy and there is no time to refresh. One survey said 40% of kids worry too much and lose sleep because of worry and stress. 20% of kids describe their own worry as “extreme.” The health and emotional struggles faced by kids due to worry and stress have increased and, unless we help our kids, won’t slow down soon.

I encourage you to **speak truth into your child’s world through God’s word**. Spend time together reading about people in the Bible that may have been worried and how God cared for them in the face of great obstacles. Show them through the Bible that God is always with us, even if He doesn’t remove a stressful circumstance. I like putting Bible passages and verses in places where I will see them often. Tape a verse on a mirror, door, computer screen, in the car, inside a lunch box or backpack, etc.

- **Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ’** 1 Peter 5:7
- **Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.** Proverbs 12:25

**Listen to your child.** When you pay attention during the tiny things now, you are demonstrating your willingness and ability to listen. This will make your child more likely to come to you when bigger things happen later. Be available and ready to listen. Tuck away that cell phone and let your child know you have time for him or her. Try not to see your child’s worry as “one more thing to deal with” in your own busy and stressful day. Sometimes kids don’t need a solution. Sometimes there isn’t a solution. Just listen and love your child. Your consistency and stability are part of what they lean on. Show them who you lean on—Jesus. He is always stable and consistent.

One of the most impactful things I see parents and volunteers at Community doing for our kids is living life in front of them. When you are feeling worried, **demonstrate to your child that you bring those worries to God** and trust that He is listening. Of course, it is critical to be sure you aren’t adding more worries to a child by giving them grown-up things to worry about too, but think about telling your child when you are worried and ask him or her to join you in prayer. Share your excitement when God meets your needs. Children learn what they are living so dropping our worries off at the cross in front of our kids is a great way to get them started in handling life’s challenges in a healthy way.

Some reminders:
- **April 11**— Last Week of Midweek (Pizza and Praise)
- **May 6**— Last Day of Sunday School
- **August 5-8 Evenings**— Vacation Bible School— Shipwrecked–Rescued by Jesus!

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL Midweek Minute**

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.
Wow! What an Easter Sunday celebration! I know it take so many people who work hard behind the scenes to make that a special day. So thank you to everyone who did extra work planning, setting up, cleaning up, practicing, and preparing to make it a great day!

Our Mid-Week Activities resume this week. And believe it or not, next week is our last week of Mid-Week. However, the high school youth group continues to meet for supper and lessons through May 4. So that schedule looks like this:

- April 4: Regular Mid-Week for everyone
- April 11: Pizza and Praise and Worship for everyone
- April 18: Supper and a Lesson for Senior High Youth Group Only
- April 25: Supper and a Lesson for Senior High Youth Group Only
- May 2: SYG Awards and Elk Pie for Senior High Youth Group Only

I thought it was amazing to hear the stories from the guys who went to Haiti on their mission trip. It is obvious that God used them in big ways to bless the people of Haiti, and I know they were blessed in return. Thanks to Jaron DeWit, Doug Harms, Steve Bonnema, and Tom and Max Jacobs for sharing your stories with us, and for bringing a little of Haiti back with you!

The Kansas City people had a great time on their mission trip last week, and I know they’ll be sharing about their experiences during the 10:00 hour one of these Sundays. Thanks for praying for them, and keep your eyes open for the date of their presentation!

I think that’s it for me this week.

Until next time,

Liz
youthpastor@communityrc.org

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The Northwestern College Music Department is seeking host families to provide hospitality and friendship for the Symphonic Band members while they are on tour April 12 - 15. The concert in Sioux Falls will be Thursday evening, April 12th at 7:00pm at LifeScape – 26th Street. Host families would host the night of April 12th—only one night! Host families are able to offer a sense of home to those away from home and, of course, are welcome to attend their tour concerts! Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you’re interested in being a host family, please contact Brad & Dr. Carlyln Van Kalsbeek at (605) 359-558 for further details.
Wednesday, April 4
6:00pm – Soup
7:00pm – Class for all ages

Saturday, April 7
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
9:00am-Noon— Men’s morning

Sunday, April 8
3:00pm – Baptism Service

Monday, April 9
Noon– Senior @ Pizza Ranch
7:00pm– Men’s Bible Study

Wednesday, April 11
9:00am– Book Club @ Bagel Boy
6pm– Pizza Night
7pm– Praise & Worship Night

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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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Last Night of Midweek
April 11

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SPONSOR A CHILD

Sponsor a Child with Mission Haiti!
• Join us in our dream to Sponsor every child in the Frederique Mountain School in Haiti. We are off to a great start!
• Provide education, supplies, deworming and a meal
• Only $100 PER YEAR for elementary or $200 PER YEAR for high school (grade 7 next year and older- currently in 6)
• You can send letters to your student if you want.

Email JaronDeWit@gmail.com to learn more or visit the table in the lobby. We could meet your sponsored child on our next trip!

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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, April 8 @ 3pm.
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 1 – Doug Harms
April 8 — Jolene Larson

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!