Today the sun is shining and it feels so much like spring. Now tomorrow...who knows. I think we just take these nice days and do the very best we can with them. Spring is certainly in the air and we are making progress in that direction for sure. It has been a very busy few days around here as we are trying to get things all ready for Easter week. There are a few new wrinkles for this year that I think are going to be very nice. It is a special time of the year for those of us who do this preacher thing for a living. I am excited about what this all means the powerful message of the empty tomb. Let's all be praying for a great few days of inspiration and spiritual growth.

Sunday morning...Clyde kind of messed up. I forgot to mention the first offering for the Blessed Journey campaign. That was all supposed to happen Sunday...my mind was not there. I started my day with some heavy things happening in the lives of some of our folks and it caused my heart to be so with them...and frankly...I just forgot. However...those gifts are still most important and I would encourage you to still do that. This week is certainly not too late and we can still get this whole thing started with a bang. I also know now the number of reached with the pledges. It is right at 1 million dollars. That is pretty awesome. I know we set the goal for the whole amount of 1.7 million, but we knew that was going to be a pretty big number to reach. I was very pleased with all of that. I want to thank all the people who have done so much work behind the scenes for this campaign and for the many hours of planning they have done. It is also a time to thank each of you for your amazing generosity, which just very much humbles me in so many ways. I will go through all of this on Sunday morning as well. I promise...I won't forget this time!

Paul Logan will be with us on Sunday. Paul is back now planning some events for the coming month to raise awareness and funds to continue the work he is doing in Ukraine. He will be sharing during the Sunday school hour as well so if you would like to hear more and just spend a little time with Paul, you can do that this Sunday at 10:10am. We always love to hear Paul's heart as he shares about his ministry with us.

This will be our last week of MidWeek. I'll spend a little more time in next week's newsletter sharing my thoughts about that program, but for now I just want to say it has been another very good year. That program still remains the very best way for people to get better connected to this place. I think the challenge for us always knows how we can expand that and keep up with the growing numbers. It takes a fair amount of people to keep that all going. We are so fortunate for their hard work. It's hard to believe that we are at this point in the year, but the calendar doesn't stop.

This is Sunday is Palm Sunday. Jesus will be riding into the city of Jerusalem. Their king has finally arrived! The crowds are gathering and there is much to be celebrated, but there is even more so misunderstood. The crowd will be my focus this week. It was the focus us Jesus as well. For him, it's always about the people. We'll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
**NURSERY SCHEDULE**

April 9: 9:00am—
   - Tom & Amy Bosch
   - Gwen Amen
   - Barb Niessink

11:00am—
   - Arlan & Mary Burggraaf
   - Leslie Cleveringa

April 16: 9:00am—
   - Melissa Beek
   - Marsha Avery
   - Amy Van Es
   - Lorena Sazama

11:00am—
   - Andy & Tessa Benson
   - Heidi Blom

**COFFEE SCHEDULE**

April 9: Joel & Lisa Blankers
April 16: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen
April 23: Dick & Jeannette Jennings

**THE LINK SCHEDULE**

April 9
   - 9:00am— Daryl & Char DuBois
   - 11:00am— Karen Roetman

April 16
   - 9:00am— Dick & Jeannette Jennings
   - 11:00am— Bob & Lori Hein

**GREETER SCHEDULE**

April 9:
   - 9:00am— Dan & Kathy Carson, Marilyn & Wilmer Rensink, Lyle & Wilma Drenth
   - 11:00am— Karen & Anna Roetman, Marilyn & Wilmer Rensink

April 16:
   - 9:00am— Carl Tonjes, Josh & Molly Kuehl, Daron & Sherri VanBeek
   - 11:00am— Carl Tonjes, Willard & Dar Kiezer

The Union Gospel Mission love offering for the month of April is cold cereal. Please put in designated black basket in the lobby.

**WOMEN’S MINISTRY**

The morning book club will meeting on Wednesday, April 12, at 9 am at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave. We will be discussing Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking by Cain.

The evening book club will be meeting on Tues. April 18, at 7pm at the Eastside Panera. We will be discussing the first half of The Poisonwood Bible by Kingsolver.

Copies of each book are available in the church library.

Both book clubs welcome new participants. Feel free to join either at any time.

**Hope Circle** will meet April 18 @ 7pm at Barb’s house. Barb will also have the lesson.

**Joy Circle** will meet on Monday, April 17 at church at 7:00pm. We will be studying lesson 6.

**Faith Circle** will meet April 17th @ 1pm at the church. Connie, Dolly & Florene will have the lesson.

**Prayer REQUESTS**

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

- Natalie Baker (seizure disorder)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jaron DeWit’s grandpa
- Julie Dobesh (surgery recovery)
- Randy Grotenhuis (dizziness)
- Jill Hansen’s aunt (cancer)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Cammy Kuchta (cancer)
- Terry Mayer’s mom, Rose (stroke)
- Gary McCaan (finger infection)
- Chelle McMurrey’s dad (multiple myeloma)
- Rhonda (Odens) Meyer (high risk pregnancy)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Susan Payne (cancer)
- Gerban & Therissa TeSlaa (hospice— Helen Van Leeuwen’s parents; Sheri Brouwer’s grandparents)
- Mat Timmer (brain tumor)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart testing)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Marlys VanBruggen (breast cancer)
- Annetta Wiese
The Sully Peaks Retreat was a huge success! Thanks, Community, for holding us up in prayer! God was definitely present during the weekend. He built relationships among the kids and challenged them in their personal walks with Him too. It was incredible to watch the kids do so many things together as an entire group! We had a broad cross-section of kids in attendance, and yet there were no cliques or exclusions. I was blessed by watching those kids interact with each other. The other thing that really caught my attention during the weekend involved two former youth group kids. I asked Kyle Larson and Nick Bolton, who were both students in my youth group several years ago, if they would be willing to chaperone the trip. They both agreed, and they did an incredible job of chaperoning the students. These guys are now young men who have continued to journey with God since their high school years. It was a blessing to me personally to see them being used by God in such powerful ways. Here were two guys, who I had taken on this same Sully Peaks retreat as students, now serving at Sully Peaks as adults. God is using them to do His good work. It sort of felt like I was able to see some of the fruits of my labor as a youth pastor! It was deeply encouraging to my heart, and I’m so thankful for their willingness to come! Thanks, guys! ☺

I also want to say thank you to Ryan and Megan Kortemeyer and to Al Bolton for allowing us to take their big multi-passenger vehicles on our retreat! Y’all are the best!!

Don’t forget that we are winding down our Mid-Week nights! Here’s the schedule for the rest of the Wednesday nights:

April 5 Last Mid-Week Pizza and Praise and Worship

But remember that the high school kids will continue to meet through the first part of May. Here is the high school youth group schedule:

April 5 Pizza and Praise and Worship
April 12 No Youth Group/Holy Week
April 19 Regular Youth Group/Hopefully Bingo at Stoneybrook
April 26 Easter Egg Hunt at church 7:00-8:00 pm
May 3 Last night of Youth Group/ Elk Pie and SYG Awards 7:00-8:00 pm

I want to remind the kids to get those Camp Burke registrations in. I’ve set the deadline for these registrations as April 30. Camp Burke is June 18-23. You don’t need to pay by April 30. Just turn in that registration! I currently have registrations for:

Brady Van Holland Faith Van Holland Max Jacobs
Abbie Van Meeteren Alex Ludens Jenna Christensen
Jeff McKee Katie McKee Brooklyn Petersen
Evan Rasmussen Colton Bultje

And lastly this week, don’t forget to get those Inspiration Hills camp registrations turned in! And remember that Community will pay half of the early bird fee of any camp, for any camper who attends Community. All you have to do is note that you attend Community Reformed on your registration, and then send in your payment directly to IH, minus half of the early bird fee. IH will bill us for everyone at the same time! Please let Heather or me know if you have any questions.

That’s it for me this week.
Until next time,

Liz
youthpastor@communityrc.org

For those of your reading this online on Wednesday, join us for pizza night TONIGHT APRIL 5th @ 6pm followed by Praise & Worship at 7pm. It’s the last Wednesday night of the spring. Midweek will start up again next October.
Hi Everyone!

Midweek – Phew! Last Wednesday was a fun game night! The kids had a great time. They are such great kids. We posted a video of two of the games at https://www.facebook.com/CommunityRCKids This week we have pizza and praise then we are all done until next year. I’m going to miss our Wednesday adventures!

Sunday School on 4/2 -

♦ 3 Year Old /Pre-K – Jesus died on the cross
♦ Kindergarten/1st/2nd Grade – In the days before Jesus trial, we see a celebration as he enters Jerusalem followed by dark days as Jesus is arrested
♦ 3rd/4th Grade – Jesus Heals a Bleeding Woman and Restores a Girl to Life
♦ 5th/6th Grade – Salvation, Sanctification and Glorification

See you soon!
Heather DeWit

NEXT WEEK! On April 9 for Palm Sunday the kids will walk through the church waving palm branches. 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 praise with us!

Free Puppet Show at 1st Reformed Church
Pockets Full of Fun Easter Puppet Show

First Reformed Church Multi-Purpose Room 57th and Tomar (use east door) Wednesday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. Puppets, stories, music and audience participation will focus on the real meaning of Easter in a fun and entertaining way. The half hour show for Pre-school through 5th graders features ventriloquist Lisa Laird of Pockets Full of Fun. Enjoy an Easter cookie after the show.

Spring Cleaning?
We are collecting some items for Children’s Ministry projects and some charities in need. Please bring items to the containers in the foyer. There are full lists of what we need there but here are a few. Thanks!

- Toilet paper and paper towel rolls
- Bottle Caps
- Egg Cartons
- Washed out milk cartons and jugs (any size)
- Shoes, backpacks and school supplies for Mission Haiti
- Gently used board games for LSS
- Cold Cereal for the Union Gospel Mission.
- Household items for the Furniture Mission

Camp Early Sign Up Deadline April 15! Are you planning to send your kids to camp? Community will pay for half of the EARLY BIRD registration at Inspiration Hills! Let me know when they are going so we can pray for them and so we can connect other kids who are hoping to go to camp with kids they know.

www.inspirationhills.org
UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 29
6:00pm— BBQ
7:00pm— Youth Group/Classes for all ages

Saturday, April 1
7:00am— Prayer Ministry

Sunday, April 2
Celebration Sunday
10:10am— Sunday School
10:10am— Starting Point class (Office area)

Monday, April 3
7:00pm— Men’s Bible Study

Wednesday, April 5
6:00pm— Pizza Night
7:00pm— Praise & Worship

Community Fishing Trip
Friday, April 14th
Near Chamberlain

Supper at Al’s Oasis, Friday at 7:00pm

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 $65. 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.

Contact Arlan Burggraaf— 359-9563 or Larry Smyrak— 376-7287.

We are looking for guys and gals (16 – ??) from Community to play Church League “E” division softball on Monday nights starting Apr 24th – Aug 12th.

What a great opportunity for some fun, fitness and fellowship while getting to know some other faces from church. We will post the schedule once it gets finalized so that those who want to come out and cheer can do so also! Sign up at “The Link” or for more info contact Bob Hein at (605) 940-0958 or email me at bob135@aol.com

We Love Volunteers

Easter Breakfast Volunteers

Would you be willing to help out for the breakfast on Easter Sunday? There is a sign up sheet at The Link or email connect@communityrc.org.

Free Health Seminar: Advanced Care Planning

Sunday, April 23rd
@ Community
@7:00pm

What would happen if you couldn’t express your health care wishes? An advanced directive, such as a living will or durable power of attorney for health care, reflects your values of medical care when you are sick and cannot voice your own preferences.

Finances at a Glance: April 2, 2017

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YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS 4/2/17

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Join us for worship at 8am, 9am or 11am. Deaf Interpreting available at 9am service. Check us out on the web: www.communityrc.org or like our Facebook page!

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 (crcprayerline@gmail.com). For emergencies during non-office hours, please call Pastor Clyde or the elder on call.

April 2—Randy Grotenhuis
April 9—Dave Nelson

Pastor Clyde Teel
pastor@communityrc.org

Liz Teel
Youth/Children’s Ministry Director
youthpastor@communityrc.org

John Thornton
Part-time Visitation Pastor
johnthornton@sio.midco.net

Holli Jans
Ministry Coordinator
connect@communityrc.org

Heather DeWit
Director of Children’s Ministries
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Sheri Brouwer
Part-Time Nursery Coordinator
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Lisa Blankers
Part-Time Financial Administrator
accounting@communityrc.org