Pastor’s Update

I mentioned in last week’s newsletter that maybe spring had arrived. It seems like that is becoming a reality that we can hang our winter hats on now. I sure do hope we can. I have enjoyed the change of the season and I’m sure you all have as well. I even think we might get a thunderstorm this week. The wind has been doing some good drying up of things and so maybe those good farmer friends out there can began some field prep for the season. I know there are still snow piles in places yet melting, but I do believe we have turned the corner. It’s nice to see.

A big thanks goes out to Florene Meier and the doughnut holes for Sunday morning on her 90th birthday. Like I said on Sunday morning, I nearly forgot that. Image me forgetting to say anything about doughnut holes? It’s would seem nearly impossible, but I can be guilty of some pretty silly things. They were enjoyed by many.

The group that traveled to KC over Easter put on a nice presentation Sunday morning with a slide show of their trip and everyone getting to share a thought or a memory. The work project was one that took a bit of doing, but they managed to finish up. They said how valuable the trip was in terms of what they could do for those folks in KC, but I also heard how the group itself became closer. That’s the ongoing gift of such things as this. There is just something about getting together to focus on something or someone other than yourself with a group of friends. It changes the people you are showing kindness and it connects the group in ways that cannot be fully measured. Good job to all of you!

This week will mark the end of the month of April as May comes rushing in at us. There is still plenty on the calendar for the month with the running devotional group that starts this week. I love their name: Crack of Dawn. I’m not really the running type, but I am very aware that many of you out there do this with great passion. Great idea! I might not be there for it, but know that I care. I’m smiling as I write those words. Go Community Go!

This coming Sunday we will also be installing our new Consistory members. This is a time that we set aside to pray for each one of them and trust that God is preparing them for what they will need to do this job. It is a strong part of what we believe God does for our leaders. This is the first Consistory to be chosen with our new system. I am most interested in seeing how they all connect and what great things are coming for us in the coming years.

Sunday starts a new series. It is another four part series before we all launch into summer mode around here. I know the month of June is typically vacation time. The church seems to just empty out during that month. Now of course you can all stay connected with the live stream. Camping and church at the same time! Now there’s a concept. The new series is from the book of Ezra. I don’t think I’ve every done one on that book. We will focus on the plans for the building of the second temple. God’s people have returned home after being driven out of their homes for a long time and now they are home. The first temple was destroyed and they are given charge to rebuild a new one. It brings out some interesting aspects of human nature and the grace of God. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!

Stop into our chapel anytime throughout the day (7am-8pm) to pray.
NURSERY SCHEDULE
May 6: 9:00am—
Darren & Tracee Ellwein
Daron & Sherri Van Beek
11:00am—
Brad & Katie Kennett
Heidi Blom

May 13: 9:00am—
Tom & Amy Bosch
Jenna Christensen
Robin Niewenhuis
11:00am—
Michelle & Ellie Wigg
Michael Dick

COFFEE SCHEDULE
April 29: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen
May 6: Dick & Jeannette Jennings
May 13: Jim & Kathleen Ludens

THE LINK SCHEDULE
May 6:
9:00am– Chad & Diane McKee
11:00am– Bob & Lori Hein

May 13:
9:00am– Tom Van Roekel
11:00am– Lance & Robyn Niewenhuis

GREETER SCHEDULE
May 6
9:00am– Gary & Connie Parmley,
Rich & Carolyn Odens, William Vambram
11:00am– Donna Humme, Brian & Janet Bartscher

May 13
9:00am– Carl Tonjes, Dennie &
Helen Robinson, Ron & Juanita Palma
11:00am– Bert Roetman, Willard &
Dar Keizer

MONTHLY MISSION

May Mission of the Month:
Arise Ukraine– Paul Logan.

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

Evening 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.

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.

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)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Marlys VanBruggen (breast cancer)
- William VamBram’s wife, Cynthia (heart)
- Gloria Wierda, Laura Maloney’s mom (stage 4 breast cancer)
- Phylis DeHaai (lymphoma)
- Betty Carnes (Jeff Carnes mom)
- Brad Hanson
- Lori Blom’s relative, Mark (sepsis)
Hello,
I don’t have anything new to share with you this week but I want to take a moment to say thank you to our Sunday School and Midweek volunteers. It takes many, many people to teach our kids each week and I don’t say “thank you” often enough, partly because I just can’t quite find the words to say how thankful I am for all of you! That doesn’t mean I can’t give it a try. ;) THANK YOU!
As we look toward summer, I’m working on Vacation Bible School and starting to plan some of the day camps that we do for the kids in the summer time. If your child really wants to be part of the Craft Camp or one of the other camps and there are certain dates that won’t work for you, please feel free to send me an email as I’ll be setting those dates this week. I may not be able to pick a date that works for everyone but I’ll sure do my best!
Speaking of VBS, I remember that there were a few of you that expressed interest in helping to decorate for VBS. Karen Roetman has been hard at work getting VBS decorating started so please email me if you are hoping to be part of that and I’ll get you connected.
See you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org

Inspiration Hills offers summer camp for grade 1 through High School. There are day camps as well as overnight camps. Community wants to be sure that any interested students can attend so our church pays 50% of the “early” deadline. Even though that early deadline has passed, you can still sign up. Just note that church pays half of the amount Inspiration Hills calls “early sign up.”

The theme this year is Be the Light

VBS!
Venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive. Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life’s storms.

August 5-8, 2018
- Children entering grades 1 to 6: 6-8pm
- Children age 3– entering Kindergarten: 6-7:30pm
- Sing N’ Sprout from 6:30 to 7:30 for parents and their little ones (younger than 3) in the nursery following the opening in the sanctuary each night. You’ll sing and play instruments with your little one while they learn about God’s love with you! :) 
- Children under 3 or those that aren’t ready to use the restroom independently yet are welcome to join the nursery while parents are busy doing VBS activities as well.
Sign up your children or to volunteer at:
https://vbspro.events/p/community

Coming Up:
- May 6– Last Day of Sunday School
- August 5-8 Evenings- Vacation Bible School– Shipwrecked–Rescued by Jesus!
Believe it or not, this week will mark the last night of Wednesday Night Youth Group meetings for me...ever. Last week, I taught my last youth group lesson, and this week we are celebrating the end of the year with dessert and some silly awards. As one of my pastor friends commented, ending a youth ministry job is a junk drawer of emotions! I've experienced a ton of different emotions during these last few weeks, but this time of reflection has been a blessing for me. Here are a few things I've been thinking about over these last weeks.

When I started working at church, Community had about 250 people attending one Sunday morning service, and now Community has over 1000 people who participate regularly in 3 Sunday morning services.

I was 28 years old when I started this job, and now I'm 44!!

I have planned over 500 Wednesday night lessons, and that doesn't count Sunday morning lessons and conversations, Junior/Senior Bible Study lessons, or any of the retreat devotional lessons!

I've been to football games, boys and girls basketball games, track meets, soccer matches, baseball games, volleyball matches, show choir competitions, marching band competitions, band concerts, choir concerts, plays, musicals, prom grand marches, and so many graduation open houses that I've lost count.

I've gotten to know kids from Lincoln HS, Washington HS, Roosevelt, Sioux Falls Christian HS, O’Gorman HS, Brandon Valley HS, Hills Beaver Creek HS, West Central HS, Tea HS, Lennox HS, Harrisburg HS, West Lyon HS, and even Vermillion HS!

I've been to Valley Fair 14 times, and I've ridden roller coasters over 300 times, for a total of more than 180 miles of roller coasters! I do love a good roller coaster. 😊

I've spent over 150 days (and nights) at camps and retreats. I've planned 14 different camps, and 16 different overnight retreats for kids.

And maybe one of the most impressive statistics is that I've traveled almost 30,000 miles with students! (That mission trip to Ukraine accounts for more than 10,000 itself!)

My point here is not to draw attention to me or to what I've done. My point is that when we set out to be obedient to what God is asking us to do, when we stay the course of a long obedience in the same direction, at the end of it all we can look back in amazement at what God has done. In my first years of youth ministry, I felt like I didn't know what I was doing at all. I constantly asked God to guide me to do what He wanted me to do. As the years passed, I learned more about true youth ministry and certainly got more comfortable with the job, but my ultimate goal was to always keep doing what God was asking me to do for kids. It's so easy to look back and think about what I could have done differently or better and to be very critical of myself. I'm often my own worst critic. But when I remember that my ultimate goal was to be obedient to God, I'm able to relax and praise Him for the good work He has done. I did the best I could, but everything good has come from Him. I'm simply humbled that He asked me to participate in that good work.

So many people helped along the way too. I've worked with amazing adults sponsors who showed kids what it looks like to walk with Jesus and be a real person with gifts and flaws. I had incredible support from Consistories to do the things I felt God was asking us to do. I had so many encouraging notes and words from parents and others in church to keep doing what I was doing. It really does take a village, and I believe Community's "village" is one of the best. So thank you, friends, for all you've done to help me carry out my youth ministry calling. I am thankful! God bless you!

(We still have the Sully Peaks Retreat in June, so I'm not officially done yet. More about that next week... 😊)

Until next time,

Liz

youthpastor@communityrc.org
Crack of Dawn Connection– A Short devotion and Run Starting
Wed. May 9th @ 5:15am at church

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

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Salads are needed for William VanBram’s graduation party to be held Saturday evening, May 19. If you can help out with a salad, please contact Trudi Nelson at 371-3512.

More details on William’s party to follow.

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Community Reformed Church
Spring 2018 Survey

Survey details:
This summary was created April 5, 2018 and shows all of the completed surveys. The electronic survey is now closed. Any additional paper surveys will be filed if they are submitted.
In transferring the paper survey to the electronic format, the category “library” was lost. Therefore, the data is not accurate in relation to the LIBRARY category and should be considered accordingly. We apologize for this error.
The category “fellowship” did not appear in alphabetical order for some online survey participants. It is unclear how many as the preview showed it in alphabetical order but it appeared that way for at least one participant, so it is likely that it was that way for multiple people.
The comments section of the survey is not included in the three page summary of results.

221 total responses
Q1: There are many aspects to "life at Community." Which 3 to 5 are the most IMPORTANT to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Morning Services: Preaching</td>
<td>72.73% 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Ministry: VBS, Christmas Program, Sunday School, Midweek, Kids Camps, etc</td>
<td>45.45% 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Morning Services: Worship Music</td>
<td>41.62% 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midweek Activities</td>
<td>31.36% 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Education</td>
<td>29.55% 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>26.36% 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication: Web Page, Newsletter, Emails, Bulletin</td>
<td>20.91% 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology: Live Stream, WiFi, Sound System, Audio/Visual, Videos</td>
<td>19.55% 43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth: High School</td>
<td>18.16% 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Care: Visitation</td>
<td>14.55% 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth: Middle School</td>
<td>14.55% 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>12.73% 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer Ministry: Prayer Line, Prayer Teams</td>
<td>11.82% 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir at Christmas</td>
<td>10.45% 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missions: Supporting Local/International Missions</td>
<td>8.16% 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Membership</td>
<td>6.62% 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Counseling</td>
<td>5.91% 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missions: Local/Regional Mission Trips</td>
<td>5.45% 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>4.55% 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Morning Services: Announcements</td>
<td>3.64% 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missions: International Mission Trips</td>
<td>3.64% 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>3.64% 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesthetics: Decorating and design</td>
<td>3.18% 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Morning Services: Welcoming</td>
<td>2.73% 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td>1.82% 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerts</td>
<td>0.91% 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weddings</td>
<td>0.00% 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Respondents: 220

Other: Assimilation, Young Adults x2 (one specified that we are losing young adults), Finances, Women’s Ministry, Bible Study for Women, Opportunities to help seniors/shut ins x2, Training teachers to be good teachers, Discipleship Training, connecting singles/couples, improve Sunday bulletin, interaction with other people, focus on communication through words not media, couples Bible study x2, all, RCA Missions, Fellowship x3, assimilation 4, Library x3, Special Music, Youth x2 adult ed, Sunday morning x2, special music,
Q2: We'll give you that same list again. Which 3 to 5 does Community EXCEL at most?

Other: Library x9, Fellowship x2, Midweek, “A unified Spirit in the church body to do our best and bring everyone along on a spiritual life transforming journey”, younger kids, everything is good, Sunday Morning announcements welcoming and worship music,
Q3: You get to look at the list one last time. This time we need to know which 3-5 areas you think need more attention.

Other: Connecting adults x3, assimilation x5, young adults, HS more local projects and Rocky Mtn High, Finances, young career, young couples x2, belonging, fine to vary the service occasionally for announcements, baptisms during service, new people standing to be welcomed which could make our church feel more personal and connected, getting new people connected x2, serving in our local community, teaching teachers how to be a teacher, Bible study for women and couples, Bible study for individuals that work other than Midweek, Pot lucks, Opportunity for parents of teens to get to know each other, help making meals for people who need them, Associate Pastor x2, Youth Pastor when Liz leaves x2, single parents x2, adult education, the remaining ones said everything is good, profession of faith for our youth, Christmas Program during Sunday School time, new membership gathering, sense of Community, evaluate staff pay and hours, welcoming new people, opportunities for local service for adults and youth, encourage membership, women's ministry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Membership</td>
<td>43.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Education</td>
<td>43.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>34.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>26.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology: Live Stream, WiFi, Sound System, Audio/Visual, Videos</td>
<td>25.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Counseling</td>
<td>20.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth: Middle School</td>
<td>18.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missions: Local/Regional Mission Trips</td>
<td>16.38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>14.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication: Web Page, Newsletter, Emails, Bulletin</td>
<td>12.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth: High School</td>
<td>11.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midweek Activities</td>
<td>8.47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Morning Services: Welcoming</td>
<td>7.34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastoral Care: Visitation</td>
<td>7.34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's Ministry: VBS, Christmas Program, Sunday School, Midweek, Kids Camps, etc</td>
<td>6.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerts</td>
<td>6.78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missions: International Mission Trips</td>
<td>6.21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer Ministry: Prayer Line, Prayer Teams</td>
<td>6.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Morning Services: Worship Music</td>
<td>5.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missions: Supporting Local/ International Missions</td>
<td>5.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesthetics: Decorating and design</td>
<td>4.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Morning Services: Announcements</td>
<td>3.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Morning Services: Preaching</td>
<td>3.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>1.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td>1.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weddings</td>
<td>0.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir at Christmas</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Respondents: 177
Wednesday, May 2
Last night of H.S. Youth Group

Thursday, May 3
7am-8pm- National Day of Prayer

Saturday, May 5
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
9:00am– Kitchen Cleaning

Sunday, May 6
10:10am– Sunday School

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

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Men’s Morning
Saturday, May 12
9:00-11:00am

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JOIN OUR TEAM

Nursery Coordinator
works 2-3 Sundays a month, some special services and Wednesday nights during midweek. Coordinator needs to be 18 years old. If you are interested please contact Sheri at 605 261 2153.

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Finances at a Glance:
Sunday, April 29

General:.................. $13,095
Vision: .................... $2,180
Missions: ................... $230
Sunday School: ............... $13

General YTD: $231,685
Vision YTD: $66,807
Vision Account Balance: $79,063

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Shindig for Liz!

LET’S GET TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE
16 years OF YOUTH MINISTRY.

MAY 20
10:00am

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Church Softball Schedule
All games played at Sherman Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D League</th>
<th>C League</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 3rd</td>
<td>May 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm– Field G</td>
<td>8:30pm– Field E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30pm– Field F</td>
<td>9:30pm– Field F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>May 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30pm– Field H</td>
<td>6:30pm– Field E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30pm– Field I</td>
<td>7:30pm– Field F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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 Reformed web site under “Employment”. 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 jablom40@gmail.com
Mike Hilbrands 605-929-6118 hilbrands@g.com
Russ Robers 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.

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!