PASTOR’S UPDATE

We’re back with the newsletter this week after the 4th has now passed. July is nearly half over. Isn’t that something? I don’t think we can really complain much about the summer. I know we have had a little more rain than we needed in places and we surely do feel bad for those folks that are dealing with too much water, but in some ways it is better than dry. We have no control over any of that so we need to take what it is and do the best we can. I have been so encouraged by the number of folks who are attending during the summer months. That has been great! I think that means we are getting bigger. We are starting to wonder about how much growth we are going to see this fall. I mentioned on Sunday that we can see the town growing around us. There is so much building going on around the church. We think we are going to see many of those people in our building at some point. I think we have taken some good positive steps to make a place for them and a way for them to connect. I also believe we have a plan in place to take care of those of you are a part of us…it’s really something. I love it!

This coming Sunday is Ice Cream Sunday! We are a church that enjoys a good treat, so maybe invite a new friend this week and enjoy a good church service along with a tasty treat. It’s so much easier to visit over food. At least, that’s my opinion. We have a movie night this month and also the “kid’s drive-n” coming as well. The month is set up with a number of things for us to enjoy as friends and family. We hope you can make some of them during your summer.

On July 22, we are going to take some time to have our friend William Vambram share with us during the Sunday services. William has finished his seminary degree and is now working on what is next in his life. At this point it seems that God is going to lead him back to Liberia and work in his home church for a time. William has been so faithful to call of God. He has traveled a long way from home away from his family to complete this calling God has placed on his life. Now it is the beginning of a new journey. We shall see what God has in store for him and certainly his family as well. We are planning a couple of other special things for him...be watching for more details on those.

Consistory will be meeting this week. We are going to have to adjust our 2018 budget a bit to accommodate some the changes we have made in staffing for the remainder of the year. We are setting a date for a congregational meeting for this change on August 19.

Sunday’s message will be another one of those compound names that you may not be familiar with. Jehovah – M’Kaddesh! This too, is a name for God that is very specific to opening our eyes in a deeper way to who God really is. These names can be unsettling at times and certainly are challenging, but I hope you are finding very encouraging as well. We will talk more on Sunday, have a great week!

THE COMMUNICATOR

UPCOMING DATES:

July 15th– National ICE CREAM DAY! Ice Cream served after all services @

July 21st @ 9:30pm– Outdoor Movie on the front lawn. Featuring “I Can Only Imagine”

July 22nd @ 3:00pm– Kid’s Drive-In Movie in the children’s wing

Aug 5-8– VBS from 6-8pm “Shipwrecked”

Aug, 26th– Block Party Noon-2pm

JOIN US!

NURSERY SCHEDULE

July 15:
9:00am— Tanner & Larissa Corbin
Nathan & Amber Van Roekel
11:00am– Abbie & Tanner
Van Meeteren
Kelli Fantroy

July 22:
9:00am— Keith, Laura & Emma
Maloney
Melissa Beek
11:00am– Grace Maciejewski
OPEN

THE LINK SCHEDULE

July 15:
9:00am– Laurie Long
11:00am– Tom & Robin Jacobs

July 22:
9:00am– Brian & Holli Jans
11:00am– Arlan Burggraaf

COFFEE SCHEDULE

July 15: Denny & Sue Brunsting
July 22: Dick & Jeannette Jennings
July 29: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen

GREETER SCHEDULE

July 15
9:00am– Stan & Elaine Deelstra
Bruce Wentzel & Bonnie Overweg
Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen
11:00am– Jerralynne Tjeerdsma
Larry & Gloria Smyrak

July 22
9:00am– Nic & LaDonna Freiborg
Dave & Trish Mayer
Gerald & Deb Teunissen
11:00am–
Mike & Jolene Hilbrands
Ken & Susan Vos
**PRAYER 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)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- William VamBram’s wife, Cynthia (heart)
- Gloria Wierda, Laura Maloney’s mom (stage 4 breast cancer)
- Sara Van Ruler’s dad (throat cancer)
- Phyllis DeHaai (lymphoma)
- Dean Krueen (cancer)
- Joe Johnson (cancer)
- Harriett Valentine (hip replacement)
- Tracee Ellwein (knee surgery recovery)
- Dree Mayer (infection)
- Heather DeWit (headaches)
- Lori Hein’s mom, Joan (heart)
- Mike Maloney (Keith Maloney’s dad) open heart surgery 7.12
- Carl Tonjes (bladder cancer-surgery 7.9)
- Donna Spiller (breast cancer-surgery 7.17)
- Larry Long (heart testing)
- Brett Blankespoor’s mom- cancer
- Rika VanDenTop

**CONDOLENCES**

Our condolences go out to Lori Blom and her family for the passing of her cousin, Mark.

Also, our condolences go out to Stan Deelstra for the passing of his sister.

**KIDS CORNER**

Hi Everyone!

Community Kids Science and Building Bible Day Camp was so much fun! The kids were truly plugged in and ready to learn and grow. There were almost 80 kids! In only two short days they learned that “I can do anything through Him who gives me strength” and that God is the vine, we are the branches. They talked about sharing God’s love, being Fisher’s of Men and about Soaring on Wings like Eagles, even when we become weary. The volunteers were so wonderful and we made many new friends, including 2 frogs we found in the church lawn! We also made a Diet Coke fountain, colored white carnations, created our own Newton’s Cradle, built and floated boats and flew airplanes, among other fun activities. We were exhausted by the end (or at least I was!)

Here’s what’s coming up:

- I need 2-3 more volunteers to teach the toddlers and parents class for Sunday School at 10:10am this fall. If you have little ones of your own, you can bring them too! We already have one person willing to teach so we just need the rest of the team.
- We could use help for Service Learning Camp July 20 from 10am-4:30pm (particularly with lunch prep and service) and Arts and Crafts Camp July 26 & 27 from 9:30am to 11:30am. You can still sign up kids too.
- VBS helpers are still needed and you can sign up kids too: August 5-8 6-8pm. https://vbspro.events/p/community

If you can help, talk with Heather at 336-1475, email Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org

See you soon!
-Heather DeWit
LIZ’S UPDATE

Well, Community, this will be my last newsletter article as “youth pastor.” I’ve been getting things ready for Doyle so we can transition as easily as possible when he starts on July 23! That will also be my official first day in my new role. I’m really looking forward to giving thought to adult ministries at Community. I’d love your prayers, friends. Since this is a new job, it can be a little overwhelming to think about all of the things that could be done. If you’re willing, please pray that I would be discerning and wise about what God is asking me to do for Community in this new role, and pray for the strength to do it well. I’ll give it my best effort!

That said, I’m going to take an official vacation next week. My sister, Abbie, and I are going to do a little “sister vacation” to the Black Hills. We’ve never really done anything like this before, so we are both extremely excited to get out of town and to stay at a place in the Hills where we spent many summers as kids. We’re looking forward to it!

Of course, you might be wondering what our dad and Abbie’s husband will be doing while we are out of town, and the answer is that they’ll be taking time from their normal day-to-day activities to do something they both love; recording music! I’m excited for their recording time, and I’m hopeful that we’ll all feel rejuvenated after our respective breaks!

I thought I’d also give a little update on my worship album. The album is almost finished being edited, which means we just have to mix it, master it, and then have it printed. I’m confident that I’ll have copies ready by early this fall. In fact, I’m already making plans to have a release concert for this album. Dates and plans are being set, and I hope to be able to start advertising at the beginning of August. Just keep an eye out for that info!

VBS is getting closer, and I’m super excited! Friends, this is always an amazing ministry here at Community. If you are able, I would highly recommend helping in any way, shape, or form. It’s a huge blessing to be a part of this ministry. Check out the VBS table in the lobby!

And lastly this week, I wanted to update you on a logistical change at church. The youthpastor@communityrc.org email address will ultimately end, but for now, it’s being funneled to my new email address, which is liz.teel@communityrc.org. Of course, Doyle will also have a new email address when he starts, and I’m sure he’ll include that in his opening newsletter article at the end of this month. I’ll make sure to forward pertinent youth pastor emails to Doyle for several weeks after he starts, and we’ll get everything squared away! I think that’s it for me this week. Until next time,

Liz liz.teel@communityrc.org

Thank You

Thank you for the prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy following the loss of Nancy’s father. It is a blessing to be part of such a caring congregation.

Nancy, Marv & Darin Vas

My sincere thanks for the cards and the kind words of sympathy on the loss of my sister Norma. Your thoughtfulness will not be forgotten.

Donna Humme

Congregational meeting to amend the 2018 budget to accommodate for increased staffing
Sunday, Aug. 19th @ 10:10am

Finances at a Glance:
Sunday, July 8

General: $19,860
Vision: $2,150
Missions: $520

General YTD: $392,581
Vision YTD: $84,240
THIS WEEK:

**Wednesday, July 11**
7:15pm—Summer Bible Study

**Saturday, July 14**
7:00 am—Prayer ministry
(Chapel)

**Sunday, July 15**
ICE CREAM AFTER SERVICES!
10:10am—Adult Sunday School
(chapel)

**Monday, July 16**
1:00pm—Faith Circle
7:00pm—Safe Families
presentation

**Tuesday, July 17**
7:00pm—Book Club (E. Panera)

**Wednesday, July 18**
5:15am—Crack of Dawn
Connection
7:15pm—Summer Bible Study

KIDS’ CAMPS

**Service & Learning Camp:** July 20, 10am-4:30pm; 3-5th grade

**Arts & Craft Camp:** July 26-27, 9:30-11:30am; K-5th grade

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUBS

**Evening book club**
Tues. July 17, at 7 pm @ Eastside Panera on Foss Ave.
Discussion on: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Smith.

**New participants welcome,** Book Club
Contact Trudi Nelson 371-3512

CIRCLES

**Joy Circle**—**Monday, July 16**—7:00pm at Community, Program on “Safe Families”
Everyone welcome!

**Faith Circle**—**Monday, July 16** @ 1:00pm at church. Rhonda Niewehuis will be doing devotions and sharing about their Kansas City mission trip. Guests welcome. Audrey & Dolly will serve refreshments.

THE GIVE

Check out THE GIVE wall in the lobby. It’s a place to donate to local ministries. We’ll highlight 4 each month.

**Mission Haiti**—new & gently used backpacks & shoes

**Community’s children**—Bird seed

**LSS OF SD**—sand toys, matchbox cars, blocks

**SD Simon Says Give**—Kid’s toothbrushes, new board games, new outdoor game

MISSION OF THE MONTH:

**Samaritan’s Feet.**

Senior Citizens

Meet at the E. Pizza Ranch on Aug 13 @ Noon.