PASTOR’S UPDATE

Our last days of July and now August begins. I have loved this weather. It feels a little fall at times, but I have heard that the heat is coming back. Summer is going fast and when August comes around a lot of things began to get moving around here. VBS time is upon us and that means summer is coming to a close...ok...I don’t want to get ahead of myself because there is still lots of summer left to enjoy. Let’s just concentrate on that for now. I do know because of all the pictures I’ve been seeing that many of you have been out enjoying the summer. That’s a good thing to do! Enjoy August everyone!

It was a good Sunday for Doyle and Abby as they met a lot of new people. It will obviously take them some time to learn all these names and get familiar with us. It was nice to see so many folks over there greeting them. Doyle is busy right now putting together some “meet and greet” kind of things with parents and students. He is not new to youth ministry and I’m sure he will have some great ideas and plans as the weeks go by.

VBS is starting THIS Sunday! I know...it sneaks right up on us every year. I talked to Heather and she is still short a number of helpers in the games and craft areas for the pre-school. So, she is probably going to be making a few phone calls this week. If you would like to help us out, please get in touch with us. This is important work we do for our children and it can have a lasting impact on their faith journeys. Come out and be a part of the week. It starts Sunday evening!

William got back to Liberia as I mentioned on Sunday. He will be doing a few things with his home church and then began the visioning of all the things he is wanting to do there.

He would love to plant a church there someday, but also he wants to begin a program to train other pastors who have no opportunity to get a formal education in ministry. We are praying that God will use him in a powerful way. Remember if you would like to send William a parting love gift you can designate a gift to him by writing a check to the church and then put William's Gift in the reminder line.

I want to put in word for our nursery this week too. Sheri needs help for the fall. I just want to remind us all of just how important that ministry is for our young families. Please consider taking a Sunday to help. If more people signup it won’t put so much pressure on the rest of the volunteers.

We did a couple of new changes this week in worship. Liz is taking the lead now in much of opening of church. That is all a part of her new job. We are still working out some of the details and I’m sure we are going to make changes to that as it moves along. One thing we realized is we are going to have raise that piano up a bit off of the platform because it’s hard for people to see her when she is sitting and they are standing. The guys are building a portable platform to get that piano up a bit. She has some great plans for things in the area of connecting people and as we grow this piece of what we do becomes very important!

Sunday our name is Jehovah Nissi. I am sure most of us have not heard of that name before. It is a powerful statement on another attribute of God. It has been a wonderful study for me. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!

THE COMMUNICATOR
August 1, 2018

NURSERY SCHEDULE
Aug 5: 9:00am— Andy & Tessa Benson
Tom & Amy Bosch
11:00am— Spencer & Rachel Larson
Sage Larson
Aug 12: 9:00am— Tyler & Laurel Wolf
Logan & Chelsea Veurink
11:00am— Tyler & Amber Nieuwsma
Randi VanDer Sloot

THE LINK SCHEDULE
Aug 5: 9:00am— Chad & Diane McKee
11:00am— Tom & Robin Jacobs
Aug 12: 9:00am— Tom Van Roekel
11:00am— Lance & Robyn Niewenhuis

COFFEE SCHEDULE
Aug 5: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen
Aug 12: Daryl & Char DuBois
Aug 19: Steve & Becky Lee

GREETER SCHEDULE
Aug 5: Donna Humme
Tom & Amy Bosch
Wade & Diane Friese
11:00am— Donna Humme
Duane & Rhonda Niewenhuis
Aug 12: Jerralynne Tjeerdsma
Dennis & Helen Robinson
Chad & Diane McKee
11:00am— Jerralynne Tjeerdsma
Bill & Dar Keizer
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

The Corner is nearly ready to be opened on Sunday mornings! I’m hoping to have everything in place by this coming Sunday, and if I do, I’ll be sure to announce to everyone that they can swing in to see the space. Just a reminder, The Corner is open to any people who are looking for a place to connect at Community. My plan is to be there every Sunday from 10:00 to about 10:45 to connect with people. (When Sunday School is in session, I’ll have to leave around 10:35 to run to the Sunday School area and lead the children’s music time.) I also envision having different “hosts” every Sunday who would be people from Community who are involved and what to help others connect. If you might be willing to host periodically in The Corner, please let me know! My last request for The Corner is that I’m also looking for people who might be willing to make tiny snacks for participants to enjoy while they are visiting. I’m thinking bite size bars would be a nice addition. If you might be willing to help with that from time to time, please let me know. My plan is to create a schedule for those willing to help!

In last week’s newsletter, I mentioned that I would share a bit about some of the classes I would like to offer in this Adult Discipleship position. One of the ideas that has been at the forefront of my thinking is a Mid-Week class called “Just Ask.” Over the years, I’ve learned that adults very often have questions running through their minds that they don’t talk about for a number of reasons. They might think thinks like:

I shouldn’t ask that.
Does asking mean I don’t have faith?
This is something I should know already.
I’m embarrassed to ask this.
I’ll bet everyone knows this but me.

Well the truth is, most people are thinking about many of the same questions! I’d like to offer a safe space to “Just Ask” to address some of these questions and to talk about how to discuss these questions without being condescending or critical. My plan is to start Mid-Week with this topic. There are more ideas floating around in my brain, and I’ll share them later!

WORSHIP

Our worship experience was just slightly different at the 9:00 and 11:00 services on Sunday, and as I mentioned during worship, we still have a few things we’d like to tweak.

For starters, I’m in the process of planning a few meetings for all of the players and singers to just make sure we are connected and on the same page regarding schedules and worship. That said if you’ve ever thought you might like to be a part of the worship at Community, please talk to me. I can explain how the processes work, and we can go from there. I’d like to find a few more singers if possible, but I’m always willing to work with new instrumentalists too.

Secondly, I want to make sure that everyone is aware that we have not done away with the organ at 9:00! Rhonda does so much fantastic organ playing for us during the year that it’s nice for her to be able to take some Sundays off during the summer.

But don’t worry. Come September, Rhonda will be playing that final hymn at 9:00!

And perhaps the most exciting worship experience coming up next week is our VBS worship time! Friends, if you’ve never been a part of VBS, I strongly encourage you head out to the church any or all of the evenings next week. VBS runs Sunday through Wednesday from 6:00-8:00pm. It is such a blessing to be able to wander around the church to see what God is up to in the lives of children. But of course, my favorite part of VBS is the singing! We always bookend the night by singing at both the beginning and end of the evening. You all are more than welcome to join us for our worship time. You’ll be blessed!

And lastly, (I’ll write more about this in my article next week) tickets for my September 8th Worship CD Release Concert will go on sale August 1! I’ll post the link for tickets on Facebook but you can also purchase them by contacting me. More on that next week...
Hello everyone! It was great to get to meet some of you this past Sunday. My wife and I felt very welcomed and are both really excited to be here at Community. We look forward to continuing to get to know you over the next weeks and months.

As I start my second week here at Community I want to highlight an opportunity for me to introduce myself to parents and begin to get to know the parents of the senior high youth here at Community.

Senior high parents - I am planning a meeting August 19th from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm to introduce myself and my family, to get to know each of you a little, talk about the fall calendar, and to share a little of my vision with you. If you are unable to attend the meeting and have questions for me regarding senior high ministry please feel free to reach out with those!

A few reminders for Senior high students.

We will be having a senior high night (9th-12th grade) on August 26th from 6:30 to 9:30. There is no need to RSVP. Simply come and go as you are able throughout the night as we play games, have a fire and roast some S’mores.

September 5th will be our first Wednesday Night for high school youth. As we start the fall together, we will focus on the good news of Jesus Christ. Setting up the story of God’s amazing love with conversation on the creation and the fall. I start here because everything else we do/discuss is not a way to earn or gain God’s love, but an outflow of the love God has already shown us!

As fall is closing in on us, you will be hearing a lot from me as I work on the fall calendar and prepare for Sunday morning and Wednesday nights!

I’m looking forward to it!

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.Burnside@communityrc.org
Hi Everyone!

VBS is in a few short days!!! Please get your kids signed up, invite friends and sign up to help. VBS is August 5-8, 6-8pm. [https://vbspro.events/p/community](https://vbspro.events/p/community) We especially need help with the 3 year old and PreK classes but have some other needs as well. Check it out online or give me a call. I’ll get you connected.

Karen R and her decorating team are meeting THIS WEEK on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6-9pm. Even if you can only come help put decorations in place for an hour, I know that many hands would be appreciated. The transformation is always fun to see happen.

Last week was another great week for the kids. We had Art & Craft Camp on Thursday and Friday and these 47 kids were so lovely to spend time with! I would challenge anyone to find kids more sweet, thoughtful, polite and kind than the ones who walk through our doors.

We spent day one talking about Romans 15 and also 1 Corinthians 12:12-20 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ‘ Day 2 was Psalm 23.

We used modeling clay, did spin art, created our own mancala games with gems, designed mugs, painted on canvas and more. We made new friends and tried new activities.

I can’t thank the volunteers enough for all of the help. Cheryl, Becky, Jamelee [and her Mom too!], Cooper, Emma, Hannah, Mickila, Ellie, Mya and others jumped in. (I’m so sorry if I miss someone!) These events couldn't happen without great volunteers. Thanks also to those that donated supplies.

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

See you soon!

-Heather DeWit
PRAYER REQUESTS

- Connie Evenson, daughter of Rika VanDenTop (brain cancer)
- Pete Valentine
- Natalie Baker (seizure disorder)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurray’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)
- Dree Mayer (infection)
- Sara Van Ruler’s dad (throat cancer)
- Phyllis DeHaai (lymphoma)
- Dean Kruen (cancer)
- Joe Johnson (cancer)
- Lori Hein’s mom, Joan (heart)
- Mike Maloney (Keith Maloney’s dad) open heart surgery 7.12
- Donna Spiller (breast cancer-surgery 7.17)
- Larry Long (heart testing)
- Brett Blankespoor’s mom– cancer
- Brown Family (adoption)
- Mona Schrader (surgery 8.2)
- Payten Van Roekel (tests at Mayo)
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)

PRAYER GROUP MEETS AT 7:00AM ON SATURDAYS IN THE CHAPEL. EVERYONE WELCOME!

MISSIONS

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 or gently used bed sheets (any size) & backpacks
- Operation Christmas Child– School supplies
- LSS OF SD– sand toys, matchbox cars, blocks
- The Banquet– stainless steel dinner forks, dinner knives and teaspoons.

MISSION OF THE MONTH:
Lunch is Served

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

JOY EVENTS
Joy Bible Study—9:30am on Monday, Aug 6th in the fellowship hall. The word study for August is Righteousness.

WOMEN’S LUNCHEON
All women of the church are invited to an event on Monday, August 20. Join us at Noon for a light salad luncheon followed by an educational and inspirational talk by Lonnie Fynskov from Rochester, Minnesota. See page 7 for more details.

FAITH CIRCLE
Monday, Aug 20– Noon Luncheon in fellowship hall.

Finances at a Glance:
Sunday, July 29

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VBS
AUG 5-8 | 6-8PM
https://vbspro.events/p/events/community
Children entering grades 1 to 6: 6-8pm
Children ages 3- going into Kindergarten: 6-7:30pm

SING N SPROUT
AUG 5-8 | 6:30-7:30PM
NURSERY
For Kids Under age 3.
Sing & play instruments with your little one while they learn about God’s love.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
AUG 19 | 10:10AM
WORSHIP CENTER
Congregational meeting to amend the 2018 budget to accommodate for increased staffing

BAPTISM CELEBRATION
AUG 19 | 3PM
WORSHIP CENTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Aug 1
7:15pm— Summer Bible Study

Thursday, Aug 2
6:30 & 7:30pm— Softball (C League—Field E & H)
8:30 & 9:30pm— Softball (D League—Field H)

Saturday, Aug 4
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
10:00am— Closed AA meeting

Sunday, Aug 5
10:10am— Adult Sunday School (chapel)
6:00-8:00pm— VBS

Monday, Aug 6
9:30am— Joy Bible Study
6:00-8:00pm— VBS

Tues, Aug 7
6:00-8:00pm— VBS

Wednesday, Aug 8
5:15am— Crack of Dawn Connection
7:15pm— Summer Bible Study
6:00-8:00pm— VBS

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUBS
Morning book club Wed. Aug 8 at 9 am @ Bagel Boy on MN Ave. Discussion on: Man Called Ove by Backman.

Evening book club Tues. Aug 21, at 7 pm @ Eastside Panera on Foss Ave. Discussion on: Talk Before Sleep by Berg.

New participants welcome. Book Club Contact Trudi Nelson 371-3512

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

AA BIG BOOK MEETING
Every Tues at 7pm at Community— Open meeting. Use east door. (Not on Aug 7th because of VBS) Every Saturday at 10am Closed (Addicts/Alcoholics only) meeting.
THANK YOU

Dear Community,
A big thank you to my church family for all the prayers, well wish and encouragement during my surgery & recovery. Surgery went well and all tests have come back clear of cancer. God is good! Healing is slow but I’m getting stronger every day. Thanks again!

Donna Spitler

Thank you for all your prayers & cards after my hospital visit. Also, a huge thanks to Vi Sletcha for the delicious lemon pie.

Rika VanDenTop

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Al Christensen for the passing of his dad and also to Ruth Odens for the passing of her mom, Viola Moyses. Please keep these families in your prayers.

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Marking Life's Moments!

Women’s Luncheon
AUG 20 | NOON
FELLOWSHIP HALL
WOMEN OF ALL AGES INVITED!

Life has a way of filling up our days with urgent and necessary tasks. Frequently, we forget to capture and remember what is significant in our life. Come and learn more about recognizing the beauty of both the ordinary and extraordinary through reverence, rituals and celebrations.

Lonnie Fynskov will be speaking. She is a resisted nurse, patient education specialist and wellness coach at May Clinic Cancer Education Center in Rochester, MN. She received her Bachelor of Nursing and Religion from Augustana University and now, during the “golden years” of life, is currently pursuing a Master of Art’s in Servant Leadership from Viterbo University in LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

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BLOCK PARTY
AUG 26 | NOON-2PM
COMMUNITY’S FRONT LAWN
Free food | Inflatables | Balloon artists | Dakota Sno

IT’S AN END OF SUMMER PARTY! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

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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, August 19 @ 3pm.**

INFO YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW...

PARKING LOT INFO

The week of Aug 13th the church parking lot will have all cracks sealed, paved areas will have 2 coats of sealer applied & re-striped.

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.