Moving right along through the month of August now. It has started with a bang! VBS is in full swing this week. The nice part about the weekend and now even the week, is the weather and all this cool air that has found its way into our lives. I love it! I’m not saying I want fall here, but I am saying I am sure enjoying the cool temps. We did a little music this past weekend and playing outdoors this weekend was treat. We had a great time at the Sioux River Folk fest and my thanks to many of you who were there with us. I know it doesn’t happen very often in August to be outdoors with no wind and temps in the low 70’s. I say enjoy. I know that lots of you have been doing that this summer. I hoped you are having a good summer. It is getting away from us.

VBS is going strong this week and we have seen a dramatic increase in the numbers. If you ever wonder if our church is growing all you have to do is look at the number of children and it will tell you. We went over the 200 mark this week! That’s a first and a 30% increase from last year. That is a big jump. I believe that all comes from our congregation growing each year and also a big part of that is Heather. Having someone here full time for the children has given us a big step in the right direction to make this program one of the best in the city. It matters…Heather was a good call for us. We can already see the results. Good job Community!

This is our last time to promote the Voice of the Martyrs conference coming on Saturday. I hope you can be a part of that. I mentioned on Sunday that if you can only do part of the day that would be worth your time. I have given this a lot of push I know, but I think this will be a good spiritual day for our folks who attend. We don’t really have any idea how many of you might be joining us. There is an online way to register if you would be so kind to do that, but if not…please join us. There will be lots of different speakers and tables set up in the fellowship halls to see and visit with our guest. Be praying this all up!

The church picnic follows up next week. Make some plans to join us for that as well. August is turning out to be a very full month, but it is only a start to the things we are planning for the fall. A concert with Gordon Mote is October and of course MidWeek will be getting started then too. It’s all good!

Sunday I start a new series on the opening verses of Philippians. It has always been a favorite text of mine. I love the sentiment that Paul is sharing with this particular church. The letter takes on a very personal tone as you read through these opening lines. Paul is always encouraging and always challenging. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
Rhonda Sells (recovering from surgery)
Juanita Palsma (recovering from back surgery)
Connie Evenson, daughter of Rika VanDenTop (brain cancer)
Marilyn Bosch’s dad (hospice)
Carolyn Odens’ sister, Colleen (recovering from car accident)
Kids attending summer camps
Voice of the Martyrs Conference
Natallie Baker (seizure disorder)
Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
Jodie Jensen (cancer)
Terry Mayer’s mom, Rose (stroke)
Chelle McMurrey’s dad (multiple myeloma)
Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
Susan Payne (cancer)
Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
Marlys VanBruggen (breast cancer)
Randi Van Der Sloot (surgery)
Annetta Wiese

Our sympathy goes out to Jeffrey & Jessie Rasmussen & family for the recent passing of their son, Bennet. Please keep this family in your prayers.
Liz’s Update

VBS got started last night (Sunday) and we have a record number of kids in attendance! As of this article, we have 207 children joining us for VBS this week. Our biggest number to date was 150, so we’ve blown our old record out of the water! I’m 100% convinced this increase in numbers is because of the fantastic work Heather has done as our full-time children’s ministry coordinator. Well done, Heather! So far, VBS has been amazing. The Spirit is moving, and kids and adults alike are being changed and challenged. It is a blessing to be a part of this event!

Our Valley Fair trip went well last week. The weather was absolutely beautiful, and the lines were short. You can’t ask for much more when you spend the day at an amusement park. 

The next high school activity will be August 30. We’ll be meeting at the church for an evening of lawn games and ice cream sundaes. I have sent out a postcard to the kids with details concerning this activity. If you have a student who will be in high school this fall, please let me know so I can add him or her to my mailing list! The first night of Senior High Youth Group will be September 6. I am looking for people who might be willing to cook supper for our group during the month of September. If you are willing to make a meal, please contact me!

I think that’s it for me this week.

Until next time,

Liz

youthpastor@communityrc.org

Great Books for a Great Cause!

Our nursery is ready for some new books! You can buy some great books for yourself AND the nursery will get free books too! Follow this link: [https://l6816.myubam.com/758263](https://l6816.myubam.com/758263)

There are educational books, engaging books for many age groups, Bible stories, book collections, and more. They make great gifts!

Sharon Schuster was kind enough to plan this Usborne Book fair to help us get some new books for the nursery. Thanks Sharon!
Hi Everyone,

I really just don’t have words to describe Vacation Bible School so far this year! God is certainly moving around here and I’m so thankful to get to see that happening. As we say at VBS, “Wow, God!”

I need to thank the volunteers. Every time I turn around someone else has done something to make VBS a great experience for the kids. I’ll thank you all more next week too but I just have to mention how incredible it is that first the decorating crew amazes us with fun surprises all around the church, people donate supplies and prepare for activities and events, then VBS starts and the band, the crew leaders, the activity leaders, the many assistants, the nursery, the kitchen crew, and everyone else just devote themselves to showing love in a variety of ways. That matters. I hope you all know that.

I’m not really one to focus much on numbers so I’m hesitant to share the # of VBS kiddos with you because there are so many parts of VBS and the impact that matter more than the number. However, it is a pretty fun number and in some ways shows how many children and adults invited folks to join them for VBS and how many of you joined us! 207 kids joined us so far (others may join as the week goes on) and Community, you are doing a great job of making us all feel welcome.

Listening to the kids sing, their conversations about God, their interactions with one another and adults is something that warms my heart. I hope that you find some time to come be a part of that. We continue VBS all the way through Wednesday. You can just come watch if you want!

Speaking of **Wednesday, we need your help!** Please come at VBS ends at 8pm to help us pack away all of the decorations. We need as much help as we can to move all of the decorations and put all of the tables and chairs back the way they need to be for the week. We want to get it all set and ready for the Voice of Martyrs Conference on Saturday.

I’ll see you soon! -Heather DeWit  Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org

PS—Don’t forget to let me know if you want to teach Sunday School. :)

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Attention Parents of 3rd Graders!!!
Community believes kids need access to God's word so we give Bibles to each 3rd grader. If your child is in grade 3 or older, please let us know how you’d like his or her name printed on the Bible by clicking the link below, calling the church office or stopping at the Link by **THIS WEEK**, August 14, 2017. Thanks! [https://vbspro.events/p/events/bibles](https://vbspro.events/p/events/bibles)
What’s Happening @ Community

Wednesday, Aug 9
9am– Book Club (Bagel Boy on MN)
6:00-8:00pm– VBS
7:30pm– Summer Bible Study

Thursday, Aug 10
7pm– Elders
8pm– Consistory

Saturday, Aug 12
7:30 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
9:00am-4:00pm– Voice of the Martyrs Conference

Sunday, Aug 13
10:10 am—Adult Sunday School (Chapel)

Monday, Aug 14
Noon– Senior Citizen’s @ E. Pizza Ranch

Wednesday, Aug 16
6:30pm– Picnic in the Park (Cherry Rock Park)
7:30pm– Summer Bible Study

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Samaritan’s Feet

Community Shoe Distribution
Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017
9am-12pm

Students grades K-5th can receive one new pair of shoes at one of the three locations. Volunteers will spend time with each shoe recipient by washing his or her feet, placing a new pair of athletic shoes and socks on them, and encouraging them. Sign up online or call the church office 336-1475.

www.SamaritansFeet.org/WesleyUMC

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Block Party

Sunday, August 27
11:45-2:00pm
Free food, inflatables, balloon artists & the SDSU ice cream truck!

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Finances at a Glance:
Aug 6, 2017

General: $9,582
2017 Weekly Goal: $15,033
Ahead/(Behind): $(5,450)
Vision: $3,835
Missions: $891

YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS 8/6/17

Year-To-Date Offering: $464,017
Year-To-Date Goal: $466,026
Ahead (Behind): $(17,040)
Year-To-Date Vision: $190,206
Vision Account Balance: $94,229

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The Voice of the Martyrs

Advance Conference
Saturday, August 12
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Community Reformed Church
6800 E. 41st St., Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Register for FREE at:
VOMAdvance.com
800-747-0085

“Brother Benny”
India
Dr. Hormoz Shariat
Iran
Sarah Liu
China
Cole Richards
The Voice of the Martyrs
Amy Shreve
Music & Worship
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.

Aug 13—Gerald Teunissen
Aug 20—Cleone Leistra
Aug 27—Laura Maloney

Join us for worship at 8am, 9am or 10:45am. Deaf Interpreting available at 9am service. Check us out on the web: www.communityrc.org or like our Facebook page!