I will only say one thing about the weather this past week. Winter! I have been busy with a lot of extra meetings these past few weeks. It has certainly been interesting to say the least. I am also trying to get a deep sense of how we continue to be a light on this new corner. What a change we have seen over the past few months. Now the schools are looking so much more complete. Landscaping is going on over there and you can now get a real look at just how all of this is going to fit together. Our little neighborhood of corn and beans is gone. I wonder what the coming weeks and months will bring?

I want to also continue to keep you informed about Sunday’s services. We are still doing the three back-to-back. If you are wondering which one is least full, that would still be 11am. If you need a little distance to feel comfortable, that one is your service. We also know that many of our families are still doing online. For them, that is just easier. I have no problem with that at all. I have talked to some of you who have returned, and you have all said just how much you have missed being in that room. It is just different. We are gaining folks.

“National Day of Prayer” is coming up on May 6 and I know our prayer group is putting together a little something extra for us. They are still working out the details, but as soon as we hear more, we are going to get that info to you. We would like to gather for a time of prayer and focus on what God is doing in our church. We will stay in touch on that.

Let me do one final word in regard to our meeting this Sunday on the RCA. I have tried my best to give you the information you need to keep this straight in your minds. I am sure you can understand how lots of things get said which may not be exactly correct and then off that message goes. That does get a little frustrating, but that is how these things work. Be accurate! That is my goal. This Sunday afternoon at 5pm we will gather together to give you a chance to ask and listen. I mentioned last week that I would focus this week on where we would go if we decided to leave. There will be options. Some of those options are still being worked on, others are nearly done. How will we decide? I am hoping Community friends, that this will give us an opportunity to re-discover ourselves. I hope we can gather together often and do some careful planning and reflection. Who are we? Who are we trying to reach? What is our message? What are our gifts? How will we best to the work of the Kingdom here? What gives us great joy? What will make this church stronger in the coming years? Vision questions!

That’s what good churches do! That is not just my opinion, that is what any healthy church strategist would tell us to do. Yes, there will be options, but we need to know who we are in order to make the best decision. I am excited about all of that. That is very good work for churches to do. Sunday we can talk these things out more. Community may we see this as a chance to do something great for God...a way to bring a new light/focus to our church. We can do this! One final word...with all of the great possibilities for us out here and a new day on the horizon, who do you think would like to see us get off track? Get off message? Maybe even get lost? I think you know who I mean. That evil one will be working overtime! Pray him away!!!

Grace again on Sunday morning. It will be the final one, but I am hoping a good one. I want to teach a bit on how this idea gets misinterpreted a bit, or shall I say, even misused. Oh yes, even Satan can mess with grace. He hates it! We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21:
7:00-8:00PM - LAST NIGHT OF M.S. YOUTH GROUP
8:00-9:00PM - H.S. YOUTH GROUP

SATURDAY, APRIL 24:
7:00AM-PRAYER MINISTRY
10:00AM - AA MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 25:
8:45AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM - IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES
5:00PM - CHURCH-WIDE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 27:
7:00PM - AA MEETING
7:00PM - BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28:
8:00-9:00PM - H.S. YOUTH GROUP

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

BAPTISM DATE
There will be a baptism service coming up but that date is to be determined. If that is too long to wait, please contact the church office to determine a date for a private service for you and your family.

AA BIG BOOK MEETING
Every Tues. at 7pm at Community - Open meeting. Use east door. AA meeting via Zoom or in person at the church on Saturday mornings at 10am. Please contact Tom Jacobs (tjstonegate@gmail.com) for meeting access.

BOOK CLUB
The evening book club will meet on Tuesday, May 18, at 7pm at the church. We will be discussing Neverhome.

The morning book club will meet on Wed, May 19 at 9am at the church. We will be discussing Kitchens of the Great Midwest.

FINANCES

Sunday, April 18, 2021
General: $32,995
Vision: $2,525
Missions: $170
Faith Ave: $300

General YTD: $269,040
Vision YTD: $34,078
Vision Account Balance: $189,160

NEW NURSERY VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

COULD YOU HELP OUT IN THE NURSERY?
If you are willing to volunteer for one of the services, please contact Sheri Brouwer, Nursery Director, at 605-261-2153 or click on this link to sign up online to help. You’re help is so appreciated!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48A9AA29A3FA C43-nursery

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

Beginning Monday, May 10, the Senior Citizens will meet monthly in a reserved room at noon for lunch. 10th Street Pizza Ranch. A card game of Golf will follow until 2:30pm. Some will join us for lunch/conversation and not for cards. That is entirely up to you. If you feel you can’t go through the line for lunch, we can help you with that.

We are looking forward to seeing your smiling faces again. “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine”. Proverbs 17:22

If you have questions, please contact Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030.

CHURCH-WIDE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, April 25 @ 5pm
See Clyde’s article for details

SAVE THE DATE
PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS
• Ellie Wigg (appendicitis)
• Carrie Valentine (surgery)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS
• Jean Nollman (nose bleeds)
• Ann DeYoung (hospitalized)
• Anna Halverson (seizures)
• Kara Schouten (hip pain)
• Jenny Getting (stroke recovery)
• Jan Kruen
• Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer treatments)
• Brian Frisbee (stroke recovery/long-term rehab)
• Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (radiation treatments)
• Troy Payne’s brother (kidney transplant)
• Mitch Jensen
• Jodie Jensen (new cancer treatments)
• Carrie Valentine (surgery recovery)
• Jan Kreun’s dad (surgery recovery)
• Abby Brost (breast cancer)
• Connie Tiggelaar (hospice)
• Marv Sturing (cancer)
• Tracee Ellwein’s dad (skin & muscle graft)
• Kim Becker’s mother-in-law, Amy (colorectal cancer)
• Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
• Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
• Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
• Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
• Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
• Tami Boyle’s dad (prostate cancer)
• Laura Maloney’s brother-in-law, Bruce (lymphoma)
• Gary Jensen (cancer)
• Wacie Persson’s mom (cancer)
• Tami Harm’s cousin (colon cancer)
• Melanie Oden’s dad, David

THE GIVE

Check out THE GIVE wall in the lobby. It’s a place to donate to local ministries.

The Banquet: Ground Regular Coffee & Large Coffee filters

Community Youth- old cell phones or ink cartridges (the size that fits in your hand)

Community Kids- empty cereal boxes & baby wipe boxes

Mission Haiti- shoes & backpacks (used or new)
Hi Everyone!

I have had a few Vacation Bible School or VBS related questions lately so I’ve got a VBS update in the form of “Frequently Asked Questions.”

1. When is VBS? August 1-4, 2021 from 6pm-7:45pm
2. How do I sign my kid up? Click on our link: https://vbspro.events/p/events/2021 or wait for the VBS registration table to pop up in the lobby. VBS is FREE!
3. Will VBS be virtual/ take home this year or in person? We are hoping for a more “normal” VBS this year and currently the plan is to gather at Community for a big VBS week of fun together.
4. What happens at VBS? We rotate through stations where we learn about God’s Word, play games, do crafts and of course sing and dance! In the past we’ve had a snack time but we are trying things a little differently this year and skipping the snack. Don’t worry. We’ll still have some yummy things to taste as part of the lesson.
5. Who can go to VBS? We invite everyone to join us at VBS! Little ones can go to the nursery and kids age 3 all the way through kids going into 6th grade have groups to join. Older youth and adults are invited to volunteer or just join the fun and worship.
6. What is the theme this year? Our theme is New Every Morning! If you haven’t heard of it before, that is because it is brand new and only at Community. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. -Lamentations 3:22-23 . We will be using different breakfast foods to talk about Bible truth in a way that we hope will be memorable for kids!
7. What can I do to help? We need all kinds of volunteers! We already have a team of people working on the decorations so you can join them any time! We will also need people to do games, crafts, the Bible story, registration and much more. If you want to help with the class your child is in, you can do that too! It is a great way to enjoy the excitement and joy that happens at VBS. https://vbspro.events/p/events/2021 is the link you can click to help.
8. What do you need? We are collecting empty cereal boxes right now and eventually we will need a few other items as well. Keep your eyes on the newsletter for details.

On another note, please remember that we will be giving BIBLES TO 3RD GRADERS on MAY 9 during all services. On that day, 3rd graders will be invited to join us at the front of church to receive their Bibles together. There is no sign-up this year because each Bible will include a gift certificate for you to take the Bible to get it personalized for free. The kids will come to the front and we will pray with them before sending them off with a special study Bible and a certificate to have their name added to the Bible cover. If you or your child (older than 3rd grade) need a Bible, let us know. We have some for you as well!

Finally, this is a reminder that there are Family Adventure packs in the lobby at church that you can pick up to take home for a week or a few weeks. The Adventure Packs are bags that you can check out (as often as you want) which contain supplies for fun time together. They may be an outdoor adventure, good for a rainy day, ideal for younger kids, planned for older kids, fun for grown-ups or even great for a car ride. You can try all of them if you’d like! Each pack has some parts of the Bible you could read if you’d like. Our goal is for you to have time with your family and time with God. The kits with hammocks have been a big hit when the weather is nice and the board games have been a win on these cold, rainy days.

Heather DeWit

https://www.communityrc.org/kids2021/
Heather.DeWit@communityRC.org
605-336-1475
DOYLE'S UPDATE

This week is our final week of middle school youth group for the school year! The high school youth group will go a few weeks longer to May 5th. It is so hard to believe it has already been 8 months together. To celebrate, we will be having pizza and playing some games to end the year. Our time is also expanding to 6:00-8:00 for the night. I will have pizza ready to go by 6:15 and students are invited to join us the whole time or come/go when able. I’m looking forward to spending our last night together for middle school and a few more for high school to end the school year. We will then kick things back up this summer starting Wednesday June 2nd.

Speaking of summer, we have a lot going on in July! I know that there are some students who are already planning to attend camps they have in the past and I love that. For those that are not (and those who would like to go to more than 1) we do have camp for both high school and middle school students this year. Our high school group will be going to Pickerel Lake Bible Camp like we did two years ago. The dates are June 27th – July 2nd and is for student who have finished 8th-12th grade. Then, July 12th – 15th and is my first ever Middle School Camp. It will be for students who have finished 5th - 8th grade. We will also be going up to Pickerel, but will not be joining the other middle school camp (our group is too big for their MS week and I want everyone who would like to be able to go!). If you want some more info on either week please let me know! Finally, Rocky will be at the end of July (the 31st- Aug 4th). The plan is still to have Rocky but the final decision will be May 1st.

I am looking forward to a full summer again and am excited to be back to camp! If you have any questions about the middle school and high school student ministries, please feel free to reach out anytime!

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org
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.)
Next Baptism Service: TBD

NEED GROCERIES? OR GAS?
Gift cards for HyVee, Fareway & Sunshine can be purchased every Sunday morning at the coffee bar. 5% of that purchase will go toward our Vision Fund at church.

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