Easter has come and now gone. April is here and off we go into the next thing. Little by little we are getting through another year and each week that passes we all are hoping for some more good news as together we travel on. I can tell things are changing, but it is still not there yet. Sunday was a big crowd, but we were able to do a good job of holding the numbers. That middle service has saved our bacon, as they say. That has given us one more large church option which has done the thing we needed it to do. Great job Community! Let’s stay focused and get through this. There are changes on that horizon that will be a welcomed change.

Spring has come. We had some amazing days, but now of course it is a little cooler and some rain. Nothing wrong with that. April showers brings? You all should know how that goes. I do like the feel of spring and summer coming. I know we are all pretty excited about some of that coming our way. Lots of folks are getting out and doing more things. I sure do like the looks of that. Enjoy it all I say!

This week, let me get back to those RCA things we have been talking about. I do hear more conversation from the church family. There may be more questions than answers right now, but it seems to me that you are doing a good job of understanding all of this. Let me move the things a bit further down the path. I will even include some of things that Consistory is now saying as well. Consistory has been working on this for most of the year now and even though we have new folks on, we have been able to keep our focus and ask good questions about all of this. If things continue to go as they seem to be going, most of Dakota has chosen to leave the RCA if things would stay the same. By same, I mean if there isn’t a plan to gracefully separate, Dakota is going to leave. That is pretty clear to all of us. Letters are sent and everything...so this is pretty real folks. Right now, as things stand, the RCA is still waiting to have a national meeting (General Synod) and with COVID they have had to postpone it again until the fall...at least that is the plan up to this point. Once that meeting happens, then we will fully know how all of this is going to go. I know...it can seem complicated, but it’s not that hard to understand. We can do this everyone...we can! So, at the end of the day, what does this mean for us? Well, let me start by saying, no matter how this goes we will have church the following Sunday! You won’t know a thing happened by what church looks and feels like. That’s first and most important! Read that all through again because I want that to be very clear, and Consistory is very much on that same page. The issue then before us is to decide if we want to stay in the RCA, which may or may not survive, or if we want to join a new thing that I will talk more about in next week’s newsletter, or do something completely different. We are also planning a meeting on the 25th of this month at 5pm for all who are interested. It is business we must do and not business any of us enjoys doing, but we have little choice. However, we do have a choice in how we do this “business” and what we want to be as a church. This can be done in such a way that we continue to be a light on this corner and I will do everything in my heart to make that happen. We have a calling out here...I can feel it and all this is not going deter my vision or passion for people who are looking for something that makes a difference. Jesus is the answer to all of this. We want that message to ring loud. If we think people are fallen...well...there is only one person who can fix that. Jesus! Just give him a chance!

Ok...enough of that...we start a new series on grace. “For By Grace!” I love it! We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 8:
7:00PM - ELDERS MEETING
8:00PM - CONSISTORY MEETING

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 11:
8:45AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM - IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES

TUESDAY, APRIL 13:
7:00PM - AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14:
7:00-8:00PM - M.S. YOUTH GROUP
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 CLUBS
The evening book club will meet on Tuesday, April 20, at 7 pm at the church. They will be discussing Gilead by Robinson.

The morning book club will meet on Wednesday, April 21, at 9 am at the church. They will be discussing News of the World by Jiles.

FINANCES
Sunday, April 4, 2021

General: $11,052
Vision: $335
Missions: $315
Faith Ave: $675

General YTD: $227,210
Vision YTD: $30,699
Vision Account Balance: $185,780
What a marvelous Resurrection Sunday! It was wonderful to see so many of you in person on Sunday morning. He is risen!

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the congregations at all three services for the outstanding job you did with the opening hymn on Sunday morning. You followed our directors perfectly, and it went well at every service. Special thanks to my dad (Pastor Clyde) and sister (Abbie) for being willing to help conduct and lead that massive opener. I think it’s safe to say we made a joyful noise on Sunday morning!

I wanted to be sure to let everyone know that I’m taking some time off over the next couple of weeks. My plan is to be out of the office April 12-24, so I won't be checking my email or messages. And I’ll even be missing church on April 18. This will be the first Sunday I have missed since December of 2019. Once Covid hit, I just felt that it was very important to have our church services be as normal as possible for as long as possible since nothing in our world felt normal. But now that we are on the downhill side of the pandemic, it feels like an appropriate time to take a Sunday off. Abby Burnside is going to fill in for me at the piano with the worship team. Thanks, Abby! And Clyde and Abbie will help to lead the rest. Thanks, Dad and Abbie!

And speaking of our worship teams, I would just like to say a public thank you to everyone who plays and commits to helping with our worship experience. It takes many people; drummers, bass players, keys players, guitar players, and singers to make that work every week. We still aren't back to our full worship teams yet, but we’re getting closer every week. If you are a part of the worship teams, thank you for being willing to do what you do!

I think that’s it for me this week. I'll check in with you all again the week of April 25th!

Liz
liz.teel@communityrc.org
FROM YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY

Greetings! We are featuring a new display for you to check out. On one side of the big display rack right outside the church library doors, we are spotlighting a number of book series. This is just a sampling of the many series available. We encourage you to take a look at these. We always encourage you to check out the entire series when you are interested. That way, you are not waiting impatiently for someone else to finish one in the series. If you find you like a particular author, we can find another series by that author on the regular shelves or find you a similar author to try.

Have you considered joining one of our book clubs? Each meets once a month, discussing one book. Ask a church librarian for more information if you are interested.

Remember that you can check out library books and materials whenever the church is open. Just sign and date the card and drop it in the slot. Enjoy and return. It is that simple.

Enjoy the church library. It is worth checking out! Your librarians.

Trudi, Lois, Lorena, and Merry

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

Mission Haiti- shoes & backpacks (used or new)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- 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)
- Wade Persson's mom (cancer)
- Tami Harm's cousin (colon cancer)
- Melanie Oden's dad, David

MISSION HAITI

Community Kids- empty cereal boxes (used or new)

Looking for a Bible study to join? Check out the church library’s new display of book series and consider joining one of the book clubs. Sign and date the library card and drop it in the slot when you return your materials. Enjoy the church library, it’s worth checking out! Your librarians, Trudi, Lois, Lorena, and Merry.

The Give:

Check out THE GIVE wall in the lobby, a place to donate to local ministries.

The Banquet: Ground Regular Coffee and Large Coffee filters

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

Community Kids: Empty cereal boxes

Mission Haiti: Shoes & backpacks (used or new)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- 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)
- Wade Persson's mom (cancer)
- Tami Harm's cousin (colon cancer)
- Melanie Oden's dad, David

MISSION HAITI

Community Kids- empty cereal boxes (used or new)
Hi Everyone!

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter. I sure did. It was such a contrast from Easter last year. We have a photo of my daughter trudging through the snow last Easter in her pajamas and bunny ears to drop off Easter dinner to family members. This year we were able to see some family that we haven't seen in a long time and have a picnic outside! It was a good reminder that no matter the circumstances, Jesus is still our Risen Savior. His power over death is cause for celebration, no matter what!

The big news from the Children's Ministry side of things this week is 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 beautiful study Bible and a certificate to have their name added to it. If you or your child (older than 3rd grade) need a Bible, let us know. We have some for you as well!

Our Family Adventure Packs are back out! 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. Therefore, please don’t use the discussion topics as a worksheet. You can use it if you’d like but if you’d rather just enjoy the activities and games in the bag, that is great too! There is a new one this year! It is called “a Snack and a Nap.” If you don’t want to check that one out but are curious about the title, read in your Bible about Elijah. This new Adventure Pack has 4 hammocks in it (so do the tree and lion bags) so if you need more than 4 hammocks for your family’s adventure, you may want to check out two Adventure Packs at the same time. This new kit also has a hilarious game for older kids called “Throw, Throw Burrito” and a really fun relay game for younger kids called “Pancake Pile-Up” along with a bunch of other fun stuff.

I also want to remind you that Community offers to pay for half of the early bird registration fee for any kids going to Inspiration Hills this summer. The last day for early registration is APRIL 15. If you have any questions about that, feel free to call the church office. You can sign up your child at https://inspirationhills.org/summer-camp.html and when it comes to the payment portion, enter that Community will pay for half of that early registration amount. Then when you pay your portion, leave that remaining half and Inspiration Hills will send us an invoice here at church. Be sure to send me a quick email with your child’s name and which week they are attending so that we can pray for them while they are at camp. If they are inviting a friend, be sure to send that name as well. There are bus routes available for the day camps on their web page.

Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit

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

Pastor Clyde Teel
pastor@communityrc.org

Liz Teel
Director of Discipleship & Worship
liz.teel@communityrc.org

John Thornton
Part-time Visitation Pastor
prayerline@communityrc.org

Holli Jans
Communications Coordinator
connect@communityrc.org

Heather DeWit
Director of Children’s Ministries
heather.dewit@communityrc.org

Doyle Burnside
Senior High & Middle School Youth Director
doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

Sheri Brouwer
Part-Time Nursery Coordinator
sheribrouwer@communityrc.org

Lisa Blankers
Part-Time Financial Administrator
accounting@communityrc.org

Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator