CLYDE'S UPDATE

August is past the half-way point now, and summer is going right along with it. I am not surprised any more at how quickly this all goes, but considering the way things are this year it is another month doing much of the same stuff. I know you are getting tired of it as well. We have had some nice days though. Yes, it can be warm, but it is August. I can remember August always being so hot and dry when I was a kid- wind blowing 40 mph from the south and temperatures up around 100 degrees. That’s what I remember about August. I think I like this flavor of August better. School is getting ready to start in some places very soon. Here comes the fall season. I am praying all of that goes better than many expect. Things are not easy to plan and certainly we see that around here too.

In the coming weeks we are going to see big changes in the way we gain access to the church. The street to our west is nearly completed. The only section not finished is right down at the corner. That work will begin very soon. Once they start working there, our little fun gravel drive is going away. No more curves! I’m kind of sad about that! They have told us that during the weekdays they would like for us to access the church by going further east down 41st street and then turn left at Sparta. We go around the back side of the church and come in that way. This keeps us away from the construction activity during the week. However, on Sundays we can come part way down the new street on Faith Ave, and access the church with our first driveway. It won’t be long, and all of that street will be open to us. That will be so nice. We will be getting to Community on Faith! Doesn’t that have a nice ring to it?

The staff has been working on getting some plans together for the fall. We are putting the pieces together as best as we can, but so much of that has to be altered a bit. The Consistory decided last week that we can push some of those start dates back a couple of weeks so that we can assess the schools starting and how all of that goes. That may help us know some ways to do all of this better. Whatever we plan at this point, it won’t be normal and no matter what we do, it won’t fit everyone’s opinion on this. I can’t do a thing about that. I do understand why there are so many opinions...I wish there weren’t, but I’m smart enough to know that’s how these things go. You have been very understanding and I would only ask that you continue to do so. There will be a day! The flowers will bloom in the desert! Go God Go!

We are going to start nursery on Labor Day weekend. We are giving that staff a little time to set things in place. We will try to keep you up to date on what they want to do for all of that. I’m very sure they will do a fantastic job to make everyone feel safe and do the very best they can to keep things very professional. There will be more on this as the time gets closer.

Sunday is chapter 12 of Hebrews. The great cloud of witnesses text is coming this week. I do believe when I read through those verses this coming Sunday, your mind will race back to all of things we have talked about this summer. The author is setting the readers up of one final word of hope because faith in Christ alone is all we need. It is a powerful way for the letter to close. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
Hello Everyone!

I've chatted with a few families who are getting ready to send kids back to school, and my family is getting ready too! It sounds like I'm not alone when I say it feels a little strange for me after having my girls be pretty much at home since March 13. However, they are excited. God has really put it on my heart lately to take a deep breath and celebrate the Good this fall. The sermon on Sunday helped me to remember that I don’t need to look at things the way the world does and that was so good for me. I'm asking God to lift my eyes. It is so easy for me to be critical of my kids and husband or worried about the things that are coming or even try to be in control of things. The perfectionist in me is so broken that way. It is probably one of the areas I most often ask Jesus to change in my heart. I want to be better at giving grace and being patient with my family but that can be challenging for me, especially when I’m feeling tired or stressed. I’m asking God to help me be far more patient and understanding, because with so many new things and little adaptations this school year, my kids might be stressed and need a little extra grace for a while. They don't know what to expect and neither do I but I can help by being a gentle listening ear (without always trying to give them advice or solve), a shoulder to cry on, a hand to hold, or even just a calm heart in the midst of a temporary chaos. None of this comes easily but Jesus keeps helping and changing me and He offers all of those things to me and more. I sometimes think about how the example that Jesus sets for me is so beautiful. He is never impatient with me. He always sees what I am becoming and my potential rather than just what I am today or what I do today. He forgives. He loves perfectly. I’m so thankful.

Consistory met and discussed the plan for Sunday School this fall. We're going to wait to decide on our start date for in-person Sunday School until we have a little time to have everyone back at school. That means the earliest we’d meet all together would be in October. I am so excited for when we are able to see one another again but I am also happy that we can be patient and that families are doing a good job of keeping kids connected with God and learning from the Bible at home. We will all try to still stay connected with one another in September too. I’ll send some emails and post some videos on the Community Kids Facebook page and Community web page over the next month or two. If you have a child age 3 to grade 5 and don’t receive an email from me by the end of September, please send me a quick note to let me know, because that will mean I’ve got your email address wrong in my address book.

Finally, I want to extend my sincere thanks to those of you who have sent a note or email or call this summer to say you are praying for the kids of church or even for church staff as we navigate a unique few months. That is such a blessing and there are many of you. I’ll be praying too!

See you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
605-336-1475
As many of you know, I spend a lot of time in the summer reading books about theology, Christianity, church work, and how all of that can be applied to the time and culture in which we live. I know everyone isn’t a reader, but in my articles for the next couple of weeks, I thought it might be helpful to give a few recommendations about different kinds of books you might like to consider if you want to do a bit of self-directed study about God and His work in your life. Even if you aren’t a reader, please consider a few of these books! You might be surprised.

This week, I’ll focus on daily devotionals. Daily devotionals are an excellent way to build the habit of directing your attention to God for a short time every day. Daily devotionals can range from being a few paragraphs long to several pages long. For the sake of my article this week, I’m going to recommend a few devotionals that are single page devotionals; meaning, there’s one short page for every day. It’s really easy to read the 2 or 3 paragraphs right when you get up in the morning or right before you go to bed. And as I mentioned earlier, it’s a simple way to start the habit of spending time with God every day.

My Utmost for His Highest - Oswald Chambers
This devotional has been around for decades and continues to be relevant to the world today. It’s available in the original text as well as in updated text, which means that editors have put his words into present day language. I’ve read both versions, and it’s really a matter of personal preference as to which one you might like to read. Chambers’ words are powerful and empowering as you walk with Christ.

Streams in the Desert - L.B. Cowman
This devotional has also been around for decades and is a compilation of many writings from different Christian giants of the past. It is also available in its original text as well as in updated writing, and once again, it’s totally up to you as to which you might prefer. God will often use Streams in the Desert to speak to people in very specific encouraging ways. This is one of my all-time favorites, and I’ve given it to many people as gifts. It never fails that I’ll hear someone respond after reading it, “I read the devotional for today, and it felt like it was talking about exactly what’s going on in my life!” It’s a powerful book!

Bread for the Journey - Henri Nouwen
Of all the devotional books I’ve read, these daily devotions are the shortest, but they are also profound. Nouwen’s writing is remarkably simple, but his thoughts and ideas will definitely help you to grow and think about God in more insightful ways.

Morning and Evening - Charles Spurgeon
As indicated in the title, this devotional book actually has writings for both morning and evening devotional times, but that doesn’t mean you have to read both. Spurgeon was a brilliant scholar and teacher as well as an influential preacher. His writing can be a bit heavy at times, but if you’re willing to work through it, you’ll find you are being stretched and grown as never before.

I hope you’ll consider one or some of these devotionals. Again, it’s such an easy way to begin the process of spending a little time with God every day. If you have any questions about them, don’t hesitate to ask! Have a great week!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUG 23: 8, 9, 11:00AM–IN-PERSON AND ONLINE SERVICES

TUESDAY, AUG 25: 7:00PM– AA MEETING

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

BAPTISM DATE
The Aug. 23rd baptism is postponed. There will be a baptism service this fall 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.

MISSION OF THE MONTH– AUGUST
Feeding South Dakota– Backpack Program

FINANCES
Sunday, Aug 16, 2020

General: $12,560
Vision: $1,175
Missions: $350
Faith Ave: $50

General YTD: $479,623
Vision YTD: $91,835
Vision Account Balance: $129,290

KID’S FISHING
SATURDAY, AUG 29TH
10:00AM- NOON

We are excited to offer the Community Kid’s Fishing Day this year! Join us on Aug. 29th from 10am-Noon for fishing at the Outdoor Campus. We’ll have lunch provided after fishing.

IMPORTANT: In order to have more than 10 people at this event, we are REQUIRING everyone to wear a mask. This includes kids. Thank you!

Please contact the church office (336-1475) or Rick Hansen (201-5135) to sign up.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY!
It was Tim and Sandy DeLoof’s 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, August 15, 2020. Their children are requesting a card shower in honor of their special day. Send greetings to 3301 S Lisa Dr, Sioux Falls, SD 57110

NURSERY FOR INFANT- 2 YEAR OLDS OPENING SEPT 6

We will begin offering nursery for infants to 2 year-olds starting on Sunday, September 6.

Nursery will be provided for 9:00 and 11:00 services. There will be no nursery offered between services.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sheri Brouwer at 605-261-2153
NEW THIS WEEK
- Darla Anderson’s daughter, Emma
- Jeanie Nollman (healing of toe)
- Tracee Ellwein’s dad (skin & muscle graft)
- Joe Johnson (severe headaches)
- Jan Sturing (irregular heart rhythm)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS
- Carrie Valentine (surgery recovery)
- Jamelee Van Donge’s dad, DeLyle (cancer)
- Justin Hinks’ nephew, Xavier Nygard (car accident)
- Connie Parmley’s granddaughter (testing)
- Susan Bierwagen (broken leg)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurry’s dad (Parkinson’s)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- Laura Maloney’s brother-in-law, Bruce (lymphoma)
- Gary Jensen (cancer)
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Clazina Van Wyhe (brain bleed)
- Tami Harm’s cousin (colon cancer)
- Melanie Oden’s dad, David
- Audrey Landegent’s son, David (cancer)
- Matt Marcus’ dad (prostate cancer)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (prostate cancer)
- Dree & Hawk Mayer’s sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Tami Boyle’s dad (prostate cancer)

CONDOLENCES
Our condolences go out to Natalie Eggers on the recent passing of her grandpa. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Dear God, with a new school year upon us, we pray for our...

STUDENTS, that You would ease their anxiety about going back to school amidst the pandemic. We pray for safety for those returning to in-person classes, and for the needed technology, self-discipline, and adult oversight for those learning online. Would you ensure that every child has enough to eat, a supportive network of friends and family, and perseverance to face every challenge with Your strength?

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS, that You would grant them wisdom about which schooling option to choose. We pray for your provision physically, spiritually, emotionally, and financially. We pray for a support system that they can turn to when the challenges of life are overwhelming. We pray for churches and believers to surround local families with more prayer and support this year than ever before.

TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF, that You would grant them supernatural peace and discernment. We pray for wisdom for school district leaders, and for the safety of every staff person on every school campus. May the community rally around our schools to provide the sanitation, supplies, and emotional support needed by our teachers and school staff as they educate our children.

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS, that Your faithfulness and goodness would be evident through our actions as we love the students and school staff as You first loved us. Especially amidst this pandemic, grant us opportunities to develop meaningful relationships in safe ways, and may we strive to serve as Jesus did with grace and humility. We pray that students and teachers would see You through us.

In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.
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