PRAYER MINISTRY

Join us for prayer on Saturday mornings at 7am via Zoom video. People can join via video or using the call-in number if video is not an option.

Join via phone: (346) 248-7799

Meeting website: https://zoom.us/j/862139432
Meeting ID: 862 139 432
Password: 853781

Call Shawn Blom at 605-940-6702 with questions.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Lunch Is Served

Lunch Is Served, Inc is a nonprofit organization with the unique mission of delivering simple sack lunches for working men and women who are attempting to break the chains of poverty and hunger.

CLYDE’S UPDATE

December is over the half-way point now and we are cruising into the Christmas week and then the end of the year. 2020. I wonder how we will look upon this year as time moves along? In five years, what will we think about 2020? The year that wasn’t! The year that so many things were put on hold. I know it is getting rough on people in lots of ways and not just the virus anymore, it’s the weight of things. We need to pray for the health of people beyond COVID. There is a lot that happens when people are apart from each other. Christmas will be different, but I keep on telling you…I think we can expect God to do amazing things when this is over. Are we ready for that time? I am trying to wrap myself around those possibilities and determine, what is our part? What is my part? What will be the best way to be in the right place? Like the first Christmas...where is that baby going to be born? When? Think about how many people missed that! Church leaders too! It will get your attention.

So, let’s talk Sunday services and the changes. I think they are good ones. We tried to put a plan in place that will get us through this and let us get all the way through to the end. Now, we can make little changes if we need to. That’s how we do these things. Don’t get stubborn now! (I’m smiling as I wrote that.).

We will do three services on Sunday once again, but some of the times have changed. We are going to do an 8:45am, 9:45 am and 11am worship times all in the sanctuary. That is a bit different. Here is what we are trying to accomplish. 9am was getting too many people in that room and people were getting too close together. So, we are trying to divide that group a bit. Help me with this folks. I need a nice group of you to decide to come 15 minutes earlier. If that first service has a 100 people...we got this moving in a good direction. I have a feeling 9:45 is going to be the most popular for many and that’s ok, just so long as we don’t get too full. 11am is also a great option. I would love to see that get a few more as well. Here are the other changes. There will only be about 225 chairs in the big room. We have moved chairs around in that space. It actually looks pretty cool believe it or not. The chairs are spaced about. You’ll see when you get there. Pick a spot that fits your group. It will be so easy to manage. However, if when we run out of room, there are chairs in the lobby for overflow. If all goes well, we should never need to use that option. I hope you see the wisdom here. Divide the number of people coming into more equal groups and we can do this very well. Many of you are still doing home church on-line and those folks have shared that this really your best option. I am so glad we can do that and we will continue to to that as well. If you have questions or suggestions, let me know. It’s not perfect, but what is during all of this? God is! The gospel is! Jesus dying for us is! Eternal life through faith is in Christ is! See...truth still wins.

Then Christmas Eve: We are doing that 5 times. Yes, 5 times! Same thing...can we divide that up enough to make it work? We hope so. And by the way, I can do 5. What is most taxing on preachers friends is not the amount of work...it’s the stress of keeping all those hearts and minds healthy. Whew...that’s a challenge at times, but you are doing great folks. Come on church! God has not departed!

Sunday is the 4th Sunday of Advent. This week we will look at the plan of God one more time. This perfect Christmas. We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH:
8:45am, 9:45am & 11:00am-
In-person & online Sunday Services

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22:
7:00pm– AA Meeting

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24:
3, 4, 5, 6 & 7:00PM- Christmas Eve
Services In-Person & Online

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.

MISSION OF THE MONTH– DECEMBER
LUNCH IS SERVED
Illuminate the night on December 19th as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Come out to Community from 5-9pm for this drive-thru event. You’ll be given a luminary to decorate, if you wish, and then place at the foot of the cross.

If you’d like, you can donate a toy or food item as you drive through the parking lot and see the metal nativity sculpture. Enjoy a quiet evening celebrating the Savior! The toys collected on Dec. 19 will go to Lexi’s Christmas Closet. Lexi’s Christmas Closet provides gifts for children in the hospital this holiday season.
You can also check out this Amazon wish list for ideas for Lexi’s Christmas Closet.  
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1A4XB620K07DO?ref_=wl_share
Hello everyone,

This week in my article, I simply want to reiterate the changes to our in-person services and our Christmas Eve services. I feel like it's a good thing to have that information in several different places.

Starting this Sunday, December 20, we will be moving back to in-person services. We are hopeful that this plan and these changes will stay effective until all of the Covid-19 requirements can be put behind us. If you join us in person, you’ll notice that the chairs in the sanctuary have been newly organized to make it easier for you worship together while remaining safely socially distanced. The Sunday morning services will all be almost identical, so, you don’t have to worry about missing out on something if you attend one service and not another. The new Sunday service times will be as follows:

8:45 - Masks Recommended
9:45 - Masks Recommended
11:00 - Mask Only Service

As for the Christmas Eve services, you probably heard Pastor Clyde say there will be 5 services offered that day. They'll be offered on the hour, so we will have to shorten the services just a bit from other years. Communion will be safely offered at each service, and there will be one special song by my family at each service, but each service will feature a different song! Each service will be live streamed, so if you were hoping to hear a certain song, you might have to keep the live streamed services running until you hear the one you were hoping for. Not only makes it possible to keep the services around 45 minutes each, it also helps those of us who will be providing the music not wear out! Christmas Eve services will be as follows:

3:00 - Christmas Eve Service
4:00 - Christmas Eve Service
5:00 - Christmas Eve Service
6:00 - Christmas Eve Service
7:00 - Christmas Eve Service

Even typing that out looks ridiculous! But all things considered, it really is the best way to offer the most options for people at this important time of year. We know it’s not perfect, but we are hopeful that you will find meaningful worship on Christmas Eve.

Have a great week!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
Hi Everyone!

Christmas is coming and I’m enjoying the daily reminders of Emmanuel. Our online lesson this week includes the book Song of the Stars by Sally Lloyd-Jones. We talk about how Jesus is the Light of the World! As we see Christmas lights on homes and businesses in town and some pretty amazing stars and planets in the sky, it is a great reminder that there is a light more beautiful than all of that. You can view the Christmas lessons at https://www.communityrc.org/kids2020/

As we wrap up 2020 and with it, the lesson sets I have prepared for Sunday School this year, I’m curious which parts of the lessons your kids are liking best and getting the most from. Is it videos? Books? Discussion questions? Crafts? Coloring pages? Games? Other? If you think of it this week, could you send me a quick email with your feedback to help me as we go into 2021?

Don’t forget to stop out for the Luminary event: Luminary Night is happening on Saturday, December 19 from 5-9pm. You can stop out to see the luminaries, decorate a luminary to place at the foot of the cross, donate a toy or food item, view the metal nativity sculpture and celebrate the Savior with a peaceful time under the stars or in your vehicle.

You can also join us for another fun project: Ornaments for the birds. We have instructions for creating a bird-friendly ornament that you can use at home or place on the tree outside of church. We already have some awesome ornaments that people have made out there and the birds at 41st and Faith Avenue are having an excellent week! 😊 Instructions are at: https://www.communityrc.org/kids2020/ or you can come up with your own idea. You can do this any time so if you want to make your ornament and bring it out with you to Luminary Night, you sure can.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@communityRC.org
605-336-1475
PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW THIS WEEK

- Jenny Van Roekel (fluid retention)
- Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer)
- Ryan VanRuler (heart surgery)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Hugh Warner (brain lesion)
- Mitch Jensen (COVID)
- Jodie Jensen (new cancer treatments)
- Carrie Valentine (surgery recovery)
- Jan Kreun’s dad (surgery recovery)
- Abbie Van Meeteren (surgery recovery)
- Abby Brost (breast cancer)
- Connie Tiggelaar (hospice)
- Kara Schouten (severe infection)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Tracee Ellwein’s dad (skin & muscle graft)
- Darla Anderson’s daughter, Emma
- Kim Becker’s mother-in-law, Amy (colorectal cancer)
- Joe Johnson (severe headaches)
- Justin Hinks’ nephew, Xavier Nygard (car accident)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (cancer hormone therapy)
- Matt Marcus’ dad (prostate 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
- Dree & Hawk Mayer’s sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)
SPONSOR A CHILD IN HAITI!
https://www.mission-haiti.org/community

SPONSOR A CHILD FOR $125 PER YEAR AT COMMUNITY’S SCHOOL IN HAITI. CHOOSE YOUR CHILD TODAY.
Call the church office at 336-1475 or sign up online.

- Our church has a special partnership with the Frederique School in Haiti. Teams from Community get to meet the kids on Mission trips!

- Sponsoring a child is only $125 per year until the child reaches Grade 7 (then it is $250.)

- Our goal is to ensure each child at the school has a loving sponsor, which provides education, supplies, basic medical care and a meal each day.

- There are also opportunities for sponsors to purchase additional gifts. In the past some sponsors have chosen to buy Bibles or solar lanterns.

- Someone from Community could meet your sponsored child on our next trip!

WE HOPE THAT ALL 19 KIDS GET A SPONSOR IN 2020!
Attendance: Clyde, Gerald, Jolene, Tom, Pete, Curt, Mark, Mike H. Bob, Matt M., Chad M., Matt W., Mike D., Russ, Nick, Dustin, and Chad O.

Opening Devotional and prayer – Dustin Schouten

MSA the minutes from November.

MSA of the financial reports for November given by Matt M.

Old Business

2021 Budget – All budgets were reviewed and consolidated into the overall budget. MSA the 2021 Budget.

Faith Ave. – Will pay off the street once the sidewalks are in place. This is probably going to be sometime in the spring.

New Elders and Deacons – New Elders and Deacons will be sworn in at the January Congregational Meeting.

New Business

Reports - From Liz, Heather and Doyle were reviewed.

RCA – Letter from the Dakota Classis was read to the Consistory regarding the General Senate meeting this spring. More information will be forthcoming to the church in the coming months.

Returning to Church – MSA returning to church on December 20th. We will have three services. The first service would start at 8:30 until 9:30 the second service would start at 9:45 and run until 10:45. If you are able to wear a mask to these services it is highly encouraged. The 3rd service will start at 11:00. Masks will be required for this service. Online service will be available for all three services. (This has since been amended to 8:45, 9:45 and 11:00)

Christmas Eve – We will have 5 services starting at 3:00 PM for 45 minutes running until 7:00 PM. An online service will be played all day. If your able to wear a mask it is mandatory.

Year End Gifts – It was decided to provide year end gifts to the following ministries.
   - Monthly Missions true up to $2500 beyond what was given during their month of giving.
   - Children’s Inn
   - Doughty hospice house
   - Family Connection
   - Sanford Hospice
   - Haiti
   - Alpha Center
   - Pastors of the Outdoors
   - Feeding SD

Clyde closed in time of prayer

Respectfully submitted:

Tom Jacobs, clerk
COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH
6800 E. 41 STREET
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57110

DECEMBER 15, 2020

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
sheri.brouwer@communityrc.org

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

Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator