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

And now it’s December. We have arrived at the last month of the year. It’s Christmas time in the city. Ring-a-ling! I am certain you all are getting a little tired of things. We all are, but I want you to know that we are going to do the very best we can to make this as nice as we can. I’ll speak to that later in this letter. I didn’t get back out to go hunting with my leg issue, but I am planning on doing some late season bowhunting back there if the weather holds for me. I like the snow, but it can hold off for a while. I would be just fine with all of that. For now, we are into December and there are several things that we want to do well for all of you. I am looking forward to making those plans.

The decorations at church are up, at least most of them. I mentioned on Sunday that they are planning some outdoor things around the building. If you have a free evening, swing by and take a look at these things. I’m not sure if they are all finished yet, but I know it is coming. We also have a tree out here that the kids can make ornaments for. Checkout Heather’s newsletter article this week for more details. It all looks so nice.

I am also going to bring the Sunday morning set down closer to the camera. I think it just looks better on Sunday morning when we are right down in front of you. I think you will feel a much better part of the service. We will then set up camera angles to show the décor during the service. I think you will enjoy church much more with us being very close to you. We did have a technical glitch on Sunday morning for the 11am service. It messed up the live feed, so we had to go to plan B. Hopefully, that will be resolved for the coming Sunday.

The kids are recording themselves at home and sending all those videos to Heather. She is putting them all together for an on-line Christmas program. It is coming together. There are lots of videos. I am glad Heather is doing the edit for this project. Whew...there are a bunch of things to cut together. We will keep you informed as to when that will be online for you to enjoy. It’s a great idea!

I have received a number of nice notes about Becky’s story. I have been pleased with how that is going. It has not been easy to get it into the hands of folks. There are not many people around the church these days. I do very much hope it is giving you a good sense of life and how God does work when everything around seems to not right. Thanks to all who have ordered them online. I think they are shipping them soon. That’s kind of out of my control.

Sunday’s message is the called “The Journey”. We are looking at the perfect first Christmas this year and trying to understand the workings of God. It is not easy, as all of you know. His ways are not ours and His thoughts so much greater than ours. When we try to compare that to the world’s standard of perfection, we find a challenging conflict of interest. We want perfect to be perfect and God wants perfect to bring redemption. As we talked last week about Mary and Joseph, we noted the scope of their “calling”. We talked about how that calling brought a kind of imperfection to their lives. This week, one more crazy thing is about to happen. They now have to travel at a very not convenient time. The world was still at work. Leaders were making decisions and a census needed to be taken. God...why now? Couldn’t you have made it so Mary wouldn’t have to travel? Is that too much to ask? We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH:
9:00am & 11:00am Services-
ONLINE ONLY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8:
7:00pm – AA Meeting

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
BOOK CLUB.
The morning book club will meet Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 9 am at the church. We will be discussing Airborne by Mills.
The evening book club will meet Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 7 pm at the church. We will be discussing The Book of Lost Friends by Wingate.

FINANCES
Sunday, November 29, 2020
General: $3,025
Vision: $950
Missions: $25

General YTD: $724,182
Vision YTD: $158,962
Vision Account Balance: $166,851

CARD SHOWER FOR KARA
It’s Kara Schouten’s birthday on Dec. 11th! Let’s shower her with cards!
8505 E Saddle Creek Rd., Sioux Falls, SD 57110

LEXI’S CHRISTMAS CLOSET
If you’d like to donate to the Christmas Closet, just drop off items M-F 8:30am-3pm.

Lexi’s Christmas Closet provides gifts for children in the hospital this holiday season. Some ideas include:
- Lego sets
- Playdoh packs
- Trains, Tractors, Matchbox cars
- Crayola Coloring Sets
- Board books
- Stacking Toys
- Adult coloring books
- Sports water bottles
- Card Games
- Gift cards
I hope everyone was able to spend some time with at least a few family members and friends last week. My family had a really lovely day together. Abbie and I cooked our family’s favorite recipes, we played some music, and spent significant time visiting together. I certainly missed seeing other family members, but I was thankful for phone calls and texts! I know this is a holiday season we’ll talk about for the rest of our lives!

This week, I wanted to take a little time to talk about joy. Pastor Clyde often preaches about how suffering cannot steal his joy. Sometimes, I think it’s easy to think of joy as happiness or simply choosing to have a positive attitude. But the reality is that joy is so much deeper than that. And let’s not forget that joy is fruit of the Spirit!

My favorite definition of joy comes from Dallas Willard. Dallas described joy in this way:

“Joy is not pleasure, a mere sensation, but a pervasive and constant sense of wellbeing. It claims our entire body and soul, both the physical and non-physical side of the human self. Hope in the goodness of God is joy's indispensable support.”

The part of his definition that really sticks out to me is “...a pervasive and constant sense of wellbeing.” I find that to be a particularly appropriate and encouraging definition especially considering the world in which we are currently living. Covid-19 has certainly brought to the forefront our need to feel well and not sick. We are paying incredibly close attention to any abnormal symptom we might feel, and that can lead to fear, anxiety, and even panic for many of us. But when God’s joy, His fruit of the Spirit, is actively present in our lives, we can possess a pervasive and constant sense of wellbeing, even if we are battling sickness or other suffering. I know that probably sounds too good to be true to some of you, but the truth is that you can have a deep sense of wellbeing in your soul and still have things falling down around you in the world. Frankly, I think God’s joy is one of the most profound gifts of the Holy Spirit! So, when my dad says, “You can’t steal our joy!”, that’s what he’s talking about!

If you have never experienced this type of joy, I encourage you to ask God to give you that gift. Ask Him to help you feel this true joy deep in your soul. You might notice it right away, but it might take some time to grow and develop, just like real fruit! But I promise you that God’s joy is there for you, and it is life-giving as well as life changing. God’s joy is still growing in my own life, and I can tell you from personal experience, that even in the midst of suffering, I truly do experience strong, soul-deep sensations of wellbeing. I know everything will be alright. As Julian of Norwich wrote, “...all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing (sic) shall be well.” I believe Julian knew Holy Spirit joy! It’s quite a thing...

May God fill you with a pervasive and constant sense of wellbeing this week!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
The folks who decorate our church will place a Christmas tree OUTSIDE the church for us all to enjoy. This means even if we are doing online church you could swing by and enjoy. They’ve invited us all to place an ornament on that special tree. Here is our list of easy and fun ways to create an ornament for the outdoor tree. If you have another idea, go for it!

**OPTION 1—STICKY AND FUN!**

You’ll need a base shape, something sticky and a snack or seed for this one.  
**Base shape:** Choose a pinecone, bagel, ice cream cone, toilet paper roll, half an orange, or other bird safe item!  
**Something sticky:** Use peanut butter, lard, shortening, bacon grease or another sticky bird safe product.  
**Seed or Snack:** Pick up some bird seed or use croutons, dried bread, pasta, cereal, dry cat or dog food, raisins, veggie scraps, nuts, raisins or other bird safe treat from your pantry.

Either use a butter knife to spread the sticky stuff on your base shape (pinecone, bagel, etc) or put it on a paper plate and roll it!

Then roll your sticky mess in the seed or snacks, sprinkling or patting more onto the shape until it is full.

**OPTION 2—BIRD GARLAND!**

You’ll need string or yarn and cereal with a hole in it like Fruit Loops or Cheerios.  
This is more or less “bird garland.” It is super easy and little ones find it fun. String cereal onto your yarn. For brain development of preschoolers you can encourage patterns but you can also just string them however you want! If it is too challenging, try wrapping a little piece of tape around the end of your yarn or using a shoelace with a plastic end. Pipe cleaners work for this too!

**OPTION 3—BIRD COOKIES!**

You’ll need 3/4 to 1 cup birdseed, 1 packet of unflavored gelatin (unflavored—like Knox), 1/4 cup boiling water, Cookie cutters—lightly greased, string or ribbon, parchment

Dissolve the gelatin in the water on the stove or microwave. Allow the gelatin to cool for about 1 minute and stir in the 3/4 cup of the bird seed. Add more if needed to absorb liquid. Place mixture in greased cookie cutters and set on parchment to dry. You can put the string in when the cookie cutter is half full and then add mixture on top of it or just tie it around it later. Pack it all firmly.

**COME OUT TO CHURCH AND ADD YOUR ONE-OF-A-KIND CREATION TO THE TREE!**

**QUESTIONS? HEATHER.DEWIT@COMMUNITYRC.ORG OR 605-336-1475**
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!
December is here and we have three weeks left. After being able to offer an in-person option throughout the fall semester, we are going to be moving all online for the month of December. The goal was to continue in person Wednesday nights as long as possible and I am so thankful for all the steps students took to allow us to meet through November. Unfortunately I am needing to be overly cautious as I have a procedure coming up in the middle of December that I would not be able to have if I were to get Covid beforehand. So, for both Sunday School and for Wednesday night youth group, we will be moving to Zoom. I have sent out the meeting ID and password via Community Builder. If your student is joining us and you did not get that email, please let me know and I will get that to you.

This month we are moving into a series on the birth of Jesus and I am so excited to talk about the hope that has come to us through Christ. I absolutely love this season as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and look forward to our time together online this month. We will end the year with a Christmas celebration. While it will look different from years past, I am in the process of planning an event that will hopefully be a blast while allowing us to celebrate with one another from afar. I’ll have more details on that next week!

That’s it for this week. If you have any questions, need the zoom info, or have any prayer requests please feel free to reach out anytime!

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW THIS WEEK

- Hugh Warner (brain lesion)
- Mitch Jensen (COVID)
- Jodie Jensen (new cancer treatments)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Carrie Valentine (surgery recovery)
- Jerry Hall
- Jenny Van Roekel (pneumonia)
- 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
- Audrey Landegent’s son, David (cancer)
- Dree & Hawk Mayer’s sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to the family of Pat Verhey on his recent death. The family includes children, Dennis and Gayle Verhey, Dave and Kathy Baker, as well as grandchildren and other relatives. Please keep the family in your prayers.
Attendance: Clyde, Gerald, Jolene, Tom, Pete, Curt, Mark, Mike H. Bob, Matt M., Chad M., Matt W., Mike D., Jim, Russ, Nick, Dustin, and Chad O.

Opening Devotional and prayer – Tom Jacobs

MSA the minutes from October.

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

Old Business

Faith Ave. – Going well and the construction company is pleased with our cooperation. It was brought forth to send a letter to the school districts and the construction companies communicating how much the church appreciates their partnership in these endeavors.

Budgets – The budget meeting will be November 24th at 7:00. This will be done via Zoom Meeting.

New Business

Reports - From Liz, Heather and Doyle were reviewed.
- The videos are reaching far outside the walls of the church and has been a new way to spread the word to many.

Dakota Classis are meeting this week.

Thanksgiving eve will be an online service this year due to COVID restrictions.

Nursery – The numbers are low but there are a lot of Busy Bags being used.

New Elders and Deacons – It was decided that the current slate of Elders and Deacons that were voted on by the church would be the slate we would fill for 2020 and 2021. One set of Elders and Deacons would start in January and one set of Elders and Deacons would start in May. The order would be decided by lot at our Congregation Meeting.

Other

Congregational Meeting will be January 10th where the election of the Elders and Deacons will be completed, and the 2021 budget will be presented.

Clyde closed in time of prayer

Respectfully submitted:

Tom Jacobs, clerk
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
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Sheri Brouwer
Part-Time Nursery Coordinator
sheribrouwer@communityrc.org

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

Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator