I have an idea! Let’s talk about the weather! What a deal that has been here lately. Winter has returned a bit for us. February can do that. March can do the same thing—just so you know! I do like this week though. 40 feels amazing! We will do this a week at a time. Whatever happens, we will work with it. That’s what we do and that’s what it means to live in this state. Spring will get here…it always does.

We don’t really have much to say about any of the spring calendar things. I would love to say we know exactly how this is all going to go, but as I say nearly every week, I don’t know any of that. We have a couple of things in the wings. I’ll keep you posted.

We saw a nice group in church on Sunday even with the weather. I am wondering just how many folks will return a little more each week. I know that depends on several factors. All those things I can do very little about. We are just making a place for you. We are still out here with a lot of new neighbors, and we will be here when you feel comfortable. 11am is still the one that has the most room if you are wondering.

Lent is here and Easter is not that far away. I can’t believe it is already that time of year. Things seem to just move pretty fast. We are looking at doing multiple Maundy Thursday services. We may do 3. That is still being discussed, but we are thinking about that. It is nice when you all don’t have to worry about space and distance and just come. By then things should continue to feel better. I do hope so. We need a little extra shot of joy right now.

I mentioned that on Sunday. This lack of deep joy that I see in people. A year like this with all of its ups and downs can slowly take away your life. It doesn’t matter what side of any issue or battle you may find yourself, if you walk in that space long enough, it will get at deep places. I am not being critical at all here. I am saying, be careful folks. We have a God that can fill empty places. Do you believe that? I think you see where I am going with this. The world will not always be in your favor, but with God you are always loved and cared for. There is a spiritual lift that is always available to us no matter what is going on with the world. Do you believe that? I am only wanting to bring a word of encouragement...I know someone who can change your perspective and can give you joy and peace when none of that seems possible. I believe that! I really do! I’ll preach that and proclaim that! It is the message of the church. That’s what we can bring to the table. That’s the best we can offer. That’s our gift. Jesus!

Sunday is the second in the series from the book of Isaiah chapter 53. We did 52 last Sunday as a way to introduce this new series. This Sunday we start into the core of this amazing chapter in the Bible. This text is quoted over and over again by so many folks. It is a familiar text and one that looks into the heart of God, who sends us a redeemer. He is a king of sorts who will rule and reign like no other figure of history. We have such a wonderful savior who was willing to bring so much to us...but it came at great cost to him, all because we are worth it! Who would believe such a thing? We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24:
7:00-8:00PM - M.S. YOUTH GROUP
8:00-9:00PM - H.S. YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28:
8:45AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM - IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES

TUESDAY, MARCH 2:
7:00PM - AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3:
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 Tue. 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 morning book club will meet on Wednesday, March 17, at 9 am at the church and will be discussing Silver Sparrow.

The evening book club will meet on Tuesday, March 16, at 7 pm at the church. They will be discussing Charm Bracelet.

FINANCES
Sunday, February 21, 2021

General: $12,055
Vision: $1,290
Missions: $380

General YTD: $120,705
Vision YTD: $16,362
Vision Account Balance: $178,832

NURSERY IS OPEN!

Nursery is offered for all 3 services (8:45, 9:45 & 11:00am) for infants-5 year olds.

Our team will be wearing masks but masks are optional for children. Upon arriving, your child will be checked in by one of our coordinators at the door. We ask that parents not come into the nursery. Also, as an added precaution, the toys will be changed out after each service.

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. Your help is so appreciated!
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044DA4AB29A1F85-nursery
Hello everyone,

This week I want to entice you with an update regarding something I've been working on for Easter Sunday at church.

Of course, most of you are well aware that due to the pandemic, we were unable to have Christmas choir this past winter. Many of you expressed your disappointment (and understanding) over not being able to get together to sing. Christmas Choir is something that really makes it feel like Christmas, and we just couldn't make that work last year. I mentioned then that I was hoping to be able to do something with the choir for Easter, but obviously we still haven't been able to safely meet for choir rehearsals. Since we continue to make progress toward ending the pandemic, and since we can see that slowly but surely things are beginning to return to normal, I have given some serious thought to how we might be able to celebrate Easter morning with something special musically.

With all of that in mind, I want to share that I've been working on an idea for our opening hymn on Easter morning. If I am able to bring my idea to completion, the whole congregation is going to be the choir on Easter morning! I'm working on a special arrangement that you'll be able to sing with a little help from Pastor Clyde as the director. My hope and prayer is that we will be able to have more and more people gathering safely for worship on the Sundays leading up to Easter so that on Easter Sunday, we can host the most people possible and have a massive “choir” to celebrate the risen Christ. I don't know if my hope and God's timing will coincide for a full Easter celebration, but I'm praying that God will make it so. We'll see!

And for the last bit of my article this week, I just want to say thank you to our church librarians for curating such a wonderful church library. The women who work in our library do a tremendous job of finding new and relevant literature, and they keep it in tip top order. Many times, I have needed a book or wanted to take a quick look at a book for reference, and I have found it in our church library. The library is open anytime the church is open, and everyone is free to check out items. The process is simple, and the selection is very good. They have books of all types and for all ages, videos, audio books, games, and studies, along with a few other items. If you're new to Community, be sure to check out the library, and if you haven't used it in a while, you might want to make a fresh visit. It's worth your time. Thank you to our church librarians!

Have a great week and enjoy these warmer temps!

Liz
Hello Everyone!

I hope you are having a good week. As I was organizing some Sunday School, Midweek and VBS supplies this week, I really enjoyed praying about and thinking about the fun times that are coming here at Community. I know patience and flexibility will remain important and I’m sure I’ll have days of feeling impatient as time goes on, it was just nice to spend a little time doing something that is just plain fun and hard work. I’ll sleep well tonight! I’ve got a lot left to do, but as I said, it is fun work.

I’ll be working on the calendar for the few months soon. I know it is early, but some of you are planners and like your information as far ahead as possible. I’m the same way so I try to make that happen when I can. This year was a good example of the way things don’t always go as planned but even with the changes, the kids are learning, growing and inspiring me.

For now, please save the date for VBS! We are tentatively planning VBS on August 1-4 in the evening and you can already register your kids if you’d like. We’ll need many volunteers so feel free to grab your spot now. vbspro.events/p/2021 I’ve heard from a few of you who are willing to help with decorations so I think we will have an exceptional amount of fun this summer!

Another project that I’ve been working on is refreshing our “Adventure Packs.” Some of you have already checked them all out once or even more than once but they are ready to go out again. Most of them need warmer weather than this to be fun but the “rainy day” Noah’s Ark set would go pretty well for snowy days too! The creation one also has quite a few activities that would work well on a cold or wet day. Some of the other kits have items like puzzles and games that you could use now but it might make you bummed out to see the hammocks and lawn games waiting for you in there as well. They are all on the shelf in the gathering area outside of the Children’s classroom space. Some of you have asked if there is a fee. They are free to borrow and you are welcome to check them out as often as you’d like. I’ll put them in a better spot this spring when the weather is more cooperative for the outdoor activities. I’ve been considering adding another bag but haven’t come up with any great ideas just yet, so I’ll hold off until inspiration strikes.

Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit

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

- Kara Schouten (hip pain)
- Jenny Getting (stroke recovery)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Jan Kruen
- Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer treatments)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (hip replacement surgery)
- Brian Frisbee (stroke recovery/long-term rehab)
- Jan Sturing (heart)
- Dee Elliot (knee replacement)
- Deb Teunissen (knee surgery recovery)
- Troy Payne’s brother (kidney transplant)
- Ryan VanRuler (heart surgery)
- Jenny VanRoekel
- 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 (colon cancer)
- Joe Johnson (severe headaches)
- 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

This is the week! Our February event will be held on Sunday (the 28th). We will finally be doing our Among Us event here at church and I am looking forward to seeing how the in person plans work out. Large group games can be so much fun, and while there will probably need to be a few tweaks during our event to get things perfect, I do think it will go well. The middle school students will go from 4:30-6:00 and the high school students will be from 6:00-7:30. I will have some snacks available, but will not be serving supper. Can’t wait!

There has also been some talk happening with our Spring Fling fundraiser that we do in March/April for the student ministry each year. After some conversation, thought and looking at the upcoming year, I have decided to not hold the fundraiser this year. The biggest take away from this decision is this - you all have been so generous toward the youth ministry, that we will be fully operational for the year! I cannot thank you enough for that! The other note to remember is that the majority of our big expense items were canceled this past year due to Covid and therefore means we will reset moving forward. As the youth pastor, I am so blessed and thankful for the support and care this church gives to the students and their faith. Thank you all!

If you have any questions, please feel free to send them my way.

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org
605-310-2561
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.