We are into Easter week everyone! It's the week of Maundy Thursday services and Easter Sunday celebrations! I think I am going to enjoy this. I have been really hoping that the three service times work for everyone. I noticed on Sunday that lots of people are starting to venture out again a little more. We are trying to do our best to keep folks at a distance if we can. As I mentioned on Sunday, this has not been the easiest things to do, but if your all just keep trying and working at whatever you feel is necessary, we can do this. Hopefully the wind will go down by then, so we don't get blown into Iowa for the services. South Dakota and wind! I guess the Spirit is moving!

Maundy Thursday services will be 6, 7, and 8pm. Those are close together, but we did it for Christmas Eve and that worked. I am most confident we can make this work as well. Remember that as you arrive, you can pick up your cups at the tables in lobby and then find a seat. I have a very simple, yet meaningful service planned for us. Jesus paid it all! Paid in Full! This cost him his life! We are grateful for that kind of love. The men around him, or rather, the boys around him that evening, were all very excited because Jesus was going to Jerusalem. Can you imagine how they were feeling with the Passover and Jesus is in Jerusalem! The scene was set for a major moment in history, and they were going to be right in the middle of everything! They missed a detail. In all of the excitement...they missed one thing! Who Jesus was! Join us Thursday night!

I hope you all noticed the decorations this past Sunday. There are more things coming this week. I love this time of year when extra things start showing up. It's all a part of setting the scene and telling the story. It gives meaning to the message! It is not an easy thing to get figured out folks. That stage might seem easy to do, but it is a challenge. It is very large, and we have a major sound issue up there, so those poor decorators have to figure out décor, but at the same time be mindful of sound. Also, I hear the pastor can be fussy.😉 There are some wonderful ideas for the weekend. Great job everyone who has put all of that together for us!

I have been doing a paragraph on the things with the RCA, but I'm going to take a break from that this week with Easter and all. I find that the Cross and the empty tomb are a little more important this week. I hope you don't mind. We'll get back to all of that in next week's letter. I want to talk about Jesus this week.

Sunday is Easter! Do you believe that? We have some very exciting things planned for Sunday morning. You are all going to be my choir on Sunday. All of you! That's right...all of you. We have this very exciting opening, and you are all going to get to do it with me. I am the director, and you are choir! Easter needs to have a bit of grand opening and we are all going to give it our best try. It's high church kind of stuff! I love this kind of thing. We will finish the series Sunday as well. Paid in Full! I guess! We'll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31:
7:00-8:00PM - M.S. YOUTH GROUP
8:00-9:00PM - H.S. YOUTH GROUP

THURSDAY, APRIL 1:
6:00, 7:00 & 8:00PM - MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICES

SATURDAY, APRIL 3:
7:00AM - PRAYER MINISTRY
10:00AM - AA MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 4:
8:45AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM - IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES

TUESDAY, APRIL 6:
7:00PM - AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7:
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.

NEW NURSERY VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

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. You're help is so appreciated!
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48A9AA29A3FA/C43-nursery

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In addition to bringing your painted rocks to the cross, you can also stop at a local store to buy an Easter lily & volunteers will be at church from 1-4pm on Saturday to help place the lilies.
It’s Easter week! And wow, do I have a big learning to share with you. As we say west-river, “It hit me upside the head!”

Last week, my dad had a dumpster delivered to his driveway because he had several big items that needed to be thrown out. My sister and brother-in-law also contributed a few of their own things to the dumpster filling. When there was still room left, Dad asked me if I wanted to make use of the dumpster and throw out anything too big for the regular trash.

When Dad asked if I had anything I wanted to throw away, I knew I had a few things to toss, but I didn’t think I had much because about 5 years ago, I moved to a different house, and that move had cleaned up a lot of junk. But I looked around my garage and found a few things there, and I loaded those up. Then I thought maybe it would be a good idea to walk through my house and see if there was anything else that just needed to go.

Now, my basement is unfinished, so it’s a great place to store things. That is both a blessing and a curse, because it’s very easy to forget what’s down there. But since I had an opportunity to do a little clean up, I decided I’d better look around downstairs and see if there was anything I should throw into the dumpster.

I took a walk around the basement and scanned the corners, familiar shelves, and boxes that have been there since I moved. I found a couple of old lamps that I first bought when I was teaching school in Burke. It was time for them to go. And then I thought, “Well, that’s probably it.” And then it hit me upside the head!

There were three big, dusty, old beanbags sitting right smack in the middle of the floor! These are exactly the types of things that should be thrown out in a dumpster, and I had walked right by them. Because they are always sitting there, I didn’t see them. I was so used to them, that in my first look, I literally didn’t see them. Yet there they were, right in plain sight. And they clearly needed to go.

That’s when I began to wonder...how many times has there been something in my life, something big and ugly that needs to go, that God is inviting me to notice and throw out, but it’s been there so long that I don’t even see it anymore? It takes up space in my heart and mind. It’s old and useless and God wants to clean up that part of my heart, but I just don’t see it because I’m used to it. I’m talking about things like a critical spirit, a judgmental attitude, jealousy, gossip, control, etc. Those big, ugly, useless beanbags that have been a part of my life for such a long time that I don’t see them anymore. Yet God gently invites me to throw them out. My response can often be, “Throw what out?? I don’t see anything!” And then I look again, embarrassed at how I could miss such a big thing that clearly needs to go. I’m so thankful that God gently and persistently directs my attention to those things I tend to overlook. And He gets rid of them when I agree that they need to go, although often that process is little more involved than just tossing trash into a dumpster. 😃

This week, as we approach Easter, I encourage you to take a look around your heart. Are there any big “beanbags” that have been there such a long time that you don’t even see them anymore? Look again. Is God inviting you to throw something out? If so, then do it. Let God get rid of those things that take up space and benefit no one. Then you will have made even more room for Jesus to get in there and do some good work.

By the way, the beanbags made it to the dumpster! Hallelujah! 😃 Have a blessed Easter week, friends!

Liz
liz.teel@communityrc.org
We are in Easter week and the end of March is here. Our final lesson on our relationship series is this week and we will be addressing several questions asked by students and speak on different pressures we face from our culture. Students will also be meeting Benjamin for the first time Wednesday night! In April we will be moving to a study on the book of John as we close out our time together this Spring. I’m looking forward to our final month together this school year.

Our April event will take place on Wednesday, April 21st. We will have a pizza party and outdoor games and go from 6:00-8:00 Wednesday night. Students can come and go as able as we celebrate our final night before summer break. Then, in June we will start Wednesday nights back up for our summer months.

Finally, I am working on camp dates for both middle school and high school youth. Our high school dates are set from June 27th – July 2nd. I was hoping to have our middle school dates set already but am unfortunately still working with the coordinator to get some dates that will work for both us and them. Once I know those dates I will get that out to you all. I know there are several other camps that students attend throughout the summer and that is great. If your student(s) don’t however, I would encourage them to join us this year!

That’s it for this week. If you have any questions feel free to send them my way.

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

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**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**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

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**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 (used or new)
- **Mission Haiti**: shoes & backpacks (used or new)
Cut along the dotted lines and tuck verse in your eggs before you hide them. Find the verse in your Bible and talk with your family about it. To make it more active, write an action on the back of each verse like "4 jumping jacks" or run in place for 30 seconds, jump 7 times, touch toes, etc. The full printable (back/front) is available at CommunityRC.org/kids2021

John 11:25-26: "Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Luke 24:6-7: "HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!"

Romans 8:34: "Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

Mark 16:5-7: "As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

John 20:17-18: "Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her."

Hebrews 12:2: "FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE PIONEER AND PERFECTER OF FAITH."

Hebrews 12:2: "For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 14:6: "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"
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