CLYDE’S UPDATE

This past week was a full schedule around the church and this week seems to be the same. I guess I really don’t mind as things are getting started around here a bit more. I hope you all had a good Mother’s Day. I saw lots of pictures from the weekend and so I know there were families spending time together. The weather hasn’t been the best for anything outdoors yet, but I think we are gaining. The rain was nice, but I know everyone is hoping for more of that coming our way. We did do a couple graduation parties. That, too, is going on around the area. It is spring. I am enjoying the things that start moving at this time of year. We did the bibles for 3rd graders on Sunday morning and much to our surprise, nearly every one of them showed up in church on Sunday. It’s been a while since we have seen them. It was a good day! COVID has made things so much more complicated! What a deal this has been. We see good things coming on that folks. I see it on lots of sources now. I wish the whole thing could have been smoother, but the world doesn’t play fair all the time. Never forget, God is still on the throne and Jesus can still change hearts. That’s the part we do! Don’t forget that!

The men are planning a fishing outing in June 11 & 12. It was a fast put-together kind a deal. We are working on the details, but it looks like we will go out on Friday and come back Saturday evening. A one-night stay, but we are looking at some of the guys going out on Thursday night as well if that works in your schedules. The cost is still being settled but under a $100 for each person. That includes a one-night room and the food as well. We are still working on some of the other details. If you fish...this is for you! 

We have started recording the music for VBS. That’s right, we are doing our own music for that as well. This year VBS is a complete Community idea from the lessons, crafts, to the music...it is all us. I am looking forward to it. I think the idea is just fabulous and we are planning that to be face to face. I am so looking forward to that!

If you are watching church on-line and are wondering about when to return, I would still say to you that 11am is the least full. There is plenty of room in there to get away from the crowds if that is important to any of you. We know a change is coming. I am still trying to determine when we go back to regular schedules, but I am watching the first Sunday in June and thinking that is a possibility. I know, I should keep that to myself, but I thought if I write that down, our prayer warriors might start praying that way. We will keep you informed.

We did the bibles for 3rd graders on May 9th. It was a fast put-together kind of deal. We are working on the details, but it looks like we will do it again next year as well. We did do a couple graduation parties. That, too, is going on around the area. It is spring. I am enjoying the things that start moving at this time of year. We did the bibles for 3rd graders on Sunday morning and much to our surprise, nearly every one of them showed up in church on Sunday. It’s been a while since we have seen them. It was a good day! COVID has made things so much more complicated! What a deal this has been. We see good things coming on that folks. I see it on lots of sources now. I wish the whole thing could have been smoother, but the world doesn’t play fair all the time. Never forget, God is still on the throne and Jesus can still change hearts. That’s the part we do! Don’t forget that!

The “Hometown” series is connecting. God is relational! Very relational! He loves! He cares! He watches! He sent Jesus...it’s very clear that God wants us to know Him. We enjoy the fullness of grace because Christ is in us! Do you believe that? This is a life, or should I say a “new life”, that we can live in that indwelling of our Savior. We are connected. We belong. We have a home. A place that is safe! Our “hometown” as it were. We are from “somewhere”. We go a little deeper this week. How do we make Jesus that real? How can we know him as the disciples knew him? It is a challenge. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

Wishing Hen Timmer a happy 90th birthday!

FISHING TRIP
JUNE 10 - 12

THURSDAY, JUNE 10
AT PLATTE CREEK LODGE

FRIDAY, JUNE 11
FISHING EVENING MEAL PROVIDED

SATURDAY, JUNE 12
FISHING AND RETURN HOME

$65 PER NIGHT FOR INDIVIDUAL ROOM WITH BATHROOM.
ADDITIONAL EXPENSE FOR BREAKFAST.
IF YOU HAVE A BOAT AND CAN HOLD EXTRA PASSENGERS,
PLEASE INDICATE BESIDE YOUR NAME.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
AL BOLTON 351-3917 OR STAN DEELSTRA 376-4148.

Sign up at The Link in the lobby or through this link:
https://communityrc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/21/responses/new

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 13:
6:30 & 7:30PM- CHURCH SOFTBALL
(SHERMAN PARK)

SATURDAY, MAY 15:
7:00AM- PRAYER MINISTRY
10:00AM- AA MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 16:
8:45AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM-
IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES

TUESDAY, MAY 18:
7:00PM- AA MEETING
7:00PM- BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19
9:00AM- BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, MAY 20:
6:30 & 7:30PM- CHURCH SOFTBALL
(SHERMAN PARK)
7:00PM- ELDERS MEETING
8:00PM- CONSISTORY

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

BAPTISMS
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 CLUB
The evening book club will meet on Tuesday, May 18, at 7pm at the church. We will be discussing Neverhome.

The morning book club will meet on Wed., May 19 at 9am at the church. We will be discussing Kitchens of the Great Midwest.

FINANCES
Sunday, May 9, 2021

General: $13,024
Vision: $535
Missions: $370

General YTD: $292,217
Vision YTD: $39,022
Vision Account Balance: $186,712

Join us at Pursuing Christ Together
Lifeway Women Simulcast at First Reformed Church
Friday evening, May 21st & Saturday am, May 22st
In the office this week, a couple of us were talking about how we address God when we pray. It was such an interesting conversation that I thought I'd write about it in my article for this week.

Of course, we all know that God has many names and titles. Wonderful Counselor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace. Jesus the Christ. Holy Spirit. Shepherd. Savior. And many more! But for most people, the way we address God in prayer is a significant indicator to how we view God, and that in turn impacts the things we are willing to talk to God about in prayer.

Personally, I most address God as “Lord” in my prayers. There was a time a few years ago when someone invited me to consider why I addressed God as “Lord.” Where does that word come from in my life? What am I implying about how I see God when I call God “Lord?” One of the things that surprised me as I started to explore “Lord” was that I have a tendency to view God as my boss. If God is my boss, then does that make me God’s employee, who simply does what God asks because God is in charge? Not a very pretty picture, is it? And when I got honest about that discovery in my own life, I realized that that concept of God as boss was tainting the way I prayed. It was hard to be vulnerable with God. It was hard to tell Him things that were close to my heart. Well, that’s not surprising! Those aren’t the kinds of things we generally share with our bosses!! I knew I wanted God to be so much more than a boss in my life. And He was… it’s just that I didn’t have eyes to see it.

So, I started to change the way I addressed God when I prayed. My mom always, always prayed to Jesus specifically. And I believe that was part of the reason she was so in love with Him. She talked to Jesus specifically her whole life. So, sometimes, I address God as Jesus, and that really changes the way I pray. Other times I address God as The Great Healer, or Lover of my Soul, or Almighty God. Those intentional and specific names by which we address God can really shake up our prayers in a good way. Over the last few years, I have found myself caught off guard mid-prayer when I heard myself address God as “Dad.” That was profoundly personal to me, and deeply surprising. But I must admit that when I called God “Dad,” it clearly changed the way I was praying. Referring to God as Dad is the English equivalent to the Greek word “Abba,” which is how Jesus addressed His Father in Heaven. It’s meant to be deeply personal. I don’t do it often because frankly, it still kind of weirds me out. 😄 But the truth is, when the Spirit in me leads me to use that term of endearment, I know God is up to something, and I want to go where the Spirit is leading in my prayer life.

This week, I encourage you to consider how you address God when you pray. What are your reasons behind it? Is there something God is inviting you to notice about why you address God as you do? And is there a new and fresh Name God is inviting you to use when you talk to Him? You might be surprised at all you learn from a name. 😊

Have a great week!

Liz
liz.teel@communityrc.org
Hi Everyone!

It was a busy weekend for children’s ministry. The 3rd graders, who were so very patient, finally got their Bibles! We gave out about 20 Bibles total on Sunday, 15 of them during the services. We also handed some out leading up to this week and have some scheduled to come to my office in the next few weeks too. It was so good to see the kids together and I can’t wait to hear about what God is teaching them through their new Bibles. They each got a certificate that can be used to get their Bible cover personalized. They really are great kids!

The other big “news” is that the Vacation Bible School registration table is up and ready for you. We already have 32 kids and 10 volunteers registered so we are off to a good start. You can sign up at the table or you can use the registration link: https://vbspro.events/p/events/2021. VBS is August 1-4 from 6pm-7:45pm. It is free and open to anyone so feel free to invite as many friends as you want. Our theme this year is New Every Morning and kids will learn that they are loved by God with great new songs, old favorite songs, Bible lessons, games and crafts. The new songs that Liz wrote for this year are amazing. I think you'll love it. Even if you don’t have kids, I invite you to join us for a great week of experiencing God together. The decorating team has been hard at work on some pretty fun surprises as well. I have to admit that writing lessons that involve donuts, eggs, bacon and cereal while teaching about the love of Jesus was a pretty fun task. I also had a little too much fun planning the crafts and games for this year. You’ll see what I mean in August!

Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit

https://www.communityrc.org/kids2021/
Heather.DeWit@communityRC.org
605-336-1475
Graduation is just around the corner! We will be putting together a slideshow for church services May 23rd to celebrate our seniors. If you have a senior who is graduating and would like for them to be included, please email me a photo, graduating school, and their plans for this upcoming year by Thursday, May 20th. Congratulations to all our seniors on all the hard work put into your graduation!

Along with the end of the school year, comes camp registration deadlines. Our high school camp’s registration is due June 1st. Camp dates are June 27th-July 2nd and we will be heading up to Pickerel Lake Bible Camp. Then, our middle school camp registration deadline is June 20th. We will also be heading up to Pickerel, but it will be a week of just our group as I host my first ever Community middle school camp! If your student who has finished 8th-12 grade for high school or finished 5th-8th grade for middle school week would like to join me for camp this year, please email me for registration details!

Finally, we are also drawing near to our summer youth group times. In June and July, our middle school and high school will be meeting Wednesday nights. Our middle school group (those who have finished 5th – 8th grade) will meet from 6:30-7:30 Wednesday nights and our high school group (those who have finished 8th – 12th grade) will meet from 7:30 – 8:30. This is a great time for our incoming 5th graders to be welcomed into the middle school group, and is a great way for our soon to be freshman in high school to transition from our middle school to high school group!

That’s it for this week! If you have any questions on the student ministries here at Community, feel free to reach out anytime!

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org