We are working our way to the end of the month once again. I can’t believe that we are at this point in the year. It really doesn’t seem possible to me. I have gotten to go back home to do some hunting, but as I said on Sunday morning, that sure didn’t go the way I had hoped. I suppose we might all think that way about a lot of things this year. However, there is so much to be grateful for. I get weary too, but if you talk to me long enough you will see that I am not devastated by all these things. I still laugh and I still have great joy! Am I a little frustrated? Of course, but my overall strength doesn’t come from what goes on in the world around me. Remember that verse in 2 Corinthians:

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

That treasure is Christ within us! Later in that same chapter it reads:

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

Read that all again! We often do not want to hear that life on this earth is being a little rough, but if you have been through rough places, you know something about that journey. Jesus is in that place. Big time- He is there. There is a light within us that cannot be diminished by anything this world may throw at us! We are more than conquerors! Give thanks with a grateful heart because God has given us Jesus Christ!

This past Sunday, we announced that we’ll move our services online for the next two weeks. Moving forward, I am hoping we can make some good evaluations and then look at how we can make all this work for you folks. It is not easy to do these things. I get it from all sides, but I listen. We are going to try to make it work. I don’t have all the answers, but I do want to make an effort to do everything we can to do the best thing for as many of you as we can. Please be patient. Lots of churches are really having a difficult time making all these decisions right now. Read that sentence again. Lots of them. You are fine people. I think we can figure this out. I have a great deal of faith in you all. I know we can’t please everyone.

Sunday, we start the new series of Christmas. Now, just so you all know, this series was designed to show what the first “perfect” Christmas looked like. It wasn’t very “perfect”. It was all a bit crazy. Mary, Joseph, Jesus born in a barn, a bad king trying to kill babies, and on and on it goes. That first Christmas far from “worldly” perfect, but God was up to something great, wasn’t He? That will preach my friends! We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
N O I N - P E R S O N S E R V I C E S T H I S W E E K E N D.

J O I N U S O N L I N E.

We're looking for 100 Subscribers on the Community YouTube page so we can have our own URL! Please subscribe today!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCimEfjAVmG9_lj fxBwxwhBA

THE GIVE

Check out THE GIVE wall in the lobby. It's a place to donate to local ministries.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace: sheets, pillowcases, comforters (twin size)

Community Youth- old cell phones or ink cartridges (the size that fits in your hand)

Lexi's Christmas Closet- 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

In light of recent updates, there will be no in-person services Nov. 29 & Dec. 6.

We can have our own URL! Please subscribe today!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCimEfjAVmG9_ljfxBwxwhBA

FINANCES

Sunday, November 22, 2020

General: $7,398
Vision: $950
Missions: $85

General YTD: $709,355
Vision YTD: $157,059
Vision Account Balance: $164,949
Since it’s Thanksgiving week, I would like to offer you a little Thanksgiving devotional.

- Depending on how you enjoy time alone, you may want to begin by finding a comfortable chair where you will be able to sit unbothered. Or if moving is the best way for you to focus on God, you may want to go for a walk, run, or hike.

- Begin by taking 3 intentional breaths in and out. Breathe slowly. Thank God for His gift of breath. His breath gives you life.

- We are going to use the acrostic THANKS for this devotional.

- As you are spending time in God’s Presence, begin to focus on thanking God for His innumerable blessings. Use THANKS as a guide.

**T** - **Trinity** - Begin by thanking God for who He is: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Take time to thank each part of the Trinity for something specific.

**H** - **Helpers** - Thank God for the helpers in your life, your community, and the world. Ask God to protect those helpers as they do their work.

**A** - **Acquaintances** - Now, this is a little different than friends, because an acquaintance is someone you don’t know very well. This is intentional. Pay attention to who God brings to your mind as an acquaintance. Is there a special way God is asking you to pray about this person you don’t know very well?

**N** - **November** - Thank God for this present time! Thank Him for the hard things we have experienced, for the good things we have celebrated, and for the gift of each new day.

**K** - **Kin** - I love this word because it’s an old way to say “family.” Thank God for each member of your family. Ask Him to bless and grow each person in their relationships with Him.

**S** - **Sustenance** - Thank God for the abundance of food, we have in this country. Ask God if there is someone you should share food with this Thanksgiving or if there is a food bank or pantry to which you could donate.

Close by thanking God for giving you this time with Him.
Ask Him to remind you of all these people and things for which you have given thanks.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
Hi Everyone!

For Sunday School this week, our lesson was about giving thanks. It included an animated Bible story, reading of the Max Lucado book, You are Special, and some fun projects. I truly am thankful for all of you at Community and the gifts God brings through you. You continue to bring me smiles, week after week.

Next week for Sunday School, we will read another book and introduce the whole church to a fun special project for winter. If you want to join the project, you may want to get a little bird seed and/or save some paper towel rolls or pinecones. This one isn't for just the kids. We can all join the fun in December. I'll give you the details next week.

In a few weeks, our Sunday School lesson calls for yarn as well. If you don't have yarn at home or don't want to buy some, I've got a few colors of yarn to share here at church. Send me a quick note and I'll get it to you.

Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit
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605-336-1475
NEW THIS WEEK

- Carrie Valentine (surgery recovery)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Jerry Hall
- Jenny Van Roekel (pneumonia)
- Jan Kreun's dad (surgery recovery)
- Abbie Van Meeteren (surgery recovery)
- Abby Brost (breast cancer)
- Connie Tiggelaar (hospice)
- Jenny Van Roekel
- Joyce Tarrell
- 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)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- 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 Landegents' son, David (cancer)
- Dree & Hawk Mayer's sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to the family of Sarah Pater. Please keep her family in your prayers.
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.

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