I guess we are going to try a little early winter-like weather this week. The rain/snow is not that bad, and things were so dry this is a welcome change. I do believe there will be more fall ahead of us. I hope I am right. It’s a bit too early for this. There are many who love that first snow fall of the year. I am a little on that team, but let’s not get carried away. Whatever it is, we will do just fine.

I was wondering how many of you got out for the first weekend of pheasant season. That was always a big day back home. I can remember as a kid being so excited to go with dad and walk those fields. What I remember most was being a bird-dog of sorts. I was in charge of chasing down the birds. I guess I was less expensive than a dog. I loved it! Hunting season is here, and I am hoping things work out so I can get home and spend a bunch of time in those hills. I need it!

It has been a busy week around the church as we keep figuring out new ways to connect with you all and give you good content to view. I didn’t get my first story done in time. I had a couple of other things to get done. Weddings and funerals seem to go hand in hand around here. Just an interesting season, but I’m hoping to get the first one uploaded this week. Liz had hers going and she had a nice number of plays. I guess it all works at some level. I have to get busy on mine. I have the stories done; we just need to finish the posting process. Be patient.

We tried our first all mask service on Sunday at 11am. I guess our timing was pretty good in that as the Mayor was really encouraging all to try harder this week. That little virus is very catchy. The challenge is maintaining adequate space in those hospitals to help the ones who get really sick. It is a moving target and one that has found many different opinions. If you are wondering how 11am went, I would say it worked just fine. We did see some faces we haven’t seen in some time and that was great to see them. The 9am service did get a little bigger, but we are still ok with that one for keeping our distance. We are doing our best here to give everyone a choice and everyone a chance to come to church. It’s not perfect, but we are trying. Thanks for working with us on this. That really helps everyone!

People have been asking me about Becky’s book. We are still waiting for them to arrive. I will put out that information when I get them. I will tell you there is much to that story you don’t know. We lived it out in front of you all, but there many things about it we never shared. I hope when it comes you will take the time to read through it. Considering the season we are in, it is a good word for us to hear.

Sunday, we move to disciple number 8. The list of the remaining ones is getting shorter now. This week we will look at the apostle who might on paper seem the most qualified. It is hard to really know that for sure, but the evidence seems to suggest he was. There is a powerful story to this one. We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Let’s celebrate, bless, encourage, and thank our pastors throughout this entire month.

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It’s Shoebox Time! Check out the table in the lobby at church to grab your box or it’s easy to go online and pack a box too! Check it out! [https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/](https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/)

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH:** 8, 9, 11:00AM– IN-PERSON AND ONLINE SERVICES

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27:**
7:00PM– AA MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28:**
7:00PM– M.S YOUTH GROUP
8:00PM– 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.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH– OCTOBER**
The Gideons

**BOOK CLUB**
The morning book club will meet on Wednesday, November 18, at 9 am at the church. They will be discussing *No One Ever Asked* by Ganshert. Copies are available in the church library.

The evening book club will meet on Thursday, Nov 17, at 7 pm at the church. They will be discussing *A Night Divided* by Nielsen. Copies are available in the church library.

**FINANCES**

Sunday, October 18, 2020

- General: $15,412
- Vision: $1,190
- Missions: $295

- General YTD: $640,681
- Vision YTD: $131,556
- Vision Account Balance: $154,229
I had a very positive response to my first Mid-Week video last week. There will be a new video shared again this week. If you haven’t seen it yet or if you are having trouble finding it online, Holli has printed an explanation in this newsletter about where you can find those videos on our webpage and app. And if you have any trouble, please let us know. Clyde hopes to get his first video shared this week too, and I think John may have one coming as well. Thanks for your patience as we work through this!

I wanted to share an interesting story this week that really caught my attention. As many of you know, I have a cat. His name is Kenny, and he is an indoor cat only. Early this week, he was downstairs, and I could hear a cat meowing as if it wanted to fight. I thought it was Kenny, so, I went downstairs to check it out. As it turned out, there was another cat looking at Kenny through the window, and the outside cat was not happy. He wanted to fight, and he was making those mean cat fight sounds. Kenny, on the other hand, was safely inside, looking out the window. He was very curious about the other cat, but he never once acted like he wanted to fight with him. Then it hit me…

Kenny was inside the house with me. He lives in a place where there are boundaries, and things are safe. I am the person who gives him whatever he needs (and more! 😊) Kenny has the luxury of living in complete safety with no fear because he lives with me. Conversely, the outdoor cat was clearly acting out of fear. His safety felt threatened. His boundaries felt threatened. And the only way he could respond was with aggression.

My friends, this is such a vivid example of our relationships with God. How often do we step away from the care that God offers us only to find ourselves in fearful situations where our only option is aggression? How often do we live outside the boundaries that God gives us for our benefit only to find that our safety is threatened? Why does it seem like it always takes a scary situation to bring us back “inside the house” to be cared for by a God who loves us more than we can imagine and gives us everything we need and more? I was deeply struck by this metaphor playing out right in front of me that night. Kenny was calm and at peace because he was safe with me. The other cat was aggressive and fearful because he was alone. And then to top it all off, the following happened.

As Kenny and I were watching the other cat, I was talking to Kenny, telling him that it was ok and there was nothing to be afraid of. I was petting him and soothing him, and saying, “It’s ok. It’s ok.” And you guys, the cat outside could hear me!! And he started to calm down too! My soft heart wished I could bring him inside and care for him too, but clearly that wasn’t an option. However, it didn’t change the fact that the other cat responded to the peaceful calm I was offering to Kenny. And it’s the same with God!

If we know people who are living “outside” they need our compassion and our peace. They need to see that the love and grace of God are not just words. They are active agents in our own lives, which form us into people of peace and love. And the love of God is so powerful that it can spill out to others! Amazing!

I just want to encourage you to look to God all the time. Thank Him for the boundaries He has placed in your life that keep you secure. Be aware of the many ways He provides for you and gives you safety and peace. Continue to seek Him and grow under the care He provides. And if you have friends who don’t yet know this Love, the please keep sharing it with them. Share your words and your calm and your peace. Eventually, they’ll want it for themselves, and what a day that will be!

I guess you never know what you might learn from a cat. 😊

Have a blessed week!
Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
Hello Everyone!

I received some really fun messages and photos of kids enjoying Sunday School this week! They especially seemed to enjoy the videos and treasure hunt. If you still need a bag, please let me know.

For the Oct 18 lesson, the kids learned about wisdom. We couldn’t resist a Solomon lesson on that topic so we read in 1 Kings. If you missed that lesson, don’t worry. You can always go back and catch all of the lessons at https://www.communityrc.org/kids2020/

Next week is about following God and when Josiah found a scroll. There is even a recipe for a snack in next week’s lesson.

See you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
605-336-1475

IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL WITHOUT FINDING FAULT, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. JAMES 1:5
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)
Mission Haiti- slightly used or new shoes & backpacks
Union Gospel Mission- sugar, rice & salad dressing

THANK YOU

Thank you for your kind words of sympathy to our family on the passing of my sister. So appreciated your calls and cards. We have an amazing church of caring people. We are thankful for each of you.

Connie and Gary

NOMINATING ELDERS & DEACONS

At Community, our election process for nominating elders/deacons was put on pause this past spring due to COVID. We are now starting over with this nomination process. This means that if you voted last spring, you will need to vote again.

There are several ways to nominate people for elder and deacon this year. Please take the time to do ONE of these options. We’ve made it easy for you! Nominations due Nov. 1.

1) If you would like to fill your ballot out online, please email Holli (connect@communityrc.org) and she will forward you a link to nominate.

2) Fill out a paper copy at church. There will be a list of eligible members and ballots in the church office and on a table in the lobby.

3) Call or email Holli (connect@communityrc.org or 336-1475) if you’d like a paper copy sent to your home.

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW THIS WEEK

- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Kara Schouten (severe infection)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Jason Bartels (COVID)
- Kathleen Ludens (surgery recovery)
- Merlin Klein (COVID)
- Brian Frisbee’s grandma, Audree (recovery from hip surgery)
- Judy Van Meeteren (recovery from hip surgery)
- Tracee Ellwein’s dad (skin & muscle graft)
- Darla Anderson’s daughter, Emma
- Kim Becker’s mother-in-law, Amy (colorectal cancer)
- Abby Brost (breast cancer)
- Joe Johnson (severe headaches)
- Jan Sturing (irregular heart rhythm)
- Carrie Valentine (surgery recovery)
- Justin Hinks’ nephew, Xavier Nygard (car accident)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (cancer hormone therapy)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- 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)
- Matt Marcus’ dad (prostate cancer)
- Dree & Hawk Mayer’s sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Tami Boyle’s dad (prostate cancer)

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Marsha Groeneweg and her family on the recent passing of her husband, Bert. Please keep her and her 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, Chad O. and Rick

Opening Devotional and prayer – Matt M.

MSA the minutes from September.

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

Old Business

Faith Ave. – Hoping to have access to one of the driveways by the middle of the month.

Budgets – Budgets need to be submitted if they have not been submitted. The budget meeting will be November 18th.

New Business

Reports - From Liz, Heather and Doyle were reviewed.
· Heather has Sunday School material up through Christmas
· Liz is going to devotional videos
· Clyde will be doing story videos
· Doyle is having youth group

Weddings and Funerals – Pastor has done a lot of weddings and some funerals. They are all very different and gets to be quite a bit of work.

Mask Only Service – Consistory discussed having a mask only service. MSA to have mask only service at 11:00 AM service. This will be announced Sunday October 11th.

Thanksgiving Eve service was discussed to have an online service only. Nothing was decided.

Other

Discussed updating the website videos. This will be discussed for next year’s budget meeting.

Discussed moving forward with replacing consistory members coming off the board. The consistory will discuss on how best to do this.

Clyde closed in time of prayer

Respectfully submitted:

Tom Jacobs, clerk
**FALL CLASS UPDATES**

Fall looks and feels a little different around here. We will not be starting in-person Sunday School or Midweek until after the 1st of the year but here are several class options that the staff is working on.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TO-GO FOR KIDS**

Each week check out a video, some activities that you can choose from and a worksheet that you can print (if you want.) In mid-October we’ll have bags of fun supplies and activities to go with the lessons.

Visit [https://www.communityrc.org/kids2020/](https://www.communityrc.org/kids2020/) for more info!

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR JOHN**

If you are interested in joining the Wednesday evening Bible study, prayer, and discussion group, which meets via Zoom at 7:30 pm, please email John Thornton prayerline@communityrc.org.

You will get weekly emails with the lesson and instructions on how to access the meetings.

**PASTOR CLYDE’S MIDWEEK ONLINE CLASS**

Pastor Clyde will be sharing weekly videos of stories from his past along with an accompanying devotional thought. For those of you who might be newer to Community, you may not be familiar with Clyde’s storytelling skills or the incredible experiences he has had!

Coming Soon!

**LIZ’S MIDWEEK ONLINE CLASS**

Liz will be sharing weekly videos where she talks a bit about some of the worship songs she's written. You'll get to hear the stories behind the songs, why she wrote it the way she did, what she was hoping to communicate to the singer/listener, and even a few technical aspects of the songwriting. She'll also share a short devotional thought about each of the songs. Then at the end, she'll play and sing the song.

**WHERE CAN I FIND THESE MIDWEEK CLASSES?**

Here are several ways you can watch or get connected with the midweek classes.

1. Go to our website (communityrc.org). Look on the top righthand corner for the “Midweek” tab.
2. Go to our website (communityrc.org). Click on the “App” tab on the top righthand corner. That will send you to a page to be able to download the church app to anyone of your devices.
3. Find Community on Facebook (facebook.com/communityrc.org) Each week, Clyde & Liz’s new content will be posted.
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
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Heather DeWit
Director of Children’s Ministries
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Doyle Burnside
Senior High & Middle School Youth Director
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Sheri Brouwer
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Lisa Blankers
Part-Time Financial Administrator
accounting@communityrc.org

Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator