March is the month of surprises. One day is nice, the next day is snow. I was so glad we could do church on Sunday before all the weather things got crazy. I know for many of our farmer friends this was a million-dollar snow. Heavy/wet snow is a great way to get a lot of great things into the ground. So, it was indeed a blessing. Having said that, who knows what this will bring. Also, we sang the song Floodgate on Sunday. There is this standing joke in the church that when we do that song it rains. I don't know what to say about any of that, but it is interesting how that works around here. I will leave that judgement up to you.

Right now, things are white and there is a lot of thawing going on. It's March. This is what March does.

At our Consistory meeting, the folks there thought I should give a little push for our street. If you remember, we didn’t do any fundraisers for that big project because we do have enough money already to pay that bill when it comes due sometime this summer. However, part of that money is going to come from the COVID aid we got last spring. Now, the Consistory put forth an idea that maybe we should give a little plug for the street and see if maybe we might get a little extra for that bill and then be able to use that COVID money for a mission project of some kind. So, if you pray that up a bit and feel led, let’s see where this goes. I’m not much of one to press for funds and I won’t do that, but I also know if you give these amazing people an opportunity, they will pay attention. Here then, is an opportunity to offset all the street on our “own” as it were and then give back the COVID funds in the manner of a mission project. Pray it up Community!

Consistory also discussed for a good length of time the RCA and so much of what is going on at the denominational level. It is a very ever-changing landscape. However, we know there are some very big changes coming, but no one can really say yet how that will all look. So, our plan is for me to write each week in the newsletter a little history for us to get everyone on the same informational page and then in May do some face-to-face informational meetings about all of this. There are several churches in our area that have made some major decisions on these things and many that are still working through all of this. We are moving forward with some care. I don’t think there is a reward to arriving at the finish line first on this one. I’m not even sure what the finish line looks like. I doubt anyone does. I want to also be very careful that we don’t get lost in the weeds on this deal. There are things in our future that I get very excited about...this one is important to be sure, but it’s not first on the Consistory’s priority list. We can do this and do this well. More to come.

Sunday, we began to wind down this series. This week we look at the closing verses of Isaiah 53. You will note, if you read them, that the theme starts to change. There is a powerful word in what God was doing through all of this and what that is going to mean for you and me. Jesus is going to bring about a new life for us. We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
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

Mission Haiti- shoes & backpacks (used or new)

OUR 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. You’re help is so appreciated!
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044DA4AB29A1F85-nursery_

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY
Wednesdays @ 7:30pm
Join this Bible Study by emailing John Thornton prayerline@communityrc.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17:
9:00AM- BOOK CLUB
7:00-8:00PM- M.S. YOUTH GROUP
8:00-9:00PM- H.S. YOUTH GROUP

SATURDAY, MARCH 20:
7:00AM-PRAYER MINISTRY

SUNDAY, MARCH 21:
8:45AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM- IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES

TUESDAY, MARCH 23:
7:00PM– AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24:
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.

FINANCES
Sunday, March 14, 2021

General: $12,688
Vision: $630
Missions: $115

General YTD: $172,859
Vision YTD: $24,172
Vision Account Balance: $186,643
This week, I want to write about something that might seem a little odd: interruptions.

I have been reading recently about how, especially in Western culture, we have a negative attitude toward interruptions. We plan our days. We plan our schedules. We plan and plan and plan so we can get as much done as possible. Some of you even plan every moment of your time off and vacations! (I think that’s nuts, but to each his own! 😃) You can even take classes and read books about how to plan and how to stay focused on what you want to accomplish.

Now, I’m not saying that focused planning is a bad thing. I’m a planner, and I tend to get a lot of things accomplished in a very short amount of time. Planning has its place! However, planning becomes a negative thing when I value it above everything else. When I have done an excellent job of planning, and I face interruptions or my planning goes out the window, I get pretty wound up. And that’s not a good thing.

Several different authors I’ve been reading lately have all brought up the point that very often, interruptions in our lives are exactly where God can be found. In other words, God is in the interruptions of life. When we get sidetracked, when we get interrupted, when we get thrown off course, God is most likely in the middle of that, and there is probably something He is inviting us to notice.

I don’t know about you, but this is a pretty big challenge for me, especially when I have a full day with a lot to get done. The last thing I need on a day like that is an interruption. At least, that’s my way of thinking. But what I’m learning is that sometimes I get so focused on my own plans and tasks, that I forget to look for God in the midst of the work. So, to redirect my attention, He interrupts me because I need interrupting. And these interruptions might not be what you expect.

We might be interrupted by 8 inches of snow on Monday morning.

We might be interrupted by a surprise visit from a friend.

We might be interrupted by a phone call or question from a work colleague.

We might be interrupted by a refrigerator that just quit working.

We might be interrupted by sickness.

A flat tire.

A delivery of flowers.

A broken zipper.

A memory.

A child’s request.

A growling stomach.

A bird singing.

L I Z ’ S U P D A T E C O N T I N U E D  O N  N E X T  P A G E
Friends, if it got your attention, pay attention. If that interruption was enough to make you stop and notice, then stop and notice.

Is there something God is inviting you to notice? How’s your attitude? Where are your thoughts going? Is God in the middle of it? What’s He doing there? Do you need a little nudge in a different direction? Are you angry? Frustrated? Annoyed? Thankful? Awestruck?

Take a moment and tell God about it. Use that interruption to focus on God.

What I’ve been learning is that very often, when I think I’m doing God’s work, I find that the interruptions are God’s work. If I excuse, ignore, or avoid them, I’m avoiding the very work God is inviting me to do. And the consequence is that I miss the blessings and gifts God has hidden away in these interruptions. If God loves me enough to interrupt me, I want to take time to meet Him there.

I find this very challenging to do in real life. Simple in theory. Difficult in practice.
I am a focused worker, and I don’t like to be interrupted. But I am learning that my focused planning needs refining in my life, and I think God will interrupt me as many times as it takes to accomplish His refining work.

I’m writing this on Monday morning. We’ve had a huge snowfall, and I know it’s created interruptions across several states. But I encourage you to look for God in these interruptions of life. I believe you’ll find Him there.

Have a great week!

Liz
liz.teel@communityrc.org
Hi Everyone!

I’m writing to you on Monday morning and I’m praying you all are safe while driving and that the kids had a wonderful (and restful) snow day. I remember snow days being filled with so much excitement as a kid. I loved school but a surprise day off for breakfast in bed, building snow forts, doing crafts, baking, and watching Mr. Rogers or Picture Pages was always a fun little treat.

We have an opportunity to serve in Children’s Ministry coming up next week. **On March 24, we are meeting from 7-8pm** with anyone who is interested in helping to decorate for VBS. We are hoping to find a bunch of people who like being crafty or decorating! We’ll meet to tell you quickly about this year’s theme and brainstorm. Anyone who comes to the meeting (or you can always email or call me if you won’t be at the meeting) can decide if any of the projects sound fun to you and decide when you want to work on it (at home or at church- it is all up to you.) We know that we will make some giant cereal boxes, some bowls, bacon garland, a cereal box arch and some other fun ideas. No experience is necessary! (If this isn’t the way you want to serve, please feel free to pass this on to any friends who might!) VBS isn’t until August 1-4 but we like to start early so it is stress-free.

I also want to remind you that Community offers to pay for half of the early bird registration fee for any kids going to Inspiration Hills camp this summer. If you have any questions about that, feel free to let me know. You can sign up your child at [https://inspirationhills.org/summer-camp.html](https://inspirationhills.org/summer-camp.html) and when it comes to the payment portion, enter that Community will pay for half of that early registration amount. Then, when you pay your portion, leave that remaining half and Inspiration Hills will send us an invoice here at church. Be sure to send me a quick email with your child’s name and which week they are attending so that we can pray for them while they are at camp. If they are inviting a friend, be sure to send that name as well. There are bus routes available for the day camps on their web page as well.

Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit

[https://www.communityrc.org/kids2021/](https://www.communityrc.org/kids2021/)

Heather.DeWit@communityRC.org
605-336-1475
PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW THIS WEEK

• Carl Tonjes (cancer)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

• John & Marcia Thornton’s son-in-law, Tony (sledding accident)
• Cal Klein (heart stent)
• Kara Schouten (hip pain)
• Jenny Getting (stroke recovery)
• Jan Kreun
• 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)
• 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 (colorectal 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

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to the family of Judi Rew. Please keep the family in your prayers.

DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Updated church directories are available at The Link.
Attendance: Clyde, Robyn, Tom, Shawn, Curt, Mark, Mike H. Bob, Matt M., Chad M., Steve, Rick, Duane, Logan, Dustin, Mike D. and Chad O.

Opening Devotional and prayer – Mike Dick

MSA the minutes from February.

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

Old Business

Faith Avenue – We are not sure when this will be finished. To pay off the loan we are $8633.00 short. It was discussed putting this in the newsletter to see if anyone would like to donate to pay the rest of the balance off.

Chairs - We have added about 50 chairs to the worship services.

New Business

Reports - From Liz, Heather and Doyle were reviewed.
  - Liz has been working new ideas for Mid-Week classes she would like to teach.
  - VBS is all written and moving along well.

Task Forces – We will revisit most of them in June when we bring on the other Deacons and Elders. One of the immediate needs is someone to be a part of the Nursery task force. Robyn volunteered to help Mike H. out with that task force.

RCA Update
  - The state of the RCA denomination was discussed as there are several churches that have written letters to leave the RCA. To ensure we get all the information out to the church it was decided to have informational meetings. Pastor Clyde will be setting these up on Sunday nights in May. In addition, there will be more information coming out in the Communicator and other media options.

Nursery Report – Nursery is a bit slow. There are about 4 or 5 kids a service.

Other

Maundy Thursday will have Communion. There will be at least 2 maybe 3 services.

Clyde closed in time of prayer

Respectfully submitted:

Tom Jacobs, clerk
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.