

THE COMMUNICATOR

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH

DECEMBER 15, 2021

PRAYER MINISTRY

Join us for prayer on Saturday mornings at 7am via Zoom or in person in our chapel.

People can join via video or using the call-in number if video is not an option.

Join via phone: (346) 248-7799

Meeting website:
<https://zoom.us/j/862139432>
Meeting ID: 862 139 432
Password: 853781

Call Shawn Blom at
605-940-6702 with questions.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Lunch is Served

Their mission is to deliver sack lunches for working men and women who are attempting to break the chains of poverty and hunger.

CLYDE'S ARTICLE

When I said in last week's newsletter that winter had arrived, I had no idea what I was really saying. It really has arrived! Snow and all! I heard it was just shy of 10 inches. That will leave some large piles around for sure. We have plenty of snow out here, but the snow removal people did a great job and everything seems to be clearing up nicely. That should be just in time for the next snow. I heard that might be coming as well. It is winter folks. We know how that goes. I hope it doesn't affect your Christmas plans too much. Enjoy the season. It will be gone before we know it.

It is our family's week to work the concert at the Cathedral. Liz has a big job this week as she does all the prep work for the soloist and then plays with the orchestra and all their extra practices. Abbie and I are singing in the choir. Dalton is in this year's production as well, but his part is shall we say...more subtle. The production is so much fun to be a part of. That is not difficult work... we love it. There are a number of Community folks in the choir this year. Our church makes up about 20% of the choir. We have some good singers in our church, and they get busy this time of year. I enjoy being with them in this event. It makes the season very special. If you have never seen the Christmas at the Cathedral, I would encourage you to consider that. I know tickets go very fast.

RCA news. People are asking about what our plans are in this area. We put together a team of Consistory folks to put together our plan as to how we want to work through all of this. I have been in very close contact with Dakota Classis people as well as leaders from all over the region. Dakota has been early in all of this, but the majority of churches in the region were watching with great interest when the Synod met in November. Many of those churches are now meeting and deciding on what the next steps will be...that is where we are as well. Dakota churches are leaving and all going to the new ARC, but that departing isn't official till the end of this month. It will take a little more time for all the pastors of Dakota to become a part of the ARC. That process is a little different than for churches. That will take some time, which will take us into the new year. We will have several meetings with all of you to get a clear view of what you want to do. We want to bring good information and then work on a plan. There are a variety of ideas I have heard. We are not all on the same page, but I do believe with some good discussions and well-planned conversations, we will have a clear view of what to do next. Lots of change for sure, but nothing that we can't do, and certainly nothing that needs to change who we are as a church. These are business things that we must do with prayer and grace. We can do it. I want to get through the Christmas season and then early in January we will have a meeting to get this going. We are meeting on the 9th of January to approve the budget and I am planning on a few questions. We are **not** voting on any of the RCA things at that meeting. You will be hearing lots more in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

Dennis Thum will be sharing this coming Sunday at 9am and 10:45am. I am sure you will enjoy him. Dennis and I go way back...he might have a word about that. He has preached here before so, he's not a stranger. Pastor John is doing 8am for me that day. I am most grateful to both for helping. We have good folks around to make these things work so well. I'll see you all Christmas Eve. We'll talk more then, have a great week!



IMPORTANT! UPCOMING DATES

MIDWEEK BREAK

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 22, 29

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICES

Friday, Dec. 24
3, 4, 5, & 6:00pm

JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AS WE CELEBRATE AND REFLECT ON THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS. THIS 45-MINUTE SERVICE WILL INCLUDE MUSIC, A SHORT MESSAGE, AND A TIME OF COMMUNION. WE'LL HAVE INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED COMMUNION CUPS AND A GLUTEN FREE OPTION. WE'LL LIVESTREAM THE 3:00 & 4:00PM SERVICES.

THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, Dec. 26
10:00am service only

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, Dec. 26 & Jan. 2

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, Dec. 24th
Monday, Dec. 27th
Friday, Dec. 31st

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 9 @ 10:00am

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15:

No Midweek

SATURDAY, DEC. 18 :

7:00AM-Prayer Ministry (chapel)
10:00AM- AA meeting

SUNDAY, DEC. 19:

8:00am, 9:00am & 10:45am- Sunday Service
10:00- Sunday School

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22:

No Midweek

OTHER MINISTRIES

AA BIG BOOK MEETING

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.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens meet every 2nd Monday of the month at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. **Next date: Jan. 10.** Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

HOPE CIRCLE

The Hope Circle will meet on December 21 at 6:00pm at Helen's home.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2022 offering envelopes are now available on the table in the lobby. If you would like to request envelopes, either email connect@communityrc.org or put your name on the list at the table in the lobby.

PRINTED DIRECTORIES

Just a reminder that you can pick up the most current printed directory at The Link in the lobby!



We will livestream the 3:00pm & 4:00pm services on YouTube, our church app, & on www.communityrc.org

No childcare provided but the service is kid-friendly!



Hi Everyone!

There are no big updates from me this week. As we get closer to Christmas, I have been thinking a little about anticipation. As I often do, I started thinking about kids in relation to what I'm pondering. Different kids respond to different situations in a variety of ways, and when a child is in a season where they are anticipating something, it can be a great joy or a source of stress. Often, I think it can be both joy and stress for some kids. Anticipating Christmas, even if everything about Christmas is positive and fun, can wear some kids out. They think about what's to come, and the feeling of excitement feels a little too close to the feeling of anxious. They may have far too many unanswered questions about what to expect. Depending on their age, they may feel embarrassed for being the only one asking those questions. For other kids, they are giddy with the prospect of a change in routine and the promise of upcoming adventure. Neither approach is particularly good or bad, but being sensitive and patient with a child, regardless of the situation can prevent a lot of angst. For some kids, it is better to offer as many details as possible and chances to discuss and process what's to come. As adults, we often forget how little control kids have over their experiences. They go to the places we take them; we often choose bedtime; we decide what meal will be served and we decide when it is time to go home from someplace fun. If a child feels overwhelmed or uncomfortable in a setting, they don't always have the tools to communicate their needs, but even if they did, it isn't always easy to meet those needs. Just because one family member is ready to go home for some quiet, doesn't mean the rest of the family is done having fun yet.

There are a few solutions that I've learned over time. This isn't an "expert list" or even a "top 10." It is just my observations in many years of spending time with a wide variety of awesome humans under the age of 16. (I confess, some of these tips might be helpful with adults as well...including me!)

- Offer opportunities to ask questions and have them answered. Sometimes it is helpful for some kids to know what to expect. Before I do something out of my routine, I like to know who will be there, how long I'll be there, how I'll get there and get home, whether we'll be eating, what I should bring, what the place is like, what to wear, etc. As an adult, I can gather or assume most of that information based on my past experiences. Often, I have control over some parts as well, like whether I'll drive or ride with someone else. Some kids are fine with "winging it," but for kids who aren't, it is helpful to get into a habit of offering those details or at least giving the invitation for questions. Spending time talking in advance is much easier than spending time dealing with the fall out of a stressed out kid.
- Pay attention to all 5 senses. If your child seems "off," take a quick beat to assess what their senses are experiencing. Is it loud? Is there a quiet buzzing sound that is annoying? Does the room stink? Is there weird air freshener? Maybe just stale air? Is it hot? Cold? Itchy clothing? Scrunched socks? Tight ponytail? Too many people, too close? Is it bright? Dark? Flashing light? Too much motion? Is the food gross? Spicy? Not enough water? New food? I might add that even though it isn't one of the 5 senses, some kids can feel tension between people in a room and it puts them on edge. You may not be able to solve the problem or change the setting, but sometimes a quiet conversation in a corner and some solutions to some of the issues can help. Often kids don't know what is bothering them. They just feel big feelings. Helping them notice what is bothering them can be a good life skill to grow.
- Try not to make a child's feelings turn into your own inconvenience. It isn't about us as grown ups. It is good to give kids boundaries around how they are expected to act, but all of us have feelings and kids need support as they figure them out. If a child is upset that it is time to go home, it is good to say, "I hear that you wish we could stay longer, but we do have to leave so I need you to put on your shoes. It is ok to want to stay, but it is not ok to scream at me." As kids get older, that might look like eyerolling, sulking, ignoring or other typical behaviors, but the causes are often the same. We can't give kids control over every setting, but we can support them as they work through the big feelings that go along with not always having a choice.
- If you get sick of questions like, "when are we going home?", "when is it time for presents?" or "can I have a drink?" it may be helpful to set up some prevention tools. Pack a water bottle and let your kid be in charge of it. (Make it a cheap one with their name on it so it doesn't matter if it gets left behind.) Tell your child which things will likely happen before the thing they are looking forward to. "We won't play outside until after supper, but you can ask me again after we eat. Please try not to ask until then." "I don't know if we'll be opening any presents or when, so you don't need to ask about it. I'll let you know if I find out."
- Offer some comfort and routine in the midst of the chaos. Holiday traditions do that for some of us, but it is important to remember that some kids may not even remember what you "do every year" yet. What might comfort them is a "normal" night at home or just the promise of uninterrupted 20 minutes of alone time after enduring a gathering. Some kids are introverts, but even extroverts can be overwhelmed by all of the fun.
- Remember, your child is created by God and growing, just like you. Whether sensitive, cautious, adventurous, energetic, adaptable, etc., we are each fearfully and wonderfully made. God put you and your child together, and is working on good changes in both of you. Neither one will get it right every time. That's ok. God loves us anyway.

See you soon!

-Heather

Heather.DeWit@Communityrc.org

605-336-1475

CONSISTORY NOTES

DECEMBER 9, 2021

Attendance: Pastor Clyde, Dustin, Grant, Rick, Mike H., Robyn, Tom J., Tom V., Logan, Matt M., Steve, and Corey

Opening Devotional and prayer – Tom Van Roekel

MSA the minutes from November.

MSA of the financial reports for November given by Logan.

Old Business

MSA Budget for 2022

MSA Employee insurance plans for staff

RCA & ARC Updates – No updates this month.

New Business

Reports – Liz and Heather were reviewed.

Final Year Missions and Charities

- True up for all Missions of the month to \$2750.00
- Donating to the following charities
 - oCRU (Jeff McKee) - \$4000.00
 - oThe Voice of the Martyrs - \$1678.00
 - oChildren's Inn - \$4000.00
 - oMission Haiti - \$1678.00
 - oMcCrossan Boys Ranch - \$1678.00
 - oFeeding South Dakota - \$1678.00
 - oCenter of Hope - \$1000.00

Other

Talked about looking into adding a storage building. Just looking into it at this point.

Clyde closed in time of prayer

Respectfully submitted:

Tom Jacobs, clerk

Next Meeting January 13th. 2022

Steve Bonnema devotion and serving treats

FINANCES

Sunday, December 12, 2021

General: \$17,313

Vision: \$4,710

Missions: \$535

Wednesday Night: \$376

General YTD: \$883,915

Vision YTD: \$98,345

Vision Account Balance: \$194,298



DOYLES'S UPDATE

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

We have finished our Wednesday nights for December and have one more Sunday left for Sunday school before Christmas break is in full swing here at Community. It has been a great year and I want to take a moment and highlight our Wednesday night and Sunday morning Sponsors. We have 6 sponsors who spend time Wednesday or Sunday morning with the high school and middle school group and they have all been a huge blessing! They all do a great job making connections and providing a place where students feel welcomed and cared for! Thank you all!!

I do have one correction I want to highlight as well. Our middle school and high school retreat to Inspiration Hills in February has been moved ahead one week. The new dates are February 11th-13th. I can confidently lock those dates in now so if you had already marked the calendars I do apologize for the need for an eraser or cross off! I am really looking forward to partnering with Prairie Hills and can't wait for a great winter retreat! All the details will be sent out at the beginning of January.

That's it for this week. I do hope you are able to enjoy the Christmas season and I look forward to being back together in the new year!

Doyle
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org
605-310-2561



3RD GRADE PARENTS

If your child would like help putting tabs on their Bibles, please have them bring their Bible to Sunday School & we'll help them with that.

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Rich Odens (knee replacement 12/16)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Cleon Groen
- Vi Slecta
- Jan Kreun's dad
- Mike Hays (cancer/surgery recovery)
- Jim Halling (cancer)
- Jenny Getting
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer treatments)
- Spring & Tony
- Jodie Jensen (cancer treatments/heart)
- Darla Anderson's friend, Vonnie (cancer)
- Connie Saathoff's brother, Russ (cancer)
- Ann DeYoung (dialysis)
- Brian Frisbee (long-term stroke rehab)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Tracee Ellwein's dad (skin & muscle graft)
- Kim Becker's mother-in-law, Amy (colorectal cancer)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- Tami Boyle's dad (prostate cancer)
- Gary Jensen (cancer)
- Tami Harm's cousin (colon cancer)

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Jim Ludens and his family for the passing of his wife, Kathleen.

Our condolences go out to Robin Jacobs and her family for the passing of her father. Please keep these families in your prayers.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank our amazing Community Church Family for your prayers, cards and words of comfort in the recent passing of Tom's Mom and Uncle. Special thanks to John for his numerous visits to Dougherty Hospice to share scripture and a prayer with our family. We rejoice knowing they are with Jesus for eternity.

God Bless

Tom & Amy Bosch + Family

**COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH
6800 E. 41 STREET
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57110**

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DECEMBER 15, 2021

REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM...

**If you would like to request membership or baptism, please
e-mail the church office at connect@communityrc.org.
We are doing individual family baptism after the 10:45am
service until further notice.**

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

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Lisa Blankers

Part-Time Financial Administrator
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Josiah Dunlap

Part-Time IT Coordinator