

THE COMMUNICATOR

DECEMBER 11, 2024

THIS WEEK

DEC 4- DEC 11

Wednesday, Dec. 11

5:30-6:30pm-

Tacos

6:30-7:30pm- Classes for all ages

Middle school youth group

7:30-8:30pm- H.S. Youth Group

Saturday, Dec. 14

7:00am- Fresh Encounter

Sunday, Dec. 15

NO 8:00AM SERVICE

9:00 & 10:45AM- Choir Concert

10:10am-SUNDAY SCHOOL

Monday, Dec. 16

7:00pm- Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, Dec. 17

9:30-11am- Play Group

11:30pm- Hope Circle

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Noon- Joy Circle (All Day Cafe)

NO MIDWEEK- Christmas Break

6:00-8:00pm- Middle/High School
Christmas party

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FINANCES

Sunday, Dec. 8 2024

General: \$18,908

Vision: \$425

Missions: \$1,630

General YTD: \$855,830

Vision YTD: \$61,703

Vision Account Balance: \$27,141

Clyde's Update

December is getting away from us as so often I seem to say. It has been a good month thus far, as many of the plans of the church are in full swing now. The weather has been cooperating with us for the most part, and for that, I am most grateful. This time of year we just never know what all that may bring. It was good to see a very nice weekend after all the wind and cold of the week. We are blessed. It does make planning and programming so much easier.

Sunday was a busy day around the church with all the morning activities and children's Christmas program that afternoon. Heather and all her team did a great job putting all the things together for the program. We had a nice crowd for their program Sunday afternoon. Thanks for those of you who were helped put that all together because I know there were lots of you behind the scenes getting that organized. There were costumes to be fitted and kids to manage. It is a task that keeps a person busy. Thanks for all you do! Kids and Christmas, that just seems to always work! I notice each year that people move forward at that concert. On Sundays everyone seems to be looking for the back seats in the worship center, but for the kids... they move forward! Kids and Christmas. It makes a difference.

We had our last Sunday rehearsal for the choir on Sunday. They are doing such a great work. We picked all new music this year for them, and the songs are challenging. Liz and I share the directing duties for this concert, and we are both so pleased with the attention to details this year's choir is putting forth. They have a wonderful sound. I think you are in for a great program. We are adding a couple of extras to the program this year which I think you are going to enjoy very much. The choir is ready! We are so pleased with their work. We are hoping for good health this week, as there is always those pesky viruses running around. We don't need that! I hope you will join us Sunday for their performance. It is a good Sunday to bring a friend with you. We also want to pray that hearts will be encouraged and touched by all we do. Music has a way of doing a little something extra. We pray that it will.

That being said: We are dedicating our Sunday concert to Randi Vander Sloot. She was a part of the choir for many years with Marty at her side. She was always the upbeat one who brought so much good energy to our time together. Randi had a contagious personality of joy in her life. We do so miss her voice and energy. We are going to take up a special offering on Sunday in her name, and then make those funds available to a charity of the families choosing. We will have marked boxes in the lobby. It is a way to honor her gift and make a difference in someone's life. That's what we do around here.

Sunday is Christmas Choir Day. All Christmas music! It is a day to bring back memories and make some new ones. We are going to see God move in the room. We pray that the songs fill the air with the message of the season. We want our listeners to enjoy sounds of the season and to see our Savior's love and mercy. We want lives to be filled and hearts to be moved. We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

“Worship-based prayer’ seeks the Face of God before seeking the Hand of God...igniting a desire for spiritual intimacy and personal transformation.”

(Daniel Henderson)

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER

LSS- BETTER TOGETHER

Better Together is an independent adult service with the purpose of providing aging adults who live on their own with long-term relationships and neighborly activities. In the Better Together program, an older adult Neighbor and their assigned volunteer will spend four hours per month participating in social activities. Volunteers and Neighbors can enjoy a variety of activities together, such as playing cards, going for walks, seeing a movie or play, going shopping, or simply drinking coffee and talking.

COMMUNITY KIDS NOW HIRING!

JOIN OUR TEAM
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
TO HELP WITH THE K-5 KIDS
WORK 5:45PM-7:45PM

Our current staffing team is doing great and everyone is learning and having fun, but with more kids this year, we need more help.

Community hires paid staff for this position to allow parents to attend classes, rather than volunteering in the Kids Wing. It is good for kids to see their parents committed to learning and growing in their relationship with Jesus!

Make a difference and make some cash.
Teach fun, engaging, hands on Bible lessons to K-5 kids at church.

Email: Heather.DeWite@CommunityRC.org to apply or with questions.

OUR CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Renae Christensen's family. Renae died unexpectedly last week. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

In need of prayer or want to share your prayer request?

Email Pastor John at prayerline@communityrc.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Joan Schouten (shoulder)
- John Evans (hospital)
- Jerralynne Tjeerdsma's brother (hospice)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Steve Zimmerman
- Jan Sturing's son, Matt (surgery)
- Matt Meyer's fiancé Lynnette's dad (tumor)
- Gracia Harmsen
- Ellen Nelson Garner (chronic airway disease)
- Terry & Dree Mayer's son-in-law, Tony
- Cory Carlson-Himes (shoulder surgery)
- Karen Odens (broken femur)
- Steve Lee (lung transplant recovery)
- Brian Frisbee (ongoing rehab)
- Harlan Van Meeteren (infection)
- Jerralynne Tjeerdsma's daughter, Deb (cancer)
- Merlin Klein
- JoAnn Hanssen
- Anna Halverson (seizures)
- Caleb Ellwein (knee stress fracture)
- Melanie Oden's sister, Amber (breast cancer)
- Kim Becker (high risk pregnancy)
- Jordan Lipp's mom, Becky (dementia)
- Ryan Kortemeyer (lymphoma)
- Susan Vanden Berg's mom, Marlene (testing)
- Daniel Burlingame's mom, Esther
- Dennis VerHey (accident recovery)
- Tony & Spring (healthy pregnancy)
- Susan Bierwagen's sister, Marlene
- Evita Attema's sister, Lilli (cancer)
- Holli Jans' dad, Milt (cancer)
- Junella Wesselink's sister (cancer)
- Aaralyn Van Der Sloot
- Rick Norris (cancer)
- Pete & Jan Mellema's son-in-law, Chris
- Kristy Mouw's sister-in-law, Mindy (cancer)
- Susan Bierwagen's uncle, Darrell (cancer)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer treatments/heart)
- Tracee Ellwein's dad

FRESH ENCOUNTER

SATURDAY MORNINGS
@ 7:00AM

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.



HEATHER'S UPDATE KID'S MINISTRY



Hi Everyone!

The kids did a wonderful job in their Christmas Program. I hope you were able to see it.

It was fun to see their hard work and their personalities shine through. As always, I learned some new things we can try for future years. I'm looking forward to chatting with the kids this week to see what they offer for feedback.

Regarding the Christmas Program, I have many people to thank. First, I want to show some appreciation to the kids! They worked hard and had great energy and enthusiasm. I threw some big challenges at them, and they rose to the occasion and then added their own special touches. Many of them have been working on parts of the program since October. Parents, thank you for bringing them and helping them get ready. They brought us all an important message and they can only do that with your cooperation. I appreciate all of the other family and friends who came to support the kids in their program. It can be a busy time of year and we had a good crowd. Sunday School teachers and helpers, thank you for your flexibility and dedication in helping the kids get ready each week. There were also some parents and teachers who helped during the practice and program. I can't list all of you, but please know that we could not have a program without you. It was so nice to be able to have caring adults helping individual classes and kids and taking care of costumes, questions, and needs. Every time a child needed something; an adult was right there to help.

Emily and Cheryl and your team, thanks for taking care of the preschool part of the program! That is a big job, and you do it so well!

My daughter, Addi, and husband, Jaron, both helped with the program again this year. Addi helped with cue cards and crowd control and Jaron did slides and sound. On the tech side, Josiah and Will D. took care of the Livestream and recording the program. I know many of the kids said they want to watch themselves later and there were some family members who were far away that enjoyed watching online.

The staff at Community is always very helpful for the program and this year was no exception. Liz helped me by writing the "Names of God" drumming song when I was stumped on how to lead bucket drumming in a way that the kids could feel confident. Clyde led a team to set up risers. Holli helped with costumes. All the full time staff answered my questions and help me process and figure out the best way to do things. If you know me well, you know that being in front of a group of grown-ups isn't my comfort zone, so being able to talk through how to help the kids shine and get an important message shared in the program setting is tricky. My background is in education, but I'm not trained as a music teacher. I'm much more comfortable in the kid's wing. Having the support and skills of co-workers and the whole congregation makes all the difference...and seriously, we have the best kids around here!

See you soon!

Heather DeWit



MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL



The end of the year is quickly approaching and this is our last week of midweek for the year! We end the year going through the gift of presence. Jesus has come into this world to be with us! As Clyde went through this last week, the story of Christmas wasn't a cute, simple, quiet, perfect story. There was a lot of chaos, discomfort and change that came along with the birth of Jesus. Still, there is hope, joy and peace, because the savior is with us! As we reflect on that message, we also dive into how we can bring comfort to others. Sometimes, that is as simple as being present in whatever season someone is walking through.

Speaking of Christmas, the middle and high school group will be getting together next Wednesday night from 6:00-8:00 here at church. We will have a meal starting at 6:00 and then will spend some time celebrating Christmas together as a youth group with Christmas themed games, challenges and treats. If students are free, I invite you to join us for a great night together to end our time together this year.

Finally, we shift to summer a little. This year, the high school group will be going on a mission trip through an organization called Youth Works. We will be heading to Waco, TX to serve in partnership with different ministries there through connections that Youth Works has built up. The trip will be July 6th-11th as we Travel Sunday and Friday, and serve Monday-Thursday. If students are interested in joining us for this year's mission trip they can begin registering next week. I will have forms put together and sent out at midweek and Sunday school as we begin promoting our summer trip this year.

That's it for this week. If you have any questions for the youth ministry here at Community, feel free to reach out anytime!

Doyle
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

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**FOR MORE INFO
ABOUT PARKING LOT,
SCAN CODE**

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ONGOING MINISTRIES

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, January 13 at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Monday Evening Bible Study at 7 pm. If you have any questions, please call or email John Thornton

JOY CIRCLE LUNCHEON

Wednesday, Dec. 18th
Noon
All Day Cafe
Meet in the private room
RSVP to Char: 605-366-1341

HOPE CIRCLE

The Hope Circle will have their Christmas party at Donna's on December 17th beginning at 11:30. Bring your food and donation for "the gift."

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WAYS TO GIVE
TO THE PARKING LOT CAMPAIGN

IN SERVICE
Cash or check in offering baskets in the back
(please use marked envelopes)

ONLINE
One time or recurring at
605.church/give-to-community
(Select "Parking Lot")

MAIL
You can mail a check to:
Community Reformed Church
6800 E. 41st St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

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LIZ'S UPDATE

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

Here is the list of upcoming events at Community!

- December 11 – Regular Mid-Week – Supper at 5:30 Classes at 6:30
- December 14 – Saturday Christmas Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm
- December 15 – Christmas Choir Concerts at 9:00 and 10:45 (No 8:00 service)
- December 18 – NO Mid-Week
- December 22 – Regular Sunday Services 8:00, 9:00, and 10:45
- December 22 – NO Sunday School
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Communion Services 2:00pm and 4:00pm
- December 25 – Christmas Day (NO Mid-Week!)😊
- December 29 – Regular Sunday Services 8:00, 9:00, and 10:45
- January 1 – Happy New Year (NO Mid-Week! 😊)
- January 5 – Regular Sunday Services 8:00, 9:00, and 10:45
- January 5 – Sunday School Resumes
- January 8 – Regular Mid-Week Resumes – Supper at 5:30 Classes at 6:30

This Sunday, the choir will be sharing their Christmas Concerts at the 9:00 and 10:45 services. Our Sunday evening rehearsal went extremely well! And we have one more quick rehearsal this Saturday to prep ourselves for Sunday morning. This year, I ordered all new music for our choir, and they have absolutely outdone themselves in their commitment to working on these pieces. The songs are very challenging, and the choir has met each challenge. I know I say this every year, but it's true every year: this is the best the choir has ever sounded! My dad and I were talking after rehearsal on Sunday evening, and we were blown away by how beautiful their choral sound is. It has been an absolutely joy to rehearse with them and prepare these songs for the concerts. I know you will be encouraged and blessed on Sunday with this music. I believe the Spirit has been active in our rehearsals and will be active on Sunday as well. As you are led, we would love prayers for health and blessed performances on Sunday. We do all of this in glory to God! We hope to see you all in church on Sunday!

And lastly this week, we have our 4 volunteers for Nursery at 2:00 on Christmas Eve! Thanks so much to Rose Klein, Trish Mayer, Jon Harmsen, and Mary Burggraaf for volunteering to serve in the nursery! You are highly appreciated by so many and will be a huge blessing to families and kids that day. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Have a good week, friends!

Liz

Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICES

**DECEMBER 24TH
2:00 & 4:00PM**

Join us as we celebrate our Savior's birth!

Nursery for infant-5 years olds provided for the 2:00pm service.

2:00pm service will be live-streamed.
An ASL interpreter will also join us for the 2pm service.