

THE COMMUNICATOR

THIS WEEK

DEC 17- DEC 24

Wednesday, Dec. 17

No Midweek Meal

(Christmas break)

6:00-8:00pm- M.S. & H.S Youth Group Christmas Party

Saturday, Dec. 20

7:00am- Fresh Encounter

Sunday, Dec. 21

8:00, 9:00 & 10:45am- Worship Services

NO Sunday School

6:30pm- Refresh (Young Adult group)

Monday, Dec. 22

7:00pm- Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, Dec. 23

9:30am- Play Group

7:00pm- AA meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 24

3:00, 4:30, 6:00pm-

Christmas Eve Services

3:00pm Service Livestreamed

4:30pm Service has nursery available

CHRISTMAS EVE ON KELO

A recorded version of our Christmas Eve service will air on KELO-TV Christmas Eve from 4:00-5:00pm.

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Clyde's Update

I'm sitting in my office on this Monday morning the 15th of December and the temp has raised overnight nearly 25 degrees. Today is a day of melting! This month has been challenging with all the weather things. Yesterday was a cold one! Our snow crews have been busy keeping us clean, but it has been a nearly every day job for them. We are also getting closer to the shortest sunlight day of the year, and then the sun starts climbing back in new direction. I know the snow is pretty and all...I hear that, but is can sure be a problem when you are trying to plan for things, can't it? Christmas is getting closer now. I am looking forward to that. I believe that many of you have already begun to do some Christmas gatherings with your families. People wind up doing at least a couple different weekends during this season. I hope those all go well. Just be careful out on the highways.

Yesterday was a busy day in the church with the choir and the kids program. I want to thank the choir for putting in a lot of hard work this year on that music. You did an outstanding job yesterday with all that we were asking you to do. I always hope they will do that at the level we know they can. They certainly did that. The music was complicated and took a lot of concentration to do well. They did a wonderful job. I have always enjoyed that Sunday in the church. Lots of music and extra things. It is a day to set the Christmas spirit loose in this place. I hope you all enjoyed all of that. Thanks to Liz, this year, for picking up all the conducting pieces for the choir. I sang this year as we needed a few more tenors to fill out the choir. Thanks to Carmen Cook who was our accompanist and organist for the day. Carmen taught with Liz back in a Burke a long time ago...that's how we know her. Thanks to Kris Dunlap on the beautiful flute rendition of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". Thanks to the soloist on "Children Go". Evita Attema, Abbie Coffey, and Natalie Kabeya. Thanks to Hudson Van Donge for our rhythm section on that piece as well. Outstanding everyone! Also, a big thank you to our congregation who came out on a very cold morning to support those singers and be a part of our morning. That was so good to see. That really meant a lot to the singers as we were concerned the cold might keep you away. Good job everyone!

Sunday afternoon was the kids program. Lots of kids. The littles are always so cute with their singing time. I wasn't sure who all was involved in that but I know Emily VanDeraa leads the singing time with them and Lori Hein accompanies for them. Those little ones are showstoppers! I have to admit, I didn't know who many of them were. It's lots of new faces in that crowd. The older kids took the stage to do the Christmas story around the theme of Jesus being the greatest Super Hero. It had a comic book look to it with a clever presentation of the story of Christmas. Heather spends a lot of extra time putting all of that together and working to get parts put together for all the kids in all the ways it takes to get that done. It was a good day for those who came. Thanks, kids, for wonderful afternoon of giving your time for all the friends in the room.

Sunday, we get back to Advent again and our theme of Relentless Grace. It is the Sunday before Christmas. I am looking forward to sharing that word with you all. We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE FOR MIDWEEK & SUNDAY SCHOOL

December 17

NO Mid-Week

December 21

NO Sunday School

December 28

NO Sunday School

December 31

NO Mid-Week

January 7

Regular Mid-Week Resumes

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Thank You

My family and I would like to thank this great church family for all the ways you remembered us with the passing of Jerry. Your prayers, cards and memorials were deeply appreciated. Thanks Pastor Clyde & Pastor John for being there for us and to Liz & Abbie for the beautiful music. Love from Betty Ackerman & family

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, such as playing cards, going for walks, seeing a movie or play, going shopping, or simply drinking coffee and talking.

PRAYER REQUESTS

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Leroy Thill (infant son of Katie & Trevor Thill)
- Jean Nollmann (hematoma)
- Claradith Kingsbury (stroke recovery)
- Gracia Harmsen (surgery recovery)
- Al Price
- Donna Holmgren's brother, Tim
- Jan Sturing
- Ken Stellinga (Pancreatic cancer)
- Tim DeLoof (ALS)
- Steve Lee
- Denny Spitler (chronic foot pain)
- Mike Hay's father, Duane
- Gracia Harmsen's dad (esophageal cancer)
- Matt Meyer's fiancé Lynnette's dad (tumor)
- Ellen Nelson Garner (chronic airway disease)
- Brian Frisbee (ongoing rehab)
- Jerralynne Tjeerdsma's daughter, Deb (cancer)
- Jordan Lipp's mom, Becky (dementia)
- Pete & Jan Mellema's son-in-law, Chris
- Kristy Mouw's sister-in-law, Mindy (cancer)
- Susan Bierwagen's uncle, Darrell (cancer)

"Seek His face" in essence means to pay attention: to watch for what He is doing; and to listen to what He is saying....watching for His smile; catching and holding the look of love in His eyes; our eyes glued to that unfathomable expression of Jesus' s love.

Cynthia Ruchti

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.

[https://bradymartz.zoom.us/j/87440575632?
pwd=RwtTfrMNrb0Xcg9KhabfrdoMWC2Cb.1](https://bradymartz.zoom.us/j/87440575632?pwd=RwtTfrMNrb0Xcg9KhabfrdoMWC2Cb.1)

Meeting ID: 874 4057 5632

Passcode: 052482

One tap mobile

+12532050468,,87440575632# US

+12532158782,,87440575632# US

+1 346 248 7799 US

Questions?

Call Shawn Blom

605-940-6702



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

Email Pastor John at prayerline@communityrc.org

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NO NEWSLETTER DEC. 24 & 31

Merry Christmas to you all!
Next newsletter will be January 7, 2026.



ONGOING MINISTRIES

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, **January 12** at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

AA MEETING (OPEN)

Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm in the youth room. Use east doors.

REFRESH

Weekly gathering of college students and young adults every Sunday at 6:30pm.

BOOK CLUBS

No book clubs in December.

The evening book club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 7 pm at the church. We will be discussing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Copies are available to borrow in the church library.

The morning book club will meet Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 9 am at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave near 33rd St. We will be discussing *Yellowface*. This book will be available to pick up in the church library sometime mid-December.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES NOW
AVAILABLE AT TABLE
IN THE LOBBY**

DOYLE'S UPDATE**MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL**

Christmas break is just about here, and we are looking forward to celebrating together as a youth group this week. The middle school and high school group will be having their Christmas party this Wednesday from 6:00-8:00. We will be bringing in food, enjoying some Christmas games, goodies and celebrating the joy, hope and peace that entered into this world! It is a great way to end the year!

We will then be on break until January 7th. I am going to enjoy the break, but I am also already looking forward to the new year. The year will be on relationships as we start January off in a series on our relational God. Then, in February we will be doing a series on the impact of three types of relationships - mentor, peer, and mentoring.

Then, in March we get back to our "March Madness" series where the high school group will dive into the dating conversation while the middle school group will go through a series on friends and parents as we continue to seek God's wisdom in how to handle all of the different relationships we experience. It's a new way of leading up to March and I am excited for the conversations to be had!

Before we get there though, I hope you enjoy this season we are in. God came down to us! As we celebrate that message of hope, I am praying you experience the power of the Christmas message. That's it for this year! If you have any questions before the new year begins, please feel free to reach out anytime.

Doyle
doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

**HEATHER'S UPDATE
KID'S MINISTRY**

Hi Community!

I have a long list of program related thank you messages. The kids worked hard to tell us about Jesus and show their love at the Christmas Program again this year. Parents, thank you for bringing them to the program and helping them prepare. Everyone who came to the program to support the kids and hear a good word is so appreciated!

First, Emily Vanderaa leads the singing for the preschool kids all year long and she helps them get ready for the program. The adorable preschool program literally could not happen without her. This year, Lori Hein offered to play piano for those little sweeties and that makes singing time so precious! There was also a small army of parents, grandparents, and friends who helped the little ones have a great experience.

The elementary age kids practiced their parts in Sunday School and in addition to helping them get ready, many of the teachers and helpers from the classroom also helped with the program. Evita A. came in during the week to help me lay out the costumes and straighten halos. She also helped with the program itself again this week. Laurel W., Phil E., Kelli F., and Rhiannon H. were there to help as well. Jacob Hein was our drum teacher this year, and Landon Vanderaa was a fantastic helper for him in making the drum portion of the program go smoothly.

My husband Jaron did sound for the program and set up the mics and monitors for the kids. He also manages my complicated slide show and clicks through the slides to follow the script. It helps that he can usually pivot if one of the kids goes a little off script. My daughter, Addi, also helps with the set up all day, helping with cues for kids, and cleaning up after the program. Will Dunlap took care of the livestream which is very appreciated as well, especially for family members who are far away or ill and want to watch the program later.

My co-workers were very helpful in the creating of the Christmas Program. Some of the best ideas came from them, and they certainly provide support and a listening ear in addition to very practical help and preparation. Clyde also works for hours helping arrange the stage area and put things back to normal for Sunday church after the programs.

I'm sure I'm forgetting some important people to thank but I truly do appreciate everyone!!!
So, my message this week is an enormous THANK YOU!!!!
See you soon!

Heather DeWit
Community Kids
605-336-1475

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

Oh my goodness, what a Sunday!!!

First of all, I have to say a massive thank you to the CHOIR people. You sang marvelously on Sunday! You performed every single song at the top of your level, and that resulted in a powerful experience for all of us who had that distinct pleasure of listening to you. (This includes me!) I talked with several people who mentioned how emotional these performances were for them. I think God used your singing to get right to the "heart" of Christmas for many of us. Thank you for working so hard to make this a reality. I know how hard those songs are, and you met that challenge beautifully. Well done and thank you!!

Secondly, I have to say a massive thank you to everyone who came out in the cold and joined us for Sunday's concerts in person. We can't have a choir without having an audience, and you all came through. It was wonderful to see so many friends and family in attendance, and it really "felt" like Christmas. Thank you for supporting the choir on Sunday! We greatly appreciate you!

Point of note: some of you may have already seen the advertisements on KELO for Christmas Eve services, but in case you missed it, Community's Christmas Eve service will air on Christmas Eve, December 24, from 4:00-5:00pm. We are working on the final edits this week and are hoping and praying this is a blessing for all who watch!

Since both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on Wednesdays this year, this will be the last newsletter to go out until January 7, so I want to remind you all that Mid-Week classes resume on January 7. This would be the perfect time to join us if you've been thinking of being a part of Mid-Week but have yet to try it. The adult classes starting on January 7 are:

Clyde – I'm Saved. Now What?
Liz – Spiritual Gifts Study
John T. – The Wired Word
John B. – Men's Life
Abbie – Fellowship
Grace – The Flower Patch
Ross – A Healthy Life

If you have questions about these classes, please catch me on Sunday morning or send me an email. 😊

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the holiday schedule at Community. Once again, here is the updated holiday schedule at Community.

December 17	NO Mid-Week
December 24	Christmas Eve Services 3:00pm, 4:30pm, 6:00pm Nursery available at 4:30pm
December 31	NO Mid-Week
January 7	Regular Mid-Week Resumes 5:30 supper, 6:30 classes

Have a great week, everyone!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org



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

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Permit No. 7119

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.**

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