

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## THIS WEEK

DEC 11- DEC 25

### Wednesday, Dec. 18

Noon- Joy Circle (All Day Cafe)  
**NO MIDWEEK- Christmas Break**  
6:00-8:00pm- Middle/High School  
Christmas party

### Saturday, Dec. 21

7:00am- Fresh Encounter

### Sunday, Dec. 22

8:00, 9:00 & 10:45AM- Sunday Services  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

### Monday, Dec. 23

7:00pm- Men's Bible Study

### Tuesday, Dec. 24

2:00pm & 4:00pm-  
**Christmas Eve Services**

### Wednesday, Dec. 25

**Merry Christmas!**  
**Office Closed**

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## FINANCES

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024

General: \$26,820  
Vision: \$600  
Missions: \$285  
Parking Lot: \$13,950  
Wed. Night: \$185

General YTD: \$882,650  
Vision YTD: \$62,303  
Vision Account Balance: \$27,741

DECEMBER 18, 2024

## Clyde's Update

A new week as we move ever closer to Christmas. We knew this month would fly by with so many different things going on. It is a busy time of year, and this year is no exception. I do hope with all the extra things that you have had time to really enjoy all the things that the season brings. We were invited to be guest at Christmas at the Cathedral on Friday evening. We enjoyed the concert, but it was very different sitting and listening and not being in it. We are actually not a family that goes to many concerts. We only do a small handful each year. It is just different to sit and listen...we would rather be involved in some way. I think it has something to do with what a person does in our life's callings. I am sure glad there are those who love to listen. For those of us who play music, it would be a little lonely if no one ever came to listen. We all have a place in this world. We are not all gifted with the same things. God knows what he's doing!

Sunday, the choir did their annual Christmas Concert for the church family, and although we had a little fog and a little ice, we managed to get that program in. It was a great day. I am so pleased with the work they put in on this. All new music this year and challenging for sure. It was done very well, and the choir is to be commended. They have spent a lot of Sunday afternoons getting ready to do that and I couldn't be happier with the results. So well done! Thanks to Carmen Kock for accompanying, to Nick Sittig and Cory Feenstra for the solo work, for Jeff Paul our guest oboe soloist, Jacob Hein on the jazz kit on the opening song, and of course Liz for all the work on music selection and conducting. It was a great morning! I hope it made your season come to life a bit more.

We dedicated that concert to our lovely friend Randi Vander Sloot and her family. She was such a wonderful part of our church choir family for so many years. We are going to leave those pink ribbon boxes in the lobby through Christmas. You can drop off your gifts in those. You can make the checks out to the church, we will collect them, and then offer a check to be sent to whatever charity or origination Marty and the girls would like. It is a great time of the year to remember all those who struggle with cancer and those who are working through that journey at this time of the year.

I want to put in a word this week about the fundraiser we are doing for the upgrade of the parking lot and setting up a fund for future building maintenance. I will be saying more about this as the winter continues. Many folks have already been talking to me about that. I am doing my best to keep it on our minds, but not let it control everything we do. You have always responded to the needs of this place. I have no doubts that God is in charge of all of this, and He will do what He always does. I can trust that. I know you all will as well.

Sunday, we move to the message of the star. That marker in sky. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and though we might argue that no one noticed, or at least only a few, there were still some who were paying attention and their research brought them to see this new King. God has a way of showing up. He's not silent and he's not hidden. We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

**NO NEWSLETTER DEC. 25 &  
NO MAILED NEWSLETTER ON JAN 1.  
ONLINE VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE  
AVAILABLE JAN. 2.**

**"Christ taught a worship-based approach to prayer...fueled by Scriptural truth...empowering Christians to pray in a whole new way"**  
(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](mailto:Heather.DeWite@CommunityRC.org) to apply or with questions.

### OUR CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Jerralynne Tjeerdsma and her family. Her brother passed away. Please keep their family in your prayers.

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

Email Pastor John at [prayerline@communityrc.org](mailto:prayerline@communityrc.org)

# PRAYER REQUESTS

## NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ryan Van Ruler (open heart surgery 1/15)
- Joan Schouten (shoulder surgery 1/7)
- Mike Hay's sister, Erin (accident recovery)
- Denny & Sue Brunsting's daughter-in-law, Amy (growth on heart)

## ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Spring and Tony new baby and health issues (c-section) Tony (shunt placement 1/16)
- John Evans (hospital)
- Steve Zimmerman
- Jan Sturing's son, Matt (surgery)
- Matt Meyer's fiancé Lynnette's dad (tumor)
- Gracia Harmsen
- Ellen Nelson Garner (chronic airway disease)
- Karen Odens (broken femur)
- Steve Lee (lung transplant recovery)
- Brian Frisbee (ongoing rehab)
- Jerralynne Tjeerdsma's daughter, Deb (cancer)
- 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)
- 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!

I've had a few people ask me about gift ideas for kids. This is a very broad topic, so if you have this same question, I'd be happy to chat with you to help you figure out some great options for the specific kid you have in mind. However, in a broad sense, I love to recommend books, open ended or creative toys, pretend play toys, art supplies, outdoor toys, practical gifts, and experience gifts. When it comes to books, the librarians at Community have a number of great suggestions for every age group.

For books, some of my favorites this year are:

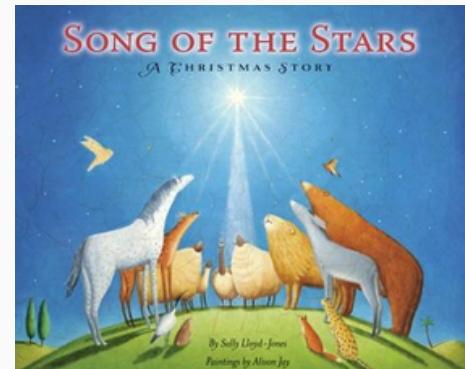
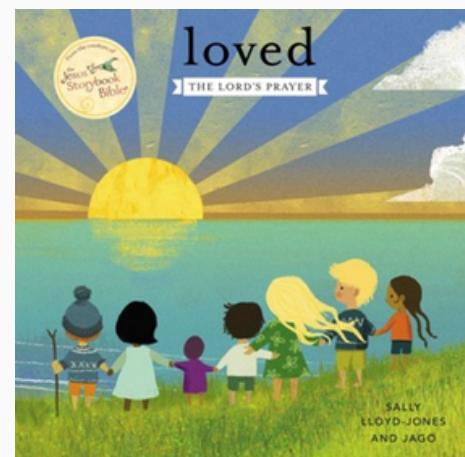
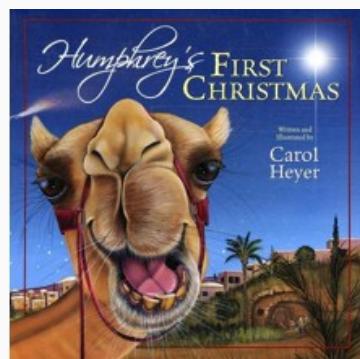
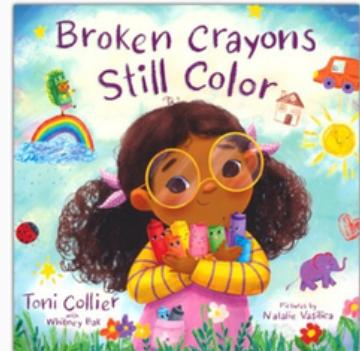
Broken Crayons Still Color by Toni Collier is a great book for kids with big feelings (so pretty much all of us). I'd pick it for preschool kids through early elementary age kids. For older kids, a journaling Bible in your preferred translation with a set of nice pens or markers can be nice.

For Christmas specific books, I love Humphrey's First Christmas by Carol Heyer which comes in both paperback and board book options. I also like Song of the Stars by Sally Lloyd-Jones. Again, it has a paperback and board book option. She also writes a series of picture books with titles like Known, Happy, Near, Found, and Loved. They are beautiful and kids seem to like them.

My favorite experience gifts include passes to the zoo, museum, pool, etc. to encourage family time. For practical gifts, a "bike wash" kit with a bucket, sponge, fun hose sprayer, little bottle of dish soap, etc. or a little hand vacuum for kids to use when cleaning up after crafts can be fun. Bubbles and chalk get used up every summer. A baking kit with recipes and ingredients or a craft supply tote stocked with google eyes, pom poms and glue dots keep kids busy. I've seen grandparents make special kits for together time like nail polish for "Grandma Spa" day or popcorn and a DVD for movie day with Grandpa and Grandma.

Open ended building toys like Lego, Magna-tiles, marble run, blanket fort building set, straw builders, wooden blocks, etc. give kids fun ways to play independently and with others.

See you soon!  
Heather DeWit  
Community Kids  
605-336-1475  
[Heather.DeWit@Communityrc.org](mailto:Heather.DeWit@Communityrc.org)



# 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

## 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

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



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

**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

LIZ'S UPDATE

# ADULT DISCIPLESHP & WORSHIP

Top billing in my article this week goes to the choir!!

WOW!!! Choir people, thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you did this year to make the choir concerts on Sunday exceptional celebrations of the birth of Jesus. Every song went incredibly well, and your ensemble sound was absolutely wonderful. I really do believe this was our best year yet. There were so many gorgeous moments during each concert that I couldn't help but smile in enjoyment, both from the piano and from the podium! Your hard work totally paid off, and you brought some magnificent music to Community. Thank you for your commitments of time and talent for that event. It was a true joy to accompany for you and direct you! Blessings on your Christmas season!

And thank you to everyone in the congregation who braved the foggy and misty morning to come out and enjoy the concerts in person! We can't have concerts without audiences, so we thank you for being the ears on Sunday morning. I hope you were blessed!

And lastly, special thanks to Nick Sittig, Jacob Hein, and Pastor Clyde for playing along with the Charlie Brown music, thanks to Rhonda Van Roekel for playing the congregational carols on the organ, thanks to Nick Sittig and Corey Feenstra for singing the solo parts so beautifully on Wildwood Carol, and thanks to oboist Jeff Paul and pianist Carmen Kock for adding so much to our concerts. It was a fantastic morning!

Here is the updated list of upcoming events at Community!

- 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

Have a good week, friends!

Liz

[Liz.Teel@communityrc.org](mailto: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.