

THE COMMUNICATOR

DECEMBER 4, 2024

THIS WEEK

DEC 4- DEC 11

Wednesday, Dec. 4

5:30-6:30pm-

Chicken Salad/Taco Salad
6:30-7:30pm- Classes for all ages
Middle school youth group
7:30-8:30pm- H.S. Youth Group

Saturday, Dec. 7

7:00am- Fresh Encounter

Sunday, Dec. 8

8:00, 9:00 & 10:45AM- Worship Services
10:10am-SUNDAY SCHOOL
3:30pm- Kid's Christmas Program

Monday, Dec. 9

7:00pm- Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, Dec. 10

9:30-11am- Play Group

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

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FINANCES

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024

General: \$11,007

Vision: \$785

Missions: \$565

General YTD: \$836,922

Vision YTD: \$61,278

Vision Account Balance: \$26,718

Clyde's Update

Just like that; it's December; the first Sunday of Advent is past and we also have a little snow this morning (Monday) to make things a little white. I guess winter has arrived as we all knew it would.

There is still some decorating to get done around the church with a couple more things there are going to be added, but it does look a lot like Christmas already. I guess we are all going to have to get in the mood for that because it is going to be here before we know it. I don't really mind at all. Christmas is my favorite holiday of the year and although it can be a busy time for folks in my profession, I still find it a wonderful season. As I stated on Sunday, this message of God sending his son into the world, not to condemn it, but rather save it, is a great message to proclaim. I actually did every single service a bit different on Sunday. That is rarely the case. I mean they are all bit different in the setting such, but Sunday each group just seemed to bring out something different in the words and the points. Maybe it had something to do with doing the theme of John 3:16. That is one of those universal words that we know so well, but in the hands of the Spirit on a Sunday morning one never knows what message comes out. I was surprised myself by that; in a good way, but when the Spirit is working you just must go with it sometimes. I have learned that in my years. I try not to get in the way of what maybe God is trying to do. I think that's a good word for all of us. We can make the plans, but God guides our steps. I think that is in the Bible somewhere. Enjoy the season everyone.

That being said, we have all kinds of extra things going on in the next couple of weeks. We start with the kids Christmas program next Sunday afternoon at 3:30pm and then the following week the choir will be doing our annual Christmas concert. If you are not in the Christmas spirit, maybe all of that will give you a little boost. There have been some hours spent putting all this together and we are hoping the season will be just a little brighter with all of it. I work with the choir each week and we have asked a lot of them, and they have done such an outstanding job. It is humbling in a way to witness because they give up a lot of Sunday afternoon to make this happen and without that commitment this doesn't happen. I'm a music teacher by trade and I know how much it takes to do what we are asking of them...may God be praised. I love the music and what it can do for this season of Christmas. Put these events on your calendar and join us!

Sunday is week two of the series. This week is about the couple who said yes to this plan of God's to bring his son to the earth and help get this done! They said yes, and their lives got a little crazy. I mentioned on Sunday that doing kingdom work is not for the weak. These are battles we do if we truly enter into this work. There will be things we give up and there will be times when we'll wonder what God is up to, but there is no adventure like it. We'll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!



JON & GRACIA HARMSEN

The past few weeks have been quite crazy for the Harmsen family. Gracia's health has been in a tough spot the past 6 months. She's had countless surgeries and they are still looking for answers.

Please surround this family in your prayers.

If you'd like to give financially to help cover some of their medical costs, please make checks out to Jon & Gracia Harmsen. Checks or cash can be dropped off in the church office.

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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.

"We look around the church and assume everyone else must be praying more and better than we are.

With rare exception, they are not."

(Daniel Henderson)

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

Email Pastor John at prayerline@communityrc.org

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PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Steve Zimmerman

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- 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!

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. This week, I'm going to only include the details for the Christmas Program since it is almost here!

The program is on December 8 at 3:30pm.

K-5 kids should arrive at 2:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Preschool kids should come at 3pm in the Kids Wing.

Parents, please help your kids practice their songs and for group speaking parts. All the practice parts and songs are at: <https://communityrc.org/christmas>

For the program, kids can dress up or wear what is comfortable. Some K-5 kids will put costumes over their clothes.

I would really appreciate help if any parents can be available for the afternoon of the program and/or the rehearsal that morning. I especially need help getting all the K-5 into a costume.

- The only rehearsal for all K-5 participants is that Sunday morning of the program on December 8 from 10:05 to 11:45am.
- The Preschool kids practice during Sunday School.
- Every K-5 child is invited to join in the group speaking parts by grade level. It would be helpful for kids to practice this at home, especially for kids who can't read yet.
- All K-5 kids will sing Away in a Manger and Joy to the World (just the first verse.)
- All kids will recite John 3:16 together.
- Drummers and dancers have their final group practice THIS WEDNESDAY during Midweek.

See you soon!

Heather DeWit

Community Kids

605-336-1475

Heather.DeWit@Communityrc.org



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.DeWit@CommunityRC.org to apply or with questions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL



We only have two weeks left of midweek for the year! It is hard to believe we are already at this point in the year! Here is what students can expect for the rest of this year!

Two week series on the Christmas story. Both the middle and high school group will be diving into the Christmas story. We will look at two main stories as we look into the theme "SEEK". This is going to be a continuation from our high school retreat we had a few weekends ago as we look at God seeking us out, and how we are called to seek Him. We look at baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Magi and Shepherds, and King Herod over these next two weeks as we discover the message of seeking throughout the story of Christmas.

Then, on December 18th, the middle and high school groups will have our Christmas party here at church. We will have a meal and some fun Christmas games as we celebrate the season together. We will meet from 6:00-8:00 the night of the 18th for both groups. I will be sending out an email to parents later this week with the official invite and information. I love this time of year and am excited to celebrate together as a youth group!

That's it for this week. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out anytime.

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

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ONGOING MINISTRIES

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, **Dec. 9** 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

LIBRARY NEWS

Take a look in the library windows this week for a new selection of kid's books.

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.



LIZ'S UPDATE

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

As I mentioned last week, we have several holiday events coming up during the month of December. It might be a good idea for me to just keep a running list here in my article of what's coming and going at Community.

- December 4 – Regular Mid-Week – Supper at 5:30 Classes at 6:30
- December 8 – Children's Christmas Program 3:30pm
- December 8 – Christmas Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm
- 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 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 8 – Regular Mid-Week Resumes – Supper at 5:30 Classes at 6:30

The WD40 group had our Christmas party on Monday of this week, and we had a great time celebrating the season with yummy treats, a fun gift exchange, donations to St. Francis House, and a short devotional. Thanks to all the women who made that party possible, especially Mary Burggraaf and Vida Attema who decorated the tables for the event!

We are still looking for 4 volunteers to help at the 2:00 Christmas Eve service. Friends, I know it's inconvenient. And I know that's a busy day, but we're just asking if you'd be willing to help out for one hour that afternoon. Serving at church in this way would be a huge help to our nursery coordinators, and it's a truly beautiful way to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a tangible way. And as I said on Sunday, you never have to change a diaper! You just get to hang out and play with children. That's a pretty sweet way to start Christmas Eve, in my opinion. If you'd be willing to help, please let me know.

After the holidays, I know my dad and I will both be starting new topics in the Mid-Week classes we'll be teaching. (There may be one or two other new classes as well, and I will share those as I have them.) I will be going through the book, Celebration of the Disciplines by Richard Foster. It's a fantastic study where we will take a deep dive into 12 different spiritual practices that will help us grow in our relationships with God. The book is an easy read, and it's a wonderful life-long resource. You don't need the book, but we will order a larger number of books to get the best deal. If you think you want to take my class, and you would like me to order a book for you, please let me know. My dad is still working on what his new topic will be, but I'll let you know as soon as we have that ready to share with you. 😊

Stay warm, everyone!

Liz

Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

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

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

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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
connect@communityrc.org

Heather DeWit
Director of Children's Ministries
heather.dewit@communityrc.org

Doyle Burnside
Senior High & Middle School Youth Director
doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

Teresa Lipp
Part-Time Nursery Director
nursery@communityrc.org

Lisa Blankers
Part-Time Financial Administrator
accounting@communityrc.org

Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator