

# THE COMMUNICATOR

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

## Clyde's Update

Monday morning! What a difference a week can make. Nearly 60 degrees difference. That is just crazy. I know we were all ready for the change. It just makes life so much easier to get around. It's all a part of doing winter and we know that, but still, we don't necessarily like it. There are a lot of things like that in life where you just must walk through certain things and get through it. We don't like it, but that is the only way to get it done. I think that is not a bad life lesson to carry around with us. There will be things that are not pleasant to do, but things we must do. Avoiding it is not always a good strategy. See, there are life lessons all around us. I guess maybe these cold winter days can teach us things. I'm glad to pass that along to all of you.

The Seek Conference is one week closer. I mentioned it in last week's newsletter that we need you to register for that. I want to again highlight that we encourage you to consider making that day apart of your Lent journey this year. We are getting questions about what it is. My best way to describe it is a day of prayer and worship. We do have a guest speaker from the Strategic Renewal which is a highly reputable organization. They do trainings and conferences like this all over the country. This particular one focuses on prayer in the context of worship and scripture. There will be 5 different sessions that day with music/teaching and spirit lead prayer. We are seeking God that day and excited about how this will impact our church and the friends who join us. We would love to have you join us! ([605.church/seek](https://605.church/seek))

The Elder/Deacon nomination list is out there for voting reasons. We will be talking about this more in the coming weeks. We need to get this done as this is the process we have been doing for a long time. I know, it's not easy, as we all don't know every name on the list, but as I said to you all last year, you all know who you know! Vote for those people. The process has a way of working itself out if you will just do your part. We are looking to make some changes for next year, but for this year we are going to do what we have always done. Pick up a list and work on those ballots. We need your help here friends.

Sunday's message is going to be the last one of these installments as it were of this series "Show Them Heaven". It has been a very good set of messages to prepare, and I have heard so many good things from so many of you about it. That is always so appreciated. This week our focus is going to be on how we make this place representative of the Kingdom of Heaven. How do we make the church look like Heaven. Lord knows there is enough bad in the world. Wouldn't it be great if people knew there was a place where at least some of that could go away? A place that was safe to grow. A place where they could bring their lives and begin to grow in character and find a new life without the fear of being shamed. That is a challenge, but the Holy Spirit can do amazing things. Jesus is alive and he can do amazing things. We are his workmanship created for good works. Heaven Here? Is that possible? We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

## THIS WEEK

**FEB 26- MARCH 5**

**Wednesday, Feb. 26**

**5:30-6:30pm-**

Ham & Cheesy hashbrowns

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

Middle school youth group

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

**Saturday, March 1**

**7:00am-** Fresh Encounter

**Sunday, March 2**

**8:00, 9:00 & 10:45AM-** Sunday Services

**10:00am-** Sunday School

**Monday, March 3**

**7:00pm-** Men's Bible Study

**Tuesday, March 4**

**9:30am-** Play Group

**Wednesday, March 5**

**9:00am-** Book Club

(Bagel Boy on MN Ave)

**5:30-6:30pm-**

Soup Night

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

Middle School Connection Night

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

**ELDER/DEACON  
NOMINATION LIST CAN  
BE FOUND AT THE LINK**

**BALLOTS DUE MARCH 23**

## MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY

### CALL TO FREEDOM

Call to Freedom provides supportive services for victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in South Dakota.

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### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dane & Becky Olsen for the birth of their son, Jude Henry Olsen, on Feb. 19th!

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### THE GIVE

Check out THE GIVE wall in the lobby.  
It's a place to donate to local ministries.



#### VBS at Community (for our zoo theme)

Clean, gently-used plush or plastic animal toys

#### East River Roster Parent Network

New & gently used toddler clothes

#### Community Youth

Empty Ink Cartridges & old cellphones

#### The Banquet

Hygiene items (Band-aids, Feminine Products  
Nail Clippers)

**Prayer is our first step toward spiritual recharge.**  
— Barb Roose

**In need of prayer or want to  
share your prayer request?**  
Email Pastor John at [prayerline@communityrc.org](mailto:prayerline@communityrc.org)

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# PRAYER REQUESTS

## NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

### ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Mike Boyenga's nephew, Luke DeJong (brain surgery)
- Carrie Valentine (foot & ankle surgery)
- Terry & Dree Mayer's son-in-law, Tony (surgery recovery)
- Fern Eeten (cancer)
- Tracee Ellwein's dad (hip surgery recovery)
- Ryan Van Ruler (open heart surgery recovery)
- Duane Beiswanger's nephew, Derick (tumor)
- Gary Van Den Hoek
- Gracia Harmsen's dad (esophageal cancer)
- Lori Blom's dad, Kevin (cancer)
- Steve Zimmerman
- Jan Sturing's son, Matt (surgery)
- Matt Meyer's fiancé Lynnette's dad (tumor)
- Gracia Harmsen
- Ellen Nelson Garner (chronic airway disease)
- Brian Frisbee (ongoing rehab)
- Jerralynne Tjeerdsma's daughter, Deb (cancer)
- JoAnn Hanssen
- Anna Halverson (seizures)
- Melanie Oden's sister, Amber (breast cancer)
- Jordan Lipp's mom, Becky (dementia)
- Ryan Kortemeyer (lymphoma)
- Susan Vanden Berg's mom, Marlene (testing)
- Dennis VerHey (accident recovery)
- Susan Bierwagen's sister, Marlene
- 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)

### 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.



## FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH CLASS LED BY JON HARMSSEN

**When:** Sundays between services in the fellowship hall  
March 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th  
April 6th, 13th, 27th  
May 4th, 11th

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## BENEFIT EVENT FOR CHRIS THESENVITZ

**Saturday, March 8th**  
**5pm-11pm**  
**The Alliance (1800 W. Russell St.)**

Ticket Details:  
\$20 per person, kids 10 & under free  
Tickets available at the door or online at  
[southdatotaalliance.org](http://southdatotaalliance.org)

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## SEEK PRAYER EVENT

We're excited to partner with Strategic Renewal for this Saturday Prayer Event! Experience the power of scripture-fed, Spirit-led, worship-based prayer.

**APRIL 12TH FROM 9:00AM-4:30PM**

It's a time of music, teaching & prayer. You'll leave refreshed.  
Light breakfast & lunch provided! Registration is free!  
<https://communityrc.org/seek>

Not sure what to do with your kids while you attend SEEK?  
We'll provide nursery care for kids from infants-5 years old.  
Kids from K-5th grade can attend the special event  
just for kids (Joyful Noise).  
Kids nursery & activities are also free! Just register!

## ONGOING MINISTRIES

### SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, **March 10** 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

### HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle will hold their postponed Feb. meeting on March 18th at 1:30 pm. Mary is hostess and Carol has the last lesson of our old books. New books are \$12.



## 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](http://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

## FINANCES

Sunday, February 23, 2025

General: \$11,781  
Vision: \$375  
Missions: \$375  
Parking Lot: \$1,000  
Wed. Night: \$168

General YTD: \$95,950  
Vision YTD: \$4,867  
Vision Account Balance: \$18,203

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL



It's our final Wednesday night in February and the middle school group is going to celebrate with a connection night. During our normal youth group time we are going to have games, challenges and some fun snacks as we continue to build connections as a youth group. If your free this week, come join the group for some fun together.

The high school group will be finishing our series in the book of Proverbs. It has been a really fun series as students have sought out wisdom they have found in the proverbs that can impact their everyday life. Then, using the format of the book, students worked in groups to share some of their own pieces of wisdom and advice they have lived in. I have loved hearing and learning from students throughout this series.

Finally, I want to send out a reminder for our upcoming mission trip this summer. Our high school group is heading to Waco, Texas as we serve alongside an organization called Youth Works. They are working on setting up service sites for us and getting a place for us to stay for the week. One thing I love about Youth Works is the connections they have made in the communities they serve in. Those relationships create great opportunities for groups to come serve in. The dates are July 11th-16th. There is still time for students to register for the trip. If they do plan on joining us, I encourage them to register as the planning begins.

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

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

# HEATHER'S UPDATE KID'S MINISTRY

Hi Everyone!

Today, I'm inviting you to mark off Saturday, April 12 on your calendar to attend the Seek Event here at church. I know that is looking a bit ahead, but if your family is like mine, saving a day on the calendar in advance as a priority is the only way to make sure we get there.

I'd like to especially invite Elementary age children to join me that day in the Kids Wing. We have some fun and engaging activities planned that I think most kids will enjoy. Whether you are attending Seek or not, I'd love to have your kids register to spend the day with us. I'm excited for a whole day of growing and fun together. We'll pray and worship, make a joyful noise with instruments and singing, and watch a short movie. We'll have some down time for play and move with games and dance. We'll make fun projects and have snacks. (Note: For the K-5 kids, we'll watch and discuss the movie, "Dolphin Tale." If you aren't comfortable with your child watching that movie, we are happy to offer a Veggie Tales movie at the same time in another room as well. Just let Heather know if that's your preference.)

Community will also provide nursery care for kids from infants-5 years old, so the whole family can spend the day here together.

Regarding the adult Seek event, I hope you are able to make time for that day. Spending a day seeking God's presence is never a waste and the worship band from Community will be leading worship. The guest speaker/facilitator, Aaron Telecky, came highly recommended.

**JOYFUL NOISE**

SATURDAY,  
APRIL 12,  
2025

9AM-4:30PM

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL EVENT FOR K-5 KIDS

PRAYER, GAMES,  
WORSHIP, PLAY,  
CRAFTS, MOVIE

Heather DeWit  
Community Kids  
[Heather.DeWit@Communityrc.org](mailto:Heather.DeWit@Communityrc.org)

# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP



As I mentioned on Sunday morning, we have a big event coming up on April 12. That day, we'll be hosting the Seek Conference. This is an all-day event that will include a ton of worship, which I'll be leading along with our worship band, teaching, prayer, fellowship, and time to engage with what we've been learning that day. Lunch will be provided for everyone as well as nursery care for the youngest. Heather will be leading the kindergarten through 5th Graders that day in activities that will go along with what the rest of us will be experiencing. And Middle and High School kids are welcome to attend this event right along with the adults. Registration is currently open online and at The Link. Join us!

I have been thinking recently about the power of the hand-written word.

When I started college in the fall of 1992, we had no cell phones, no internet, and no cheap way to communicate with people in other towns. (The internet was launched my sophomore year!) Sometimes, I think our ability to communicate with one another as easily as we do today has actually not been a good thing, but that's an article for another time. 😊 My freshman year, my sweet mom wrote a letter to me every single week. She always wrote it on Monday after lunch while she was working in her beauty shop, and she would drop it in the mail either Monday night or Tuesday morning. Her letter would arrive in my campus mailbox either Wednesday or Thursday, and boy was it a breath of fresh air. I missed home terribly my freshman year of college, and having those words from my mom every week made those hard days bearable.

She continued this letter writing practice during my entire 4 years at college. Every single week Mom sent me a letter. I saved every letter she wrote and had them in my possession for several years after I graduated from college. In my life, I'm definitely a "thrower" not a "saver." I've thrown away (or donated) many things in my life, and I have never regretted it. Well, there's **one** thing I regret throwing away. Can you see where this is going? When I moved back to Sioux Falls to go to seminary, I decided I needed to go through my belongings and get rid of things that I probably didn't need. For some reason, I decided to *not* to keep all those letters my mom had sent. There were 4 years' worth of weekly letters, and I had them in big manilla envelopes. They were bulky and took up a lot of space. In my 20s, I just could not foresee a day when I'd want to go back and reread those weekly letters. So, I decided to keep the very last college letter my mom had written me and threw the rest away. Ugh. Even now I kick myself that I did that. It's literally the only thing I ever regret having thrown away.

I'm so thankful for that last letter I saved, and I do have a few other things my mom wrote to me. And now that she's no longer with us, I find those words to be such a treasure to me. Here's where I want to go with this.

Friends, in today's world, we text. We email. We send social media messages. All things that will **not** stand the test of time. When was the last time you wrote words on paper and gave them to someone you cared about? I'm here to tell you that the written word matters. Things we write and share with those we care about can have far lasting impacts that we could never imagine. I encourage you, if there's someone in your life to whom you owe a debt of gratitude, a word of encouragement, or simply a greeting with a short note about how you're going, then grab a pen and some paper and **WRITE** it out and send it. You have no idea how much good it will do your soul or how much it might impact them. I don't care if your handwriting is good or not. Just do it. In a time where the written word is seriously becoming extinct, I think we would do well to revive it. You might be surprised at the blessing in it.

Anyway, that's a little food for thought on this warm February day. 😊  
Have a good week!

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

