

# THE COMMUNICATOR

JANUARY 2, 2025

## Clyde's Update

The first week of the new year. 2025 is now here whether we were ready or not. We plan and wait for a lot of things during the holidays and then just like that, it is all behind us. It was a good Christmas and a full one as you might expect for someone in my position. I did really enjoy the weather through all of that. It was pretty nice for the most part. Lots of fog. Which made for some interesting mornings, but it was amazing this past weekend. I hope you all had a great Christmas this year, and for those who were finding the days of that season a little sad this year, I hope you found something lovely in the season that you could hold on to.

Christmas Eve services were well attended...the 4pm crowd was one of the largest ones we have ever had for Christmas Eve. That was amazing. I think maybe 2pm was just too early. I made a note of that. I so appreciated those of you who came to that service. We had a very nice group of folks come to that, but I still think it might have been too early. It's always a challenge trying to figure out how to divide those groups. I just think we can only do the best we can and live with the results. Christmas Eve is a lovely time to bring everyone together. It was fun doing all the new music for that service and working out how to make that special. It was good to see you all and get to spend a little time visiting with you all as you arrived. It is a great season! Blessed!

The Christmas week was a little full. My schedule was a busy one. That is to be expected during that time of the year. I had a wedding in there as well. The wedding was a blessing. It really was, but it does fill up the week. Those few days went by so fast. I did manage to get back home on Christmas day and spend some time with the family. Mom always enjoys that time with us so much. She cooked up most of the food. We all brought things so there was plenty to eat as there always is. That was a good day...it was 45 degrees and sunny. Can't beat that.

Sunday, we start the new series for the new year. It is a series on the Kingdom of Heaven. I have done similar themes before, but this time the perspective will be a bit different. The focus will be on what it means to have the Kingdom of Heaven in our lives right now. What does that look like? What does that offer us? What kind of difference can that make? What does it mean that the Kingdom of Heaven is near? What was Jesus really trying to teach us about that kingdom? We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

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## THIS WEEK JAN. 2- JAN. 8

### Saturday, January 4

7:00am- Fresh Encounter

### Sunday, January 5

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

10:00am- Sunday School

### Monday, January 6

7:00pm- Men's Bible Study

7:00pm- WD40 Women's Group

### Tuesday, January 7

9:00am- Play Group

### Wednesday, January 8

5:30-6:30pm-

Meal: Baked Ravioli, Salad & bread

6:30-7:30pm- Classes for all ages;  
Middle school youth group

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

Full  
newsletter  
back next  
week



#### 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

FOR MORE INFO  
ABOUT PARKING LOT,  
SCAN CODE



# Thank You

Thank you to everyone at Community who sent us cards, letters, and gifts.  
You made our Christmas special.  
You are appreciated.  
Thanks, again and God bless you all.  
-- John and Marcia Thornton

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kim & Cole Becker,  
on the birth of their daughter,  
MaKaylee Jayne Becker, on December 28!  
Grandparents are Jayne & Scott Knochenmus.

Congratulations to Spring & Tony Wright on the  
birth of their daughter, Georgia Grace Wright on  
December 22!  
Grandparents are Dree & Terry Mayer.

## OUR CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Daniel  
Burlingame and his family for the passing  
of his mom, Esther.

Our condolences go out to  
Duane Niewenhuis and his family for the  
passing of his father, Ken.

Please keep these families in your prayers.

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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

- Ryan Van Ruler (open heart surgery 1/15)
- Gary Van Den Hoek
- Denny & Sue Brunsting's daughter-in-law, Amy (growth on heart)
- Gracia Harmsen's dad (esophageal cancer)
- Lori Blom's dad, Kevin (cancer)

## ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Joan Schouten (shoulder surgery recovery)
- Tony (shunt placement 1/16)
- 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)
- 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
- 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.



# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP



This is my last newsletter article for 2024, and I'm not sure where the time has gone! I feel like the mild winter (as of my writing of this article) really makes the time fly!

We will be back into our regular church schedule starting on Sunday, so I wanted to be sure to include the dates and events that will be coming up for 2025.

- January 5 – Sunday School Resumes
- January 6 – 7:00pm WD40 Gathering
- January 8 – Regular Mid-Week Resumes – Supper at 5:30 Classes at 6:30

And let's talk about the upcoming classes for the new semester of Mid-Week. Mid-Week resumes January 8th! Remember it's completely acceptable to try new classes or to move around from class to class. 😊

Pastor Clyde has 2 more weeks of his class on Revelation and End Times study, and then he will be transitioning to the book "Scandal of the Kingdom" by Dallas Willard. This book will discuss the parables of Jesus and how we can learn to enter into the Kingdom of God now. Pastor Clyde's new topic will begin on January 22.

I (Pastor Liz) will be starting my new study on January 8th on the book "Celebration of Discipline" by Richard Foster. We will be learning about 12 different spiritual practices (including prayer, fasting, study, solitude, service, worship, etc.) and how to practice them in ways that put us in a prime position to be transformed by the Holy Spirit. These practices have been around since before Jesus walked the earth, and they continue to be places where God consistently meets His people. If you'd like to take your practical faith to the next level, I think this class and book will help you on that path.

Pastor John Thornton will continue his Wired Word study.

Susan Bierwagen will continue her video study on The God of Those Who Struggle

John Blok will continue to meet with his Men's Life Group.

Grace Collins will continue to meet with her Flower Patch group.

Dan Goeller will continue his class, "Living in Babylon."

Those are the that will be available to any adults who are looking for excellent learning and growing opportunities to grow in Christ together with others. I'm looking forward to getting back into the swing of those classes!

Happy New Year, friends!

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

### BOOK CLUB

The morning book club will meet Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 9 am at the Bagel Boy on 33rd and Minnesota Ave. We will be discussing Transcendent Kingdom.

The evening book club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 7 pm at the church. We will be discussing Don't Look Back.

Copies of both books are available to borrow in the church library.

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## FINANCES

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024

General: \$9,935  
Vision: \$105  
Missions: \$350  
Parking Lot: \$108,255

General YTD: \$892,585  
Vision YTD: \$62,408  
Vision Account Balance: \$20,454

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