

# THE COMMUNICATOR

JANUARY 29, 2025

## THIS WEEK JAN. 29- FEB. 5

### Wednesday, January 29

5:30-6:30pm-

Pulled Pork

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

Middle school youth group

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

### Saturday, Feb. 1

7:00am- Fresh Encounter

### Sunday, Feb. 2

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

10:00am- Sunday School

### Monday, Feb. 3

7:00pm- Men's Bible Study

7:00pm- WD40

### Tuesday, Feb. 4

9:30am- Play Group

### Wednesday, Feb. 5

5:30-6:30pm-

BBQ

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

Middle school youth group

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

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

### SEEK PRAYER EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

9:00AM-4:30PM

### VBS

JULY 21-25

6:00PM-7:45PM

## Clyde's Update

The last week of January! 2025 is moving as fast as we would have expected it would. We have been very fortunate thus far with most of the winter. Yes, it has been cold, but we can work through that for the most part. It sounds as though this week is going to be much warmer, and that will be a nice change. The sun is starting to rise a little earlier in the morning sky, and the evenings are a little longer. It is about this time of the year that you can start noticing that change. I always like the feeling of that.

Sunday was a good morning in church. I enjoy those times with all of you as we gather together. I also am very aware that there are a good number of folks who are there with us nearly every Sunday online. Many of those are people who live too far away to actually be here with us, or their health issues are such that they can't be here with us, but they wish they could be. They, too, are a part of this place. I know we can't see them, but they have a connection to this place that is more important than we might think. It is a good reminder to those of us in the room that we have friends who are watching. I got a nice email this week from one of them explaining what that means to them. It was an encouraging word. It is good to get those kinds of thoughts.

This is that time of the year when the church calendar is less busy. We've just come through December which is so full and then when you hit this part of the year it all slows down. I don't mind the slow-down although I must admit, I don't mind the full plate so much. This is a good time of the year for me to catch up on some reading time or do some extra research for upcoming ideas. I even sometimes get into the mind set of writing some new music. The songs aren't always the best, but the exercise of doing them is good for my music brain. I might share them with people, and then sometimes they never find their way past my own editing suite. Some are just better left there. I have no idea over the course of a lifetime how many I have actually written. Hundreds for sure. Most of them...you would not be impressed with. However, occasionally one has a little potential. I think there is sermon in there somewhere. I will work on that.

This coming Sunday, we will build on the questions that we talked about on Sunday. What are we seeking from the kingdom of the world and the Kingdom of Heaven? We certainly live with the reality of both of them and the kingdom of the world is so much more clearly seen. That, we can all understand. This can create quite an interesting battle that we all do each day. How do I place more faith in something that I don't always see as clearly as the things that are right in front of me? That is a great question and there is no simple answer to it. It is the challenge that we all face together. We are just all trying to learn more and understand more as we journey down this road of life. Faith is a direction and moving in the right direction can be a challenge. Don't get discouraged! We are all in this together. We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

## MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY

### CHURCH ON THE STREET

Located at 515 N Main Ave. in Sioux Falls is a ministry that focuses on walking with those experiencing homelessness and poverty. It is a synodically authorized worship community of the ELCA without walls.

Some of the services provided are:

- Pastoral Care at the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House every Thursday from 1-4:00pm.
- Laundry of Love which assists those in need of laundry services on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 3:00-7:30pm. (located at 701 N. Cliff Ave)
- Health & Healing events- soon to be held on Feb. 1st from 1-3pm at the Multi-Cultural Center. It provides a day of pampering.
- Worship and Communion services at various locations

For more information or volunteer opportunities, contact Church on the Street on MWF 10:00am-1:00pm.

MORE INFO  
NEXT WEEK!

SAVE  
THE DATE



"When we pray, we converse with the living Word."  
Denise Posey

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

- Tracee Ellwein's dad (hip surgery recovery)

## ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ryan Van Ruler (open heart surgery recovery)
- Duane Beiswanger's nephew, Derick (brain 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

Tentative dates are:  
February 9th, 16th, 23rd  
March 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th  
April 6th, 13th, 27th  
May 4th, 11th

**What:** Have you ever had the "who, what, why, or how" questions about the faith? Like "who is God?" "How can I be sure that I am saved?" "How can I live in God's Kingdom now?" "How do I pray/read the Bible?" If you have ever asked questions like this, the "Foundations of the Faith Class" might be for you! In a short 10-12 weeks, we will be learning together about how we can know God, grow deep into Christ, and be empowered to go out into our relational world with the love and hope of the gospel!

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John Thornton has made an audio recording of the entire New Testament. It is divided by chapter.

If you are interested in having a copy of that, please contact John (605-595-5744) and he will give you a free copy. It will probably work best to share a flash drive with him, and then he can load the audio New Testament on to that and give it back to you. Then you can load it up to whatever listening device you want.

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### 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



## ONGOING MINISTRIES

### SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, Feb. 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

### BOOK CLUB

The evening book club will meet Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7 pm at the church. We will be discussing Vanishing Half by Bennett.

The morning book club will meet Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 9 am at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave and 33rd St. (not the Eastside one). We will be discussing Don't Look Back by Deng.

Ask a librarian for a copy of the book and join either book club.

### HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle will meet on February 18th at 1:30. Mary is the hostess and Carol has the lesson.

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## FINANCES

Sunday, January 19, 2025

General: \$10,460  
Vision: \$390  
Missions: \$715  
Parking Lot: \$100

General YTD: \$27,062  
Vision YTD: \$860  
Vision Account Balance: \$28,609

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# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP



We have a new adult class on the horizon that I'm excited to share with you. Jon Harmsen is going to be offering a class on the foundations and basics of Christian faith. He'll be teaching this class on Sunday mornings and is hoping to get started February 9. He plans to run through late spring. The class is open to anyone who wants to learn more about the foundations of Christian faith.

Mid-Week is in full swing, and our numbers have stayed high! It's awesome to see so many adults and kids coming together in the middle of the week to grow in their relationships with Christ and each other. Remember, it's never too late to come to Mid-Week, so if you've been thinking about giving it a try, just come!

Recently, I've had a few people ask me what Study Bibles are good for adults, so I thought it might be good to share a bit of info on that in my article. There are many different Study Bibles out there, and honestly, you can find Study Bibles that focus on almost any topic that interests you. There are a few things to keep in mind when looking for a good Study Bible.

First of all, pay attention to the publisher. Anyone can self-publish almost any document these days, so you want to look for a trustworthy publishing company. Zondervan, Intervarsity Press, Nav Press, and Tyndale House are some of my favorites. If you purchase a Study Bible from any of these publishers, you can know the information will be accurate, scholarly, and true.

Secondly, look for reputable sellers. If a Study Bible is available on a larger website like christianbook.com or a well-known and trusted bookstore like our local Crossroads, you can be quite certain that it has been edited and studied by scholars who can be trusted. These places typically do not offer "fringe" literature. Their inventory usually includes books that are accepted by most in Christendom. You will want to avoid buying books from unknown sellers or authors because again, anyone can publish anything, and you might end up with something very far from the truth.

And lastly, because of the sheer volume of study Bibles available, you want to look for a study Bible that includes the things you find interesting. Do you like maps? Word studies? Concordances? A glossary? Character studies? Essays? Then look for those particular things in the study Bibles you test out. As I said at the start, there are many different kinds of study Bibles. So, keep looking until you find the one that has the study materials you want.

And for what it's worth, I have 2 favorite study Bibles. The first one is an NIV Life Application Study Bible published by Zondervan. I got it for my 20th birthday, and it continues to help me grow. I still read it daily. This Bible has a ton of different learning aids too: character studies, timelines, maps, Bible dictionary, and commentary on many verses. It's a sizeable Bible, but it's been wonderful. And the second Study Bible is one I just picked up this past year. It's the NRSV Renovare Study Bible, published by HarperOne (also a great publisher). It includes several essays (historical, theological, eschatological, etc.) and documents written by some of the finest Biblical scholars of our time including Dallas Willard, Richard Foster, Eugene Peterson, and Walter Brueggemann. If you're looking for a bit of challenge and depth in your next Biblical study, this could be a good option. So far, I've learned a ton from what's included in this Bible, and I've deeply appreciated the scholarly nature of the "study" part of this Study Bible.

If you've been thinking about investing in a study Bible, I hope this gives you a place to start. And as always, if you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

Have a great week!

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

# MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL



We are wrapping up our January series on Life this week as we look at the New Hope we have in Christ. This series we have been doing is something that God has been working in my life as I have been reminded of our identity, freedom purpose and hope in Christ. It recenters our life on Jesus and what He has done. Then points us in a direction to seek him with all we have. Clyde's point from the past few Sundays of moving from a faith in Christ to the faith of Christ fits into so much of what we have been talking about. As we seek first the kingdom, our lives are changed because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. To be reminded of the freedom and purpose that is found in our new identity in Christ has fit so well with Sunday mornings. The kingdom is here as we experience the work that God is doing in our lives and the lives of those around us.

This next month, we turn from this new life we have, to some wisdom insights from Proverbs. As we get into the series, we will see how we can continue to experience life as we learn and grow from the wisdom passed down to us through God's word. There is so much joy, hope and peace to be had as we grow and continue to journey with others in faith.

Finally, our Sunday School time continues to journey through the book of John. His purpose of writing is that we may come to know Jesus and through Him have life (a theme we have been doing a lot this month!). This next week we get into John chapter 3 and get into the famous conversation Jesus has with Nicodemus. As we continue to move through John, I hope the gospel's message brings us to a deeper understanding of the love, light and life that we have in Jesus.

I have loved getting into the time of study for both Wednesdays and Sundays. As we move through this semester, please feel free to reach out anytime with questions about the youth ministry here at Community.

Doyle  
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org



# HEATHER'S UPDATE KID'S MINISTRY

Hi Everyone!

During this point in winter, most of the projects I'm working on are looking forward a few months. VBS plans are coming together well and registration is open if you like to plan ahead. The Zoomobile is coming this year! Our theme is "Created" and as you can imagine, there are some fun surprises in store for you all. I'm also looking forward to the "Joyful Noise" event for kids coming up on April 12. That happens at the same time as the "SEEK" event for adults, so mark your calendars and save that day for a meaningful and enjoyable day here at church for the whole family. The registration pages for both events and also for VBS are online. Check out the church website for more information. <https://communityrc.org/children>

Community's School Team will host a table at an event on February 6. It is a chili cookoff and community fair where different organizations share information with students and families as they walk around tasting chili. Our theme for the table that our church is hosting will be "Community and Ben Reifel- we go together like chili and cinnamon rolls." The Oostras are making chili again this year, so we are looking for someone to bake some cinnamon rolls. Each person will only get a bite sized taste, so a few dozen will be plenty. We'll serve the bites on little toothpicks with our chili. For the event, we will also have some smiling faces at our table handing out some little prizes and candy so if you love middle schoolers and want to help, let me know.

Thank you to the Burggraafs, Marcia G, and Jerralynne T for preparing some of the crafts for VBS. That will make everyone's experience more enjoyable when VBS happens this summer!

I want to take a moment to thank our Sunday School volunteers. The way the volunteers continue to show up and bring their love to the students week after week is inspiring. The efforts made to connect with students and help them grow in their faith are evident.

See you soon!

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

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

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Permit No. 7119

**JANUARY 29, 2025**

**REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM...**

**If you would like to request membership or baptism, please  
e-mail the church office at [connect@communityrc.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@communityrc.org)

**Liz Teel**  
Director of Discipleship & Worship  
[liz.teel@communityrc.org](mailto:liz.teel@communityrc.org)

**John Thornton**  
Part-time Visitation Pastor  
[prayerline@communityrc.org](mailto:prayerline@communityrc.org)

**Holli Jans**  
Communications Coordinator  
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**Lisa Blankers**  
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**Josiah Dunlap**  
Part-Time IT Coordinator