

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## THIS WEEK JANUARY 7-14

**Wednesday, Jan. 7**  
5:30-6:30pm Meal: Taco Night  
6:30-7:30pm-  
Classes for all ages;  
Middle school youth group  
7:30-8:30pm- H.S. Youth Group

**Saturday, Jan. 10**  
7:00am- Fresh Encounter

**Sunday, Jan. 11**

8:00, 9:00 & 10:45am-  
Worship Services

10:10am- Sunday School

6:30pm- Refresh  
(Young Adult group)

**Monday, Jan. 12**  
Noon- Senior Citizens  
(E. Pizza Ranch)  
7:00pm- Men's Bible Study

**Tuesday, Jan. 13**  
9:30am- Play Group  
7:00pm- AA meeting

**Wednesday, Jan. 14**  
5:30-6:30pm Meal: BBQ  
6:30-7:30pm-  
Classes for all ages;  
Middle school youth group  
7:30-8:30pm- H.S. Youth Group

**Congregational Meeting**  
to approve the 2026 budget

Sunday, January 18  
@ 10:10am

**COMING  
Soon**

JANUARY 7, 2026

## Clyde's Update

The first newsletter of the new year 2026. Here we go! It is hard to believe that we are already finished with all the Christmas things and that the holiday season is now in the past. That time goes too fast. I wish there was a way to slow it all down and enjoy the festival of it a little more, but that's not how this works. It is time to for the new year, and the how all of that will go. I hope you all had some great moments throughout these past two weeks that made you smile. I know that is not the story for all of us as we all know there are folks going to through some difficult things. We are aware and we do pray that out of that season they are in, God will direct their steps and through it all, bring them closer to the One who loves them so.

I want to announce that we have our Congregational Budget meeting coming up on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. We will go through the proposed budget for the new year in detail and then vote on the approval of the new 2026 budget. There are not many changes from last year and the numbers all look nearly the same. A lot of good work has gone into this as we do every year. That group does a responsible job of putting that together for us. That meeting will start just after 10am on the 18<sup>th</sup> if you would like to join us.

I will also be making this announcement on Sunday morning in church, but I thought I would state it in this week's newsletter, as well. I have been hearing over the course of several years that when we vote as a church for the new board members slate, the list is very long and it is difficult to nearly impossible to know all those names. It is a fact that happens when a church gets this size. It comes with the territory, friends. So, I have been listening to your suggestions on what might be some ways to help. The idea we are going to try came from our people...I like that. Here's what we are going to try. We know that not everyone on the present list, wants to be on the Consistory. There are many who just don't want to do that...it's not who they are, or they just don't presently have the time. I completely understand that. So, we are going to be asking if you would like to not be on the list for being an Elder or Deacon. There will be a table in the lobby on Sunday, and you can stop by and simply let us know. It's very simple. Also, any time you would like your name back on that list, you just let us know. Again, very simple. We are hoping that may reduce the number of names on the list, and may make choosing a bit easier. No plan is perfect, but we think this may be a good start. I will say more about this on Sunday morning. Talk to me if you have questions.

We are into the new series "Seek First". I think we had a good start on Sunday morning. Now I want to get specific and talk about what ways can we "seek" after things that will make a difference in how our lives move ahead in the Kingdom of God. This series is all about how to become more Jesus in our everyday life. Are there things we can do to mobilize the Holy Spirit to begin to shape the foundations of our actions and thoughts? I believe the answer is, yes. I want to teach those ideas to you and do it the very best I can because you are people who are looking for a deeper walk with Jesus. This week we are going to talk about "Truth". It is our focus. Jesus said he was Truth. It's a good place for us to start. We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

"Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will do what you ask, because I know you very well, and I am pleased with you. Then Moses said, "Now, please show me your glory." Exod. 33:17-18  
Does God know YOU very well? How well do you know God?

## Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who sent us Christmas cards and gifts, and a special thank you to the church. We appreciate all your kindness.

John and Marcia Thornton

## 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) Worship and Communion services at various locations to be announced.

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

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

# PRAYER REQUESTS

- Marv Vos (knee replacement)
- Jodi Ackerman's mother, Karen (aortic aneurysm)
- Jane Newman (knee replacement)
- Joyce Tarrell (surgery recovery)

### ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Leroy Thill (infant son of Katie & Trevor Thill)
- Jean Nollmann (hematoma)
- Claradith Kingsbury (stroke recovery)
- Gracia Harmsen (surgery recovery)
- Al Price
- Donna Holmgren's brother, Tim
- Jan Sturing
- Ken Stellinga (Pancreatic cancer)
- Tim DeLoof (ALS)
- Steve Lee
- Denny Spitler (chronic foot pain)
- Mike Hay's father, Duane
- Gracia Harmsen's dad (esophageal cancer)
- Matt Meyer's fiancé Lynnette's dad (tumor)
- Ellen Nelson Garner (chronic airway disease)
- Brian Frisbee (ongoing rehab)
- Jerralynne Tjeerdsma's daughter, Deb (cancer)
- Jordan Lipp's mom, Becky (dementia)
- Pete & Jan Mellema's son-in-law, Chris
- Kristy Mouw's sister-in-law, Mindy (cancer)
- Susan Bierwagen's uncle, Darrell (cancer)

### 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.

[https://bradmartz.zoom.us/j/87440575632?  
pwd=RwtTfrMNrb0Xcg9KlhabfrdoMWC2Cb1](https://bradmartz.zoom.us/j/87440575632?pwd=RwtTfrMNrb0Xcg9KlhabfrdoMWC2Cb1)

Meeting ID: 874 4057 5632

Passcode: 052482

One tap mobile

+12532050468,,87440575632# US

+12532158782,,87440575632# US

+1 346 248 7799 US

Questions?

Call Shawn Blom

605-940-6702





## ONGOING MINISTRIES

### SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, **January 12** at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

### AA MEETING (OPEN)

Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm in the youth room. Use east doors.

### REFRESH

Weekly gathering of college students and young adults every Sunday at 6:30pm.

### BOOK CLUBS

The evening book club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 7 pm at the church. We will be discussing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Copies are available to borrow in the church library.

The morning book club will meet Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 9 am at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave near 33rd St. We will be discussing *Yellowface*. This book will be available to pick up in the church library sometime mid-December.

### HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle will meet on January 20th at 1:30. Mary is hostess and has the lesson

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



## DOYLE'S UPDATE

# MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL



## HEATHER'S UPDATE KID'S MINISTRY

Happy New Year!

I hope students were able to enjoy their breaks and that getting back into the rhythm of school goes smooth for them! I know there are tests and end of semester things this week for some of our students so am praying that all goes well for them.

I am really looking forward to the start of this year as we begin our three month series on relationships. January will be a series on "Our relational God". I think we can all fall into a trap of going through the motions in seasons of life. This month, we dive into how God has continued to be with us and how we can have a relationship with Him. We will talk about some practical ways to engage with Him while emphasizing living in the freedom of the Spirit and not in the law. I love the way Dallas Willard puts it - "Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning" This month we look at responding to the grace that God has given us.

On Sunday mornings, we will be focusing on some spiritual disciplines over the next 4-6 weeks. It will be a great way of walking alongside what we are doing Wednesday nights and is focused on seeking the kingdom here. Our God is with us. Both the middle and high school groups will start in their regular rooms before coming together the last 10 -15 minutes to walk through things together. It will be a little bit of a change, but again, I am really looking forward to the start of the year!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out anytime.

Doyle  
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

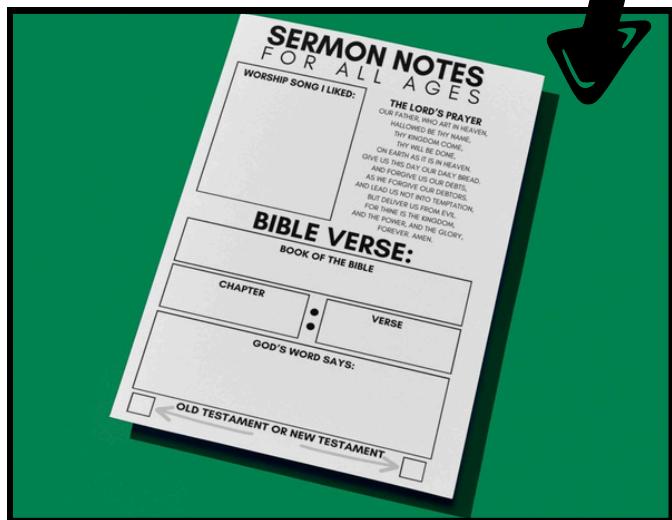
Hi Community!

This week, I want to highlight our sermon notes. They are located at the back of the worship space, by the offering baskets. If you have children who are still learning to participate in the worship service, this is a tool that might be useful. We designed them to work for a wide range of ages, essentially from early readers through elementary school, to youth, and adults. Each of those ages will use them differently and with greater learning and depth, but the questions and areas give space that anyone could use to arrange their thoughts. I know there are quite a few adults who use them as well.

If you are introducing your kids to the sermon notes tool or encouraging them to give it a try, I suggest telling them to look at all of the boxes on the paper before the service starts, then add their notes to any box they want as they listen and participate. It isn't like a worksheet where they would start at the beginning and fill every box in order. It is more likely they will write and draw as they listen and worship. Then, on the drive home from church, or over a meal, you can use the notes to talk about what you all experienced on Sunday morning. If you or your kids have tried the sermon notes and have feedback or suggestions, I'd love to hear from you.

See you soon!

Heather DeWit  
Community Kids  
605-336-1475



# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP



Happy New Year! I hope this year finds you challenged in good ways, strengthened in surprising ways, encouraged in unusual ways, and growing in God's ways. And friends, we won't notice any of those things unless we're looking for them. So, keep your eyes open for all the ways God might be choosing to move in your world.

As I mentioned on Sunday, Mid-Week gets its start again this Wednesday, January 7. If you've been thinking about trying Mid-Week, now is a perfect time to start. We will be having tacos this week, a fan favorite. 😊 Supper will be served from 5:30 to about 6:15. If that sounds good to you, just show up.

Remember, we have something for everyone at Mid-Week when it comes to lessons and learning opportunities. All of these start at 6:30 and finish by 7:30. Here is a rundown of every opportunity.

- Teresa and Larrisa work with our youngest kids in the nursery, infant to preschool age.
- Heather and her team have learning and fun for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.
- Doyle and his team do Middle School youth group from 6:30-7:30pm. High School Youth group starts at 7:30.
- And then we have 7 different adult classes available for any interested adults.
  - Pastor Clyde will be doing a class called "I'm Saved. Now What?" This class will lead you into what your life can look like after you've made a decision to follow Christ. Normally, we think making the decision is the goal, but that's only the beginning.
  - Pastor John T. will continue his class called "The Wired Word." In this class, students look at present day events through the eyes of Scripture.
  - Pastor Liz (me!) will be leading a class on Spiritual Gifts. In this class we will focus on what the spiritual gifts are, define and understand each gift listed in Scripture, and learn how we can use them appropriately to encourage one another and build the Kingdom of God. We'll also take a Spiritual Gifts Inventory before the end of the semester.
  - John Blok will be leading a group for men called "Men's Life." This group focuses on what it's like to be a man of Christ in today's world. Discussions center on learning how to involve God in your everyday life of work, marriage, fatherhood, friendship, etc.
  - Abbie Coffey will be doing a repeat of her fall semester class, "Fellowship." So, if you wanted to take that class in the fall, but ended up taking another class, you have a 2<sup>nd</sup> opportunity to take this class this spring!
  - Grace Collins will be leading her women's group called "The Flower Patch." These classes focus on involving God in our everyday lives and learning to see Him in every situation we encounter.
  - Ross Larson will be offering a class called "A healthy Life. This class is a series of Biblical discussions about topics for healthy life in Christ. Lessons will focus on learning about Christ-centered health in multiple areas such as financial, spiritual, personal, and relational health.

As you can see, we have some fantastic options for adult learning on Wednesday nights. I hope you'll join us!

Have a great week, everyone!

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

**JANUARY 7, 2026**

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

**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)

**Doyle Burnside**  
Senior High & Middle School Youth Director  
[doyle.burnside@communityrc.org](mailto:doyle.burnside@communityrc.org)

**Heather DeWit**  
Director of Children's Ministries  
[heather.dewit@communityrc.org](mailto:heather.dewit@communityrc.org)

**Holli Jans**  
Communications Coordinator  
[connect@communityrc.org](mailto:connect@communityrc.org)

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

**Teresa Lipp**  
Part-Time Nursery Director  
[nursery@communityrc.org](mailto:nursery@communityrc.org)

**Lisa Blankers**  
Part-Time Financial Administrator  
[accounting@communityrc.org](mailto:accounting@communityrc.org)

**Josiah Dunlap**  
Part-Time IT Coordinator