



# THE COMMUNICATOR

DECEMBER 14, 2022

## PRAYER MINISTRY

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.

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

Lunch Is Served is a nonprofit organization with the unique mission of delivering simple sack lunches for working men and women who are attempting to break the chains of poverty and hunger.

## CLYDE'S ARTICLE

Hello December! We have snow and rain and freezing rain. I guess it's going to be a deal for bit. Cold is coming this weekend as well. I hope you can all get together with all the things you have planned for Christmas. Sometimes the weather doesn't want to cooperate with us very well. So, be careful out there! Most of the things in church this week are normal for us, so this all doesn't affect much of the happenings around here, but it is Cathedral choir week for me. The weather might affect that, but by the end of the week things look better. Wintertime! You got to love it!

It is that time of year when we all take time to get the family together and spend time sharing memories and gifts. I love all of that. I do pray for all the families this year who are having a bit of a struggle with things that are difficult. It is a part of the world we live in. Even on the first Christmas, Joseph and Mary found their lives not only filled with the wonder but also a challenging struggle as well. Their journey, though blessed, would not be an easy one. There were going to be many days when life would look very dark, but God was moving. I am praying that we all see God moving even in the sad days. Joy to the world is not always so evident, but we know Jesus is there. Trust in him and call on his name. Jesus came to save us from the depths of sin and sorrow. I know, it may not seem like it sometimes, but trust him. He is there to walk through this with us. I pray that we all have a blessed Christmas!

Sunday morning, we are moving 8am to join those at 9am service. I forgot to mention that Sunday to that group. Get the word out everyone! I'm sure with all the ways we have to reach people, we can get the word out. Give folks a call! Let them know.

I have been doing some reading and study about what my next sermon series might be. So far, I'm still not quite certain. I have a couple of ideas floating around, but nothing has really got my heart's attention yet. It will come, it always does. I am thinking of doing a series on some very practical things that we do in church all the time, but we never take the time to really dig down and discover why we do them or what we are really doing. I'm thinking that could be something interesting. That should perk your interest a bit. I'll keep praying about it. We will see what comes forth.

Christmas Eve is not that far away! We are doing three back-to-back services that day at 3pm, 4pm, and 5pm. I hope one of those will work for you all. I have watched that service over the years and it always seems like people like to get that service done and then get back home for the evening's activities. I completely understand that. It will be nice service as it always seems to be. We will do some music and have communion together. Something about that rings of Christmas Eve. Join us!

Sunday is the 4th Sunday of Advent. It's almost Christmas. As the day draws near, may we draw near to the babe in the manger. Pastor John is preaching Sunday. We'll talk more then. Have a great week!

  
CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
3:00, 4:00, 5:00PM

## NO 8:00AM SERVICE ON DEC. 18

## UPCOMING DATES

**Wednesday, December 14 & 21** – NO Mid-Week

**Sunday, December 18**

No Sunday School

**Saturday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Communion Services

3:00pm, 4:00pm, and 5:00pm

*No nursery for these services.*

**Sunday, December 25**

Christmas Morning Service

10:00am

*No nursery for this service.*

CHRISTMAS  
DAY

10:00AM

ONE COMBINED SERVICE

SERVICE WILL BE LIVE STREAMED

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 8

10:10am

This meeting is to approve the 2023 budget.

CHRISTMAS  
EVE

3:00, 4:00, 5:00PM

4:00PM SERVICE WILL BE LIVE STREAMED

## THIS WEEK

**Wednesday, December 14**

NO MIDWEEK

(Christmas break)

6:00pm- Middle/ High School Christmas  
Party (@ Thunder Road)

**Saturday, December 17**

7:00am- Prayer Ministry

10:00am- AA Meeting

**Sunday, December 18**

NO 8:00AM SERVICE

9:00 & 10:45AM- Worship Service

No Sunday School

**Monday, December 19**

7:00-8:00PM- The Wired Word

**Tuesday, December 20**

9:30-10:30am- Play Group

6:00pm- Hope Circle

**Wednesday, December 21**

NO MIDWEEK

(Christmas break)

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## AA BIG BOOK MEETING

AA meeting via Zoom or in person at the church on Saturday mornings at 10am. Please contact Tom Jacobs (tjstonegate@gmail.com) for meeting access.

## SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, January 9 at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

## BOOK CLUBS

BOOK CLUBS WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER.

FOR JANUARY: Morning book club will meet on Wed. January 18, at 9 am at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave. We will be discussing *Bear Town*.

Evening book club will meet on Tuesday, January 17 at 7 pm at the church. We will be discussing *Anne of Green Gables*. Talk to the librarians about Hoopla.

## HOPE CIRCLE

The Hope Circle will meet on December 20th at 6:00pm. Helen is hostess for our Christmas party.

# KID'S MINISTRY

## HEATHER'S UPDATE

I told the kids on Sunday and Wednesday that I'll miss seeing them until we're back together in 2023! We won't have Sunday School or Midweek for the kids again until January 4 and 8. I'll be here in the office during that time, except for a few days off, so if you need anything, send an email, or give me a call.

As I was chatting with some kids on Sunday, we got to talking about some of the traditions that make them smile this time of year. I heard about nativities, movies, lights, stories, pajamas, gifts, elves, gingerbread, and so much more! I wanted to give you some encouragement if you are a parent trying to "do it all" with your kids. Now that my girls are in high school I'm remembering those days with a bit of sentimentality. I want to start by being clear that I think all those fun and cute things are good. Bonding as a family is good. Please understand that I'm not discouraging any of the fun activities of December. For my article this week, I want to encourage us to pay attention to where we spend our time and attention as a family this season. I think we can try to be intentional about creating and maintaining traditions that keep Jesus as the focus of day-to-day life and special fun activities.

My family has an advent calendar that gives a piece of a nativity set to build each day leading to Christmas. We just tuck the pieces back in after the year ends and do it again the next year. It doesn't take long to do each day, but it has given us a fun time to talk about which piece (wisemen, manger, camel, star, angel, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, etc.) that we open each day. (We have this one <https://petitcollage.com/products/nativity-advent-calendar> but there are a bunch of options online or you could make your own) A paper chain of Bible verses that can be torn off, read, discussed, and enjoyed each day leading up to Christmas is another fun option that is easy to make and meaningful. I made a template for one that you can print and use from our web page. [www.communityrc.org/children](http://www.communityrc.org/children). A child sized nativity that is safe for kids to play with is another simple way to celebrate the season. I love the one from "Little People" but there are other ones available online that are great too.

There is something about lighting a candle that sets families up for a peaceful conversation about Jesus. Use any candle you have at home (even if it is a birthday candle stuck in playdough) to make your own little advent wreath or just light it each night and read from your Bible.

A gingerbread or graham cracker manger scene is a fun option. Use candy, crackers (or a gingerbread house kit from the grocery store), and frosting to craft Mary, Joseph, Jesus, a star, etc. and retell the story of the birth of our Savior. Tasty snacks, wonderful smells and time together cement memories. If you don't want the enormous mess that often goes with food creations, an annual tradition of Christmas music and play doh Christmas scenes is just as meaningful and memorable.

Instead of letters to Santa (or in addition if you decide you want to do both) I suggest helping kids write a letter to Jesus that they tuck in their stocking and keep. Little kids can color, and parents can add the words as kids dictate. It might be as simple as a thank you note about Jesus coming to be God with Us or a much longer letter about what is happening in life and where they've noticed God at work. This can be a good New Year's activity as well.

I've also found that tucking the true meaning of Christmas into some of the other seasonal events can be effective. While looking at Christmas lights, talk about the meaning of the Christmas songs you listen to or about how Jesus is the light. Talk about how you might share the love of Jesus with others in the season. When baking cookies, use the time while stirring and frosting to celebrate Jesus. If you do "elf on the shelf" maybe it would be fun to have the messages and mischief of your elf be focused on the true meaning of Christmas rather than naughty and nice. A candy cane shepherd's staff, the name of Jesus drawn in flour with snow angels, or even a note that says that whenever the elf is in a new spot, it is a new reminder that you are so very, very loved by Jesus. When you are all snuggled up in those matching jammies for a photo, take a moment of peace and quiet to pray. Certainly, the many opportunities to care for others, be with family, and give to those in need offer wonderful moments to remember that Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas. You may be surprised at the depth of knowledge and understanding (heart deep) that your kids have.

Perhaps my favorite tradition is telling the story of Christmas. I love to read it with kids right from the Bible. I also have a few favorite kids' books that tell the story with beautiful illustrations and some with a little dose of humor.

- Humphrey's First Christmas by Carol Heyer is adorable and fun for a variety of ages. Be sure to "do the voices" when you read it out loud.
- Song of the Stars by Sally Lloyd Jones is beautiful and poetic.
- The Christmas Promise by Alison Mitchel is engaging and fun
- The First Christmas Night by Keith Christopher is gentle and has gorgeous illustrations.
- This is the Star by Joyce Dunbar catches my eye as a quick read that rhymes.

Again, I'm not suggesting ditching activities that you enjoy as a family, but rather encouraging families to embrace the beautiful opportunity for intentionality and focus in the Christmas season that might get forgotten sometimes. Maybe this is just the opportunity we've all been needing.

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

DOYLES' UPDATE

## MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL



Our end of the year celebration is this week as we enjoy some fun and games out at Thunder Road. Both the middle and high school group will be meeting out at Thunder Road from 6:00-8:00. We will start together in one of the party rooms there, then will move to the indoor activities for the rest of the night. I'm looking forward to our final night together as a youth group for 2022!

Our winter retreat is coming together as we partner with Prairie Hills Covenant Church and King of Glory for the event this year. The dates are February 24th-26th and we will be heading out to Inspiration Hills. Cost for students will be \$50. The weekend will be around the theme Level Up as we use the gaming world of board games, video games and group games to help set up the weekend. I am so excited for this years retreat that is for both middle and high school students. Our registration is now open so if students would like to register you can email me for the registration form. If you have any questions regarding the retreat reach out anytime.

Merry Christmas to you all! I pray this season can be filled with the hope, joy and peace that comes with our savior.

Doyle  
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

Middle School/High School  
Christmas Party  
**DECEMBER 14**  
**6:00PM**  
**@ Thunder Road**

Merry  
Christmas

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Al Bolton (heart bypass recovery)

### ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Leah Reuwsaat's mom, Marie
- Marcia Groenweg's brother-in-law (leukemia)
- Irwin Van Leeuwen (cancer treatment)
- Steve Lee (lung transplant postponed)
- Gracia Harmsen (unexplained pain)
- Marv Sturing (scans for cancer)
- Barb Klein
- Elaine Deelstra
- Joe Johnson
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (transplant recovery)
- Pete & Jan Mellema's son-in-law, Chris (cancer)
- Tami Boyle's dad (pancreatic/liver cancer)
- Melanie Oden's uncle, Bruce (cancer)
- Marcia Groeneweg's daughter, Rhonda (chemo)
- Kristy Mouw's sister-in-law, Mindy (cancer)
- Brian Frisbee (long-term stroke rehab)
- Susan Bierwagen's uncle, Darrell (cancer)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Randi Van Der Sloom (cancer treatments)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer treatments/heart)
- Darla Anderson's friend, Vonnie (cancer)
- Tracee Ellwein's dad (skin & muscle graft)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Harvey & Karen Odens' great niece, Lydia (cancer)

### CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to the family of Chris Fedders who recently passed away. Please keep her family in your prayers.

### FINANCES

Sunday, December 11, 2022

General: \$8,187  
Vision: \$8,810  
Missions: \$180  
Wednesday night: \$331

General YTD: \$892,332  
Vision YTD: \$75,518  
Vision Account Balance: \$36,197

LIZ'S UPDATE

# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

This week, I begin with an apology for making an incorrect announcement on Sunday morning! There was, in fact, Sunday School on Sunday (December 11), and the good news is that, in spite of my mistake, kids and teachers still found their way back to the children's wing for a morning of Sunday School. ☺ Beginning this Sunday, December 18, we do take a Sunday School break until January 8. I'm very sorry about that confusion, Heather, kids, teachers, and parents!

This week, I get to participate in Christmas at the Cathedral. This will be my 9th year of participation in this ministry. The year my mom died, I decided to say yes to more opportunities. My longtime friend, Dan Goeller, had invited me to play several times prior to 2014, but I always turned him down because Christmas is such a busy time of year for someone who works full-time in a church. But that year, I decided to say yes because I knew firsthand how short life can be and how important it is to do things that bring life to our souls. I must say, it was the best "yes" I could have made! Since then, I have enjoyed immensely blessed time with other musicians, actors, stagehands, sound technicians, and audiences during the week of Christmas at the Cathedral. It's a lot of work. I mean, a LOT of work! But it's so worth it! I count it an honor and a blessing to be a part of that ministry, which shares the Gospel message with nearly 5000 people over the course of 6 performances. And the fact that my dad and my sister sing in the choir for the event makes it extra special. (My brother-in-law even has a role in the production as well!). That said, my family will be missing church on Sunday. But I'm glad to report that everything will still happen as usual because people are willing to step in and fill the gaps. Thank you to everyone who is making that happen! If the Spirit prompts you, say a prayer for Christmas at the Cathedral. Pray that the weather would not inhibit performers or attenders. Pray that the good news of Jesus' birth would become real to everyone who attends. Pray that the Holy Spirit would be evident in that place. And pray that God would change the world through those performances. It is a powerful time!

Don't forget our holiday schedules:

## Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, December 14 – NO Mid-Week  
Sunday, December 18

NO Sunday School

Wednesday, December 21 – NO Mid-Week  
Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Communion Services  
3:00pm, 4:00pm, and 5:00pm

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Morning Service 10:00am  
No Sunday School

Wednesday, December 28 – NO Mid-Week  
Sunday, January 1

Regular Services 8:00am, 9:00 am, 10:45am  
NO Sunday School

Wednesday, January 4

Regular Mid-Week activities resume 5:30-7:30pm

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Liz

Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

## THE GIVE

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

### Glory House:

Towels

### Teddy Bear Den:

Baby blankets

### Ronald McDonald House:

Canned fruit, boxes of mac'n cheese, spaghetti sauce, ground coffee or k-cups

### Lexi's Christmas Closet (Sanford Children's Hospital):

Board books, stuffed animals, dolls, toy cars, legos, coloring/ crafting kits, sports water bottles, etc.



**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

**DECEMBER 14, 2022**

**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  
[connect@communityrc.org](mailto:connect@communityrc.org)

**Heather DeWit**

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

**Doyle Burnside**

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

**Sheri Brouwer**

Part-Time Nursery Coordinator  
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**Lisa Blankers**

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

**Josiah Dunlap**

Part-Time IT Coordinator