

# HE CAME TO US

ADVENT SERIES

## THE COMMUNICATOR

DECEMBER 6, 2023

### Weekly Calendar

DEC 6 - DEC 13

#### Wednesday, Dec. 6

**5:30-6:30pm-** Meal (Chicken Salad/  
Taco Salad)

**6:30-7:30pm-**

Midweek Classes for Children,  
Middle School Youth Group & Adults  
(Nursery also provided)

**7:30-8:30pm-**

High School Youth Group

#### Saturday, Dec. 9

**7:00am-** Fresh Encounter

**9:00am** -CRU Packing Party (open to all)

**10:00AM-** AA (via Zoom)

See details page 2 for details

#### Sunday, Dec. 10

**NO 8:00am Service**

**9:00 & 10:45AM-** Choir Concerts

**10:10am-** Sunday School

#### Monday, Dec. 11

**Noon-** Senior Citizens @ E. Pizza Ranch)

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

#### Tuesday, Dec. 12

**9:30-11am-** Play Group

#### Wednesday, Dec. 13

**No Midweek meal or classes**

### CLYDE'S ARTICLE

It's Christmas time! I do enjoy this weather pattern we are in. I won't be at all disappointed if there is no snow this Christmas. I know, for many out there, you would love for a little snow. However, I'm going on record to say that I will be fine if it's brown. As the season moves along, many of you are going to get very busy with all the extra things of the season. That will be my calendar as well, but I do enjoy all of it, as I say each year. There is something right about all things of the season. I realize it can get a bit overdone, and too much commercialization is not a good thing, but I think all the fuss gives us as Christians an opportunity to speak into that space. People are much more open to the real story of advent this time of year. The world around us looks like Christmas. I think there is a message there for us to share.

The children's Christmas program is in the books for another year. Moms, dads, grandparents and friends gathered in the worship center Sunday afternoon for our annual kids' program. It is a tradition of the season with kids all dressed up in their costumes and of course, all the songs that are so familiar to us over the course of these many years. Heather has put a lot of hours in getting all this put together and organized. It is a big task and one that starts very early in the year. I know she doesn't do it alone. There are many adult helpers. I am sure she will mention that somewhere in this newsletter. It is a big project! Thanks to the kids and fine work you did to bring the Christmas story to us. There is something right about children and the Christmas story. You can't go wrong with that combination. Thanks to everyone who made all that possible.

Our annual Choir Christmas Concert is this coming Sunday morning. Pass the word, we don't have 8am services that day. We are doing just 9am and 10:45am. It is a Sunday devoted to the music of the season. We will all be singing carols together and the choir will be bringing their presentation as well. They have worked so hard as a couple of the pieces are very difficult to perform. We had our last rehearsal on Sunday afternoon. It takes a little time to get used to the big room, but once they got settled in, it went very well. We are doing a variety of music this year and there is a message built into it all as well. Bring a friend and join us. It should get us into the spirit of the season...at least that's the idea.

I have had a few people comment on how we are doing Christmas Eve this year. Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. We have really thought this through as to how best to make this work. I hope you can all see how doing 3 regular church services in the morning, and then turn around a couple of hours later and start 3 Christmas Eve services is maybe a bit much. What to do? I got all kinds of ideas, as you can image. What we are going to do is have Sunday morning services which will be our Christmas Eve Communion service as well. You then have the whole rest of the day to prepare for whatever you do on Christmas Eve. We always do lots of music for that event and this year will be the same. There will be some changes, but it will be a good morning together. I hope this change will give more of you a chance to be there with us.

Sunday the choir sings! We'll talk (sing) more on Sunday. Have a great week!

# Upcoming Dates

## Sunday, December 10

9:00 & 10:45am- Christmas Choir Concert

## Wednesday, December 13, 20 & 27

No Midweek meal or classes

## Sunday, Dec. 24

9:00 & 10:45am-

Special Christmas Eve Communion Services  
with music by the Teels (both identical services)

No 8am Service

## Joy Circle Women

December 14th @ 11:30am

All Day Cafe at the Western Mall

Let's enjoy lunch together to celebrate Christmas!  
RSVP to Cleone 261-9504 or Char 366-1341 by Dec. 7

## Packing Event for CRU

Saturday, December 9th

9:00am at church

We need a group of 15-20 people to help pack some bags of outreach materials for the Day of Outreach which takes place during the annual Cru Winter Conference. All supplies will already be at church, we just need to have volunteers to pack around 700 baggies.

Email Holli (connect@communityrc.org) if you can help!

## Suppers 6

Our first Suppers 6 groups met in October and we had a wonderful time getting to renew with old friends and make new ones. We are giving you an opportunity to sign up for January or February or both. If you have already signed our original list, you DO NOT need to sign again. A sign up sheet will be available at The Link. Please join us for some fun and fellowship. If you would like to host a dinner, please indicate on the sign up sheet.

For more info:

Cheryl Weerheim- 940-8413

Deb Teunissen- 359-6375

Elaine Deelstra- 351-4202

## ONGOING MINISTRIES

### FRESH ENCOUNTER

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

LifeLine Children Services

### AA BIG BOOK MEETING

AA will be meeting via Zoom on  
Saturdays  
at 10:00am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87467618339?pwd=N1Niems0MG5vdk0reVZUTHlIWkgxZz09>

Please contact Tom Jacobs  
(tjstonegate@gmail.com) for meeting access.

### SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, December 11 at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

### HOPE CIRCLE

The Hope Circle will meet at 6:00pm on December 19th at Donna's house.

### BOOK CLUBS

Book Clubs do not meet in December.

**The evening book club** will meet on Tuesday, January 16, at 7 pm at the church.  
We will be discussing *Mind of Her Own*.

**The morning book club** will meet on Wednesday, January 17, at 9 am at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave.  
We will be discussing *Being Mortal*.

DOYLES'S UPDATE

## MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL



The end of our 2023 midweek is here! I still can't believe we are already at this point of the year. This week we celebrate Christmas together as a youth group. We will meet during our usual youth group times and I will have cookies, hot chocolate, games and a craft! Students do not need to bring anything with them this year.

With 2023 coming to a close soon, I want to highlight a new date for 2024. On February 23-25 our middle school and high school group will be heading back to Inspiration Hills for our yearly Radix Retreat. This is the retreat combined with a few other churches and our theme for the weekend is unlocked. I know we are a few months out still, but I encourage you to get this on the calendar if students are able!

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

Doyle  
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Joanne Avery (broken arm)
- Dalton Coffey (shoulder surgery)

### ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ann Munce (shoulder surgery)
- Rick Hoogendoorn (pancreatic cancer)
- Joyce Tarrell (recovery from car accident)
- Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer treatments)
- Carrie Valentine (ankle surgery)
- Holli Jans' dad, Milt (cancer)
- Junella Wesselink's sister (cancer)
- Irwin Van Leeuwen (cancer treatment)
- Kyle Wigg (liver transplant recovery)
- Ellen Nelson Garner (chronic airway disease)
- Brian Frisbee (ongoing rehab)
- Aaralyn Van Der Sloot
- Angie Bonnema's dad
- Rick Norris (cancer)
- Pete & Jan Mellema's son-in-law, Chris
- Steve Lee (awaiting lung transplant)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (transplant recovery)
- Kristy Mouw's sister-in-law, Mindy (cancer)
- Susan Bierwagen's uncle, Darrell (cancer)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer treatments/heart)
- Tracee Ellwein's dad

### CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Kevin Houtsma and his family. His mom, Bernice who was 93, passed away Sunday. Please keep them in your prayers

LIZ'S UPDATE

# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

This Sunday, December 10, is **Choir Sunday**! The choir has worked incredibly hard to get their music ready for you, and I know you will be blessed when you hear them. I hope to see a full church on Sunday morning to celebrate the Christmas season with the choir. Remember, we sing at both the 9:00 and 10:45 services on Sunday.

**Attention, choir people!** We'll meet on Sunday morning at 8:00am to warm up and get ready. The children who are singing with us do NOT need to come early.

The performance order has changed just a bit. The new order is as follows:

- The opener 😊
- Home for the Holidays
- The children's song
- Ubi
- Carol of the Bells
- Lullaby
- Jesus What a Wonderful Child

Remember, our last night of Mid-Week is this Wednesday, **December 6**, at 5:30pm. We will resume in January.

**December 24, 9:00 and 10:45am – Christmas Eve Communion Services**

These services will be identical and will include Christmas music by my family. 😊

**December 31, 8:00, 9:00, and 10:45 – Regular Services Resume**

**January 3, 2024, 5:30pm – Regular Mid-Week Resumes**

Have a great week!

Liz  
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org







HEATHER'S UPDATE

# KID'S MINISTRY

Hello Everyone!

I want to thank the kids for giving us a special Christmas Program. They all put their hearts into it this year and I'm proud of them. Thank you also to the volunteers and church staff who made it possible. It takes a big team and I'm glad they were all willing to make it happen this year. Whether it was running the slides and sound system, working with the kids, making the music, helping with costumes, assisting with props, etc. we sure couldn't do it without many helpers.

## Reminder:

No Sunday School or Midweek from 12/17/23 to 1/3/24. Our volunteers need a break.

When we come back to Midweek in 2024, we'll still do bucket drumming and dancing, but it is just for fun, not for a program, so we'll have a few different songs and maybe a little more silliness. 😊

See you soon!

Heather DeWit  
Children's Ministry  
605-336-1475  
[heather.dewit@communityrc.org](mailto:heather.dewit@communityrc.org)

MERRY  
MERRY  
MERRY  
Christmas

MORE PHOTOS TO COME NEXT WEEK!

