

THE COMMUNICATOR

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH

DECEMBER 8, 2021

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

Their mission is to deliver sack lunches for working men and women who are attempting to break the chains of poverty and hunger.

CLYDE'S ARTICLE

And just like that...it's winter. If you recall last week, I was talking about all the warm days and how nice that was. December and winter. I really don't mind that so much. We knew it was coming, folks. It is South Dakota. I don't like the wind, but the wind blows in every season of the year. I have heard we might get a blanket of snow this week. I think we are ready for that too...just a little though. Let's not get carried away. There is a lot of winter still left. We are getting close to the shortest day of the year, and then the sun starts moving back up the horizon. Seasons come and go! Christmas is here. Enjoy all that!

I start this week's newsletter with a big THANKS to the choir members. We did our concert last Sunday morning and it was a great presentation, choir. If you want to hear it again, I would listen to the 10:45 service recording. We made a couple changes to the mics on that one and I think it sounds the best online. I was very pleased with the choir's performance to say the least. We did pick songs we have done before, but we picked the difficult ones. The choir really dug in this year and worked so hard to bring a message in the music. It is so much fun to watch them put all that effort in and see it go so well. Christmas music Sunday is still one of my favorite Sundays of the year. There is just something about singing those songs that makes the season right. We needed a good lift this year, and the choir gave us a treat. Great job! Congregation... you were great on your songs as well. I didn't want to leave you out! It was a good day. We had lots of people online as well. I mean lots and lots!

That brings us to Sunday afternoon and the kids program. I don't know who all the helpers and leaders are for that, but I know Doug Harms was doing the little ones and I saw Cheryl Weerheim was playing piano for them. Heather was organizing the older ones and working through that skit. All in one day! All in one day! It was a little crazy, but I think it worked. It was a grand group of shepherds, angels, sheep and all the other familiar characters in the Christmas story. Great job everyone!

Next week is Christmas at the Cathedral and I am in that choir again this year, along with a number of our Community choir folks. We love it! That is an awesome experience for Christmas. You might want to consider getting tickets. It is a wonderful program.

A quick reminder, we are doing 4 Christmas Eve services starting at 3pm. They will all be on the hour. 3, 4, 5, and 6! We did something similar last year and it worked just fine. We can easily do those in 45 minutes, which gives each group plenty of time to come and go. It will be a night of music and communion with our church family. Nothing complicated! Simple. Quiet. All is calm. Join us! Bring a friend! Jesus will be there!

We are also going to do one service on the 26th. Read that again! 10am service time. Read that again! With Christmas Day falling on a Saturday, we just think it makes sense to do one on the day after Christmas. It seemed right to us. Change? That's right...God does that sometimes. We will make it very special. Pass the word!

Sunday's message is going to center around the scene of Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem for the census. Great timing! We'll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!



UPCOMING DATES

MIDWEEK BREAK

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 22, 29

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICES

Friday, Dec. 24
3, 4, 5, & 6:00pm

JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AS WE CELEBRATE AND REFLECT ON THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS. THIS 45-MINUTE SERVICE WILL INCLUDE MUSIC, A SHORT MESSAGE, AND A TIME OF COMMUNION. WE'LL HAVE INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED COMMUNION CUPS AND A GLUTEN FREE OPTION. WE'LL LIVESTREAM THE 3:00 & 4:00PM SERVICES.

THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, Dec. 26
10:00am service only

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, Dec. 26 & Jan. 2

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, Dec. 24th
Monday, Dec. 27th
Friday, Dec. 31st



**THANK YOU, COMMUNITY, FOR
SUPPORTING ANGEL TREE. WE
SPONSORED 65 KIDS THIS YEAR!**

New! SIGN UPS OPEN THROUGH MAY

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
9AM OR 10:45AM SERVICES**

605.church/nurseryvolunteers

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8:

5:30-6:30pm- meal- Soup Night
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. 4 :

7:00AM-Prayer Ministry (chapel)
10:00AM- AA meeting

SUNDAY, DEC. 12:

8:00am, 9:00am & 10:45am- Sunday Service
10:00- Sunday School

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15:

No Midweek

OTHER MINISTRIES

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.

BOOK CLUB

The evening book club will meet Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00pm at church. We will be discussing *Beartown*.

The morning book club will meet Wed. December 15 at 9:00am at church. We will be discussing *Educated*.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens meet every 2nd Monday of the month at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. **Next date: Dec. 13.** Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

HOPE CIRCLE

The Hope Circle will meet on December 21 at 6:00pm at Helen's home.



Hi Everyone!

I am so proud of the kids that were in the Christmas Program on Sunday. They worked very hard, and I hope they had fun! I know I did! I have some big THANK YOU messages to share this week. Doug H. is our leader for preschool singing each week and that means he also leads the younger child portion of our Christmas program. He teaches the songs to the kids and they are always so happy to see him! Randi and Marty V are helping him this year as well and they helped with the program too! Cheryl W plays piano with those little ones week after week and she is always so prepared and flexible! I think Doug's wife, Sharon, helps with the program as well! That's a lot of bells and candy canes in a lot of little hands! In addition, I know there are quite a few parents who lend a hand and many who help their own sons and daughters practice at home. I think we got to enjoy the sweet sounds of the hard work of all those people!

For the K-5 kids, I was in awe of the kids' willingness to learn a crazy program in just a few hours and their skill at making it fun. They had great attitudes and made it a fun day. I was so glad some parents offered to jump in and help. Randi V is always a gift and brings her musical talent, which helped us many times! I love that I can look to her for advice and she knows just how to solve the challenge. Evita A helped this year too! She was so willing to do whatever we needed and made a BIG crew of kids a much more manageable team. There were times I felt like the two of them were reading my mind before I even thought of what we needed. They both have a great eye for helping kids and a great eye for theater stuff! If you have ever tried to coordinate an event, you probably agree with me that volunteers who jump in, are patient and flexible, and do it all with a big smile are absolute gold! I'm so thankful. You may have noticed some solos, duets, trios, memorized parts and other fun things in the program. That was all work done by kids at home before the day of the program! There were some kids (and probably parents) who put in a ton of time and energy to make the program special for everyone to see. I was very impressed with the talent of the kids and even more so by their dedication and kindness.

For me, the thing that made me smile was that the focus of the kids, volunteers, and even audience, seemed to be on Jesus. The K-5 kids and I chatted a little bit before the program about our goal and that we didn't need to be the best actors or singers, but that it was special just to be able to tell God's story to everyone who came. The kids were ALL IN on that. They are pretty great kids.

My co-workers definitely pitched in with a variety of ways to help make the program happen, ranging from advice, to moving things, to a listening ear and ideas. I also need to thank my husband, Jaron, for running sound, lights, screens, and livestream. My daughter, Addi, was also the first volunteer to sign on to this adventure with the K-5 kids and she read through the script, gave suggestions, helped with props, set out snacks, etc. This article once again proves that it's not what I know, but WHO I know that counts! 😊

One last thank you is to Emily Spartz Weerheim for capturing some fun photos of the Christmas Program! We've included just a small selection of the incredible photos with this article.

See you soon!

-Heather

Heather.DeWit@Communityrc.org

605-336-1475



LIZ'S UPDATE

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

Huge thanks to all of the choir members for performing two outstanding concerts this past Sunday in church!! I was totally impressed with your performances! You didn't just sing on Sunday. You *ministered* to all those in attendance and to me as well. It was a truly heartfelt performance, and the Holy Spirit was heavy in the place. I'm deeply thankful for your willingness to work so hard on the music to bless those who were able to listen. Thank you!

And thank you to everyone who came to listen and support the choir. It's impossible to perform music if there is no audience. ☺ So, thank you for being there and for your generous and encouraging presence while the choir sang. I believe it was a glorifying worship experience!

Here are those few upcoming dates and things to remember for the month of December:

Wednesday, December 8, 5:30-7:30pm

This week is our last night of Mid-Week until we start up again on January 4.

Sunday, December 19 8:00, 9:00, 10:45am

Pastor Clyde and I will be gone this Sunday because we will be participating in Christmas at the Cathedral. But we've made some plans to make this day extra special at Community too! Pastor John will cover the 8:00 service, and Pastor Dennis Thum, who is the Campus Pastor at the University of Sioux Falls, will cover the 9:00 and 10:45 services. You'll also be singing Christmas Carols that morning in celebration of the culmination of Advent. So, even though your pastors will be a bit different that day, it will still be a great day of worship!

December 24, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00pm

Christmas Eve Communion services will be held every hour starting at 3:00pm. These are lovely little 45-minute communion services with music and a short sermon from Pastor Clyde. Please note that nursery care will not be provided, but usually these services are very "kid friendly."

December 26, 10:00am

After some prayerful discussion, Pastor Clyde has decided that the best way to do a "day after Christmas" church service is to simply downsize to one service. It will be streamed too, so if you don't want to come in person, you'll still be able to see it online. We'll do the music just a bit differently that morning as well. I think it will be a meaningful Sunday service for the day after Christmas. ☺

Have a great week!

Liz

Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

CONNECT WITH US



SCAN THIS CODE ON YOUR PHONE IN
ORDER TO COMPLETE A CONTACT CARD

THE GIVE

CHECK OUT THE GIVE WALL IN THE LOBBY.
IT'S A PLACE TO DONATE TO LOCAL MINISTRIES.

Lexi's Christmas Closet

Lego sets (all ages), Pop Its, books, board games, water bottles, toys, etc.
Complete list can be found on The Give wall or find an Amazon Wish list at [605.church/christmas-closet](https://www.amazon.com/wish-list/605.church/christmas-closet)

Inspiration Elementary School (our neighbor)

New Sweatpants & underwear
(sizes 4, 5,6)

Union Gospel Mission

Men's and Women's undergarment items (NEW ONLY - underwear, bras, socks)

Ben Reifel Middle School (our neighbor)

Teen Size gloves, hats, scarves, socks, gently used coats



We will livestream the 3:00pm & 4:00pm services on
YouTube, our church app, & on
www.communityrc.org



Share a photo that shows a moment in your life when God was present. You may not have realized it then, but you see it now.

Print that photo and hang it on the "God in the Moments" wall in the lobby or email your photo to connect@communityrc.org.

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- John and Marcia Thornton's son-in-law, Tony

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Cleon Groen
- Vi Slecta
- Glenda Van Den Hoek (arm surgery)
- Jan Kreun's dad
- Mike Hays (cancer/surgery recovery)
- Jim Halling (cancer)
- Alida VerBerg's son-in-law, Jim (recovering at home with Home Health Care therapy)
- Jenny Getting
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer treatments)
- Spring & Tony
- Jodie Jensen (cancer treatments/heart)
- Robyn Jacobs' dad, Rick (Leukemia)
- Darla Anderson's friend, Vonnie (cancer)
- Connie Saathoff's brother, Russ (cancer)
- Ann DeYoung (dialysis)
- Brian Frisbee (long-term stroke rehab)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Tracee Ellwein's dad (skin & muscle graft)
- Kim Becker's mother-in-law, Amy (colorectal cancer)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- Tami Boyle's dad (prostate cancer)
- Gary Jensen (cancer)
- Tami Harm's cousin (colon cancer)

FINANCES

Sunday, December 5, 2021

General: \$14,368
Vision: \$1,670
Missions: \$490
Wed. night: \$260

General YTD: \$866,602
Vision YTD: \$93,635
Vision Account Balance: \$189,588