



THE COMMUNICATOR

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

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

Call To Freedom

Call to Freedom provides supportive services for victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in South Dakota.

CLYDE'S ARTICLE

February is now past the half-way mark. It doesn't take long for that to happen! Thanks to everyone for all the kind thoughts and words during the birthday Sunday. The donut holes seemed to be a big hit. They always are. It was a good day and on Monday, which was really my birthday, I was able to just relax a bit and enjoy the day. The weather has been so nice. We are going to get a little more snow this week and colder, but maybe by the weekend things will even out a bit. Winter is not finished yet. I'm sure there is more yet to come.

I want to put in a plug for the Sunday school program. Heather is looking for a 4th grade teacher in there. I would like to call your attention to that. Pray about that. It wouldn't be a long run, as the year is winding down, but we still could use the help. If you have a leading, call Heather and let her know. I'm trusting God will provide. He typically taps someone on the shoulder. That might be you!

I know there are camps being talked about in the office. We do pay for half of the fee for registration of Inspiration Hills. If you have a camper or two or if you just have questions about all of that, call the office, and we can help you with all the right information. Camps are a big deal for our kids. They do an amazing job with our kids. I would highly encourage you to check those out.

I will be gone this coming Sunday for my mom's 90th birthday party back home. I am sure we are going to have a great day together. The 8am service folks are taking the day and they are doing a hymn sing along with some other music as well. You might want to think about joining them this week. Then, you can go to 9am or 10:45am and listen to Brent Eliason speak. It will be a good morning with lots going on. You have some great choices!

During our Consistory meeting last week, the deacons were sharing the cost of keeping the snow off the parking lots during the month of January. Whew! That is something. Let's just say that put us a little behind for the new year. We have had some pretty nice winters in the past and we are a little spoiled. Not this year! Our crew that does that, has done a good job of keeping on top of that. We are still working on that parking in the back where the shade hits that blacktop. It is always so icy in there. Be careful folks! Especially at this time of the year as the snow melts. It may look like water, but under the water is ice. Be safe!

I will be starting a new series of messages for our season of Lent entitled "The Wanderings". That series starts in a couple of weeks. I will be highlighting many of the stories in the Old and New Testaments about those moments when we find ourselves in the desert. Times when we just wandering in a place that can be dry and trying to our souls. Many of us have been there a time or two. It is a theme we see all over the Bible. What are those for? What do they mean? Is it because we missed something? We'll talk more in a couple of Sundays. Have a great week!

YOU
BELONG
HERE

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, Feb. 19 @ 8:00am **Special Chapel Music Service**

All are welcome! This service will focus on special music and singing of hymns.

WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE BRENT ELIASON AT THE 9 & 10:45AM SERVICES ON FEB. 19TH!

Wednesday, Feb. 22 **6:30-7:30pm- Adoption Information Meeting** presented by the staff at LifeLine Children's Services

Would you like to learn more about adopting a vulnerable child from an international orphanage or from the US foster care system?

This info meeting is open anyone interested in learning more. Please RSVP by February 21st by calling Lifeline at 605-626-8588 or emailing melissa.steltz@lifelinechild.org.

Nominating new consistory members **Deadline: Sunday, March 5**

Ballots & the list of eligible people are at The Link in the lobby. Email the church office (connect@communityrc.org) if you'd like a link to vote online.

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ADOPTION PRAYER REQUEST/ DONATIONS

AFTER MANY YEARS OF INFERTILITY, EMERGENCY SURGERIES, EXPENSIVE TREATMENTS, AND 7 MISCARRIAGES, THE HARMSSEN FAMILY IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEY ARE ADOPTING.

A FRIEND FROM COMMUNITY HAS CREATED BRACELETS & NECKLACES. CHECK OUT THE TABLE IN THE LOBBY TO PURCHASE FOR DONATION.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, February 15

5:30-6:30pm- Midweek Meal- Tacos

6:30-7:30pm- Midweek Classes for Children,

Middle School Youth Group & Adults

7:30-8:30pm- High School Youth Group

Sunday, February 19

8:00, 9:00 & 10:45AM- Worship Service

10:05am-Sunday School

Monday, February 20

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

Tuesday, February 21

9:30-10:30am- Play Group

7:00pm- Book Club

Wednesday, February 22

5:30-6:30pm- Midweek Meal- Italian Night

6:30-7:30pm- Midweek Classes for Children,

Middle School Youth Group & Adults

7:30-8:30pm- High School Youth Group

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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, March 13 at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

BOOK CLUB

Evening book club will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7 pm at the church. We will be discussing Being Mortal.

HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle will meet at 7:00 pm on February 21st at Carol's home. Jerralynne will have the lesson.



KID'S MINISTRY

HEATHER'S UPDATE

Hi!

The biggest news in Community Kids Ministry is that we have some new people on the job for the kids! We have three USF students who have joined us for the remainder of the school year. They'll be here every Wednesday so we can break the kids into smaller groups for more learning, discussion, and fun. They were here for the first week this past Wednesday and the kids did a great job of making them feel welcome! It was so nice to be able to have the kids split into K-1, 2-3, and 4-5 as we learned about John 3:16. If you have time on a Wednesday, please introduce yourself to Vivian, Olivia, and Christian. They have done a wonderful job so far and I'm so thankful to have them. We have quite a few new kids on Wednesdays, so the timing is just right.

Our preschool kids on Sunday mornings have been practicing the Lord's Prayer at home and together. If you are looking for some tips for helping little ones learn, I recommend setting the words to music, daily repetition, breaking it into smaller segments, and making it part of your daily routine like car rides, bath time, meals, etc. The preschool kids made little books in Sunday School as well!

4th Grade Sunday School learned about Luke 10:25-37 and then spent time packing hygiene kits for people at the Union Gospel Mission. It sounds like there was quite a bit of laughter and fun mixed in with the learning and hard work.

Remember to bring those wrapped boxes for VBS. We're hoping for a big pile before summer! We'll take as many as you want to wrap. 😊

See you soon!
Heather DeWit
Community Kids
Heather.DeWit@Communityrc.org
605-336-1475



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LIZ'S UPDATE

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

I'm writing my article on Monday, February 13. And as many of you know, today is my dad's 70th birthday! I have decided I'm going to write about my dad this week, partly because he's a great dad and I love him a lot, but mostly because of what I have seen God do over the years in my dad's life.

I remember hearing a story once about a woman who was at a conference (I think she was listening to Henry Nouwen speak), and she asked him for some parenting advice even though Nouwen was a priest. She asked, "What's the best thing I can do for my son as his parent?" His response was profound. He said, "The best gift you can give your child, or anyone you love for that matter, is the gift of being a growing person." He then went on to expound on what that meant.

After nearly 5 decades of being parented by Clyde Teel (and my mom, Becky, also falls into this same category), I would say the greatest gift both my parents gave to me, and my sister, is the gift of being a growing person.

My dad was a great dad when I was growing up. He was fun to be around. Fully of energy. Hilarious. Smart. Respected. Likeable! He wrote so many ridiculous songs on the fly for Abbie and me! We lived a pretty adventurous life too! We participated in a lot of fun outdoor activities. And there was *always* music in the house. I mean, I grew up with a *banjo* player. How many people can say *that*?! But even though we always had fun as kids, Abbie and I knew that the most important thing to mom and dad was Jesus. Loving and following God was their number one priority. They did not shy away from talking about God and what they thought He was doing in their lives. They did not hide it when they were uncertain about the future or about what they thought God might be calling them to do. They also weren't afraid to talk about the amazing things God had done in their lives! Mom and Dad helped us to cultivate eyes to see and ears to hear God.

They were growing people.

So back to Nouwen's comment about being a growing person: when a person decides that he is going to follow God like my dad did, with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength, then God changes him...slowly but surely. And although my dad was an amazing man as a young dad, who he is now doesn't even hold a candle to that younger man. Dad has definitely given me and Abbie (and now Dalton too!) the gift of being a growing person. And because God has changed Dad so drastically, I am inspired to follow God the same way Dad does. I have seen what God can and will do! So, parents, there's a little free parenting advice for you. ☺ The best gift you can give your kids is the gift of being a growing person by following *Jesus all the way*. No excuses. God must be the most important thing in your life. Not your spouse, not your kids, not your income; GOD. And that decision will change you.

So, this week, we get to celebrate my dad and thank God for his life! I sure wish my mom was here to celebrate with us. But even though she's not, I think she's with Jesus celebrating my dad too. ☺ Thank You, Lord, for my dad!

This Sunday, my family will be in Burke celebrating my Grandma Lucy's 90th birthday! And next week, I intend to write about her! By the way, if you'd like to send her a birthday card, feel free to send it to:

Lucille Teel
118 E 3rd Street
Burke, SD 57523

Have a wonderful week, friends!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

WELCOME

We welcome these new members
to Community!

Dawn Dorman
Carmen Van Middendorp

**WANT TO BE A PART OF
COMMUNITY'S NEW
PICTURE DIRECTORY?**

**SEND US YOUR PHOTO
ALONG WITH NAMES, ADDRESS &
PHONE NUMBERS TO
CHURCHPIC2023@GMAIL.COM**



**DEADLINE:
MARCH 1ST**

NO NEED TO BE A MEMBER TO SUBMIT A PHOTO!
NO FANCY PHOTOGRAPHY NEEDED!
SELFIES ARE WELCOMED!

IF YOU'D LIKE SOMEONE TO TAKE A PHOTO
OF YOU OR YOUR FAMILY, JAMELEE WILL BE AT
THE LINK ON FEB. 12 TO SNAP YOUR PICTURE!

early childhood weekday
PLAY GROUP
free, all are welcome
TUESDAYS
9:30-11:00AM

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Brian Frisbee (blood clot)
- Verle Valentine (kidney stones)
- Carrie Valentine (fractured ankle/foot)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Marv Vos (double hip replacement)
- Angie Bonnema's dad (whipple surgery 2-21)
- Steve Bonnema's mom (kidney stones)
- Tom Jacob's mom (heart attack)
- Rick Norris (cancer)
- Cherri Price (ongoing chemo)
- Glenda Van Den Hoek
- Nicole Ryan (deployed for 6 months)
- Gina Jean Baptiste- teacher from Frederique school in Haiti (amputated leg & lost pregnancy after accident)
- Dan Stephany (heart issues)
- Carol Van Voorst (broken hip)
- Kyle Wigg (liver disease)
- Karen Johnson (heart issues)
- Pete & Jan Mellema's son-in-law, Chris (surgery recovery)
- JoAnn Hanssen
- Randi Van Der Sloom (cancer treatments)
- Leah Reuwsaat's mom, Marie
- Marcia Groenweg's brother-in-law (leukemia)
- Irwin Van Leeuwen (cancer treatment)
- Steve Lee (lung transplant postponed)
- Gracia Harmsen
- Marv Sturing
- Joe Johnson
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (transplant recovery)
- 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)
- Susan Bierwagen's uncle, Darrell (cancer)
- 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)