



THE COMMUNICATOR

FEBRUARY 22, 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

This is nearly now the last week of February and soon March will be upon us. I am sitting here this morning wondering how much snow is going to fall in the next couple of days. We were getting rid of lots of the old snow, but now it appears we are going to be adding to the total. It has been one of those snowy winters we might talk about for a few years. It's going to put lots of water in the rivers and streams and hopefully help in all kinds of ways come spring. We can do this!

We did get back to Burke, last Sunday, for my mom's 90th birthday party. It was a good day with the family for sure. We had many of our cousins show up as well. It got very noisy in that place as my family isn't exactly a quiet bunch when we all get together. There were lots of stories being shared and lots of laughter. We all talked about being kids and going to grandma's house or one of the cousins. It was some great memories being talked through one more time. My mom is nearly the last one left from that generation of folks in our family. It is amazing how time does that. We lose one and then another and before you know it, life is different. You all have families that go through the same changes. It makes days like Sunday very special. We took advantage of that for sure. Mom said she had received several cards from some of our church folks as well. Thanks to those of you who did that. She was pretty happy about that. I want to thank Brent Eliason for filling for me on Sunday. He did a great job as usual for us and I for one, greatly appreciate that. Thanks to Doyle and Abby for doing the worship set as well. All that makes it much easier for me to get away. I am grateful.

I am still getting happy birthday wishes from people after a week has gone by. I am humbled by all the responses. Thanks again everyone! I have a lot of good friends around and they made for a good week of well wishes.

Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent. It doesn't seem possible, but we are there. With all the snow it still feels more like Christmas, but Easter is coming. That's some good news for all of us. I am going to do a series of messages on some of the key moments in Bible history where either the nation of Israel or some Bible character like Moses finds themselves in a season of wandering in the desert. It is not always literally a desert, although we do find that story in the Bible, but it can be a time of uncertainty. A time of confusion or a time when God seems to be distant. A series we are going to call "The Wanderings". We have all been there and we all know that feeling. How much longer will we be in this place? Are we supposed to learn something? Is it a punishment of sorts? Is it a way for God to get our attention? So many questions. We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

YOU
BELONG
HERE

NO MIDWEEK FEB. 22 DUE TO WEATHER

UPCOMING DATES

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.

POSTPONED

DUE TO WEATHER

NEW DATE: **Wednesday, March 15**

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 calling Lifeline at 605-626-8588
or emailing melissa.steltz@lifelinechild.org.

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**LAST!
CHANCE!**

**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!

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, February 22

NO MIDWEEK DUE TO WEATHER

February 24-26

Youth Group Retreat

Sunday, February 26

8:00, 9:00 & 10:45AM- Worship Service
10:05am-Sunday School

Monday, February 27

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

Tuesday, February 28

9:30-10:30am- Play Group
7:00pm- Book Club

Wednesday, March 1

5:30-6:30pm- Midweek Meal- BBQ
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. 28 at 7 pm at the church.
We will be discussing Being Mortal.

Morning book club will meet on Wednesday, March 15 at 9am at Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave. We will be discussing *Have You Seen Luis Velez?* Everyone has to find own copy.



KID'S MINISTRY

HEATHER'S UPDATE

Hi!

We had a really good week in Sunday School and Midweek again. The Sunday School classes are learning mostly out of the New Testament now, with a few exceptions. For Midweek, we just finished two weeks of John 3:16 activities. We also started doing "Bucket Drumming" which uses real drumsticks on 5 gallon buckets to produce rhythm and music. We worked on the basic rhythm and how to hold the drumstick and one class even started working on the worship song "Eye of the Storm." Some of the kids brought their sticks home to practice (sorry parents!) We have access to a web page that teaches some songs with bucket drumming and we've been working on some of our own. Students get free access to that web page, so let me know if you'd like the link and password sent to you. The kids on Wednesday brought home letters with the link. Our next set of Wednesday lessons will be about the Fruit of the Spirit.

I am still looking for another 4th grade teacher to finish out the year with that class. Because we have co-teachers who teach every other week, if you decide to volunteer, you'd teach about 5 times between now and Mother's Day. Please let me know if you are interested.

As a reminder, VBS Registration is open! Sign up your kids and sign up to help at: <https://communityrc.org/vbs>

My goal this year was for the registration process to take less than 2 minutes so more people can register earlier to give us an idea of how many craft supplies to order. Join us for the evenings of July 24-27!

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

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

THE GIVE

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

East River Foster Parent Network:
Boys joggers/ sweatpants sizes 7-14
Headlice treatment kits

Community Youth Group:
Old Cell phones & ink cartridges

Community Kids Ministry:
Christmas Wrapping paper & wrapped empty boxes





LIZ'S UPDATE ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

Last week, I wrote about my dad to honor him on his 70th birthday, and this week I want to write about my Grandma Lucy to honor her on her 90th birthday, which we celebrated yesterday (February 19th) in Burke with many family members and friends. It was a glorious day!

My Grandma Lucy, Lucille Teel to her friends back home, is the quintessential "grandma." Everything about her is grandmotherly; from her home and food to her hugs and white hair, she is a grandmother in the truest sense of the word. But frankly, in my opinion, I think she has elevated the word "grandma" to the next level. Let me explain.

Grandma Lucy was just 40 years old when I was born, and she turned 41 just 5 weeks after that. That means I have known my grandma for more than half of HER life. And that's saying something!! It's a privilege and a gift to have the blessing of grandparents who are "young," and then have them live a long time so we get to know them for a long time!

In 1997, after my Grandpa Ralph passed away suddenly, I actually lived with Grandma for 1 year. During that time, I began my music teaching years in Burke. After living with her during the first year, I literally moved right across the street and lived in a little house (owned by my *other* grandpa) for the next 2 years of my teaching career. During that time, Grandma and I got to spend a *lot* of time together. We had many great days of gardening, crafting, and doing all those wonderful small-town activities available in rural ranching/farming communities. I loved living in Burke, and I loved being that close to my grandma. I learned so much being with her, and I never took that time for granted. After all, how many of us have the opportunity *as adults* to live that closely with a grandparent?? Of course, after 3 years of teaching, I decided to move to Sioux Falls to attend seminary, and that led to my job at Community. The crazy thing is that God knew my time with my grandma had not come to an end. Instead, He gave us multiple opportunities to serve Him together.

As a youth pastor, I was always looking for new places to have retreats and camps in order to give kids new opportunities to grow and serve God in different ways. Burke (and Grandma Lucy) always welcomed us with open arms. At my count, over the course of 16 years of youth ministry, we did 15 weekend retreats and 7 weeklong camps at hunting lodges around Burke with almost 400 kids participating over the course of those years. Even now when I do the math, I'm amazed at how many kids were a part of those events. It's clear that God was in charge of all of that! And Community, EVERY weekend retreat and EVERY summer camp, Grandma Lucy COOKED!!! Some years she cooked *all* the food, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, some years she only did breakfast, and every year there were always *plenty* of goodies. 😊 Some years there were small groups of 9 or 10 kids. Some years there were over 40 kids! Some years she carted food to the hunting lodges, but most of the time, she just had us come to her house to eat. The kids would grab plates of food and spread out all over her living and dining room areas, and then they would usually fall asleep on her cozy couches after we had eaten.

Keep in mind that Grandma Lucy *started* doing these events for me when she was 69 years old, and at the last camp before I retired from youth ministry, she was 85 years old! If that doesn't give a whole new meaning to what it means to be retired, I don't know what does! 😊

I love so many things about Grandma Lucy, but one of the things I love the most is that so many of my youth group kids got to experience the gift of being loved by her. They got to see what it was like to be at her house, eat her food, receive her hugs, and just be her grandkids for a few days. I love that Grandma served God that way. What a wonderful example of using your gifts as well as you are able!

So, I want to say, "Thanks, Grandma Lucy, for all the lives you touched, the bellies you filled, and for the way you loved on every kid (and adult) I brought to your house. God has used you mightily, and I'm thankful for you! I'm also inspired to keep serving Him as well as you have done these past 90 years. Happy 90th Birthday!!"

Grandma gets this newsletter, so she'll see what I've written. 😊 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

DOYLES'S UPDATE

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL



It's hard to believe that March is just a week away! Before we get into our March madness series though, we do have a few things left for February.

First, our Winter Retreat that is a Combined Middle and High school retreat is this weekend! As we lead up to the retreat this weekend, we would love your support through prayer. I am always amazed at how God shows up and moves in His perfect way – often times in ways that I never could have dreamed it up myself. God is so good!

This week, if the weather doesn't get in our way, is our final week of working through "A Chip off the Old Block" series. WE have been looking at how Jesus unifies and brings the new and old testaments together. I absolutely love how the two sides of scripture show a continuous story where prophecies are fulfilled by the life, death and resurrection of our savior. Again, God is so good!

Finally, I am going to be moving off of youth group for a moment! This year, I will be leading up the church softball team (with help from others as well!). We have a pretty long season as it begins at the end of April!! But it is a lot of fun. If you would be interested in playing softball this year you can reach out to me and I will add you to our group list! We play Thursday evenings at Sherman park (by the zoo). The one rule to keep in mind right off the bat (see what I did there) is that you must be at least 18 years old to play! We would love to have you join us for another fun season.

That's it for this week. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out anytime.

Doyle
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

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FINANCES

Sunday, February , 2023

General: \$13,612

Vision: \$1,555

Missions: \$65

Wednesday Night: \$219

General YTD: \$101,531

Vision YTD: \$9,762

Vision Account Balance: \$31,264

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Brian Frisbee (cellulitis in foot)
- Marv Sturing
- Gary Newman (heart procedure)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Verle Valentine (kidney stones)
- Carrie Valentine (fractured ankle/foot)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- 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 Slood (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
- 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)

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Jim Bauman and his family on the death of his Brother, Chester Bauman who lived in Tennessee.