

THE COMMUNICATOR

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

THIS WEEK

FEB 18- FEB 25

Wednesday, Feb. 18

5:30-6:30pm Meal:
Chicken Noodle Soup/ Chili
6:30-7:30pm-
Classes for all ages;
Middle school youth group
7:30-8:30pm- H.S. Youth Group

Saturday, Feb. 21

7:00am- Fresh Encounter

Sunday, Feb. 22

8:00, 9:00 & 10:45am-
Worship Services

10:10am- Sunday School

6:30pm- Refresh
(Young Adult group)

Monday, Feb. 23

7:00pm- Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, Feb. 24

9:30am- Play Group
No AA Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 25

9:00am- Book Club
(Bagel Boy on Mn Ave.)
5:30-6:30pm Meal:
Tacos
6:30-7:30pm-
Classes for all ages;
Middle school youth group
7:30-8:30pm- H.S. Youth Group

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Clyde's Update

Another great week for weather. It sure gets us through a big part of the winter. I hope you are all enjoying this. I just can't believe it is going to stay like this. I think we are all knowing that it can change. We could use a rain...or snow. Yes, I did say it. The dry is not always the best thing so that needs to change at some point, but for now this is just wonderful. I can do winters like this!

Elder - Deacon voting: It is that time of year again everyone. I know, it seems like we just did this not too long ago, and here we are again, but it is time. Take one of those ballots at The Link, pick up the list of names and work your way through it. The list is still long, but there are a few folks who opted to take their names off. There are still lots of names, but there are many good people on there who would do a great job for us. Vote please! We need you to help us with this. It matters...we need your help.

CRU is having their big night coming up in a couple of weeks on March 6. I want to again highlight that evening, and ask that we get involved with that. They do such great work on those campuses, and I just feel like this is a great way for us get connected to that ministry. The Harmsen's are a part of our church, and they are an interregal part of this ministry. Check out the info in the newsletter for more information.

Doyle is also putting together the info for the youth's big fundraiser in April. We would love to see that room full again. It will be a great night of great food, fun games and of course, some great prizes. This is your way to support the youth and these programs, and I know you will all plug in. It is our way of saying "yes" to their growth and the ongoing ministry of these programs. Be watching for more information in the coming weeks.

The baptism service is coming up on March 15th. We have a short list of people for now, but we have had several people ask about this. It is something we have added to what we do here, but we have seen such great things come from this. If you are thinking about it and have questions, you can ask Liz, but also feel free to talk to me about it as well. These can be very meaningful moments in a person's faith journey. If can we play a role in that, then I am all in for you.

I will be gone this weekend to South Carolina doing a preaching role in a church there. I am still working on what that message will look like. I know they want to me to share stories about Becky's journey and our marriage of 40 years. I want to do the very best I can for them. I am not one to "mail it in". I want to bring Jesus with me there in a way that they notice Him and not so much me. Doyle will be speaking here that morning at all 3 services. Cheer him on! We'll talk more in a couple of weeks. Have a great week!

SAVE
THE
DATE

YOUTH GROUP
FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

"Even though you are bad, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more our heavenly Father will give good things to those who ask him!"
Matthew 7:11

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY

CALL TO FREEDOM

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

SUPPORTING THE THILL FAMILY

Leroy Vernon Thill was born on 11-10-2025. It was then that we learned Leroy was born with an esophageal atresia with tracheoesophageal fistula (EA/TEF). It is a rare birth defect where the esophagus does not connect properly to the stomach, and there is an abnormal connection between the esophagus and the trachea.

Leroy is now at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

If you feel led to help baby Leroy and his family, there are options at this link:
<https://www.caringbridge.org/site/f13f0f6f-fdfc-11f0-95d9-abb447be661a/ways-to-help>

In need of prayer or want to share your prayer request?
Email Pastor John at prayerline@communityrc.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pete & Jan Mellema's son-in-law, Chris (hospice)
- Harlan Van Meeteren (stomach cancer)
- Adam & Julie Brown's son, Austin (hospice)
- Junella Wesselink's nephew-in-law, Tom
- Gary McCann (neck surgery recovery)
- Kailee Taborda (Leukemia)
- Lloyd Van Essen (bladder cancer)
- Ken Stellinga (Whipple surgery-1/27)
- Edna VanDeVendel (breathing issues)
- Rick Beckstrom (radiation treatments)
- Jodi Ackerman's mother, Karen (aortic aneurysm)
- Leroy Thill (infant son of Katie & Trevor Thill)
- Claradith Kingsbury (stroke recovery)
- Gracia Harmsen (surgery recovery)
- Al Price
- Donna Holmgren's brother, Tim
- Jan Sturing
- Tim DeLoof (ALS)
- Steve Lee
- Denny Spitler (chronic foot pain)
- Mike Hay's father, Duane
- Gracia Harmsen's dad (esophageal cancer)
- Matt Meyer's fiancé Lynnette's dad (tumor)
- Ellen Nelson Garner (chronic airway disease)
- Brian Frisbee (ongoing rehab)
- Jerralynne Tjeerdsma's daughter, Deb (cancer)
- Jordan Lipp's mom, Becky (dementia)
- Kristy Mouw's sister-in-law, Mindy (cancer)
- Susan Bierwagen's uncle, Darrell (cancer)

FRESH ENCOUNTER

SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 7:00AM

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.

<https://bradymartz.zoom.us/j/87440575632?pwd=RwtTfrMNRbOXcg9KlhabfrdoMWC2Cb.1>

Meeting ID: 874 4057 5632

Passcode: 052482

One tap mobile

+12532050468,87440575632# US

+12532158782,87440575632# US

+1 346 248 7799 US

Questions?

Call Shawn Blom

605-940-6702





SIOUX EMPIRE CRU Fellowship Dinner

Join us for the 2026 Sioux Empire Cru annual Fellowship Dinner!

Join the Sioux Empire staff team and student leaders for an evening dedicated to celebrating the incredible work God has accomplished through hundreds of college students this year. You will have the chance to hear inspiring stories and testimonies of God at work on campus and around the world. Enjoy a complimentary dinner while connecting with others.

Friday, March 6th | 2026
5:30 Reception , 6:00 Welcome & Dinner

Community Reformed Church
6800 E. 41st St. Sioux Falls, SD 57110

RSVP REQUIRED | Due to limited seating, reservations are required. Kindly RSVP by February 27th by reaching out to Joey Slieter at joey.slieter@cru.org or visit our website at siouxempirecru.org and click on the "events" tab.

Free childcare will be available on-site for children from infancy to 5th grade.



ONGOING MINISTRIES

SENIOR CITIZENS

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

NO AA MEETING

These Tuesday evening meetings are paused at the moment. Here are other options for meetings in the area. <https://sober.com/aa-meetings/south-dakota/sioux-falls/>

REFRESH

Weekly gathering of college students and young adults every Sunday at 6:30pm.

FINANCES

Sunday, February 15, 2026

General: \$10,090
Vision: \$565
Mission: \$535
Wednesday night: \$306

General YTD: \$118,619
Vision YTD: \$4,481
Vision Account Balance: \$1,324



COMMUNITY KIDS
LOOKING FOR NURSERY VOLUNTEERS!
COME PLAY WITH THE KIDS!

You'll serve only 4 times throughout the year!

LEARN MORE



BAPTISM SUNDAY

BAPTISM SUNDAY

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM SERVICE
SUNDAY, MARCH 15
3PM

IF INTERESTED, EMAIL LIZ (LIZ.TEEL@COMMUNITYRC.ORG)

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP



This Wednesday, February 18, is Ash Wednesday, which marks the first day of Lent.

Lent is the 40-day period (not including Sundays) where we are encouraged to fast, pray, mourn, and repent for our sins. This is not meant to be a time where we dwell on how awful we are. 😊 It's actually meant for us to consider, with sober judgment, exactly what the blood of Jesus Christ has done in us and for us. Depending on how you grew up, you might be thinking, "What's the point of this? I'm already saved. Why am I dwelling on my sin and brokenness?" Well, let's break this down just a bit.

Have you ever taken time to really consider the depth of your own brokenness? I'm not talking about the "big" sins we might be well aware of in our lives that we know Jesus has forgiven. I'm talking about the little things we tend to overlook. We all have them. And we all overlook them. I think of Psalm 139:23-24, which says,

"Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting."

That's a meaty prayer right there! Search me and see if there is ANY offensive way in me? ANY offensive way? Even the little things that no one knows about or sees or that we think we are able to keep hidden away in the privacy of our hearts and minds?? Why do we need God to reveal those things to us? Well, the end of the psalm tells us why. We ask God to reveal these things to us so we can participate in eternity with Him. His way is everlasting and good. And as long as we are bogged down by even the smallest of little sins, we will hamper our ability to let God do God's good and eternal work in us. Another way to say it is that God can only access the parts of our hearts that we give Him access to. He will not barge in. He will not bully his way into your heart. He waits to be invited. And often we need to be shown where in our hearts He would like access, and then grant Him that access, so He can do His good work, all in the name and power of Jesus. If we have little sins blocking the entrance to those parts of our hearts, we are effectively blocking God from doing the good cleansing He can do through the blood of Jesus Christ.

See, the thing is, when we take time during Lent to be open to our brokenness, that paves the way for us to be open to the healing work of God through the blood of Jesus. And come Resurrection Sunday morning, we will find we have an immense load of things for which to be thankful! We will thank and praise God for the death and blood of Jesus, and for the resurrection and the life of Jesus. We will thank and praise God for the work of Jesus in us and for the ways the blood of Jesus is actively cleansing us and making us whole. When we take time during the 40 days of Lent to soberly consider who we are and what Jesus has done for us, even for the tiniest bits of sin in us, we can have a brand-new perspective on Easter Sunday morning. And that, my friends, is the point of Lent. To prepare us even more fully for that glorious day of celebration.

If you've never practiced Lent in that way, I encourage you to give it a try. Just a little bit each day will do it. And if you're not sure where to start, I encourage you to pray Psalm 139:23-24 every day and see what God begins to reveal in you. I know it will be a blessing for you!

Have a blessed week, friends.

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org





HEATHER'S UPDATE KID'S MINISTRY

Hi Community!

I hope you are having a great February. This week, I want to talk about our Fun Zone time at Midweek. Fun Zone is from 6-6:30pm on Wednesday evenings. When children get done eating, they can come back to the Children's Wing for open play time. There are parents who bring their toddler and preschool children in to play, and there are many, many elementary children who come in from 6 to 6:30. If you stop in, it looks and sounds a little chaotic at first, but if you watch the action for even five minutes, you'll notice sharing, friendships, joy, laughter, kids helping one another, good conversation, and fellowship. Even their clean up time gives them chances to help one another and cooperate. They are ready to listen when our story starts at 6:30.

I recently asked some of the kids to tell me about what helps them get closer to Jesus. They had a wide variety of responses of experiences at church, at home, at school, and in the community that helped them get closer to Jesus. Some mentioned the sermon on Sunday mornings, some mentioned experiences in Children's Ministry, some talked about worship, some talked about time with friends, some described activities at home, some shared about reading their Bible independently, and one even talked about Fun Zone. The way it was described showed me that for at least this child, the time from 6 to 6:30 is doing what we hoped it might.

"When we go to Wednesday night, before the story, when we get to play, it helps us connect to other kids and make friends at church."

Kids need play, and by having access to some intentional play time at church, kids have opportunities to "be the church" by welcoming others, building relationships with one another, and making connections. This also makes it much more likely that they will feel safe sharing, being vulnerable, and learning together when the lesson time begins at 6:30. They really like one another and it shows!

See you soon!

Heather DeWit
Community Kids
605-336-1475



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**COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH
6800 E. 41 STREET
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57110**

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Permit No. 7119

REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM...

**If you would like to request membership or baptism, please
e-mail the church office at 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.**

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