

# THE COMMUNICATOR

MARCH 18, 2026

**THIS WEEK**  
**MARCH 18-25**

## Wednesday, March 18

5:30-6:30pm Meal:

Joel's Lasanga

6:30-7:30pm-

Classes for all ages;

Middle school youth group

7:30-8:30pm- H.S. Youth Group

## Saturday, March 21

7:00am- Fresh Encounter

## Sunday, March 22

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

Worship Services

10:10am- Sunday School

3:30pm- Believers Baptism

6:30pm- Refresh

(Young Adult group)

## Monday, March 23

7:00pm- Men's Bible Study

## Tuesday, March 24

9:30am- Play Group

No AA Meeting

## Wednesday, March 25

5:30-6:30pm Meal:

Pizza Night!

6:30-7:30pm-

Praise and Worship Night

7:30-8:30pm- H.S. Youth Group

**Sunday, March 22**

**Believers Baptism**

3:30pm



## Clyde's Update

If you remember what I wrote in last week's newsletter about winter maybe not being quite over. I had no idea it was going to be like this. Now, this morning (Monday), it was below zero and tomorrow it will be as well. Winter has not left us. However, by Friday they are talking 65 degrees, maybe even warmer. Oh March! You are indeed very difficult to predict. We needed the snow for farmers that was for sure. Now I would just take rain. I think we would rather it be rain at this point, but we will take whatever we get.

Sunday was an interesting day you might say. We had several brave souls who came out to join us, but it was a small group. There were lots of people online as you can imagine. That is a pretty nice convenience when the weather turns like that. We had a good day all things considered, but I don't wish to do that very often. Let's hope maybe we have moved past those kinds of things, but I will once again hold off on that certainty...winter around here has a way of appearing at the most inconvenient time.

We postponed the Baptism service to this coming Sunday, and we moved the time to 3:30pm to accommodate one of the participants. Once again, I would invite you to join us for that afternoon and celebrate that moment with our friends as we join in a time of sharing and prayer.

Doyle is still selling tickets for the youth fundraiser in April. Come on Community, let's get behind those kids and bring that event to life. This is funding their trip to Rocky Mountain High. It will be a great evening of game and amazing food together. I hope you will take time to stop by the table and pick up those tickets.

I am also putting something new in this week's newsletter and you can pick up a copy at The Link as well. We have a suggested way to teach children what communion is all about. This has been something that folks have asked for in the past, and we have put together a brief way of explaining to children what this all means. If you are looking for a resource to share with your younger family members who are looking to do communion with you for the first time at Maundy Thursday, I would highly encourage you to pick up a copy at the Link or find it in this week's newsletter. I think it does a great job of explaining what communion means to us.

Sunday's message is going to be centered around the question that Jesus asks his disciples when he asks, "Who do people say I am?" I love that question. I mentioned in this past Sunday's message and this week I want further that discussion even more. Who is Jesus to us? I want to us to think of this on a deeper level. Who is he to me personally? What does it mean to me that Christ died for me on the hill of Calvary? What does that do to my soul? God is personal. Jesus is a personal Savior. His question to them back then still lingers in the air to this day. Who is this Jesus? We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

# PRAYER REQUESTS

"Prayer is where I lay down what I can't carry anymore. The worries. The waiting. The questions with no clear answers. And somehow, in that quiet exchange, my heart learns to rest again."  
(GRACEWORKSPH)

## MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

### MISSION HAITI

Love Jesus. Love Others. Make Disciples. Mission-Haiti's purpose is to show the love of God by developing and equipping strong Christian leaders in Haiti for the cause of Christ.

share a little  
**LOVE**  
SPONSOR A CHILD AT  
COMMUNITY'S PARTNER SCHOOL  
in Haiti



\$33 per month provides so much!  
Check out the table in the lobby for kids that need a sponsor!

In need of prayer or want to share your prayer request?  
Email Pastor John at [prayerline@communityrc.org](mailto:prayerline@communityrc.org)

### ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Jan McDowell (shoulder surgery recovery)
- Anna Halverson (seizures)
- Jayne Knockenmus's friend, Shelly
- Harlan Van Meeteren (hospice)
- Adam & Julie Brown's son, Austin (hospice)
- Kailee Taborda (Leukemia)
- Ken Stellinga (Whipple surgery-1/27)
- Jodi Ackerman's mother, Karen (aortic aneurysm)
- Leroy Thill (infant son of Katie & Trevor Thill)
- Gracia Harmsen (surgery recovery)
- Al Price
- Jan Sturing
- Tim DeLoof (ALS)
- Steve Lee
- 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)

### CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Pete & Jan Mellema for the passing of their son-in-law, Chris Thesenvitz. Please keep their family, including Chris's wife, Laura and their kids, in your prayers.

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Ruth Van Aartsen. She was Steve Van Aartsen's Mom (Heather DeWit's Grandmother). Please keep their family in your prayers.

## 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



MARCH 12, 2026

## CONSISTORY NOTES

In attendance: Clyde Teel, Karen Van Holland, Dustin Schouten, Mike Boyenga, Curt Zwart, Darren Ellwein, Susan Bierwagen, Lonny Ackerman, Jim Fisher, Justin Hinks, Jordan Lipp, Tom Weerheim, Alex Hoogendoorn, Sean Fantroy

Devotions and refreshments by Sean Fantroy, "Forgiveness", Ephesians 4:29-32.

MSA minutes of February 12, 2026, consistory meeting.

MSA February 2026 financial report by Justin Hinks.

New Business:  
Staff Reports with Midweek Report.

Cru Fellowship Dinner was held in our facility on March 6, 2026.

Discussion of plans for communion at the April 2 Maundy Thursday service. Times may be 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Volunteers for setup and cleanup are needed.

Report on Kingdom Network: Regional meeting on 2/24/26 in Orange City was attended by church staff.

The Kingdom Network annual meeting will be 4/22-24/26, in Chicago. Pastor Clyde will attend.

MSA to sponsor a table for \$2500 at the Mission Haiti annual banquet, April 16, 2026 at The District.

Discussion of parking lot upkeep matters.

Next meeting will be April 9, 2026.

Closing prayer, Pastor Clyde.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Bierwagen, Clerk

### Sunday, March 22

Deadline for turning in Elder/ Deacon nominations.  
Nomination list can be found at The Link.

## ONGOING MINISTRIES

### SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, **April 13** 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, March 15, 2026

General: \$1,865  
Vision: \$25  
Mission: \$75  
Wednesday night: \$235

General YTD: \$150,476  
Vision YTD: \$10,856  
Vision Account Balance: \$7,699



**SPRING  
FLING**  
YOUTH FUNDRAISER

**AT COMMUNITY**

CATERED MEAL BY CHEF DOMINIQUE | DESSERT AUCTION | BINGO

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11**  
**6:00PM**

**\$30 PER TICKET**  
TICKETS ON SALE IN THE LOBBY OR BY CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE

**Come to support our youth group as they raise money for Rocky Mountain High this summer!**

**We'll have a meal catered by Chef Dominique, a dessert auction and we'll end the night with BINGO!**

**Tickets are on sale in the lobby on Sunday or call the church office (605-336-1475)**

**If you'd like to donate prizes for BINGO, please email Doyle  
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org.**

Hi Community!

This week I'm writing about grandparents. It has been a bit of a heavy year for my family. My grandma Joyce passed away last May, my stepmom Patty in October, my grandma Marlene in February, and my grandma Ruth Van Aartsen last week. It has been a lot of goodbyes but also celebration in knowing that they are in Heaven and no longer in pain. My grandma Ruth was 95 years old. That's a lot of great years! I was very blessed to have grandparents be such a big part of my growing-up years and for my daughters to have great-grandparents actively involved in their lives. I realize not everyone gets that privilege, and I'm thankful for it.

It is good for kids to have caring adults in their lives who show genuine interest. Grandparents (and substitute grandparents) can often encourage a child and boost confidence by giving kind words without the parenting duties of correction and discipline. Grandparents often have skills that kids enjoy learning or stories that kids love hearing. One of my grandmas taught me to sew and that skill has been very precious to me since I was in elementary school. Sometimes kids grow just by watching another adult interact with the world in a way that is different than their parents, even if no specific lesson is imparted. Grandparents are often a little less rushed and some have a quiet wisdom or patience that comes with time. This is good stuff for kids! In a world where connections on a screen are sometimes easier to forge, grandparents (and caring people who fill parts of that role) are often a great resource in forging face to face human connections.

See you soon!  
Heather DeWit  
Community Kids  
605-336-1475

# TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THEIR FIRST COMMUNION

We would encourage families to sit down and take time to discuss what communion means before children do their first communion time. As parents who are the first line of Christ's witness to our children, it only seems appropriate for them to explain communion to their children. There is no one perfect way to communicate what communion is about, but we have compiled some ideas that can get the ball rolling in the right direction. We allow parents to teach what they believe their child will understand. The list comes from a teaching outline in the RCA's handbook on liturgies for children. It is a tool you can use to get the conversation going.

- Christ is the host at communion. He invites us, welcomes us, gives us food. At the Lord's Supper, we are all guests. We show respect.

- Communion is a family meal and shows that we belong to the church family. Invite children to think of special meals during visits with relatives—the tablecloth is spread, and the good dishes are set out, maybe even with fancy napkins. During communion, we share in a special meal as part of the family.

- Communion is the church's thanksgiving to God. It is a special time to thank God for Jesus and his sacrifice to forgive our sins. From a young age, children begin to learn right from wrong. They know what it means to say they are sorry, and they know what it means to try to do better next time.

- Communion is a way to remember. Some families have photo albums, videos, and other keepsakes that remind them of who they are. When we celebrate communion, we do the same things Jesus and the disciples did at the Last Supper, and we remember God's promises.

When you as a family feel confident with your child's understanding then we trust in that decision. If you have other questions, please talk to one of the staff about what concerns you have. We want to make this decision one that brings a sense of joy into the celebration of the Lord's supper and not one filled with all kinds of tension or fear. We hope this has been helpful.



Join us for a special Maundy Thursday service as we gather around the table—just as Jesus did with His disciples. This year, we'll experience Communion in a meaningful way by sitting at tables together, remembering the Last Supper and reflecting on what Jesus did for us.

**Thursday, April 2 @ 6:00pm & 7:30pm**

All are welcome. Pull up a chair and come to the table.  
Nursery available at the 6:00pm service.



# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

The month of the year that often feels the longest is now half over! Where does the time go??

Mid-Week only has 2 gatherings left for the year: this Wednesday, March 18, and next Wednesday, March 25. As we do every year on our final night of Mid-Week, we will be having a night of pizza and praise and worship that's open to anyone who would like to come. We'll start serving pizza at 5:30 on March 25, and the praise and worship will run from 6:30 to about 7:30. Again, everyone is welcome to join us. It's also a great night to invite a friend!

Since we had a blizzard this past Sunday, we were forced to postpone our immersion baptism service. However, the good news is that everyone who was going to participate is also free this Sunday! So, we have rescheduled that service for Sunday, March 22, at 3:30pm. (Please note the slight time change.) This also means that if you would like to be baptized, you still have time to make that decision! Just let me know, and I'll add you to our list. You can also be added to the list by contacting Holli in the church office. And you can make this decision very last minute. 😊 For the rest of you, if you've never come to a service like this, I encourage you to join us. I'd love to see a large group of people in attendance to support those who are making this decision of faith!

Our Maundy Thursday service times have been set for 6:00pm and 7:30pm. We will have nursery care available for the 6:00pm service. This year, we will be setting up the sanctuary in a different way for this service, and that set up will limit our space just a bit. We are asking people who have the availability to attend either service to please attend the later service. We are thinking that 6:00 might be a bit full with families who will use the nursery, so it would be helpful if those of you who can go to the late service would do so. That would help to even out the numbers at both services. We'll talk about this more on Sunday too. 😊

Have a blessed week, friends.

Liz  
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org



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

**MARCH 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](mailto: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.**

**Pastor Clyde Teel**

[pastor@communityrc.org](mailto:pastor@communityrc.org)

**Liz Teel**

Director of Discipleship & Worship  
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**Doyle Burnside**

Senior High & Middle School Youth Director  
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**Heather DeWit**

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**Holli Jans**

Communications Coordinator  
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**John Thornton**

Part-time Visitation Pastor  
[prayerline@communityrc.org](mailto:prayerline@communityrc.org)

**Teresa Lipp**

Part-Time Nursery Director  
[nursery@communityrc.org](mailto:nursery@communityrc.org)

**Lisa Blankers**

Part-Time Financial Administrator  
[accounting@communityrc.org](mailto:accounting@communityrc.org)

**Josiah Dunlap**

Part-Time IT Coordinator