

Stromsburg Cov News

A Word From the Pastor

When I was a youth ministry intern in California, a wise visitation pastor gave a valuable piece of advice when I asked about the most important thing he'd learned in ministry: he said simply, **"Keep the main thing the main thing."**

During the past month, keeping the main thing in the forefront of our minds – as pastors – has been difficult. The new normal is anything but, thanks to a Coronavirus that has spread throughout the world. A few weeks ago, the thought of allowing less than 10 people in a church for Sunday worship seemed ludicrous, yet Pastor Mary and I were collaborating with Dale Hennessy and Sue Rosenbaum to coordinate a live stream while pleading with folks not to risk infection by social distancing from one another – this after our previous week's on-site service where we invited our congregation to **"greet one another in the name of Christ"** during church, potentially getting everyone sick by letting them hug each other.

Other similar sorts of questions popped up as we thought of ministry, none of which were topics of seminary classes decades ago or within the contexts of previous church situations I'd been a part of: (1) do we continue to do our month of Meals on Wheels ministry to a half dozen families, most elderly and the most vulnerable to any colds, flu symptoms, or viruses in general?; (2) how do we keep in touch with our parishioners via Facebook, email, phone calls, etc. and do so with care, knowing that their well-being took on more than spiritual dimensions; (3) what events should be cancelled for the sake of our people, including hosting an Easter sunrise worship service on April 12 that had us on the hook for providing breakfast for folks from three local congregations – **yes, Sunrise service is cancelled, no, we haven't made a decision on live streaming or having the on-site, normal Easter 10:30 a.m. worship service.**

But I'm sure it hasn't been any easier for educators, most in the U.S. are teaching online to students after years of face-to-face process. And for doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff, the process in which they've had to do their jobs has been complicated by the fact that (due to the spread of COVID-19), they must be worrying about their own safety even as they attempt to save the lives of thousands who've been infected. Or what about the board members and workers of retirement communities and care facilities that have had to quarantine themselves? They are all due our thanks, as are our grocery store and pharmacy owners and the truck drivers and other delivery folks that keep those entities in needed supplies.

So I'm back at the computer, trying to remind myself of the main thing – and thankfully, the apostle Paul hammered it home in the opening verses of I Corinthians 15. In the three previous chapters, he'd been discussing the spiritual gifts of Christ following church bodies. Some people had been so

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UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS

Apr 5 (Palm Sunday):

Matthew 21:1-11

April 12 (Easter Sunday):

John 20:1-18





A WORD...(CONTINUED)

concerned with what gifts they had (and puffing themselves up about it) that they'd forgotten why they were the church in the first place. And here's how he begins I Corinthians 15, the initial 11 verses:

“Now, brothers and sisters. I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you've taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you've believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter), and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.”

He continued, **“For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am who I am, and his grace to me was not in vain. No, I worked harder than the rest – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.”**

This gospel reminds me that what's going on this spring won't be the end of the story, even if it's reading like a pretty bizarre chapter. This gospel will save us, its author already has done so. As we enter further into the Easter season, we hope, even if hopelessness may creep up on the world a bit. Because of Jesus, we resurrect our spirits, even as we remember the Lord's resurrection.

IN CHRIST, AND FOR HIS GLORY,

Pastor Craig

Covenant Church Members:

I want to thank everyone that stayed for our first Talk Back Sunday, March 15th. Just seemed like a short time ago when we all could “get together” and it was the last time we, as a church, could all be together. We had some great discussions and I want to thank everyone that opened up to talk together as we focus on building relationships, communications and commitment to all work together to create the unity needed going forward.

Some of the points we talked about

- ◇ Discussion on team, team leaders and who will be on the teams
- ◇ Lead team members, who they are, positions each one has on the team
- ◇ Taking these teams, building on the definition of the teams' purpose
- ◇ Clean up and working together outside and inside
- ◇ Upcoming events in the church, church calendar
- ◇ Changes in Banking, Benevolence team, Endowment Fund

We are excited about this New Year, and look forward to all working together to build and edify the Body of our Church and the Body of Christ

Blessings and Keep the Faith

John 10:10, Psalms 91

Dennis Nuttelman

Lead Team, Chairman





CHURCH FAMILY



Heidi Wiebe	April 1
Alex Noyd	April 3
Jay Platt	April 3
Nathan Hennessy	April 6
Jolien Anderson	April 16
Ruth Hanson	April 16
Julie Hennessy	April 18
Chris Martin	April 18
Ray Nelson	April 25
Lorrain Nielsen	April 25
Julia Schram	April 26



Brian & Shayla Hier April 3

APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, April 5, 2020: Palm Sunday—online service—Facebook Live

Thursday, April 9, 2020: Maundy Thursday—we will NOT be doing a seder this year



Friday, April 10, 2020: Good Friday—we WILL be having an online Good Friday Service at 7:00 pm—watch your email and our facebook page for updates as it comes closer.

Sunday, April 12, 2020: Easter!

- No Sunrise Service
- Worship Service—10:30 am - may be online

Thursday, April 16, 2020: 5:30 pm Rescue Mission Meal



Remember the Rescue Mission in your prayers. They don't close because of the CORONA Virus. They still serve people. Pray for them and for the people seeking shelter and meals.



APRIL MINISTRY PARTNERS

Sunday Mornings:

Apr 5, Palm Sunday

Greeters: N/A

Coffee Time: N/A

Scripture: Pastors

Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Craig and Mary Pinley, Neeli Noyd

Audio/Visual: Dale & James Hennessy

April 12, 2020, Easter

Greeters: Kent & Cheryl Erickson

Coffee Time: Johanna Nielsen

Scripture: Pastors

Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Craig & Mary Pinley, Dianne Nielsen, Neeli Noyd

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Thursday, April 16—Rescue Mission Meal

Shayla Hier and Youth

April 19, 2020

Greeters: Doug & Linda Johnson

Coffee Time: Cindy Orsborn

Scripture: Pastors

Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Craig & Mary Pinley

Audio/Visual: Dale & James Hennessy

April 26, 2020

Greeters: Bob & Eleanor Greenwall

Coffee Time: Dianne Nielsen

Scripture: Pastors

Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Craig & Mary Pinley, Neeli Noyd

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

We appreciate all of our volunteers.



Prayer Concerns? Please contact Connie Nuttelman to have a request go out on the prayer chain or to be included in the bulletin. Connie's number is 402-366-9045 or you can send an email to prayerchain@stromsburgcov.org.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS:



Mission Trip Rummage Sale Fundraiser: The mission team will be raising funds for their mission trip to Louisville, KY August 1-8. One of the ways is with a rummage sale here at the church on June 26-27, 2020. Please start saving your unwanted items now if you'd like to donate them to the sale.

The team will also be holding bake sales on the square on the First Fridays in June and July.

Summer Camp Registrations: Registration forms for Summer Camp are here. The early bird deadline to register is now May 1, 2020. The forms are on the bulletin board across from the coat racks in the hallway. The dates for camp are as follows:



Pathfinder (1st-2nd grade)	June 20-21, 2020
Trailblazer (3rd-4th grade)	June 28-July 1, 2020
Explorer (5th-6th grade)	June 21-26, 2020
Junior High (7th-8th grade)	July 5-July 10, 2020
Senior High (9th-12th grade)	July 12-July 17, 2020
Last chance (3rd-12th grade)	Aug 2-Aug 4, 2020



(If you have any News from the Pews you would like to contribute to next month's newsletter please submit your information to Pastor Mary by April 24th)

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

2019 Budget Summary (1/1/2020 through 2/29/2020)

Income:	\$ 13,150.00
Budget:	\$ 21,462.00
Difference:	(\$ 8,312.00)
Budgeted Exp:	\$21,462.00
Actual Exp:	\$ 17,772.97
Difference:	(\$ 4,622.97)

FINANCIAL REPORT



ONLINE GIVING: To make a one time or scheduled reoccurring gift to our church, please visit:

www.stromsburgcov.org and click on ONLINE GIVING.

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217-721-6049

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217-721-3846

Ministry Team Leaders:

Lead Team Chair:
Dennis Nuttelman
402-366-9803

Worship Team:
Sue Rosenbaum
402-560-6759

Fellowship & Hospitality:
Pat Everingham
402-764-0345

Christian Formation:

Johanna Nielsen
402-764-0086

Outreach:

Dave Schram 402-710-8858
Shayla Hier






Properties:

Kent Erickson
402-765-6721



April 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
<i>We will not know until later this month when we will be able to meet together again. Until then, assume services will be held online only.</i>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
 PALM SUNDAY				 MAUNDY THURSDAY	 GOOD FRIDAY	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 EASTER SUNDAY				5:30 pm Rescue Mission Meal  SERVING MEALS TO THE HOMELESS		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		