



Evangelical Covenant Church
Of Stromsburg, NE

August 2019
Volume 1, Issue 7

Stromsburg Cov News

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Ellie: “Mom!” (Mom ignores daughter. Continues paying bills at computer.)

Ellie: “Mom!”

Me: (snapping) “What!!”

Ellie: “Mom, I’m hungry.”

I march grumbling to the kitchen to make dinner. Interrupted again! (*end scene*)

I had the privilege of attending the Covenant’s triennial conference for women a few weekends ago in Minneapolis, along with Eleanor Greenwall and Pat Everingham. We heard great speakers and worshipped with around 700 other women from around the Covenant—even around the world.

I wanted to share a little bit with you about the new structuring the Covenant at large is doing that hopefully will show that every aspect of ministry in Christ’s church should include and encourage women to take part according to their Holy Spirit given gifts.

Many of you are familiar with the old title, “Covenant Women,” that was changed to “Women’s Ministries” several years ago. Now there is no longer a department with the word “women” in it. That is not to diminish the importance of women in ministry however, it is to show that women are important in every aspect of ministry. Marilyn Williams has taken a new position called “Director of Women’s Initiatives.” She will be working closely with the directors of the five ministry areas of the Covenant: *Make and Deepen Disciples, Serve Globally, Start and Strengthen Churches, Develop Leaders, and Love Mercy Do Justice*, to insure that women and women’s initiatives are included in every aspect of those ministries.

What did I get out of the conference? I’m glad you asked! I loved all of our speakers, but one in particular spoke to me more than the others. Friday evening we heard from Megan Fate Marshman, director of women’s ministries at Hume Lake Christian Camp in California. She shared about how she had to learn to become interrupt-able. She told the story of how she was on an airplane, needing to work on a talk she was preparing for a conference, and put in her earbuds to deter anyone from talking to her. But there was a man sitting beside her who noticed she was typing something “Christian” and asked her if she was a “Christian.” She didn’t want to talk to him so briefly took her earbuds out to say, “yes I am,” and then she put them back in so he would get the hint that she didn’t want to talk. But he kept talking to her and she finally took off her earbuds and listened to him and they ended up having a great conversation about his daughter and Jesus. She said she needed to learn to be interrupt-able by the Lord because she might miss out on an opportunity for ministry if she didn’t. That convicted me because I often get into the zone on whatever I’m working on and don’t want to be interrupted. (e.g. the conversation I opened with.)

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UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS

Continuing Sermon Series:

“*Divine Direction*”

Aug 4: Part 2—STOP; Acts 19; Exodus 18

Aug 11: Part 3—STAY; Ruth 1:1-18,22

Aug 18: Part 4—GO; Isaiah 6:1-13

Aug 25: Part 5—SERVE; Acts 6

Sept 1: Part 6—CONNECT; I Sam 23; I Cor. 16

Sept 8: Part 7—TRUST; Acts 12; I Sam 1: Isa 6



Strengthen Faith, Cultivate Community, Care for Neighbors



A WORD...(CONTINUED)

We need to allow God to interrupt us in our lives because His work is always more important than our own. Megan said something to the affect of, “do you ever get so busy *doing* God’s work that you miss out on DOING God’s work?”

How about you? Are you interrupt-able? What you are working on or doing may be super important. But are you listening or paying attention to those moments when God interrupts you on purpose? Because what he interrupts you for is usually more important than whatever you were doing. If you are like me this is really difficult. But it’s something I’m determined to work on in my life, because I don’t want to miss out on anything God wants me to be a part of.

I’m sure everyone has important things that they are going to be doing this fall. I encourage you to be interrupted from those things for other good things. Most of you would say that our church is important to you and has an important mission in our community. But often what happens is that you are so busy in your everyday lives, your kids’ lives, and your grandkids’ lives that you miss out on opportunities to be involved in ministry. So here it comes, the challenge!

God has put on our hearts the need for more opportunities for Christian Formation. That means we need people to be involved in leadership and participation. We need people to make this a priority in their lives. So keep reading...I have highlighted some new ministries coming this fall. We need helpers and committed learners. Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved and interrupt-able!

In Christ,

Pastor Mary

FALL CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES:



Kids’ Club is Coming...

Wednesdays, beginning on September 19, we will be offering Kids’ Club to children ages 5 through Grade 5. Kids’ Club will look a lot like Vacation Bible School only with an evening meal provided. Here is the format:

6:00 pm—Dinner

6:30—7:30 pm—Groups will go to various “stations” for 20 minutes apiece.

Stations: Bible Story, Crafts (or other), Games

There is a Sign Up poster hanging on the back wall of the fellowship hall. We want many people to sign up to prepare a meal, a craft, or games so that we have more people doing less, rather than a few people doing more. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to use your gifts in this important ministry.



Sunday School for All Ages...

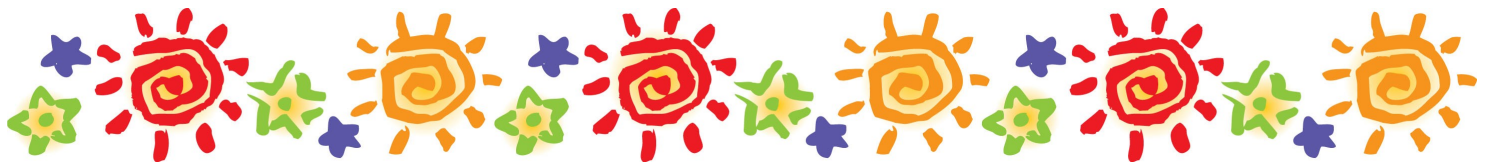
Our Christian Formation team has been planning for Sunday School start up in September. We will keep you posted on details of what is coming! Watch the bulletin, newsletter and facebook page!

Bible Study Fellowship:

Women, we have been invited to join the Methodist women as they begin a new study through Bible Study Fellowship in September. Keep tuned in for information on start times and dates. Talk to Mary Wadell or Pastor Mary if you are interested. If you want to know more about Bible Study Fellowship go to www.bsfinternational.org.



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Brian Hier Jr	Aug 6
Herman Gerdes	Aug 7
Doug Perdue	Aug 7
Devin Nuttelman	Aug 8
Jerry Rystrom	Aug 8
Eleanor Greenwall	Aug 12
Kohen Hier	Aug 13
Kyle Mentink	Aug 13
Mary Wadell	Aug 16

Connie Nuttelman	Aug 18
Parker Lovgren	Aug 20
Trent Ostrom	Aug 20
Korah Hier	Aug 22
Linda Richards	Aug 22
Doug Johnson	Aug 25
Pat Everingham	Aug 28
Axton Martin	Aug 28
Austin Platt	Aug 29

Kyle & Jena Mentink	Aug 6
Bob & Cindy Orsborn	Aug 12
Bob & Jodi Johnson	Aug 24



DATES TO REMEMBER:



Sunday, Aug 4: **Talk Back Sunday Potluck & Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting**—after morning worship

Thursday, Aug 15: **Living Water Rescue Mission Meal**—5:30 pm

Friday, Aug 30: **Sundown Cinema**, “The Secret Life of Pets”- 8:00 pm



Coming Up Next Month!

Sept 8: **Sunday School Kick-Off**

Sept 9: **Midwest Covenant Home Birthday Party!** 2:30 pm. Please talk to Eleanor Greenwall if you are interested in helping!



Sept 18: **Kids' Club starts!**

Sept 20-22: **Step Away: Dig Deeper, Reach Higher Women's Retreat at Covenant Cedars.** (see page 4)



Sept. 27-29: **Covenant Cedars Bible Camp 70th Anniversary Celebration** (see page 4)

AUGUST MINISTRY PARTNERS:

Sunday, Aug 4

Nursery: TBD

Greeters: Dennis & Connie Nuttelman

Coffee Time: TBD

Scripture: Pat Everingham

Audio/Visual: Dale & James Hennessy, Dennis Nuttelman

Sunday, Aug 11

Nursery: TBD

Greeters: Ken & Pat Everingham

Coffee Time: TBD

Scripture: Mary Wadell

Audio/Visual: Dale & James Hennessy, Dennis Nuttelman

Thursday, Aug 15

Rescue Mission Meal: Lori Rystrom

Sunday, Aug 18

Nursery: TBD

Greeters: Bob & Cindy Orsborn

Coffee Time: TBD

Scripture: Eleanor Greenwall

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Sunday, Aug 25

Nursery: TBD

Greeters: Kent & Cheryl Erickson

Coffee Time: TBD

Scripture: Jan Randell

Audio/Visual: Dale & James Hennessy

FALL CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Nursery Workers: We are in need of help in our nursery on Sunday mornings. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the back of the fellowship hall. If you have questions about the responsibilities of a nursery worker please speak to Shayla Hier.



Covenant Cedars Fall Camp Opportunities:

Women's Retreat: Sept 20-22, 2019: STEP AWAY: Dig Deeper, Reach Higher.

Speaker: Rev. Tammy Swanson-Draheim. Join other Nebraska Covenanters in this time of worship and learning. This weekend provides an opportunity for women to deepen their faith in Christ, find rest for their spiritual journey, and discover ways to share with each other. If you are interested there are registration forms on the bulletin board across from the coat racks, or you can register online at www.wmmidwest.org/event/. Please talk to Pastor Mary if you have any questions.

CCBC 70th Anniversary Celebration: Sept. 27-29, 2019: We're invited to celebrate Covenant Cedars' 70th anniversary with campfires and s'mores, a banquet, and special speaker, our very own Jan Randell's son, Jeff. There are copies of "Clarion" the camp's newsletter, in the foyer. For more information check out the camp's website at www.cedars.org or call the camp at 402-757-3241.

Youth Camps:

Junior High Retreat—November 1-3, 2019

Senior High Retreat—November 15-17, 2019

There are camp scholarships available through the church!

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW:

Taylor Ostrom Mission Trip Update:

Taylor is back from Tanzania and she will be sharing with us about her experience during a Sunday morning worship service this fall. Watch for details in the bulletin and on the facebook page.



FINANCIAL UPDATE:

2019 Budget

Summary

(1/1/2019 through
6/30/2019)

Income: \$44,336.54

Budget: \$63,772.00

Difference: **(\$19,435.46)**

Budgeted Expenses: \$66,402.93

Actual Expenses: \$58,822.67

Difference: \$ 7,580.26

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

Pastor Mary
singergirl33@yahoo.com
217-721-3846

Ministry Team Leaders:

Lead Team Chair:

Dave Schram
402-710-8858

Worship Team:

Sue Rosenbaum
402-560-6759

Fellowship & Hospitality:

Eleanor Greenwall
712-307-0476

Young Disciples:

Johanna Nielsen
402-764-0086

Outreach:

Julia Schram
402-710-9561

Properties:







Kent Erickson
402-765-6721





August

2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>  </div>	<div> <p>Sunday mornings at 10:30 am</p> </div>			<div> <p>1 10:00 am—Ladies' Coffee Time at 4th Street Coffee</p> </div>	<div> <p>2</p> </div>	<div> <p>3 9 am—4:30 pm Stromsburg Swedish Steel Show</p>  </div>
<div> <p>4 12:00 pm—Talk Back Sunday and Potluck after worship</p>  </div>	<div> <p>5</p> </div>	<div> <p>6 7:00 pm—prayer at Randell home</p> </div>	<div> <p>7 7:30 pm—Worship Team Practice</p> </div>	<div> <p>8 10:00 am—Ladies' Coffee Time at 4th Street Coffee</p> </div>	<div> <p>9</p> </div>	<div> <p>10</p> </div>
<div> <p>11</p> </div>	<div> <p>12</p> </div>	<div> <p>13 7:00 pm—prayer at Randell home</p> </div>	<div> <p>14 7:30 pm—Worship Team Practice</p> </div>	<div> <p>15 10:00 am—Ladies' Coffee Time at 4th Street Coffee 5:30 pm—Rescue Mission Meal</p>  </div>	<div> <p>16</p> </div>	<div> <p>17</p> </div>
<div> <p>18</p>  </div>	<div> <p>19</p> </div>	<div> <p>20 7:00 pm—prayer at Randell home</p> </div>	<div> <p>21 7:30 pm—Worship Team Practice</p> </div>	<div> <p>22 10:00 am—Ladies' Coffee Time at 4th Street Coffee</p> </div>		<div> <p>24</p> </div>
<div> <p>25</p> </div>	<div> <p>26</p> </div>	<div> <p>27 7:00 pm—prayer at Randell home</p> </div>	<div> <p>28 7:30 pm—Worship Team Practice</p> </div>	<div> <p>29 10:00 am—Ladies' Coffee Time at 4th Street Coffee</p> </div>	<div> <p>30 8 pm Sundown Cinema</p>  </div>	<div> <p>31</p> </div>