

Stromsburg Cove News

Evangelical Covenant
Church of Stromsburg, NE

February 2020
Volume 2, Issue 2

A Word From the Pastor

Since we have had two leadership-related exercises in the past week, we decided to wait until after our in-house retreat on February 2nd to get our newsletter out this month. We're grateful to Brent Thompson from the Midwest Conference office for visiting and getting us thinking about how we can best use our corporate gifts to further our ministry in the community and beyond. His sermon on Acts 6 was helpful and practical and the discussion over lunch was thoughtful and clarified a few things that the results of a values survey we'd asked people to fill out had brought to the surface.

In general, three things stood out from our leadership discussion on February 2nd: (1) we've begun to regroup as a congregation after the inherent flux of having changing pastors four times within a span of eight years; (2) our communication within the church – while better – is still a work in progress, particularly within leadership teams or ministry teams; and, (3) we're tired and trying to grapple with the normal ministry rhythm of a small church and the reality that we may have to pare things down some.

As pastors, it's good to have honest discussion, even if it may not have been all warm fuzzies. People are allowed to be tired after having given great effort in various ministries to offset the loss of parishioners over the past half dozen years. People are allowed to grieve the loss of something they miss (friends, a ministry no longer sustainable). People are allowed to wonder out loud how we can grow when we're not seeing younger families flocking to our doors on a Sunday (especially if they're nice about it). I mentioned in our meeting that "it's okay to say no to a task" if you're not invested or have the energy to meet the need and I mean it. God isn't calling us to obligatory tasks, usually, but to Spirit-discerned ministry opportunities that more often than not are in our gifts set.

I told the story about Paxton Covenant Church in central Illinois as my story of hope as we considered our future and it's worth repeating. In the summer of 2008, I (Craig) accepted a call to pastor a church with 65 in average Sunday worship attendance, but 29 of 100 in its total demographic that were over the age of (I believe) 75...and we had few regular attenders that had grade-school kids. Still, in year two, we re-started a Wednesday night kids program they'd done after school and I know my CE board wasn't optimistic about it. But 15 months after it began, we had around 20 (age 4 through grade 5) coming, a majority outside our congregation. And during a five-week period around Christmas, a handful of families invited five specific families they knew to our Sunday services. All five families stayed around for at least two years – 10 adults, 13 children.

By the time our family had moved on to a church in Ohio, there were only 9 of the 29 people 75-and-over still part of our church. But the worship attendance was over 70 and the intergenerational look on a Sunday was healthy and continues to be, based on what we've been told by a few families we're still in regular contact with.

In Mason City, Iowa, Pastor Mary and I were associate pastors

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FEBRUARY SERMON TEXTS

Feb 2: Acts 6:1-7
"Better Together?" Guest preacher
Brent Thompson
**Continuing the Route 81 Series
with Pastor Craig**
Feb 9: Part 4: Nahum
"Know the Truth"
Feb 16: Part 5: Habakkuk
"Know your Bias"
Feb 23: Part 6: Zephaniah
"Know Who is Behind You"

The greatest of these



IS LOVE.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Strengthen Faith, Cultivate Community, Care for Neighbors

over about four years, prior to our move to Illinois. When we arrived, there was ONE couple that was between the ages of 25-35. But that couple's faithfulness was rewarded and when we left that congregation, the K through 5th grade children's program had grown from 4 to more than 40 as the church had used an Alpha program and had taken a risk and started a contemporary worship service where drinking coffee in the sanctuary was deemed acceptable (if you put a lid on the cups). Young families had been attracted to those ministries.



There's no reason to think that either scenario is impossible here. We received 26 value audit surveys in the past nine days (ranking each value word from 1 to 4, with 4 being most important to you. The things you seem to value most are: (1a) Worship, (1b) Prayer, (1c) Community, (2) Bible Knowledge, (3a) Encouragement, and (3b) Lost People. These are good things to aspire to corporately, and our task as leaders is to flesh out what they mean for us as a Body and how they'll translate to better ministry TOGETHER in our corner of the world.

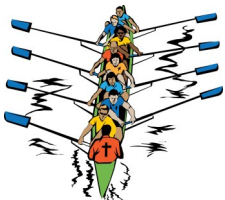
In the meantime, let's worship together, pray with a united spirit, and aim to be encouraging to each other as we discern next steps, knowing that "He will deliver a harvest if we do not give up."

IN CHRIST,

Pastors Craig and Mary

FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, Feb 1 - 6:30 am: Godfathers Pizza Fundraiser. All youth participating in the Godfathers Pizza Fundraiser need to be at Godfathers in Columbus by 6:15 am to make your pizzas.



MINISTRY TEAM

Sunday, Feb 2: Leadership Mini-Retreat—12 noon

Brent Thompson will be sharing with us in Worship Sunday morning and then will be meeting with the lead team and ministry teams after fellowship time for a brief informational time. Please stay if you are on lead team or a ministry team, or if you desire to be on a ministry team. We will have pizza!



Super Bowl Party—5 pm

Everyone is invited to the parsonage to watch the Super Bowl and enjoy each other's company. Bring a snack and a friend!



Monday, Feb 10: Midwest Covenant Home Birthday Party—2:30 pm. If you would like to help with this event please contact Pat Everingham.



Sweetheart Banquet—6 pm. The annual community-organized Sweetheart Banquet will be held once again at our church on Monday, Feb. 10. This event is for couples who have been married 50 years or longer. If you want more information please call Carolyn Frazier at 402-366-3828.



Thursday, Feb 20: Rescue Mission Meal—5:30 pm

If you are interested in serving a meal at the Rescue Mission in York there is a sign-up sheet in the back of the fellowship hall. If you have questions please ask Cheryl Erickson.



Sunday, Feb 23: Mission Trip Meeting—5:30 pm

In order to attend you must have turned in your application. See page 4 for more information.



CHURCH FAMILY



Lucas Nuttelman	Feb 2
Brian Hier	Feb 3
Zachariah Bowerman	Feb 9
Nate Hutchins-Peterson	Feb 12
James Hennessy	Feb 13
Mark Hanson	Feb 17
Amy Bowerman	Feb 22



Dale & Julie Hennessy	Feb 3
Herb & Susan Hanson	Feb 5
Herman & Donna Gerdes	Feb 9
John & Amy Bowerman	Feb 10
Dan & Lorrain Nielsen	Feb 14
Dennis & Connie Nuttelman	Feb 15
Doug & Linda Johnson	Feb 18
Marv & Mary Wadell	Feb 28

FEBRUARY MINISTRY PARTNERS

Sunday Mornings:

Feb 2

Nursery: _____
Greeters: Dennis & Connie Nuttelman
Coffee Time: Mary Wadell
Scripture: Jan Randell
Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Dianne Nielsen,
Pinleys
Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, James Hennessy

Feb 9

Nursery: _____
Greeters: Mark Hanson
Coffee Time: _____
Scripture: Mary Pinley
Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Dennis & Connie
Nuttelman, Pinleys
Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Feb 16

Nursery: _____
Greeters: Bob & Eleanor Greenwall
Coffee Time: Kent & Cheryl Erickson
Scripture: Neeli Noyd
Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Pinleys
Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, James Hennessy

Feb 23

Nursery: _____
Greeters: Kent & Cheryl Erickson
Coffee Time: _____
Scripture: Bob Orsborn
Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Neeli Noyd, Pinleys
Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Rescue Mission Meal—Thursday, Feb 20

Lori Rystrom

Wednesday Nights Kids' Club:

Feb 5

Craft: Julie and Madie Hennessy
Games: Julie and Madie Hennessy
Story: Pastor Craig
Meal: Emily Everingham

Feb 12

Craft: Julie and Madie Hennessy
Games: Julie and Madie Hennessy
Story: Pastor Craig
Meal: Hier Family

Feb 19

Craft: _____
Games: Dave & Lorelei Schram
Story: Pastor Craig
Meal: Cheryl & Kent Erickson

Feb 26

ASH WEDNESDAY—NO KIDS' CLUB

*We appreciate all of our
volunteers. Ministry could not
happen without you. If you
see a spot—fill it!*



NEWS FROM THE PEWS:



Summer 2020 Mission Trip to Louisville, KY: August 1-8, 2020

We will be doing VBS and a Block party, maintenance in the church, community cleanup

Mission Trip

You must fill out an application if you would like to go on the mission trip. They are due Sunday, **FEBRUARY 16, 2020**. Our first meeting will be Sunday, February 23 at 5:30 pm. If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Mary.

Children's Ministry: We will be forming some guidelines for anyone working with children at our church. The first thing we will be implementing is a background check for anyone working with or interested in working with children. Be watching for more information regarding this.

Did you Know?

- ◇ Isaac Noyd and Jacob Nielsen are playing for Cross County HS boys basketball, which recently won its conference tournament.
- ◇ Johanna Nielsen is assistant coach and Jacy Mentick and Josi Noble play for the high school girls basketball team, which also won its conference tourney.
- ◇ Maddie Hennessy recently won a 1st and 2nd place in several speech contests under the Persuasive Speech category at the high school level.
- ◇ Jenna Mentick continues to coach the speech team at David City HS.
- ◇ Alex Noyd's junior high boys basketball team finished an unbeaten season by winning its conference title game last month.

(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 March 23rd)



Pastor Craig and Mary and our whole congregation, Thank you for your visit and thank everyone in church for their prayers and friendship. I am so lucky to be a part of our church family and I just want to thank everyone. Love you all, Cindy (Orsborn)

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

2019 Budget Summary (1/1/2019 through 12/31/2019)

Income:	\$119,298.51
Budget:	\$127,544.00
Difference:	(\$8,245.49)
Budgeted Exp:	\$127,544.00
Actual Exp:	\$122,026.85
Difference:	(\$2,728.34)

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.

Evangelical Covenant Church
103 East 6th Street
Stromsburg, NE 68666
402-764-5401
office@stromsburgcov.org
www.stromsburgcov.org

Pastor Craig
craigpin@yahoo.com
217-721-6049

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

Ministry Team Leaders:

Lead Team Chair:
TBD in February

Worship Team:
Sue Rosenbaum
402-560-6759

Fellowship & Hospitality:
TBD in February

Christian Formation:

Johanna Nielsen
402-764-0086

Outreach:






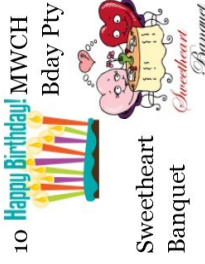





Julia Schram
402-710-9561

Properties:

Kent Erickson
402-765-6721



FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 GROUNDHOG DAY 2 8:45 Worship practice 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship, Communion 11:45 Fellowship 12:00 Leadership Retreat 5:00 Super Bowl Party	 Leadership Retreat  Super Bowl Party	4 6:30 BSF 7:00 Prayer Gathering	5 9:00 Moms in Prayer 10:00 Ladies' Coffee 6:00 Kids' Club 7:30 Worship Practice	6  Kids Club	7 8	1 6:30 am Godfathers Pizza Fundraiser—youth 
9 8:45 Worship practice 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Fellowship 6:00 pm Lead Team Mtg	10  Happy Birthday! MWCH Bday Pty Sweetheart Banquet	11 6:30 BSF 7:00 Prayer Gathering	12 9:00 Moms in Prayer 10:00 Ladies' Coffee 6:00 Kids' Club 7:30 Worship Practice	13 14  Valentine's Day	15	
16 8:45 Worship practice 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Fellowship MISSION TRIP APPS DUE!	17  Presidents Day	18 6:30 BSF 7:00 Prayer Gathering	19 9:00 Moms in Prayer 10:00 Ladies' Coffee 6:00 Kids' Club 7:30 Worship Practice	20  5:30 pm Rescue Mission Meal	21 22	
23 8:45 Worship practice 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Fellowship 5:30 Mission Trip Mtg	24  Mission Trip Meeting	25 6:30 BSF 7:00 Prayer Gathering	26 9:00 Moms in prayer 10:00 Ladies' Coffee 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	27 28  Leap Day	29	