



Evangelical
Covenant Church

July 2019
Volume 1, Issue 6

Stromsburg Cov News

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

The Fourth of July brings back lots of memories for me. When I was 10, I got to pitch in the annual Little League game played that year in Alsip, IL, my hometown. Two years later, we bought our dog on the 4th, which was the Bicentennial year. I've attended any number of parades in Ohio, Illinois, and watched fireworks after seeing major league games on that day a handful of times, last year at Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati after a Red-White Sox contest.

I can't say I've always taken the time to recall WHY we celebrate the Fourth of July each year while I'm watching fireworks or eating burgers or enjoying a parade, however, which is why a few years ago I researched the archives of Thomas Jefferson via an internet site called www.monticello.org. Jefferson was the principle writer of the Declaration of Independence, one of five assigned to put it together. A few years earlier, he might've considered the document unnecessary, as the colonists in America and their mother country, Great Britain, had a conciliatory relationship that gave the colonies decent trading leverage and protection. Then Britain fell upon harder economic times, they taxed the colonies in a way that colonial leaders deemed unreasonable, and on June 7, 1776, a leader from Virginia named Richard Henry Lee convinced a prominent group of others that a declaration of independence was needed.

So here's Thomas Jefferson, tapped to be the guy that would write the most influential document the colonies would ever be printed, and it would have to be done quickly because the colonies were feeling the pressure of the British army that was being sent to enforce the new taxes. The Declaration of Independence was formally adopted (though not signed by all 56 signers until a month later) as British ships were out on the coast of New York. And once adopted, the document was printed post haste, so that the general public knew what was being decided; of course, we know that within a few months there was a full-scale battle going on and our freedom today is largely due to the blood and sweat of so many back in the late-1700s that helped solidify our nation.

Among the freedoms touted in the Declaration is the freedom of religion. Ironically, Thomas Jefferson was not

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UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS

July 7	II Kings 5:1-14
July 14	Amos 7:7-17
July 21	Genesis 18:1-10a
July 28	Part I—Sermon Series on Divine Direction by Craig Groeschel



Strengthen Faith, Cultivate Community, Care for Neighbors

A WORD...(CONTINUED)



considered the most religious person among the colonial leadership, although he was likely more religious than given credit for. But while other teachings around religion were not always taken kindly by Jefferson, he had this to say about the teachings of Jesus:

“My opinion is that if nothing had ever been added to what flowed purely from his lips, the whole world would at this day have been Christian.”

Back in the day there was this fad that went on for a while, with loads of folks wearing wrist bands adorned with the letters W.W.J.D. on them (What would Jesus do?) and I suppose there were many cynics that didn't think the wearers could actually aspire to that end and emulate Christ with any accuracy at all. Still, I wonder if perhaps (like Jefferson) we're all in need of taking a more poignant look at the teachings of Jesus to try and make our best effort to live more like him?

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig

SPECIAL THANKS:

- ⇒ To Dianne Nielsen for coordinating food for the Burger Bash that raised money for Taylor Ostrom's short-term mission trip to Tanzania and the others who helped in the kitchen
- ⇒ To all who helped with coordinating the movie night at church on June 28th
- ⇒ To those who were part of a barbecue held on June 29th at Swede Bend
- ⇒ To Dave and Julia Schram for procuring and doling out water on June 15th at Swedish Midsommer Festival, the Hennessy family for helping with parade logistics, and to the many who decorated our golf cart, dressed up as various superheroes, and walked the parade route giving out candy and representing our church that day – earning top honors as an organization parade entry was gravy
- ⇒ To the many who helped with food prep for various things during the weekend of June 14-16 and to the church for allowing us to host an Escape Room experience in our building and a book presentation by author Kris Rystrom-Emmert during the weekend
- ⇒ To the many who've already signed up and brought food to the Hier family after Brian's injury and surgery last month (and who've helped mow their lawn)

All of this occurred over a four-week period and your contributions were noticed and appreciated.

Pastor Craig and Pastor Mary



Notes of **THANKS**

CHURCH FAMILY



Roy Richards	July 3	MacKenzie Nuttelman	July 14
Zander Martin	July 4	Mitch Greenwall	July 15
Lorelei Schram	July 5	John Sundberg	July 19
Brynlie Willhoft	July 6	Bridget Nuttelman	July 20
Dustin Hier	July 7	Gaylen Ahlquist	July 23
Eric Everingham	July 8	Jerlene Nielsen	July 25
Madelynn Hennessy	July 8		

Chris & Miranda Martin	July 3
Kent & Cheryl Erickson	July 20
Jerry & Lori Rystrom	July 22



DATES TO REMEMBER:



Thursday, July 4th! Happy Independence Day!

Tuesday, July 9: BASEBALL game!

Lincoln Salt Dogs Game: We'll be carpooling from church at 5:00 pm. Game starts at 7:05 pm



Thursday, July 18: Rescue Mission Meal

Served by: Cheryl Erickson



Thursday—Sunday, July 18-21: Women's Triennial Conference in Minneapolis

Friday, July 26: Sundown Cinema!

8:00 pm
Movie TBA
Free Popcorn and Lemonade



Sunday, August 4: Talk Back Sunday

JULY MINISTRY PARTNERS:

Sunday, July 7

Nursery: Judy Hansen & Korah Hier
Greeters: Bob & Eleanor Greenwall
Coffee Time: Hennessy Family
Scripture: Neeli Noyd

Sunday, July 14

Nursery: Julie & Maddie Hennessy
Greeters: Gaylen & Jeannie Ahlquist
Coffee Time: TBD
Scripture: Pat Everingham

Thursday, July 18

Rescue Mission Meal: Cheryl Erickson

Sunday, July 21

Nursery: Shayla & Korah Hier
Greeters: Dave & Julia Schram
Coffee Time: Kent & Cheryl Erickson
Scripture: Bob Orsborn

Sunday, July 28

Nursery: Julia & Lorelei Schram
Greeters: Bob & Cindy Orsborn
Coffee Time: The Hier Family
Scripture: Jeannie Ahlquist

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW:

Taylor Ostrom Mission Trip Update: Please keep Taylor in prayer this month as she will be going to *Tanzania, Africa* for two weeks. She will be serving with CRU, a collegiate ministry, in several orphanages. We look forward to hearing from her when she returns.



Lincoln Salt Dogs Game: We still have Salt Dogs tickets available for purchase for the July 9, 2019, 7:05 pm game. If you are interested in buying a ticket for \$10 please see Pastor Craig. We will meet at the church and carpool at 5:00 pm. Sue Rosenbaum will be throwing out the first pitch!

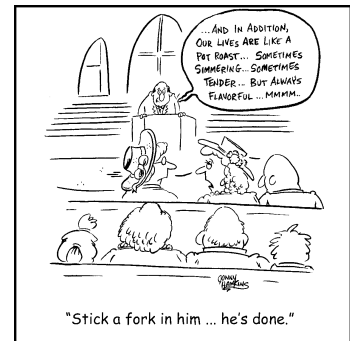


Need help with projects at home? Please let us know and we will add them to the "Help Needed Board." We have been made aware that there are some people in the congregation that have yard jobs that are just too much for them to take care of. We have started a list of these jobs and it's hanging in the church office. If you are interested in volunteering and helping others in this way please look at the

list and sign up for the various tasks.

Lovgren Family: Peggy Lovgren's son Parker has been in the hospital with difficulties related to Muscular Dystrophy. She has needed volunteers to sit with Braiden, her younger son, who also has Muscular Dystrophy. If you are able to help in this way (or mowing her lawn, etc.) while she is in Lincoln with Parker, please let the church office know.

Hier Family: Brian is recovering from leg surgery. The Hiers could still use meals brought in, as well as various other items. There is a list in the office of these items. If you would like to hop on the meal train go to <https://mealtrain.com/1gonez>. If you need assistance with this please contact Pastor Mary.



FINANCIAL UPDATE:

2019 Budget Summary (1/1/2019 through 5/31/2019)

Income: \$37,689.79
Budget: \$53,143.34
Difference: (\$15,453.55)
Budgeted Expenses: \$52,640.20
Actual Expenses: \$45,610.31
Difference: \$ 7,029.89

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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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





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 pm Prayer Gathering at Randell Home	3 7:30 pm Worship Team Prac- tice	4 	5	6
7 9:00 am Worship Team Prac. 10:30 am Worship Service with Communion 11:45 am Fellowship Time 12:00 pm Lead Team Meeting	8	9 7:00 pm—Prayer at Randell Home 7:05 pm—Baseball Game 	10 7:30 pm Worship Team Prac- tice	11 10:00 am Ladies' Coffee Hour at 4th Street Coffee	12	13
14 9:00 am Worship Team Prac. 10:30 am Worship Service 11:45 am Fellowship Time	15	16 7:00 pm Prayer Gathering at Randell Home	17 7:30 pm Worship Team Prac- tice	18 10:00 am Ladies' Coffee Hour at 4th Street Coffee 5:30 pm Rescue Mission Meal	19	20
21 9:00 am Worship Team Prac. 10:30 am Worship Service 11:45 am Fellowship Time	22	23 7:00 pm Prayer Gathering at Randell Home	24 7:30 pm Worship Team Prac- tice	I AM—Womens' Triennial Conference in Minneapolis		
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