

# Stromsburg Cov News

Evangelical Covenant  
Church of Stromsburg, NE

July 2020  
Volume 2, Issue 7

## A Word From the Pastor

About a month ago, my wife let me buy a DNA kit from Ancestry.com. I'd been slowly gathering information about both sides of my family and about six weeks ago I talked to a cousin I hadn't talked to for 15 years; she convinced me to purchase this kit because she'd been able to find two half-sisters through the DNA tracking mechanism that tied certain DNA matter to family members. At that point, I believed this DNA test could give me accurate information about who I really am, what percentage of Swede (mom's side), what percentage of English (dad's side), what other percentage (Cherokee, German, something else).

What's in our DNA? It's a question a lot of people are trying to figure out. Some people are trying to figure out the DNA of a cruddy virus sort of thing that is paralyzing our world. Some people are trying to figure out how to get the world – Black people, Hispanic people, Icelandic people...you know what I mean – to appreciate everyone and love them the way they love themselves. Of course, Christianity demands that we do this (no selfishness allowed folks!!!), but we are a work in progress. And we, as the church, are trying to figure out how to do church in the 'post-pandemic.'

News flash – I don't think we came up with the answer last month. The churches, many of those congregations, are either not meeting or in the very beginning stages of meeting. And the consensus is that it won't be quite the same as before. And, unfortunately, we don't have a time travel continuum like in "Avengers: Endgame," where we can get to the evil guy Thanos, who destroyed earth before he actually did his evil deed of eliminating half of the universe in the previous film.

Okay, I've digressed...a little. But about the church of the future? Who do WE want to be? Maybe our leadership team will think on this a bit when we meet on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

Because that's the BIG question of this newsletter. However, before we peruse this question at our semi-annual meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup> after church (other stuff probably will be discussed too), let's take a moment to celebrate some low hanging fruit. That's what I called our nearly \$1,400 profit from a garage sale we coordinated on June 26-27. We have a mission trip we are planning for next summer and this fundraising will help a little. However, the group that put the event on had a fun time, we

*Continued on Page 2*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Page .....	1
.....	2
Dates to Remember .....	3
July Birthdays .....	3
July Anniversaries.....	3
Ministry Partners .....	3
News from the Pews.....	4
Financial Update.....	4
Calendar .....	5

## UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS

<b>July 5</b>
Matt 11:16-19; 25-30
<b>July 12</b>
Isa 55:1-13
<b>July 19</b>
Pastor Cath Kaminski— guest preacher
<b>July 26</b>
Pastor Mary Pinley preaching

**Strengthen Faith, Cultivate Community, Care for Neighbors**





## A WORD...(CONTINUED)

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appreciated the free stuff that so many from church (and outside church) gave us, and we got to meet some people from our community and even outside of it. It was great. And as I said at church last Sunday, I needed it. I think we all needed it. There was something normal we could do to help future ministry.

We're still not back to normal yet; I get it. But we still have to consider a few things. Do we spend our children's ministry energy on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings? Seems like our Wednesday program has influenced kids; not so much on Sundays. Will we offer adult Sunday school on Sundays? Probably...there are a couple of options. I know we're working on a movie night for later this summer. I think we'll be considering our financial situation down the road and any changes that need to be made. And I know that a fall sermon schedule needs to be finalized.

For now, however, let's enjoy the rest of the summer. Perhaps during our semi-annual meeting, we can think about some short-term ministry ideas – is an August picnic-with-distancing event possible? Can we do an adult movie night in the sanctuary? Later this month, we'll combine with the local Methodist and Lutheran congregations and host Vacation Bible School July 27-31 – any help would be great. You don't have to be a kid magnet; we can find a useful place for your talents.

In the meantime, enjoy the Fourth of July, put our semi-annual meeting on the calendar, and keep your minds open for that DNA question.

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig



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## THANKS FOR THE HELP!

We have postponed our mission trip to Louisville, KY until next summer because of the COVID crisis. However, we were able to raise almost \$1400 for our trip from a Rummage Sale we had here last weekend. Thank you for all who donated their unwanted items, to all who helped put the sale together, to those who lugged the extra stuff to Blue Valley to donate, and to those who bought the stuff.



Pastors Craig and Mary were able to meet with Heather, our Merge Ministries coordinator, and Kat, our contact with OneChurch in Louisville, over a zoom conference in June. We are very excited about the potential to start a relationship with them even now, before we physically go to Kentucky next year. They are excited about our coming and our team is excited also. We will be sharing more about them and our ministry there during the coming months.

## CHURCH FAMILY



Roy Richards	July 3
Lorelei Schram	July 5
Brynlie Willhoft	July 6
Dustin Hier	July 7
Eric Everingham	July 8
Madelynn Hennessy	July 8
Mitch Greenwall	July 15
John Sundberg	July 19
Gaylen Ahlquist	July 23
Jeri Nielsen	July 25



Kent & Cheryl Erickson	July 20
Jerry & Lori Rystrom	July 22

## JULY MINISTRY PARTNERS

### Sunday, July 5

Greeters: Dennis & Connie Nuttelman  
 Coffee Time: The Hiers  
 Scripture: Neeli Noyd  
 Worship Team: Craig & Mary Pinley  
 Audio/Visual: Kohen Hier

### Sunday, July 12

Greeters: Dave & Julia Schram  
 Coffee Time: Baked Potato Bar!  
 Scripture: TBD  
 Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Craig & Mary Pinley, Dennis & Connie Nuttelman  
 Audio/Visual: Kohen Hier

### Thursday, July 16—Rescue Mission Meal: TBD

### Sunday, July 19

Greeters: Bob & Cindy Orsborn  
 Coffee Time: TBD  
 Scripture: Judy Hanson  
 Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Dianne Nielsen, Neeli Noyd  
 Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy; James Hennessy

### Sunday, July 26

Greeters: Ken & Pat Everingham  
 Coffee Time: TBD  
 Scripture: Pat Everingham  
 Worship Team: Judy Hanson, Craig & Mary Pinley, Neeli Noyd  
 Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy; Kohen Hier

## JULY DATES TO REMEMBER:



### Sunday, July 12, 2020

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting after worship with a Baked Potato Bar to raise funds for VBS



### Wednesday, July 15, 2020

VBS Leaders and Volunteers Meeting—7 pm at Stromsburg Covenant Church



### Thursday, July 16, 2020—Rescue Mission Meal—5:30 pm

**Monday, July 27—Friday, July 31, 2020—Rocky Railway VBS!** 9:00 am—11:30 am each day.



**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](mailto:prayerchain@stromsburgcov.org).



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS:



### ROCKY RAILWAY VBS IS COMING!!!

**WHEN:** Monday—Friday, July 27-31, 2020

**WHERE:** Our Church

**WITH:** Salem Lutheran Church and Stromsburg United Methodist Church

**FOR:** Pre-K through going into grade 6 kids

**REGISTRATION:** Due July 1 (with a few days grace)

This year you can register your kids online. Go to our website at [www.stromsburgcov.org](http://www.stromsburgcov.org) and click on the Rocky Railway registration link. We will be raising funds for VBS through a Baked Potato bar Sunday July 12. If you would like to donate online you can do so at [www.stromsburgcov.org](http://www.stromsburgcov.org). Click on the Online Giving button and specify that your donation should go toward VBS.



**VOLUNTEERS WELCOME:** If you are interested in volunteering for VBS you can also register online. Go to our website (above) and click on the Rocky Railway registration link. There are directions there for signing up as a volunteer. Thank you!

**ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES NEEDED!** If you have a tree you'd like to loan us to use for VBS please talk to Pastor Mary.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT



### 2020 Budget

#### Summary

(1/1/2020 through  
5/31/2020)

### FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Needed Income:	\$53,654.17
Actual Income:	<u>\$36,635.20</u>
Difference:	(\$17,018.97)
Budgeted Exp:	\$53,654.17
Actual Exp:	<u>\$44,722.39</u>
Difference:	(\$ 8,087.19)

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

[www.stromsburgcov.org](http://www.stromsburgcov.org) and click on ONLINE GIVING.

Evangelical Covenant Church  
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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:  
Dennis Nuttelman  
402-366-9803

Worship Team:  
Sue Rosenbaum  
402-560-6759

Fellowship & Hospitality:  
Pat Everingham  
402-764-0345

#### Christian Formation:

Judy Hanson  
402-764-6681

#### Outreach:







Dave Schram 402-710-8858  
Shayla Hier

#### Properties:

Kent Erickson  
402-765-6721



# July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 pm VBS Leaders mtg 	2 7:00 VBS leaders mtg 	3	4 
5 9:00 Worship Team 10:30 Worship Service With Communion 11:45 Fellowship	6	7	8 7:00 pm Lead Team Meeting	9	10	11
12 9:00 Worship Team 10:30 Worship 12:00 Congreg Mtg & Potato Bar 	13	14	15 7:00 pm VBS Leader & Volunteer meeting 	16 5:30 pm Rescue Mission Meal 	17	18
19 9:00 Worship Team 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship		21	22	23	24	25
26 9:00 Worship Team 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Afternoon: SET UP FOR VBS	27	28	29 	30	31	
<div> <div>ROCKY RAILWAY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</div> <div>9—11:30 AM—MONDAY—FRIDAY</div> </div>						

