



## *"Recap of the ECC's Annual Gathering"*

Thank you for sending Pastor Craig and I to the Evangelical Covenant Church's Annual Gathering last week. It was my first time at an annual meeting since 2007 when Craig and I were ordained to ministry. Since I took a leave of absence from paid ministry for about 10 years to focus on family ministry I haven't had as many chances until now to be part of the larger picture of the Covenant. It was great to connect with people I hadn't seen for many years.

One of the highlights of the meeting for Craig and I was the election of our friend and colleague in ministry, Rev. Tammy Swanson-Draheim, to be president of the Covenant church for the next 4 years. She has served as superintendent of the Midwest Conference, of which our church is part of, for the last 10 years. We believe she will lead us well in the near future and I know she covets all of our prayers as she seeks the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Another highlight was the Saturday night worship and ordination service. Dr Rev David Kersten, who has just retired as dean of North Park Theological Seminary, the Covenant's Chicago-based school, gave the message and it was a powerful and sobering reminder to us of the privilege and duty of what taking those ordination vows meant and still means 15 years later. We left with a renewed commitment to do our best for you and others God has called us to serve.

Here are some of the actions that took place at the annual meeting:

1. 7 churches were accepted into membership in the ECC.
2. 14 church planters were commissioned.
3. 20 churches either closed, withdrew from the ECC, or merged with other bodies.
4. A very diverse group of 55 Candidates either transferred their ordination from other church bodies into the ECC, were Commissioned into specialized ministry, or were Ordained into Word and Service or Word and Sacrament.
5. 4 retiring Missionaries were recognized for their service to the ECC.

6. President John Wenrich was recognized for his service to the ECC for the past 4 years.
7. Rebecca Gonzalez was recognized for her service as Executive Director of Operations of the ECC from 2013-2022.
8. 2 retiring Conference Superintendents were recognized for their service.
9. The 2022 T.W. Anderson Outstanding Lay Person Award went to Percy Mueda of Grace Covenant in San Francisco, CA
10. The 2022 Irving Lambert Outstanding Urban Ministries Award went posthumously to John Phillip Perkins, a church planter and Love Mercy Do Justice advocate from Jackson, MS.
11. The 2023 budget of \$18,289,248 (up 4% from 2022) was passed after a lot of conversation surrounding the shortfall of the past few years due to a decrease in missional giving by local churches. (Fiscal year Oct-Sept)

Overall, we felt that the meeting went well. There were losses to grieve but also things to celebrate. We need to pray for our leaders and for our local churches as we navigate what being the church and being Christ followers mean in our day and age. As requested by the congregations represented during voting, our president and leaders are going to be bringing to next year's annual meeting a report on the work being done to address our divide on human sexuality and provide a clear update on the direction and progress that is being made for our path forward as a denomination. Let's pray for all those that are in discussion and prayer surrounding this.

Again, thank you for allowing us to be present and take part in the Gathering. And thank you for allowing us to serve you as your pastors.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mary

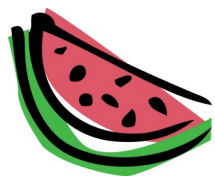




## What's Happening in July?

Sunday, July 3, 2022: Communion Sunday

July 3–8, 2022—Senior High Camp—Covenant Cedars



Sunday, July 10, 2022:

12:00 noon—Outreach Team Meeting

7:00 pm—Watermelon Party at the Pinleys' - you and your neighbors are invited to enjoy watermelon together with the Pinleys in the parsonage backyard. Flyers to invite neighbors and friends are on the foyer table.

July 10-15, 2022—Junior High Camp—Covenant Cedars

Sunday, July 17, 2022:

12:15 pm—Lead Team Meeting

6-8 pm—**Swede Home Ice Cream Social**: on the lawn at 950 129th Rd, Stromsburg. Serving homemade ice cream, toppings, and bars and cookies. Free will donations!



Ice Cream Social

Thursday, July 21, 2022:

5:30 pm—Rescue Mission Meal



Sunday, July 24, 2022:

12:00 noon—Semi-Annual Business Meeting

## Financial Update: 2022 Budget Summary (1/1/22 through 5/31/22)

Needed Income: \$ 64,354.58

Actual Income: \$ 41,514.70

Difference: (**\$ 22,839.88**)

Budgeted Exp: \$ 64,354.58

Actual Exp: \$ 49,921.88

Over Budget: (**\$ 8,407.18**)



## Ministry Teams

### Lead Team:

Dennis Nuttelman  
402-366-9803

### Fellowship & Hospitality:

Pat Everingham  
402-764-0345

### Outreach:

Julia Schram—402-710-9561  
Shayla Hier—402-764-0261

### Worship Ministry Team:

Neeli Noyd  
402-363-3082

### Christian Formation:

Judy Hanson  
402-764-6681

### Properties:

Marv Wadell (contact person)  
402-764-7651



|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Lorelei Schram    | July 5  |
| Brynlie Willhoft  | July 6  |
| Eric Everingham   | July 8  |
| Madelynn Hennessy | July 8  |
| Evie Cooper       | July 14 |
| Mitch Greenwall   | July 15 |
| John Sundberg     | July 19 |
| Dalton Noble      | July 22 |
| Gaylen Ahlquist   | July 23 |
| Jerri Nielsen     | July 25 |



|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Josh & Nichole Patrick | July 1  |
| Kent & Cheryl Erickson | July 20 |
| Jerry & Lori Rystrom   | July 22 |

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.



**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).



## Ministry Partners:

### Sunday, July 3, 2022

*Greeters:* Bob & Eleanor Greenwall  
*Fellowship:* Linda Johnson  
*Scripture:* Jeannie Ahlquist  
*Pianist:* Sue Rosenbaum  
*Worship Team:* Craig & Mary Pinley, Sara Noble  
*Audio/Visual:* Ellie Pinley, Jodi Johnson

### Sunday, July 10, 2022

*Greeters:* Dianne Nielsen  
*Fellowship:* Pinleys  
*Scripture:* Bob Orsborn  
*Pianist/Worship Leader:* TBA  
*Worship Team:* TBA  
*Audio/Visual:* Ellie Pinley, Sara Noble

### Sunday, July 17, 2022

*Greeters:* Gaylen & Jeannie Ahlquist  
*Fellowship:* Pat Everingham  
*Scripture:* Mary Wadell  
*Pianist:* Sue Rosenbaum  
*Worship Team:* Craig & Mary Pinley, Sara Noble  
*Audio/Visual:* Ellie Pinley, Jodi Johnson

### Thursday, July 21, 2022

*Rescue Mission Meal:* TBA

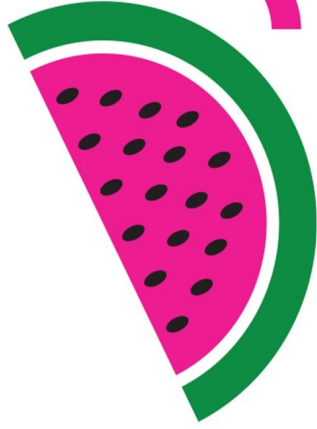
### Sunday, July 24, 2022

*Greeters:* Bob & Cindy Orsborn  
*Fellowship:* Lori Rystrom  
*Scripture:* Dianne Nielsen  
*Pianist/Worship Leader:* Ryan Cooper  
*Worship Team:* Craig & Mary Pinley, Dianne Nielsen, Neeli Noyd  
*Audio/Visual:* Ellie Pinley, Sara Noble

### Sunday, July 31, 2022

*Greeters:* Doug & Linda Johnson  
*Fellowship:* Open  
*Scripture:* Neeli Noyd  
*Pianist:* Sue Rosenbaum  
*Worship Team:* Craig & Mary Pinley  
*Audio/Visual:* Ellie Pinley, Jodi Johnson





# JULY 2022



| Sun  | Mon   | Tue | Wed                              | Thu                        | Fri | Sat |
|--|-------|-----|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|
| <b>Summer Sundays:</b><br>9:15 Worship Team<br>10:30 Worship<br>11:45 Fellowship |       |     |                                  |                            | 1   | 2   |
| 3  | 4<br> | 5   | 6                                | 7                          | 8   | 9   |
|  |       |     | Senior High Camp—Covenant Cedars |                            |     |     |
| 10 12:00 noon—<br>Outreach Team  | 11    | 12  | 13                               | 14                         | 15  | 16  |
| 7:00 pm—<br>Watermelon Party<br>at Pinleys'                                      |       |     | Junior High Camp—Covenant Cedars |                            |     |     |
| 17   | 18    | 19  | 20                               | 21                         | 22  | 23  |
| 12:15 pm—<br>Team Meeting<br>6-8—Swede Home Ice<br>Cream Social                  |       |     |                                  | 5:30 pm<br>Mission<br>Meal |     |     |
| 24   | 26    | 27  |                                  | 28                         | 29  | 30  |
| 12:00 noon—Semi-<br>Annual Business<br>Meeting                                   |       |     |                                  |                            |     |     |
| 31   |       |     |                                  |                            |     |     |