



Evangelical Covenant Church
Of Stromsburg, NE

June 2019
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Stromsburg Cov News

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

I was having a conversation with a parishioner recently and he mentioned gaining new understanding about a concept communicated by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount text from Matthew 5:5 – **“blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”**

The insight that this person had gained from a previous pastor (in my hearing his explanation) was that the word **‘meek’** communicated in the Greek inferred an inner strength that doesn’t come out as strongly in the translation. A young man might not want to be called meek, but Jesus is saying that if one was meek (the way he saw it) it would mean that he’d be strong enough to follow his faith, even if it is different from what the world seems to value. I understand this.

Over the years, I’ve discovered that I am not good at being someone’s doormat. Nor do I enjoy being one. That old Nike ad that said, **“Just Do It”** does not fit my personality at all. I was the kid who was always asking, “Why do I have to do it this way?” “How come I need to do this and so and so isn’t?” It could pertain to chores in the house or a way to do math problems in school or even learning to drive a car.

I remember my brother watching me get into yet ANOTHER argument with a parent and him saying to me, “Will you just DO what you’re being asked to do? It will save you so much trouble.” And I’d discard his advice, deviate from the plan or grouse about it, and inevitably end up losing a privilege or with a bar of soap in my mouth from one of my sarcastic and witty replies.

But back in the late 80s when I traveled with our denominational music group Covenant Heartsong, we were studying Philippians and the words from Philippians 1 and 2 convicted me of this selfish mindset. In Philippians 1:27, Paul wrote to this church, stating in his letter, **“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one for the faith of the gospel, without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.”**

We were a ministry team of eight, traveling to churches weekly, being not only singers, musicians, and actors, but role models for kids and adults alike. We were ambassadors of Jesus –

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UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS

June 2: Acts 1:1-11
June 9: Acts 16:16-34
June 16: Genesis 11:1-9
June 23: Guest Preacher Jill Craig
June 30: Psalm 16 & 77



A WORD...(CONTINUED)



and if I were going to aspire to such a role – I needed to know what Jesus wanted us to be like. So I read further and discovered what he meant in Philippians 2:4-8:

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, being in the very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross.”

By being THAT model for us, we’re told later in Philippians 2 that God exalted him to the highest place, giving him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow (in heaven, on earth, and under the earth) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

It’s not quite ***“the meek shall inherit the earth,”*** but it’s pretty similar.

As I look at the Philippians 2 passage about Jesus three decades from when God enlightened me about His son, a few questions come to mind:

1. How do we show strong leadership as Christ followers while modeling the kind of meekness that helps us influence a ‘me-first’ generation?
2. What might we need to ‘lose’ of our agenda in order to win a few more souls?
3. When is it okay to assert ourselves as we affect our world and when is a more understated or humble mindset necessary as we engage with our community?

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig

Welcome Home Jill

On June 23rd, we are privileged to have Wakefield Evangelical Covenant Church pastor Jill Craig as our guest preacher. Jill grew up at this church and is the daughter of Herb and Sue Hanson. She and husband Blake have three children (Zoe, Henry and William). They’ve been in Wakefield since September 2017, after doing youth ministry at Prairie Hills Covenant Church in Sioux Falls, SD. Her current church has been a supporting congregation for a new church plant in nearby Wayne, NE.

HELP NEEDED BOARD:

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.



CHURCH FAMILY



Gracelyn Everingham	June 2	Delores Nielsen	June 16
Daphne Mentink	June 5	Harper Jones	June 17
Linda Johnson	June 7	Gabe Nuttelman	June 19
Jena Mentink	June 9	Cindi Purdue	June 23
Jeannie Ahlquist	June 10	Jim Younglund	June 25
Bob Greenwall	June 15	Isaac Noyd	June 28

Jay & Vicki Platt
Phil & Linda Pelc
Ken & Pat Everingham

June 1
June 9
June 24



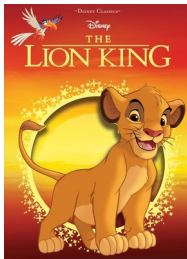
DATES TO REMEMBER IN JUNE



Sunday, June 9, 2019 **BURGER BASH for AFRICA**
Fundraiser for Taylor Ostrom who is raising money to go on a mission trip to Tanzania in July. Right after church! (see page 4 for details)

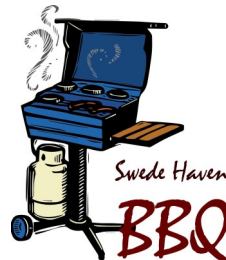
Weekend of June 14-16, 2019 **Swedish Festival**
We will have a booth in the park on Saturday, handing out free bottles of water. We will also have a superhero themed "float" in the parade and will be tossing out candy. If you are interested in helping with either one talk to Pastor Mary, Julia Schram, or Julie Hennessy.

Sunday, June 16, 2019 **Father's Day**



Friday, June 28, 2019 **Sundown Cinema**
8:00 p.m. in the church backyard. We will be featuring the animated classic: "The Lion King." Free popcorn and lemonade. Bring your friends, family and neighbors.

Saturday, June 29, 2019 **Swede Haven BBQ**
5:00 p.m. at the Swede Haven apartments. The Outreach Team is hosting. We will be providing hotdogs, chips and cookies or bars. Watch for sign up sheets!



JUNE MINISTRY PARTNERS:

Sunday, June 2

Nursery: Julie & Maddie Hennessy
Greeters: Bob & Cindy Orsborn
Coffee Time: Kent & Cheryl Erickson
Scripture: Mary Pinley

Sunday, June 9

Nursery: Shayla & Korah Hier
Greeters: Ken & Pat Everingham
Coffee Time: BURGER BASH for Africa
Scripture: Eleanor Greenwall

Sunday, June 16

Nursery: Mary Wadell & Ellie Pinley
Greeters: Marv & Mary Wadell
Coffee Time: The Hier Family
Scripture: Jan Randell

Thursday, June 20

Rescue Mission Meal:
Eleanor Greenwall, Jan Randell, Joliene Anderson

Sunday, June 23

Nursery: Shayla & Korah Hier
Greeters: Mark & Judy Hanson
Coffee Time: Ken & Pat Everingham
Scripture: Dennis Nuttelman

Sunday, June 30

Nursery: Julia & Lorelei Schram
Greeters: Eric & Emily Everingham
Coffee Time: TBD
Scripture: Dianne Nielsen

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW:

Taylor Ostrom Mission Trip Update: Taylor will be going to *Tanzania, Africa* for two weeks in July. She will be serving with CRU in several orphanages. On Sunday, June 9, Taylor will be sharing an update about her trip and fundraising during the worship service. If you want to know more her letter is on the back bulletin board in the fellowship hall. If you would like to donate to her trip please make checks out to "Vision Trust" and send to Taylor Ostrom at 1416 123rd Rd, Stromsburg. There is also an online payment option. She is also selling t-shirts if you are interested in supporting her that way. If you are interested call Taylor at 402-764-0870.



BURGER BASH for AFRICA: After the service on June 9, we will have a hamburger fundraiser to help raise the remainder of Taylor's support. We will need people to sign up to bring cookie bars. There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall if you would like to contribute in this way. All of the churches in the area will be invited to come and support this ministry opportunity.

A HUGE Thank You to all who helped with VBS ROAR! We combined efforts with the Methodist and Lutheran churches again and had a great turnout for VBS—36 kids participated and a whole bunch of adults and older students helped. The kids raised \$519 for the Rescue Mission in York! It was an awesome week of learning about how GOOD God is!



Coming Up! Lincoln Salt Dogs Game: We have purchased 20 Salt Dogs tickets for July 9, 2019, at 7:05 pm. 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!

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

2019 Budget Summary (1/1/2019 through 4/30/2019)

Income: \$30,398.00
Budget: \$42,514.67
Difference: (\$12,116.67)
Budgeted Expenses: \$42,540.87
Actual Expenses: \$38,402.47
Difference: \$ 4,138.40

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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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



JUNE 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10 am Worship Team Practice
2 9:30 am Worship Team 10:30 am Worship Service with Communion 11:45 am Fellowship Time	3	4 7:00 pm Prayer at Randell Home	5 7:30 pm Community Choir practice at Salem Lutheran 	6	7	8 10 am Worship Team Practice
9 9:30 am Worship Team 10:30 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Burger Bash for Africa 	10	11 7:00 pm Prayer at Randell Home	12 7:30 pm Community Choir practice at Salem Lutheran 	13	14	15 Swedish Festival 
16 9:30 am Worship Team 10:30 am Worship Service 11:45 am Fellowship Time 		18 7:00 pm Prayer at Randell Home	19 7:30 pm Worship Team practice	20 5:30 pm Living Water Rescue Mission Meal 	21	22
23 9:30 am Worship Team 10:30 am Worship Service 11:45 am Fellowship Time	24 	25 7:00 pm Prayer at Randell Home	26 7:30 pm Worship Team practice	27	28 8:00 pm Sundown Cinema 	29 5:30 pm Swede Haven BBQ 
30 9:30 am Worship Team 10:30 am Worship Service 11:45 am Fellowship Time						