

Stromsburg Cov News

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June 2021

Thoughts on Life & Baseball



Most of you know I'm an assistant coach for SOS (Shelby, Osceola, Stromsburg) baseball again this year. I love baseball and I love coaching kids. In the past few weeks we've had multiple double headers so needless to say the game has been forefront in my mind lately. But more than that, it offers a good analogy of my life.

It's the ninth inning of my life. I've been out on the mound for what seems like forever, throwing pitch after pitch, straining to keep the many base runners from scoring against my life of sin. If it's not the errors in concentration that led to bases-on-balls, it's the utter failures of character that were the home runs that left the field, or those times of anger that led me to hit the batter with a pitch (*80 miles per hour, right in the back, very painful, and at times I laughed inside as I thought of revenge*).

But there were good moments too. I struck out my share of hitters as the talents God had given me had allowed me to be successful in my areas of expertise. Or, on those many occasions when my efforts really weren't enough, God intervened, giving me teammates along the way that helped me turn double plays that got me out of some of the bad innings of my life.

At various junctures, I didn't think I'd last very long. The early innings were tough sometimes as I learned how to figure out the strike zone of life. How ready I was to throw my glove at my teammates and yell at them for not matching my intensity. Then there was that rocky fourth inning in California when it didn't seem like I could do anything right. Or a few innings later, I lost my mind (*it seemed*) and I couldn't find my bearings and it took a well-chosen visit from my godly coach to settle me down and tell me things would be okay; and then just as it appeared my game would end, my opponent hit one right at the second baseman and I was able to get back to the dugout, take a breath, and regroup.

I've loved playing this game. I've enjoyed the competition, I've usually enjoyed my teammates and I've even enjoyed *getting ready* for the big games. I've

always been a voracious reader, so learning about how to play the game was sometimes almost as fun as playing it. And, for the most part, practice has been fun; I know for many who play, practice might be only described as a necessary evil that gets them to the fun part, the actual games. But practice allows you to try some new things, to tweak your game a little, and when you put enough hours in with a good group of teammates you gain added respect for their part on your team.

But now that game is about over for me and I'm not sure I can get that last out. But I don't have to—as my coach comes to take the ball from me, he gives me a pat on the back, tells me I've done a good job and tells me to wait for the closer, the one who will finish the game and guarantee us the win. He runs in from the bullpen, full of confidence, determination on his face. I know this guy has paid the price to do His job. He's got the scars to prove it. And I know he's not afraid of anything, even death. As I leave the mound and head for the dugout, the crowd gives me a standing ovation because they know I've given my best. And as my teammates congratulate me, I turn and watch the closer do what he said he would do all along. Jesus has been there for as long as I can remember him and he's been a trusted teammate since junior high. At the end of the day, I know he'd be there for me and he has been.

This may not represent how your game of life has played out, but whatever analogy you use, please trust that the guy who is my ultimate closer is your ultimate Savior. Enjoy the summer, play the game right, and don't forget where the home field is, okay?

With baseball, church and God on my mind,

Pastor Craig

P.S. No, I'm not suggesting I'm in the ninth inning of my life yet. And if you all keep on being nice to me, I'm sure it'll help keep me from feeling that way. ☺

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Strengthen Faith, Cultivate Community, Care for Neighbors



June Dates to Remember



June is our Meals on Wheels month! If you are interested in delivering meals this month please talk to Marv Wadell who is arranging the deliveries.

Community Choir: If you are interested in singing in the community choir for the Swedish Festival the practices are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at Salem Lutheran church.



Sunday, June 13, 2021

6:30 pm Lead Team Meeting



Thursday, June 17, 2021

5:30 pm Rescue Mission Meal

Friday, June 18—Sunday, June 20, 2021

Swedish Festival

(Watch for our float during the parade!)



Sunday, June 20, 2021



Friday, June 25, 2021

7:00 pm Sundown Cinema

Gracelyn Everingham	June 2
Daphne Mentink	June 5
Linda Johnson	June 7
Jena Mentink	June 9
Jeannie Ahlquist	June 10
Bob Greenwall	June 15
Delores Nielsen	June 16
Cindi Perdue	June 23
Jim Younglund	June 25
Isaac Noyd	June 28



Jay & Vicki Platt	June 1
Phil & Linda Pelc	June 9
Ken & Pat Everingham	June 24



We had a fantastic week at VBS the last week of May. **Thank you** to everyone who came out and loved on kids. The Lutheran church hosted this year and we had 40 kids signed up between the Lutheran church, the Methodist church and our church. We had lots of help from many different age groups. Thank you so very much! **You Are Treasured!**



Financial Update:

2021 Budget Summary (1/1/21 through 4/30/21)

Needed Income: \$ 47,992.66
Actual Income: \$ 52,707.16
Difference: \$ 4,714.50

Budgeted Exp: \$ 47,992.66
Actual Exp: \$ 41,643.83
Under Budget: \$ 6,348.83



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

www.stromsburgcov.org and click on ONLINE GIVING.



Sunday, June 6, 2021

Coffee:

Greeters: Mark & Judy Hanson

Scripture: Jeannie Ahlquist

Worship Team: Ryan Cooper, Craig & Mary Pinley, Dennis & Connie Nuttelman

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, James Hennessy

Sunday, June 13, 2021

Coffee:

Greeters: Marv & Mary Wadell

Scripture: Bob Orsborn

Worship Team: Ryan Cooper, Craig & Mary Pinley

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Rescue Mission Meal: TBD

Sunday, June 20, 2021—Father's Day

Coffee:

Greeters: Jan Randell & Dale Fike

Scripture: Mary Wadell

Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Craig & Mary Pinley, Dianne Nielsen

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy; James Hennessy

Sunday, June 27, 2021

Coffee:

Greeters: Bob & Eleanor Greenwall

Scripture: Dianne Nielsen

Worship Team: Ryan Cooper, Craig & Mary Pinley, Neeli Noyd

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Swedish Festival:

The Outreach team will be handing out cold bottles of water at the Swedish Festival on Saturday, June 19, 2021. They are also putting together a float for the parade to represent our church. They are in need of small fun size individual bags of plain M&M's. If you would like to sign up to donate these there is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. There is also a sign-up online at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054BADA92EA1F58-swedish>



Scholarships:

The scholarship committee has awarded college scholarships to both of our graduates this year: Isaac Noyd and James Hennessy. Congratulations Isaac and James!



Ministry Team Leaders:

Lead Team:

Dennis Nuttelman
402-366-9803

Christian Formation:

Judy Hanson
402-764-6681

Worship Ministry Team:

Neeli Noyd
402-363-3082

Outreach:

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

Fellowship & Hospitality:

Pat Everingham
402-764-0345














Properties:

Kent Erickson
402-765-6721

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.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Meals on Wheels month	1 Meals on Wheels month	2 7:00 pm Community Choir Practice (Salem Lutheran) 	3 7:00 pm Community Choir Practice (Salem Lutheran)	4 National Donut Day 	5 National Donut Day 	6 National Donut Day 
6 9:15 Worship Practice 10:30 Worship with Communion 11:45 Fellowship	7	8	9 7:00 pm Community Choir Practice (Salem Lutheran)	10	11 12 9:30 am Float Preparation at Erickson's 	12 9:30 am Float Preparation at Erickson's 
13 9:15 Worship Practice 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Fellowship 6:30 Lead Team Mtg	14	15	16 7:00 pm Community Choir Practice (Salem Lutheran)	17 5:30 pm Rescue Mission Meal 	18  Swedish Festival	19  Swedish Festival
20  Happy Father's Day!	21	22	23	24	25 Sundown Cinema 7:00 pm 	26 Sundown Cinema 7:00 pm 
27 9:15 Worship Practice 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Fellowship	28	29	30			