

Evangelical Covenant Church
Of Stromsburg, NE

March 2019
Volume 1, Issue 2

Stromsburg Cov News

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

The food was great, the conversation was lively, the game was... inconsequential to the good vibe in the Pinley place.

It was a superb Super Bowl party that culminated a busy first month of ministry as pastors in Stromsburg, NE. More than two dozen came to the parsonage to enjoy football, fellowship, and food (not necessarily in that order) and it was an enjoyable four hours together. Kyle Mentick's funny dog stories in the kitchen; discussion about all sorts of topics downstairs in the Manly Man basement; getting to know a few others while watching the TV upstairs in the living room. Football trinkets procured by a few parishioners, full stomachs from the good 'snackage,' and one little boy ecstatic his favorite team won again.

The Lord Jesus, on the night he shared one last meal with his disciples before being crucified, prayed this prayer (John 16:11) to his father, **"I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, so that they may be one as we are one."**

Our Super Bowl party reminded me that we will be better as a congregation by being together...in fellowship, in worship, in servanthood, in prayer, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Activities like this are informal ways to foster that kind of environment, but we hope that a formal ministry process could be even more effective.

In the coming weeks, we will aim to coordinate a Shepherding team made up of a group of individuals that would oversee a handful of family units, keeping touch with them each month, providing them with updates on what is going on in our congregation, and praying for them.

If there's a crisis within each shepherd's 'flock,' they would keep aware of needs the pastor(s) might want to be aware of. And they would keep

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UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS

Mar. 3	Luke 6:46-49
	The House on the Rock
Mar. 10	Luke 9:28-43
	Transfiguration Moments and the Reality of Ministry
Mar. 17	Luke 11:1-13
	Prayer and Persistence
Mar. 24	Luke 14
	Pharisees and Parables
Mar. 31	Luke 15:1-32
	The Prodigal Son



A WORD...(CONTINUED)

leadership informed of issues needing attention, though the shepherds themselves don't necessarily have to be on a leadership team.

During a leadership retreat on February 16th, we introduced the idea to those in attendance and it seemed like people discerned a need for such a ministry. On March 17th, during our scheduled 'talk back' session after church, we will have the opportunity to answer any questions about what it would mean to have a Shepherding team ministry. We also hope to answer any other questions you may have about things and to fill you in on some upcoming activities surrounding the Lenten season.

One Lenten item to note next week: a 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship service on March 6th that will have a more interactive feel to it. If it feels a bit later than the norm, it's to allow us to have our regular Confirmation session, which goes from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

In Christ,

Pastor Craig



Tucker Platt, who is at nearby Concordia University, finished eighth overall with a 15-foot-1 inch pole vault at his recent conference meet.

Alex Noyd recently won his weight division in a middle school/junior high wrestling meet in Yutan. Earlier this winter he'd competed for his school's basketball team. Another middle schooler, **Korah Hier**, recently competed in a dance competition in Omaha outside of the school realm.

Isaac Noyd played point guard for the varsity basketball squad. **Jacob Nielsen** competed for the Cougars at the JV level. **Austyn Ostrom** played for the girls team. **Johanna Nielsen** headed the JV team as a girls hoops coach while assisting the varsity.

In other extracurricular activities at the high school, **Kohen Hier** is a member of Cross County High's state-ranked robotics program. **Brittani Platt** recently competed in a state choir competition, one of many things she's involved in along with being senior class president.

Jena Mentick is the coach of the David City High School debate team, which is in the midst of conference and district events occurring in the coming weeks.

Neeli Noyd was honored for her real estate prowess at an event held by the company that she works under last month.

Please keep us posted on people and activities they're part of as we occasionally provide "News from the Pews" updates.

CHURCH FAMILY



Brett Orsborn	Mar 9	Asher Greenwall	Mar 17
Elias Greenwall	Mar 10	Peggy Lovgren	Mar 17
Jeanette Ostrom	Mar 10	Kathy Nelson	Mar 17
Jodi Johnson	Mar 12	Trey Willhoft	Mar 18
Miranda Martin	Mar 12	Lanny Nielsen	Mar 24
Greg Nuttelman	Mar 14	Emry Orsborn	Mar 25
David Schram	Mar 14	Wendy Ziemba	Mar 30

Doug & Cindi Perdue	March 5
Lanny & Dianne Nielsen	March 10
Mark & Judy Hanson	March 16



DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH

Wednesday, Mar 6	Ash Wednesday Service Interactive worship service to begin Lent	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Mar 17	Talk Back Sunday Potluck and Ministry Fair Come hear about what's going on at Stromsburg ECC and find out how you can plug into ministry.	11:45 a.m.
Sunday, Mar 24	Lenten Series—Part I There will be four weeks of Sunday evening studies focusing on Lent. Watch for details in your bulletins.	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Mar 31	Lenten Series—Part II	6:00 p.m.



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

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW:

Coffee! Support our youth ministries! Guatemalan coffee roasted by Top of the Lake Coffee Roasters is on sale for \$14. See Dianne Nielsen if you are interested.



Ministry Teams! We would like to see every active member on a ministry team. What are your gifts? See below for a list of ministry teams. Where is your heart? There are Gifts, Skills and Interest Surveys on the table in the foyer. Please fill one out and turn it in to the office. We will be sharing more about ministry teams on March 17.



Taylor Ostrom, one of our college students, is seeking prayer and financial support as she plans on being part of a mission team headed to Tanzania this July. Taylor, a freshman at Wayne College, is part of an on-campus ministry called CRU (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ). She had felt called to seek a mission ministry opportunity ever since attending our denomination's high school conference (CHIC) last summer in Tennessee.

On February 17th, Taylor spoke about her upcoming trip at the end of our worship service. The cost of the trip will be around \$4,500. While our church's mission ministry arm will pursue ways to help Taylor, she will also send out support/prayer letters to local families and others in our church community. If you are interested in hearing more and/or supporting Taylor please contact her at 402-764-0870 or talk to Julia Schram from the Outreach team.



Pancake Feed—Fundraiser for Andrew Church (*Charles Noyd's nephew*)

To purchase a special wheelchair, accessorize an accessible van and defray medical costs. On Saturday, Mar 16, 5-7 pm at the Viking Center in Stromsburg. Sponsored by Local Modern Woodmen of America.

Contact: Luana Pogue 402-764-7641 for more info.

40th Anniversary Celebration for Mark & Judy Hanson, Sunday, March 31, from 2:00—5:00 pm at the Benedict Community Center. Mark & Judy want to extend an invitation to all of the church family. Please come and celebrate with them. There will be great food, fun and fellowship! (and a little square dancing for the brave at heart!)



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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



March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Confirmation 6:00 pm Interactive Worship Service 7:30 pm 	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Confirmation 6:00 pm	14	15	16 Pancake Fundraiser for Andrew Church 7-9 
17 Talk Back Potluck & Ministry Fair 	18	19	20 Confirmation 6:00 pm	21 Living Water Mission Meal— 5:30 	22	23
24 Lenten Series Part I 6:00 pm 	25	26	27 Confirmation 6:00 pm	28	29	30
31 Mark & Judy Hanson Anni- versary 2-5 Lenten Series Part II 6:00 pm  						