

Stromsburg Cove News

Evangelical Covenant
Church of Stromsburg, NE

March 2020
Volume 2, Issue 3

A Word From the Pastor

A few months ago, Mary and I attended “**Jesus Christ, Superstar**,” a Broadway musical held in Omaha. The music was wonderful and the actors did a great job as well, but the drama ends before it’s supposed to end – that is, you are privy to the impending death of Jesus but not to the resurrection. But it also focuses upon the guilt of the disciple Judas Iscariot, as he has betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Judas sees his role as an inevitable one; he was ‘picked’ to be the betrayer and it’s clear that he’s asking himself, “How could Jesus ever forgive me for this?” And we know that before Jesus is killed, Judas hangs himself.

Juxtapose this story with that of another criminal, Barabbas, who is the man released by Pontius Pilate, per the annual custom of releasing a prisoner during that period. Pilate has Jesus in jail, knowing full well that he’s done no wrong as far as he could assess. But the crowd’s outcry to crucify the Lord and release the criminal is so great that Pilate caves. Of course, we know that Jesus HAS to die, as prophesied, but what of Barabbas? How does he feel about all of this?

Twenty years ago in Knoxville, TN, at the denominational high school conference we now call UNITE, an actor named Curt Cloninger got on stage at Thompson-Boling Arena and portrayed Barabbas and his role in the passion story. He asked out loud, “Why would Jesus do the things he did and accept a sentencing of death? What was it that made me so fortunate to receive freedom when imprisonment and crucifixion should’ve been my lot? What would life ‘on the outside’ be like having been given this second chance?”

Truth be told, I’ve felt like both of these people at one time or another – the Judas Iscariot type who may have just happened into sin because it was inevitable; I’m a sinner, it’s what I do. But wondering if – had I come up with the courage – I could ask for forgiveness from Jesus and actually believe I’d get it? And I’ve thought like Barabbas with a second chance given to me for no apparent reason. Would I make my life more worthwhile than the previous existence I’d lived up until this miraculous act of good fortune from one who could end my life?

Have I murdered anyone? No, but I’ve killed a few reputations. Have I fought in riots and caused problems by my civil disobedience? No, but I’ve sided with folks every bit as violent and hateful (at least in their minds). Maybe I’m more like Peter, someone who’s denied Christ a few times and needing Him to re-engage me and offer me (three times) the opportunity to affirm my love and to accept the grace-filled opportunity to serve Him again. While we have no idea what kind of person Barabbas becomes after being freed, we DO know that Peter becomes the follower of Christ he truly desired to be, one who’s aware (I Cor. 15:10) that “by the grace of God I am who I am, and it was not in vain... though it was not I but the grace of God within me.”

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UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS

Route 81 Series Continued:

Mar 1: Part 7: Haggai

“*Know Your Priorities*”

Mar 8: Part 8: Malachi

“*Know the Consequences*”

Mar 15: Part 9: John the Baptist

“*Know Who Lights the Way*”

Mar 22: Psalm 43

Mar 29: John 11:47-53

Apr 5 (Palm Sunday):

Matthew 21:1-11

April 12 (Easter Sunday):

John 20:1-18

Strengthen Faith, Cultivate Community, Care for Neighbors



A WORD...(CONTINUED)

We're just starting Lent, so perhaps it'll be a good practice for us to delve deeply into the final weeks of the Lord's earthly life. Maybe the challenge is to examine the characters that make up this riveting story. Who are you in it? Who would you like to be? And, most of all, can we ask what one songwriter did as he penned the words, "Amazing Love, how can it be, that you my God would die for me?"

With hope in Christ and Him Alone,

Pastor Craig

SUNDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERIES:

Video Series from John Ortberg's "Who Is This Man?" (5 sessions in 4 weeks)

- March 15: 'The Man Who Won't Go Away' and 'A Revolution of Humanity'
- March 22: 'The Power of Forgiveness'
- March 29: 'Why It's a Small World After All'
- April 5: 'Three Days That Changed the World'



MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, March 8: Set your clocks ahead one hour so you make it to church on time!



Talk Back Sunday.

Sunday, March 15: Pizza Feed with Covenant Cedars Camp Representatives and Talk Back Sunday after worship.



6:00 pm Lenten Video Series begins—parts 1 & 2

Thursday, March 19: 5:30 pm Rescue Mission Meal

Sunday, March 22: 6:00 pm Lenten Video Series—Part 3



Sunday, March 29: 12–3 pm Mission Trip Training with Esau and Heather de Vega from Merge Ministries

6:00 pm Lenten Video Series—Part 4



MARCH IS OUR MEALS ON WHEELS MONTH! If you would like to

volunteer please talk to Marv Wadell.



Doug & Cindi Perdue
Mar 5

Lanny & Dianne Nielsen
Mar 10

Mark & Judy Hanson
Mar 16



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



MARCH MINISTRY PARTNERS

Sunday Mornings:

Mar 1

Nursery: _____
 Greeters: Dale & Julie Hennessy
 Coffee Time: Nuttelmans
 Scripture: Jeannie Ahlquist
 Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Pinleys
 Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, James Hennessy

Mar 8

Nursery: _____
 Greeters: Bob & Cindy Orsborn
 Coffee Time: Hier Family
 Scripture: Pat Everingham
 Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Dennis & Connie Nuttelman, Pinleys
 Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Mar 15

Nursery: Shayla and Korah Hier
 Greeters: Jerry & Lori Rystrom
 Coffee Time: _____
 Scripture: Eleanor Greenwall
 Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Craig Pinley, Dianne Nielsen, Neeli Noyd
 Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, James Hennessy

Mar 22

Nursery: _____
 Greeters: Ken & Pat Everingham
 Coffee Time: Rystroms
 Scripture: Mary Wadell
 Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Pinleys
 Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Mar 29

Nursery: _____
 Greeters: Gaylen & Jeannie Ahlquist
 Coffee Time: Johanna Nielsen
 Scripture: Dianne Nielsen
 Worship Team: Sue Rosenbaum, Neeli Noyd, Pinleys
 Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, James Hennessy

Rescue Mission Meal—Thursday, Mar 19

Lori Rystrom

Wednesday Nights Kids' Club:

Mar 5

Craft: Shayla & Korah Hier
 Games: Shayla & Korah Hier
 Story: Pastor Craig
 Meal: Julie Hennessy & Mary Pinley

Mar 12

Craft: Shayla & Korah Hier
 Games: Dave & Lorelei Schram
 Story: Pastor Craig
 Meal: Pat Everingham

Mar 19

Craft: Shayla & Korah Hier
 Games: _____
 Story: Pastor Craig
 Meal: Sara Noble

Mar 26

Craft: _____
 Games: _____
 Story: Pastor Craig
 Meal: Emily Everingham

We appreciate all of our volunteers. Ministry could not happen without you. If you see an empty spot—sign up!

NEWS FROM THE PEWS:



Mission Trip Rummage Sale Fundraiser: The mission team will be raising funds for their mission trip to Louisville, KY August 1-8. One of the ways is with a rummage sale here at the church on June 26-27, 2020. Please start saving your unwanted items now if you'd like to donate them to the sale.

The team will also be holding bake sales on the square on the First Fridays in June and July.

Congratulations to Mark and Judy Hanson on the birth of their new grandson, Benjamin Caleb Huffman. Benjamin was 9 lbs 4 oz and 20 1/2 inches long and he was born on February 13, 2020 in Reston, VA.



Summer Camp Registrations: Registration forms for Summer Camp are here. The early bird deadline to register is April 1, 2020. The forms are on the bulletin board across from the coat racks in the hallway. The dates for camp are as follows:

Pathfinder (1st-2nd grade)	June 20-21, 2020
Trailblazer (3rd-4th grade)	June 28-July 1, 2020
Explorer (5th-6th grade)	June 21-26, 2020
Junior High (7th-8th grade)	July 5-July 10, 2020
Senior High (9th-12th grade)	July 12-July 17, 2020
Last chance (3rd-12th grade)	August 2-August 4, 2020

(If you have any News from the Pews you would like to contribute to next month's newsletter please submit your information to Pastor Mary by March 25th)

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

2019 Budget Summary (1/1/2020 through 1/31/2020)

Income:	\$ 6,060.00
Budget:	\$ 10,731.00
Difference:	(\$ 4,671.00)
Budgeted Exp:	\$10,731.00
Actual Exp:	\$ 7,431.95
Difference:	(\$ 1,371.95)

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.

Evangelical Covenant Church
103 East 6th Street
Stromsburg, NE 68666
402-764-5401
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www.stromsburgcov.org

Pastor Craig
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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:

Christian Formation:

Johanna Nielsen
402-764-0086






Outreach:

Properties:
Kent Erickson
402-765-6721



MARCH

2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:45 Worship Team 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship with Communion 11:45 Fellowship</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 pm BSF</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9 am Mom's in Prayer 10 am Ladies' Coffee 6 pm Kids' Club</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 am BSF (Free church)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>8:45 Worship Team 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship 6:00 Lead Team Meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 pm BSF</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9 am Mom's in Prayer 10 am Ladies' Coffee 6 pm Kids' Club</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 am BSF (Free church)</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:45 Worship Team 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:45 Pizza Feed & Talk Back 6:00 Lenten Series</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 pm BSF</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>9 am Mom's in Prayer 10 am Ladies' Coffee 6 pm Kids' Club</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 am BSF (Free church) 5:30 pm Rescue Mission Meal</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:45 Worship Team 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship 6:00 Lenten Series</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 pm BSF</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9 am Mom's in Prayer 10 am Ladies' Coffee 6 pm Kids' Club</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 am BSF (Free church)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:45 Worship Team 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship 12-3 Mission Training 6:00 Lenten Series</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30 pm BSF</p>		