

Evangelical Covenant Church
Of Stromsburg, NE

May 2019
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Stromsburg Cov News

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

May is my favorite month! It always has been, maybe because I was born in May. I love Spring and I love the flowers that Spring brings. I love planting flowers in May. Every Mothers' day I look forward to planting my annuals. But I'm not the greatest gardener. I recently told the ladies at coffee that I want easy maintenance that looks great. Unfortunately, that's not usually how it turns out. I start out strong and then I peter out in my enthusiasm. In the middle of July and August my petunias start looking puny and my geraniums have obviously seen better, and more cared for, days.

It seems like that's the way it often is when we start something new. We have every intention of following through with it but the novelty wears off and our attention drifts to other, newer things. Sometimes our spiritual life is like that too.

You know, those mountain top experiences we have like a retreat, or camp, where we get closer to God, we determine to keep up with our devotions every day, or we are convicted to give up unhealthy habits? We come back so refreshed and eager to cultivate new spiritual habits. It lasts for a few weeks and then life seems to get in the way. You know...family needs, housekeeping (whatever that is), work, bills, responsibilities. And the enthusiasm to keep those resolutions wanes because of all of life that happens. And then things like worry and stress tend to take over our outlook.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 says *"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."*

When we trust in the Lord and put our confidence completely in Him we will be like trees, deeply rooted in Him. Then those times of drought won't cause worry and stress. Kelly Balarie, in an article on Crosswalk.com, writes: "We can steer clear of fear, stay green when life gets mean, not have bouts of doubt in the drought and share the spirit rather than throw a fit? Now, I am listening."

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UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS

May 5: Luke 24:36-49
May 12: Acts 9:36-43
May 19: Joshua 24:1-18
May 26: John 24:23-29



Strengthen Faith, Cultivate Community, Care for Neighbors

A WORD. . .(CONTINUED)

Paul writes in Eph 3:17-19 “And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

I love how Kelly puts this: “When we deeply plant roots into the love of Christ, we become standing trees who raise our branches in continual worship. We suck in the living water of Jesus Christ and are renewed with his life-giving nutrients, embraced by his creation and stand tall in adoration and appreciation.”

We derive our strength from being deeply rooted into the heart of Christ. We deeply root ourselves by disciplining ourselves to pray and study God’s word. Very few things worth doing or having in this life come easy, including a deep relationship with Christ, or anyone else for that matter. What relationship that is worth having is always easy?

But the relationship we have with Jesus, the one that gives us strength and helps us stand tall and strong, is planted and grown in the soil of God’s word, his love, and his promises. His LOVE! To KNOW that this LOVE surpasses knowledge—that we may be FILLED to the measure of all the fullness of God.

If we seek God we will find Him in any circumstance we find ourselves in. Proverbs 8:17 says “*I (God) love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.*”

So as we plant and cultivate our annuals this year, take some time to spend time with our heavenly Father, thanking Him for the beauty of His creation as well as allowing His Word to take deeper root in our hearts, so that when the storms of life come, we will be standing firm, ready to continue worshipping and serving through all that life tosses at us.

Blessings,

Pastor Mary



“Deep roots, forged down, grip the heart of Christ; this is where strength is derived. They extend needily into his sacrifice and hungrily into promises and God blesses that with renewal, replenishment and revival to the world. From dead and wanting, to fed and giving in the blink of an eye. From down and discouraged, to up and encouraged through the nails on the cross. From hopeless and ruined, to hopeful and 100 feet tall through roots that can't be touched by the world.” ~ Kelsie Balarie ~

CHURCH FAMILY



Marv Wadell	May 7	John Bowerman	May 22
Harry Imm	May 11	Stella Jones	May 24
Mary Pinley	May 13	Neeli Noyd	May 27
Debi Pliefke	May 20	Shayla Hier	May 31

Roy & Linda Richards	May 6
Charles & Neeli Noyd	May 10
Gaylen & Jeannie Ahlquist	May 31



DATES TO REMEMBER IN MAY

Sun, May 5—Get to Know Our Pastors Taco Bar! 6 pm at the church!



Fri, May 10—Baccalaureate Service—7 pm (at Cross County Schools)



Sun, May 12— Mothers' Day!



Wed, May 15—Mission Trip Meeting at 6:30 pm. Anyone interested in planning a mission trip for our church is welcome!



Thursday, May 16—Living Water Rescue Mission Meal—Shayla Hier, Julia Schram, Youth Group



Sunday, May 19—Confirmation and Graduation Sunday. We will be celebrating Kohen Hier's Confirmation and Brittani Platt's Graduation from High School.

Monday—Friday, May 20-24, 2019
VBS Here! M-F mornings!



Friday, May 31, 2019

Sundown Cinema—8 pm. Join us for an “Incredible” night under the stars! Free showing of **“The Incredibles II.”** Free popcorn and lemonade. Bring chairs, blankets and friends to the church backyard.



MAY MINISTRY PARTNERS:

Sunday, May 5

Nursery: Shayla & Korah Hier
Greeters: Bob & Eleanor Greenwall
Coffee Time: The Schram Family
Scripture: Marv Wadell

Sunday, May 12

Nursery: Julia & Lorelei Schram
Greeters: Dianne Nielsen
Coffee Time: TBD
Scripture: Bob Orsborn

Thursday, May 16

Rescue Mission Meal:
Shayla Hier, Julia Schram, Youth

Sunday, May 19

Nursery: TBD
Greeters: Dennis & Connie Nuttelman
Coffee Time: Confirmation & Graduation
Scripture: Jeannie Ahlquist

Sunday, May 26

Nursery: TBD
Greeters: Dave & Julia Schram
Coffee Time: Kyle & Jena Mentink
Scripture: Pat Everingham

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW:

Meals on Wheels: May is our church's month for delivering lunches to several people in our community. If you are interested in helping deliver meals please let Marv Wadell know. 402-764-7651



Vacation Bible School: Are you interested in helping with VBS this year? There will be a VBS meeting Thursday, May 2, at 4th Street Coffee House, at 4:15 pm. If you are unable to make that meeting but would enjoy ministering to children May 20-24 in the mornings, please contact Pastor Mary. 217-721-3846

Please continue to pray for and support Taylor Ostrom, one of our college students, as she plans on being part of a mission team headed to Tanzania this July. If you want to know more about this opportunity check out her letter on the bulletin board at the back of the fellowship hall. Or you can contact her at 402-764-0870 or talk to Julia Schram from the Outreach team.



FINANCIAL UPDATE:

We received this personal note from our conference superintendent, Tammy Swanson-Draheim, on our 2018 Mission Giving Partnership Statement from the conference:

"Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your generosity to our shared mission. We appreciate our strong partnership. It was such a pleasure to be with you celebrating Pastor Mary and Craig's installation. I look forward to this next season of fruitful ministry. We are so grateful for you! You remain in our prayers."
~Tammy

2019 Budget Summary (1/1/2019 through 3/31/2019)

Income: \$22,620.00
Budget: \$31,886.00
Difference: **(\$ 9,266.00)**
Budgeted Expenses: \$32,453.14
Actual Expenses: \$26,892.12
Difference: \$ 5,561.02

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.

Please watch for a letter regarding finances from Lead Team Chair Dave Schram coming to your mailbox soon.

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402-710-8858

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402-560-6759

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712-307-0476

Young Disciples:
Johanna Nielsen
402-764-0086

Outreach:
Julia Schram
402-710-9561












Properties:
Kent Erickson
402-765-6721





MAY

2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Wednesdays At Noon at 4th St Coffee</p> 		<p>1</p> <p>Confirmation—6 pm No Worship Team Practice</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Worship Team Meeting Lead Team Meeting</p>  <p>Taco Bar 6 pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Prayer at Randell Home—7 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Final Confirmation—6 pm Worship Team Practice—7:30</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>At Cross County Schools—7 pm</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Prayer at Randell Home—7 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 pm</p>  <p>MISSION TRIP MEETING</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Living Water Rescue Mission Meal: Hiers, Schrams, Hemessys, Youth Group</p>  <p>SERVING MEALS TO THE HOMELESS</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p>  <p>OUR GRADUATES</p> <p>Properties Team Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Prayer at Randell Home—7 pm</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
Vacation Bible School—at Stromsburg Covenant—a.m.						
		<p>28</p> <p>Prayer at Randell Home—7 pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Worship Team Practice—7:30</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>Sundown Cinema 8 pm</p> 	 <p>"The Incredibles II"</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Prayer at Randell Home—7 pm</p>	<p>Worship Team Practice—7:30</p>			