



Stromsburg Cov News

Volume 3, Issue 5

A Publication of Stromsburg Covenant Church, Stromsburg, NE

May 2021

Pastor Mary and I represented the Evangelical Covenant Church of Stromsburg as delegates to the 135th annual meeting of the Midwest Conference last Saturday as 121 delegates from 56 of the 100 churches or fellowship groups in the conference had a voice in the future business of our region's churches.

From a purely business standpoint, delegates approved the MWC's 2022 budget of \$740,181, up 3% from a year ago. One reason for the increase is the expected addition of a part-time staffer in the coming months to help with issues of church vitality. Another is the prioritization of \$51,500 for leadership development for laypersons and pastors in the conference. In the budget report, we were told that 90 of our 100 churches/fellowship groups gave consistently in 2021.

In her superintendent's report, Rev. Tammy Swanson-Draheim thanked churches and friends for the support given her during the four months following the passing of her husband Kelly on December 31st. Along with the support she's felt from so many, an encouragement to her has been the work of God in some goal-setting that had been done in 2017 for advocating more women leadership and more multi-ethnic churches. In 2017, a goal had been set to have 30 percent of congregations having leadership from women pastors; as of 2021, 24 percent of congregations have women leadership. In 2017, there were 11 multi-ethnic congregations and a goal was set to have 25 percent of our congregations being multi-ethnic (defined as having at least two people groups of at least 20 percent in a congregation). As of 2021, there are now 17 congregations in that aggregate, including nine Hispanic, a Sudanese and a Congolese congregation in that mix.

Growing and starting churches has certainly been a priority for the MWC in recent years and in our annual meeting, we recommended three congregations to be added to the Covenant membership (by approval at the June denominational annual meeting we now call "Gather.")). They include Imani Restoration Covenant of Aurora, CO; Renovate Covenant of Centennial, CO; and New Life Covenant of Wichita, KS. Imani is a transplant church with a Kenyan pastor, Renovate has a pastoral couple (Susan and Greg Russell) and New Life is led by pastor Chad Pickering. Two churches in the MWC also closed – the ECC of Centerville, IA (which was formed in 1880) and New Day Covenant of Boulder, CO.

While we acknowledged how Co-Vid-19 has altered how

we've done ministry in our conference churches, one especially hopeful story came from Kansas City, where Engage Church has become the first Post-Covid congregation in our midst. While in-person services are the norm, Engage has managed to gather online worship service participation from 90 households hailing from six different states. Part of the reasoning for exploring such a paradigm is the recent statistics stating that 80 percent of our country espouses an interest in Jesus, but may not want to attend an in-person worship service. Two questions posed in light of this reality by a leadership cohort (represented by 24 churches) trying to envision the future church were (1) Are we becoming more like Jesus; and (2) Is the church more than a worship service?

As leadership in our conference churches grapple with how to lead during this pandemic-influenced stage of life, our denominational leadership is trying to reconfigure itself too. We discussed an upcoming vote to change our current administration into a Strategic Alignment Team at our denominational meeting in June. Some information has already been made available to pastors about this, but at 7 p.m. (CDT) on May 24th, a Zoom meeting will be made available to pastors and leadership teams to get a better handle on what this team will look like/function. As pastors with long Covenant roots and a stint working at denominational headquarters two decades ago, this kind of shift brings a skepticism for us, particularly knowing that there may be no central 'hub' from which our churches can glean information or help. Currently, our key administrators for the ECC are spread out all over North America, our president living in Oregon, an executive minister for Start & Strengthen Churches in Colorado, others elsewhere. So getting a better understanding of how to keep in touch will be important to us.

Among the tasks of delegates was to vote for new leadership on our MWC executive board and the boards of three camps. Among those we approved for our conference executive board is Jill Craig, a child of the church now a pastor in Wakefield, NE. Among those approved for the Midwest Covenant Home board is our own Sue Rosenbaum. We also approved new board members for Covenant Cedars Camp in Hordville, NE and learned that a new executive director, R.J. Bacani, has been named and will start his position on May 1.

Current executive director Dan Burr (21 years in that role) will help in the transition for a time and filling staff in

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Strengthen Faith, Cultivate Community, Care for Neighbors



maintenance and registration (which had been the role of Dan's wife Becky) are among the early logistical points of interest, along with putting together a summer staff. Delegates also approved 10 candidates to be given final approval for ordination at the June annual denominational meeting – among them is longtime friend Lynn Black of Countryside Covenant of McPherson, KS.

For pastors, the news that upcoming fall pastor/spouse retreats are being planned as in-person events was met with relief. In our region, ours will be held November 2-4 in Ashland, NE at a retreat center. Next year's annual meeting will occur April 29-30, 2022 at Christ Community Covenant Church in Arvada, Colorado. As a FYI, Pastor Mary and I also were part of our annual conference Ministerium meeting last Saturday morning, which is necessary for us to keep credentialed in the denomination.

The Evangelical Covenant Church is a denomination that includes 897 congregations throughout North America within 11 conferences, with missionaries represented in 59 countries. Our president is John Wenrich. If you'd like more information about the ECC, check out our web site at www.covchurch.org.

Submitted by Pastor Craig (for Pastor Mary)

May Dates to Remember



Sunday, May 2, 2021

Graduate Recognition and Reception following the worship service (*read about our graduates on page 4*)

Thursday, May 6, 2021—National Day of Prayer

Breakfast at Viking Center—6:30 am
(see Jan Randell for a ticket—\$5)



Sunday, May 9, 2021

Happy Mothers' Day

Friday, May 14, 2021

Baccalaureate Service—7:00 pm at CCCS



Saturday, May 15, 2021

Commencement Exercises—2:00 pm at CCCS

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Lead Team Meeting—6:30 pm



Thursday, May 20, 2021

Rescue Mission Meal—5:30 pm

Monday—Friday, May 24—28, 2021

Vacation Bible School at Salem Lutheran Church
9:00—11:30 a.m.



Friday, May 28, 2021

Sundown Cinema—7:00 pm

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Ruth Hanson's 90th Birthday Celebration
right after worship



May Birthdays

Misty Noble	May 3
Marv Wadell	May 7
Harry Imm	May 11
Mary Pinley	May 13
John Bowerman	May 22
Neeli Noyd	May 27
Shayla Hier	May 31



May Anniversaries

Charles & Neeli Noyd	May 10
Gaylen & Jeannie Ahlquist	May 31

Financial Update:

2021 Budget Summary (1/1/21 through 3/31/21)

Needed Income: \$ 35,994.50
Actual Income: \$ 20,479.60
Difference: **(\$ 15,514.90)**

Budgeted Exp: \$ 35,994.50
Actual Exp: \$ 32,263.72
Under Budget: \$ 3,730.78



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

www.stromsburgcov.org and click on ONLINE GIVING.

Ministry Partners



Sunday, May 2, 2021

Coffee: Graduation Reception

Greeters: Dennis & Connie Nuttelman

Scripture: Judy Hanson

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

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Sunday, May 9, 2021—Mothers' Day

Coffee: TBD

Greeters: Gaylen & Jeannie Ahlquist

Scripture: Sue Rosenbaum

Worship Team: Craig & Mary Pinley, Sue Rosenbaum

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, James Hennessy

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Coffee: Linda Johnson

Greeters: Bob & Cindy Orsborn

Scripture: Pat Everingham

Worship Team: Craig & Mary Pinley, Sue Rosenbaum, Ryan Cooper

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Rescue Mission Meal: Connie Nuttelman & Julie Lamoree

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Coffee: TBD

Greeters: Jerry & Lori Rystrom

Scripture: Dennis Nuttelman

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

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, James Hennessy

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Coffee: TBD

Greeters: Doug & Linda Johnson

Scripture: Eleanor Greenwall

Worship Team: Craig & Mary Pinley, Neeli Noyd, Dianne Nielsen, Ryan Cooper, Sue Rosenbaum

Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Directory Updates:

Pastor Mary is working on updating our current directory. There are forms on the table in the foyer that we would like everyone to fill out to make sure we have complete information. The new online database we are using requires complete dates so please include complete dates for birthdays and anniversaries. This form has also been emailed out to everyone who has an email address. If you need us to mail you a form please call Pastor Mary at 217-721-3846. The new directory, when updated, will be available online and through a phone app as well as a printed directory. We hope to be able to keep up with church records better this way. Thank you for your cooperation in getting us the information needed.



Ministry Team Leaders:

Lead Team:

Dennis Nuttelman
402-366-9803

Worship Ministry Team:

Neeli Noyd
402-363-3082

Fellowship & Hospitality:

Pat Everingham
402-764-0345

Christian Formation:

Judy Hanson
402-764-6681

Outreach:

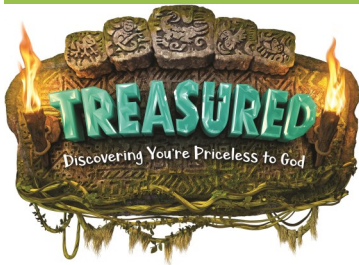
Julia Schram—402-710-9561
Shayla Hier—402-764-0261

Properties:

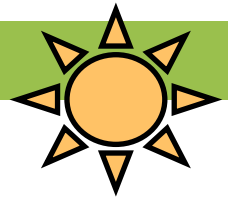
Kent Erickson
402-765-6721

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.





Vacation Bible School



When: May 24-28, 2021

Where: Salem Lutheran Church

What: An Awesome Week for kids & staff!

Ages: Kindergarten—6th Grade

Cost: Free (donations welcome)

Registration due May 2, 2021!

Please register your children online at vbspro.events/p/stromsburgvbs. We also need your help! If you would like to volunteer to help you can also register online at vbspro.events/p/stromsburgvbs.



Graduation Activities:

Sunday, May 2—Graduation Reception following morning worship.

Friday, May 14—Baccalaureate Service at Cross County Community Schools at 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 15—Commencement Exercises at Cross County Community Schools at 2:00 pm

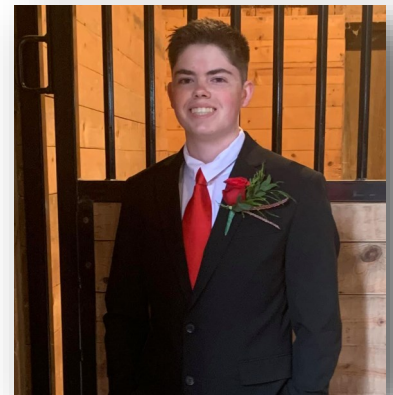
James Hennessy

James was born in Waverly Nebraska in 2003. We have lived in Stromsburg since 2005. He has loved helping his dad build since he was a small boy. Some of James' favorite things are Runza, pick-up trucks, and cats. James has been a blessing to our family with his generosity and strong work ethic.

He can be found remodeling a house or mowing the lawn for us in his spare time. James will be attending SCC in Milford in the fall studying Building Construction Technology where he will continue pursuing his passion. In the future James hopes to continue improving Stromsburg one house at a time.

(from Julie Hennessy)

The Hennessy family invites the church family to James' graduation open house on May 15, 2021 from 4:30—6:30 pm, at 617 Seminary Street, Stromsburg.



Isaac Noyd

Isaac plans on attending Northeast Community College for Business and Real Estate after graduation. His ultimate goal in life is to have a good job, a family and be happy. He enjoys hanging with friends and playing PS4.

A few of his favorite things are: pizza, the tv show River Monsters, the movie "Remember the Titans," and Vintage Voices of Stromsburg. One thing on his "bucket list" is to sky dive someday. Isaac says that something that most people don't know about him is that a friend and he made a TikTok video that has 1.3 million likes.

(from the Polk County Newspaper)

The Noyd family invites the church family to Isaac's Graduation reception on May 15, 2021, after the graduation ceremony, at the 4th Street Coffee House in Stromsburg.



MAY

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays: 8:30 Worship Team 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Fellowship	Mondays: 6:30 pm Grief Share at Osceola UMC	Tuesdays: 7:00 pm BSF (Zoom)	Wednesdays: 9:00 am Moms in Prayer 7:00 pm Worship Team	Thursdays: 9:30 am BSF (Free)		1
2	3	4	5	6 6:30 am Breakfast ★NATIONAL★ DAY of PRAYER	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 7:00 pm BACCALAUREATE At CCCS	15 2:00 pm 
16 6:30 pm Lead Team Meeting	17	18	19	20 5:30 Rescue Mission Meal <i>Ministering to the Homeless</i>	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 7 pm Sundown Cinema 	29
30 12:00 pm Ruth Hanson Birthday Celebration 	31	Vacation Bible School—Salem Lutheran Church				