

"Midwest Conference Annual Celebration Recap"

The delegates of the 86 congregations of the Midwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church approved a budget of \$715,000 for 2023 at last weekend's 136th conference annual business meeting at Christ Community Covenant Church in Arvada, CO. That amount was what the MWC delegates approved of for 2022, a 3.4 percent increase from 2021. Of that total budget, \$134,877 would go towards new church development and \$51,500 towards developing missional leaders (via conferences and retreats and other training efforts, etc.).

Among other business items, delegates approved the submitting of six names of pastors up for ordination at the June annual business meeting of the denomination in Kansas City, and approved new members Greg Applequist, Jerry Harclerode and Michael Gossenauer to be added to the 10 current MWC executive board members. But a larger portion of the weekend was to celebrate the 11year tenure of current Supt. Tammy Swanson-Draheim, who is nominated for the presidency of the Evangelical Covenant Church in June's annual business meeting.

A banquet on Friday night was centered on celebrating the work done by Tammy, along with praying for her next call that will affect the 903 congregations in North America and the numerous mission outposts in five continents that are in place throughout the denomination. A video signposting the many areas of ministry in the ECC included the care of some 1,826 pastors, the \$100,000 earmarked for the ministries focused upon human trafficking, the longtime work in Congo (via the Paul Carlson Foundation) that included a 50 percent decrease in infant deaths from the hospitals in that country, and the 24 new congregations spawned over the past year in the ECC.

As Tammy leaves the ministry of the MWC, Brian Johnson will assume the duties of interim superintendent, along with the role he plays with starting and strengthening churches in the conference. The hope is that a new superintendent can be nominated next spring at the conference annual meeting that will occur at Countryside Covenant Church in McPherson, KS, April 11-12, 2023.

During lunch on Saturday, ECC Executive Director of Love Mercy, Do Justice, Paul Robinson led a seminar on "Shalom Circles," a ministry that would allow churches and communities to dialogue on justice and mercy issues and consider acts of care and service to local communities, preferably in ecumenical circles. Robinson told of a Covenant church of DuBois, PA that collaborated with two Catholic agencies to further food ministries in that area. He had preached on Micah 6:8 during the Saturday morning worship service, encouraging delegates to seek out ministries that multiple churches or organizations could cooperate on in their own communities.

During the weekend, ministries like Midwest Covenant Home were featured, as board member Sue Rosenbaum and director Sheila Bjerrum had opportunities to share about the work going on in Stromsburg at a ministry fair on Friday afternoon. A report on a conference high school conference called Engage was given by Jim Eaton, as some 200

participants from 11 conference churches have already signed up (this was a short-term replacement for a triennial high school conference that had been cancelled in the past two years). And a report on a housechurch model being offered at Restoration Covenant Church in Arvada was given by its pastor Ryan Ashley.

Ryan Ashley was in my youth group when I was a youth intern at Hillside Covenant Church in Walnut Creek, CA during the 1990-91 school



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Strengthen Faith, Cultivate Community, Care for Neighbors



"MWC Annual Celebration...(continued)"

year. He was a student with ministry potential and seeing him on stage offering his ministry model to delegates was one of many encouragements for me and Pastor Mary this weekend. We stayed with a family friend living in Arvada that I've known since I was 5; we had good conversations and had breakfast with my "Aunt Ruth" who had been a positive role model for my parents in my youth. We had dinner Thursday night with colleagues from our regional cluster and with Sue. And there were some good conversations with others I knew from other ministries 'back in the day.'

Thanks for offering Pastor Mary and I the opportunity to be part of the MWC annual meeting and Ministerium event, along with Sue as one of our delegates. We appreciate our larger part in the ECC and the shared mission we have with the congregations of the five states in our conference. IN CHRIST.

Pastor Craig



Thursday, May 5, 2022: National Day of Prayer Breakfast: 6:30 am in the Viking ⁽Center. Free Will Donations.

Saturday, May 7, 2022: Youth Escape Room Event in Aurora for senior high.

Sunday, May 8, 2022: Mothers' Day and Graduation Sunday

Friday, May 13, 2022: Baccalaureate Service, 7:00 pm at CCCS

Saturday, May 14, 2022: Commencement Service, 2:00 pm at CCCS (information for seniors grad parties on page 4)

CELEBRATE Our M Graduates





Thursday, May 19, 2022: Rescue Mission Meal-5:30 pm

Sunday, May 22, 2022: Talk Back Sunday right after worship. With a light meal

Monday—Friday, May 23—27, 2022: Trichurch VBS Stromsburg (Covenant, Lutheran, Methodist) At Salem Lutheran Church 9—11:30 am each day Kids from K-5th welcome (older kids are welcome to sign up as volunteers) Register your kids online at <u>https://vbspro.events/p/trichurchvbsstromsburg</u>

Volunteers can also register online at the same link. Questions: Contact Judy Hanson: 402-764-6681



Ministry Teams

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

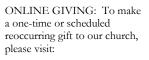
Properties: Marv Wadell (contact person) 402-764-7651



Financial Update:

2022 Budget Summary (1/1/22 through 3/31/22)

Needed Income:	\$ 38,612.75
Actual Income:	<u>\$ 21,237.70</u>
Difference:	(\$ 17,375.05)
Budgeted Exp:	\$ 38,612.75
Actual Exp:	<u>\$ 31,352.69</u>
Under Budget:	\$ 7,260.06



www.stromsburgcov.org and click on ONLINE GIVING.



May 3



Julie Lamoree	May 6
Doug Lamoree	May 7
Marv Wadell	May 7
Megan Jenkins	May 9
Harry Imm	May 11
Josh Patrick	May 12
Mary Pinley	May 13
Debi Pliefke	May 20
John Bowerman	May 22
Neeli Noyd	May 27
Shayla Hier	May 31

Misty Noble



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.



Ministry Partners:

Sunday, May 1, 2022

Greeters: Bob & Eleanor Greenwall Fellowship: Scripture: Bob Orsborn Pianist/Worship Leader: Ryan Cooper Worship Team: Craig & Mary Pinley, Sara Noble Audio/Visual: Ellie Pinley, Jodi Johnson

Sunday, May 8, 2022

Greeters: Gaylen & Jeannie Ahlquist Fellowship: Graduation Reception Scripture: Connie Nuttelman Pianist/Worship Leader: Ryan Cooper Worship Team: Craig & Mary Pinley, Dianne Nielsen, Neeli Noyd Audio/Visual: Ellie Pinley, Sara Noble

Sunday, May 15, 2022

Greeters: Mark & Judy Hanson Fellowship: TBD Scripture: Dianne Nielsen Pianist: Sue Rosenbaum Worship Team: Craig & Mary Pinley, Sara Noble Audio/Visual: Ellie Pinley, Jodi Johnson

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Rescue Mission Meal: TBD

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Greeters: Bob & Cindy Orsborn Fellowship: TBD Scripture: Neeli Noyd Pianist: Sue Rosenbaum Worship Team: Dianne Nielsen, Neeli Noyd Audio/Visual: Sara Noble, Jodi Johnson

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Greeters: Doug & Linda Johnson Fellowship: TBD Scripture: Sunni Cooper Pianist/Worship Leader: Ryan Cooper Worship Team: Craig & Mary Pinley, Dianne Nielsen, Neeli Noyd Audio/Visual: Ellie Pinley, Sara Noble Cross County Graduation is on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 2:00 pm





Parker Lovgren: Parker is the son of Peggy Lovgren. His plans after graduation include staying at Ambassador Health in Omaha. His ultimate goal in life is to be as independent

as possible. One thing on his bucket list is to start a Youtube channel. Help Parker and his family celebrate after graduation at the 4th Street Coffee House in Stromsburg.



Kohen Hier: Kohen is the son of Brian and Shayla Hier. His plans after graduation include going to college and getting a degree. His ultimate goal in life is to have a stable life. One thing on his bucket list is to go skydiving.

Kohen's graduation party will be right after the graduation ceremony at Stromsburg Baptist Church. Josi Noble: Josi is the daughter of Shane and Sara Noble. Her plans after graduation include attending Concordia University majoring in Criminal Justice while competing in track and field. Her ultimate goal in life is to marry her soulmate, and have



the hang-out house with the best snacks. One thing on her bucket list is to travel and explore the world. Help Josi and her family celebrate after graduation on May 14, 2022 at Ken and Pat Everingham's house:

1114 East 4th St, Stromsburg, NE

Madelynn Hennessy:

Madelynn is the daughter of Dale and Julie Hennessy. Her plans after graduation include getting her undergraduate and graduate degrees in physical therapy. Her ultimate goal in life is to be happy. One thing on her bucket list is to go to lceland.



The Hennessy family invites you to help celebrate Maddie's graduation at their house on graduation day:

617 Seminary St, Stromsburg, NE



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
I May Day	7	3	4 9:00 Moms in Prayer	5 *NATIONAL* DAY PRAYER 6:30 am breakfast	9	7 Aurora Escape Room
8 Steps Man Jun		10	11 9:00 Moms in Prayer	12	13 BACCALAUREATE 5 E & CCALAUREATE 7:00 pm-CCCS	14 Orgouation
15 6:30 Lead Team Mtg	16	17 Schools	18	19	20	21
22 Talk Back Sunday	23	²⁴ VBS—Sal	²⁵	Lutheran Church	27	28
29	30 MEMORIAL	31	Sundays: 8:30 worship team 9:30 Sunday school (through the 8th) 10:30 worship 11:45 fellowship			