

# Stromsburg Cov News

Volume 3, Issue 10  
November 2021

A Publication of Stromsburg Covenant Church, Stromsburg, NE



## Too Early for Santa?

Our daughter turned on “The Santa Clause,” a Disney movie, this week. While it’s cute for kids, it’s way too early for me to think about the season in which the main character is on display cinematically.

In other words, we’re still a month away from Advent. We had a worship ministry team meeting a few Sundays ago and started thinking about worship services during the month of December and the subject of Christmas Eve came up. Our previous 2 Christmas Eve services were at 7 pm. At our meeting, a later time and an earlier time were discussed; I’m sure it will be an agenda item at Talk Back Sunday on November 7th and that’s fine. Pastor Mary and I will be there whatever time we decide on. But the conversation brought to mind an age-old dilemma for the institutional church. Why do we do what we do?

Regarding Christmas Eve, are we hosting a service for us or for others? If it’s true that there are many people who’ve left the church but might be open to returning, the two services that seem to be most visitor friendly are Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday, which means that if we’re focusing on bringing people to a saving relationship with Jesus, these 2 services should be held with those people in mind. And yet, based on what I heard in that meeting, preferences to our current members will take first priority.

This has to change if we are to evolve well. Back when I was candidating for a solo pastorate in Paxton, IL, I had an interesting question posed by a parishioner. She worried about what would happen if someone from the church down the street decided to start coming to our church if they liked the new pastor. But I discovered that in that town of 4500 only about 1500 were regularly attending services in local congregations. And there were a dozen churches. That meant that two-thirds of Paxton, IL were not part of any congregation. So I replied to that woman, “I’ll

be more worried about the 3000 who aren’t part of any church.”

I meant it. And I still do. And we need you to start to think about this also.

Who are the people that you know that are not going to church or whom you believe don’t know Jesus? What do you think they would find meaningful about us or what we currently do as a congregation? More importantly, what are you willing to sacrifice in order to make our church more worthwhile for them to try?

I understand that Pastor Mary mentioned some of this in her recent sermon. Call it a shared vision.

Back when we were youth pastors in Iowa, we worked with a tri-fold approach. We wanted a third of what we did to be discipleship, a third to deal with service and mission, and a third to focus on outreach. I believe that’s where we need to land here also.

When we arrived here, cohesion amongst members was an important piece and we focused more on that. And COVID made it even more important. But if our cohesiveness doesn’t translate into mission soon, we won’t evolve well.

My hope is that Thanksgiving and Advent will bring out all the joy and hopefulness that Jesus offers and that will launch us into 2022 better than Tim Allen in his newfangled sleigh.

In Christ,

Pastor Craig *(with on-the-spot editing by Pastor Mary, who had this dictated as Craig was driving home from Illinois)*



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



# November Dates to Remember



**Wednesdays: Kingdom Kids! 5:30—7:00 pm at Salem Lutheran Church. Ages Pre-K—6th Grade. We've extended a half hour for Christmas Program Practice.**

**Sunday, November 7: *Talk Back Sunday!* Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday!**

12:00 noon: Light lunch and discussion



**Sunday, November 14:**

**Outreach Team Meeting—following worship**

**Lead Team Meeting—6:30 pm**

**Thursday, November 18, 2021: Rescue Mission Meal—5:30 pm**



**Sunday, November 21, 2021:**

**Spiritual Formation Team Meeting—following worship**

**Harvest Celebration Dinner and Worship Service—5:30 pm**

*There are sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall to host tables, to let us know if you are coming, and to bring side dishes to share. Remember to invite neighbors.*



**Thursday, November 25, 2021: *Thanksgiving!***



**Sunday, November 28, 2021: First Sunday of Advent**

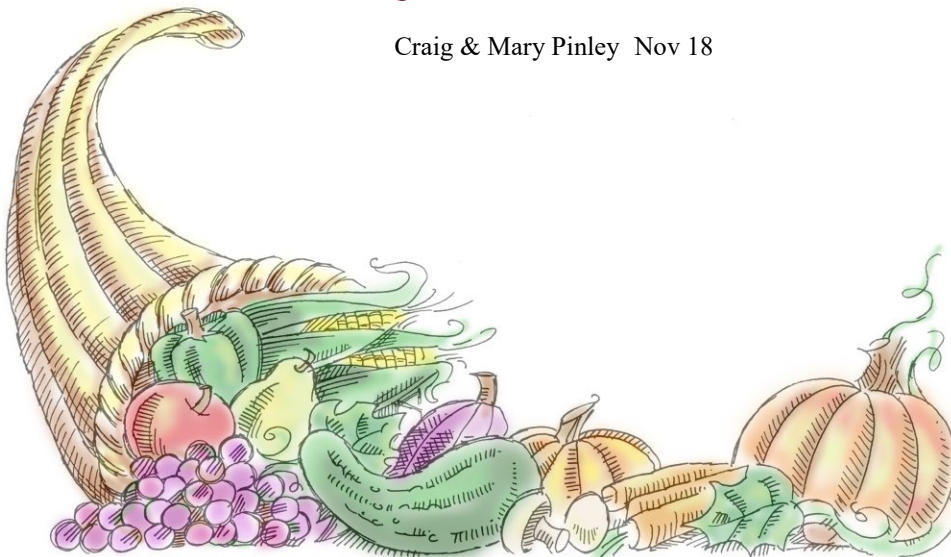
***Hanging of the Greens:*** Join us in decorating the church for Advent & Christmas



Craig & Mary Pinley Nov 18



Cindy Orsborn	Nov 1
Austyn Ostrom	Nov 2
Dan Nielsen	Nov 5
Nikki Rystrom	Nov 8
Johanna Nielsen	Nov 11
Braylyn Rystrom	Nov 11
Lori Willhoft	Nov 11
Jan Randell	Nov 21
Herb Hanson	Nov 27
Ken Everingham	Nov 28
Joyce Lucas	Nov 29
Bob Orsborn	Nov 29





## Financial Update:

2021 Budget Summary (1/1/21 through 9/30/21)

Needed Income: \$ 107,983.50

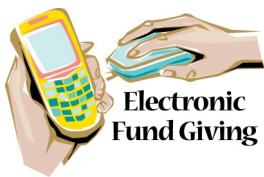
Actual Income: \$ 94,124.09

Difference: (\$ 13,859.41)

Budgeted Exp: \$ 107,983.50

Actual Exp: \$ 103,016.34

Under Budget: \$ 4,967.16



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

[www.stromsburgcov.org](http://www.stromsburgcov.org) and click on ONLINE GIVING.



## 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](mailto:prayerchain@stromsburgcov.org).



## Ministry Partners:

### Sunday, Nov 7—All Saints Sunday

*Greeters:* Bob & Cindy Orsborn

*Fellowship:* Talk Back Sunday meal

*Scripture:* Dennis Nuttelman

*Pianist:* Sue Rosenbaum

*Worship Team:* Craig & Mary Pinley, Dennis & Connie Nuttelman

*Audio/Visual:* Ellie Pinley, Jodi Johnson

### Sunday, Nov 14

*Greeters:* Ken & Pat Everingham

*Fellowship:* The Hier Family

*Scripture:* Eleanor Greenwall

*Pianist/Worship Leader:* Ryan Cooper

*Worship Team:* Craig & Mary Pinley, Sue Rosenbaum, Neeli Noyd

*Audio/Visual:* Julie Hennessy, Maddie Hennessy

### Thursday, Nov 18

*Rescue Mission Meal:* Eleanor Greenwall, Donna Gerdes, Joliene Anderson, Julie Hennessy

### Sunday, Nov 21—Morning Worship

*Greeters:* Marv & Mary Wadell

*Fellowship:* TBD

*Scripture:* Jeannie Ahlquist

*Pianist:* Sue Rosenbaum

*Worship Team:* Craig & Mary Pinley, Dianne Nielsen

*Audio/Visual:* Ellie Pinley, Jodi Johnson

### Evening Worship:

*Pianist:* Sue Rosenbaum

*Worship Team:* Craig and Mary Pinley, Sara Noble Dianne Nielsen, Neeli Noyd

### Sunday, Nov 28

*Greeters:* Gaylen & Jeannie Ahlquist

*Fellowship:* TBD

*Scripture:* Bob Orsborn

*Pianist/Worship Leader:* Ryan Cooper









*Worship Team:* Neeli Noyd, Dianne Nielsen

*Audio/Visual:* Julie Hennessy, Maddie Hennessy



# NOVEMBER

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Sundays:</p> <p>8:30 worship team</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School (youth &amp; adult)</p> <p>10:30 Worship (children's church)</p>	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Wednesdays:</p> <p>9:00 Moms' in Prayer</p> <p>5:30 Kingdom Kids</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> 
<p>7</p> 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>12:00 Outreach Team Meeting</p> <p>6:30 Lead Team Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 Rescue Mission Meal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>DINNERS ON US!</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 12—Spir Forma.</p> <p>5:30 Harvest Celebration Dinner and Thanksgiving Worship</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> 	<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p>				