



Evangelical Covenant
Church of Stromsburg, NE

October 2019
Volume 1, Issue 9

Stromsburg Cov News

When Ellie was little, she and I would have this little game we'd play. She would come home from school and say: "Guess what dad?" And I'd proceed to guess – the more outrageous the better in my mind: "You won a new car and are gonna drive to Africa." And she'd say, NO Daaaaad! And then I'd try again..."You found a kitten and want to keep it in your room." And ultimately she'd tell me that she had chocolate milk for lunch.

Sometimes, for a pastor, discerning how to evolve well as a church has that kind of feel. It's a lot of guesswork – often beginning as an idea by a parishioner or as the result of a leadership team meeting – that you hope that prayer, listening, and assessment of a community will help clarify. And right now we're in the process of guessing what types of ministries might be worth trying and discerning who might be possible leaders from which to either oversee or participate in such ministries.

Earlier this summer, we guessed that it might be worth trying to re-start a children's program that had been done in the past and over the past two weeks we've run a Kids Club for grades K-6; so far, we've had seven kids that age be part of it – thanks to Eleanor Greenwall and Mary Wadell and Linda Johnson for coordinating meals for weeks one and two and the Hiers, Julie Hennessy, and Dianne Nielsen for overseeing games, crafts or story time thus far – a list for leading games/crafts/story/meals is on our wall in the Fellowship Hall for the coming weeks as our fall session runs until November 20th.

We also guessed that attempting a Sunday school for kids and adults might be worth our efforts for this fall. We began September 8th and since I'm leading the adults, I can say with certainty that attendance has been good and I John is the right book from the Bible to study. And others have said that the children's and teens' classes have the potential to warrant more time to grow.

A guess we made earlier this year was that trying to get more people involved in our worship services was worth the effort. We have a reliable stable of scripture readers, we've added help with our AV system, and we're hoping to add more options with singers and musicians. Interest in having drama pieces has been good, but we're likely needing someone to head up that area.

On a service note, a couple of attempts to provide a meal train for needy families have been positive. We also have a group of people that have said they'd help with projects related to our Properties team, but figuring out how to access that resource is still in process. The same with the idea of a Shepherding team to better connect our people.

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OCTOBER SERMON TEXTS

Continuing Sermon Series:

"Philippians"

- Oct 6—Phil. 2:1-18—Mindset Matters
- Oct 13—Phil. 2:19-30—Mutual Encouragement
- Oct. 20—Phil. 3:1-16—Pressing On
- Oct. 27—Phil. 3:17-4:1—Joy and Crown



A WORD...(CONTINUED)



Finally, we've had a few meetings to assess what kind of mission trip would be worth trying next summer. We are still in process on that idea as some would rather see us do urban ministry and some would rather see us do rural ministry.

All of this led me to a book that I'd read as part of a Leadership Cohort about a decade ago. The book is called **"The Value of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on Its Gifts,"** by Luther K. Snow.

Snow's book is a tool designed to engage people in a process of assessment; to assess physical, individual, associational, institutional and economic assets and to discern how best to gather as many assets for a few coordinated efforts.

For assessing physical assets (things you can touch and see), a question given to prompt discussion was this: What are some physical things that you value.

For assessing individual assets (the talents, skills, experiences of people), two initial questions were given: (1) what are you good at? (2) what do you know something about?

For assessing associational assets (such as voluntary groups, service clubs, informal groups, etc.), they asked: (1) who are the people you know or care about? (2) what groups of people do you belong to?

For assessing institutional assets (agencies, corporations and other organizations with budgets and staff), questions include: (1) where do you work or volunteer? (2) what institutions make decisions that affect you?

For assessing economic assets (spending power, investments, and our capacities to produce goods and services for money), questions include: (1) what do you do to make money? (2) what do you spend money on?

I'm only scratching the surface of how we go about asset mapping – for example, there are all kinds of hidden assets that we sometimes miss, or there are peripheral assets that don't always get counted into our overall equation. Or have there been times when a crisis has brought out a host of assets that we might not list normally?

On October 20th, we have scheduled a **'Talk back Sunday'** and we'll update you on a few things, but perhaps what might be as helpful is a discussion on whether some of our guesses have been fruitful for current ministry, along with some brainstorming of what other possibilities for ministry could be worth our time and energy.

We'd value your prayers in the coming weeks as pastors and leadership consider how to best guess how to use the resources God has given us. And we'll value your feedback and wisdom as we listen and learn.

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig



CHURCH FAMILY



Nicki Hutchins-Peterson
Haylee Conkling
Brayden Nuttelman
Jeff Jones
Charlotte Greenwall

Oct 2
Oct 3
Oct 7
Oct 10
Oct 23

Kent Erickson
Ivy Mentink
Cheryl Erickson
Deb Berry
Kim Conkling

Oct 24
Oct 24
Oct 25
Oct 26
Oct 29

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October is our Meals on Wheels Month! If you are interested in delivering meals please talk to Marv Wadell.



Monday, October 7—“Take Time for Tea” - a Woman's Fellowship Event—at 6:30 pm. Featuring Speaker and Author of *Watching the Dragonfly Dance*, Rhonda Johnson Wootton. Come for a time of fellowship and inspiration as Rhonda shares about her journey of healing and transformation through grief. She will bring special tea, you bring your favorite cup. You will also have an opportunity to purchase the tea, her book, and original pottery.

Thursday, October 17—Rescue Mission Meal—5:30 pm

Sunday, October 20—Talk Back Sunday! - Right after worship! Come share a meal and take part in discussion about our church's current and potential ministries. Watch for more information in the bulletins.



Sunday, October 27—Swede Haven Night of Worship and Games! 6:30 pm. We'll be sharing in a time of Praise and Worship and then games and refreshments with the residents of Swede Haven. If you have questions please talk to Dave or Julia Schram.



Thursday, October 31—Boo on the Square! If you are interested in helping with this outreach opportunity please talk to Julie Hennessy or Julia Schram. If you would like to donate candy there is a tub in the foyer to collect it.



OCTOBER MINISTRY PARTNERS:

Sunday, Oct 6

Nursery: Cheryl Erickson
Greeters: Doug & Linda Johnson
Coffee Time: Joliene Anderson
Scripture: Pat Everingham
Audio/Visual: Dale & James Hennessy

Sunday, Oct 13

Nursery: TBD
Greeters: Dennis & Connie Nuttelman
Coffee Time: The Hier Family
Scripture: TBD
Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Dennis Nuttelman

Thursday, Oct 17

Rescue Mission Meal: Lorrain Nielsen, Dianne Nielsen, Johanna Nielsen

Sunday, Oct 20

Nursery: TBD
Greeters: David & Julia Schram
Coffee Time: The Noyd Family
Scripture: Eleanor Greenwall
Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

Sunday, Oct 27

Nursery: TBD
Greeters: Doug & Cindy Perdue
Coffee Time: TBD
Scripture: Jan Randell
Audio/Visual: Dale & James Hennessy



Covenant Cedars Fall Youth Camps:

Middle School Retreat—Faith on Fire—November 1-3, 2019—Cost: \$80

Registration forms are available at the church office or from Johanna Nielsen.

REGISTRATIONS are due by October 15 if you **want** a t-shirt. They are due by October 23 if you **don't want** a t-shirt.

High School Retreat—Kairos: Why?—November 15-17, 2019—Cost: \$95

Registration forms are available at the church office or from Johanna Nielsen.

REGISTRATIONS are due by October 29 if you **want** a t-shirt. They are due by November 6 if you **don't want** a t-shirt.



Benevolence Ministries:

Food Collection: We have become aware of some families in our community that are in need of food. We are collecting non-perishable food items in the office and the foyer.



Meal Trains:

The Hier family—Brian had an accident several months ago and he hurt his leg. He has been unable to work and has had a setback recently with blood clots and he has to lay still. Shayla is working full-time. If you would like to provide a meal for the Hiers go to <https://mealtrain.com/1gonez>.

The Lovgren family—Now that the Lovgrens are home from their long stay in Omaha due to Parker's hospitalization there is a lot for Peggy to keep up with. Any help we can give them would be appreciated. Their meal train link is <https://mealtrain.com/7w7knn>.



If you need assistance signing up on the meal train please contact Pastor Mary.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

2019 Budget Summary

(1/1/2019 through 8/31/2019)

Income:	\$62,432.79
Budget:	<u>\$85,029.34</u>
Difference:	(\$22,596.55)
Budgeted Exp:	\$83,715.01
Actual Exp:	<u>\$77,568.37</u>
Difference:	\$6,146.64

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
office@stromsburgcov.org
www.stromsburgcov.org

Pastor Craig
craigpin@yahoo.com
217-721-6049

Pastor Mary
singergirl33@yahoo.com
217-721-3846

Ministry Team Leaders:

Lead Team Chair:

Dave Schram
402-710-8858

Worship Team:

Sue Rosenbaum
402-560-6759

Fellowship & Hospitality:

Eleanor Greenwall
712-307-0476

Christian Formation:

Johanna Nielsen
402-764-0086

Outreach:



Julia Schram
402-710-9561

Properties:

Kent Erickson
402-765-6721



October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 pm—Prayer at Randell home	2 10 am—Ladies' Coffee 6 pm—Kids' Club 7:30 pm—Worship Team practice	3	4	5
6 8:45 am—Worship Team Practice 9:30 am—Sunday School 10:30 am—Worship with Communion 11:45 am—Fellowship 12:00 pm—Lead Team	7 6:30 pm—Take Time for Tea—Ladies' Tea 	8 7 pm—Prayer at Randell home	9 10 am—Ladies' Coffee 6 pm—Kids' Club 7:30 pm—Worship Team practice	10	11	12
13 8:45 am—Worship Team Practice 9:30 am—Sunday School 10:30 am—Worship 11:45 am—Fellowship	14	15 7 pm—Prayer at Randell home	16 10 am—Ladies' Coffee 6 pm—Kids' Club 7:30 pm—Worship Team practice	17 5:30 pm—Rescue mission Meal 	18	19
20 (As above) 	21	22 7 pm—Prayer at Randell home	23 10 am—Ladies' Coffee 6 pm—Kids' Club 7:30 pm—Worship Team practice	24	25	26
27 (As above) 6:30 pm—Swede Haven 	28	29 7 pm—Prayer at Randell home	30 10 am—Ladies' Coffee 6 pm—Kids' Club 7:30 pm—Worship Team practice	31 		