



# september



Evangelical Covenant Church  
Of Stromsburg, NE

September 2019  
Volume 1, Issue 8

## Stromsburg Cov News

**“A few days ago Jesus called on me...”**

**“The people that make up this Body of Christ are not perfect, but they have been perfectly placed in my life.”**

The first quote came from a letter to me by a parishioner who'd revived a lady after she'd had a heart attack at home. The second came from a testimony given by a man who'd joined the church where I'd served previously, thanking God for people that helped him renew his faith in Jesus.

There are a variety of other stories about God's goodness in the letters and cards I've saved over my ministerial career. Some refer to ways certain people from the congregation had cared for them during a tough time; others were testimonies of how they'd seen God at work in their families, their workplaces, or their church. And whether or not a congregation is perfect or not, there is always God moving in people, His Spirit moving, his beloved responding.

And so it is that the Apostle Paul writes to a group of faithful followers in the midst of a big city, Philippi, reminding them early in his letter, **“I thank my God every time I remember you...”**

If there is a book in the New Testament to find encouragement from, this one is it. And as I consider my first full-time church ministry experience serving from an individual church (Hillside Covenant Church, Walnut Creek, CA, as a youth ministries intern 30 years ago), I think back to all the times God worked through his people and blessed me either as a pastor or a parishioner.

Thankfully, I do this reminiscing from a desk in a church office; Paul was doing his under house arrest in the city of Rome. But Paul wasn't alone in his task – a co-signer of the letter to the Philippians is the young man he mentored, Timothy, and others were around him either constantly or occasionally as he waited to see if he'd ever be set free from the charges against him.

Thirty falls ago, I wasn't alone either, although I was single. As I arrived from Chicago, there were 25 kids in our junior high group on Wednesday nights that I was to oversee as an intern; I also helped the full-time youth pastor with the high school group on Thursday nights, a contingent of 30. It's been fun to hear about what some of those 'kids' are doing now. Two are in full-time church ministry, one that I'm in touch with is a teacher, and some are still part of the church and living nearby. I got to know many of the parents of those young teens and years later some of those adults were helpful to me in crisis and continue to be solid

*Continued on Page 2*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Page .....	1
Fall Christian Formation Opportunities.....	2
Philippians Series .....	2
September Birthdays .....	3
September Anniversaries .....	3
Dates to Remember .....	3
Ministry Partners.....	3
Fall Camp Opportunities.....	4
Financial Update.....	4
Calendar .....	5

### UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS

*Continuing Sermon Series:*

**“Divine Direction”**

Sept 1: Part 6—CONNECT; I Sam 23; I Cor. 16

Sept 8: Part 7—TRUST; Acts 12; I Sam 1: Isa 6

Sept 15:

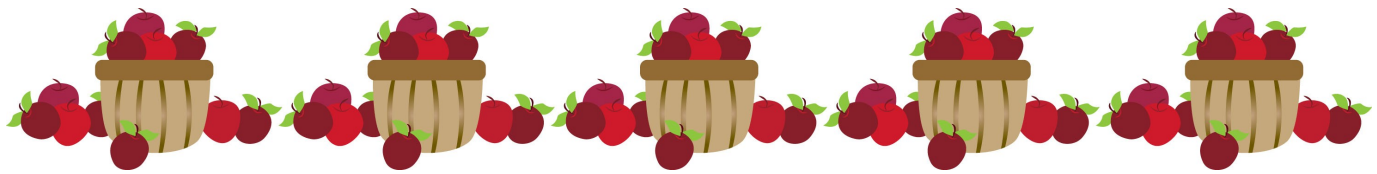
*Beginning Philippians Series:*

Sept 22: Phil. 1:1-11 “He Who Began a Good Work...”

Sept 29: Phil. 1:12-30 “Live Worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ”



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



## A WORD...(CONTINUED)

members of that congregation. I'm also glad for the part I got to play in being the 'guinea pig' for a junior high youth pastor. After one more intern, the church decided to add a position to bolster their ministry to youth and families.

It works the other way too. I'm still in touch with my home church, whose lead pastor is a friend of ours from Chicago. They remember me as that kid they taught Sunday school to and I'm part of their ongoing legacy as a teacher in the faith to future generations. As you read further into the book of Philippians, you can imagine Paul thinking of certain people he'd gotten to know on a couple of previous trips into the region, recalling the good things that occurred, praying that they could endure harder things when their faith would be tested. It's no wonder Paul calls this congregation, "**my joy and crown.**"

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will begin our fall sermon series from the book of Philippians, Paul's letter to a congregation he has high hopes for. I've included the sermon texts to the right, in case you want to read ahead.

But we're also excited about what's occurring before our fall series starts, as we have a kick-off Sunday for our kids and adults Sunday school classes that we hope will draw people closer to Jesus too. So join us – and invite friends.

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig

### **Philippians Series:**

9/22: Phil 1:1-11

*"Bringing the good work to completion"*

9/29: Phil 1:12-30 *"Being Citizens of Heaven"*

10/6: Phil 2:1-18 *"God's work, God's will, God's purposes"*

10/13: Phil 2:19-30  
*"Encouraging Timothy, Epaphroditis...and you"*

10/20: Phil 3:1-16  
*"Whatever we gains I now consider loss for the sake of Christ"*

10/27: Phil 3:17-4:1  
*"Examples and models as God's joy and crown"*

11/3: Phil 4:2-7 *"Prayer + Thanksgiving = Peace, even in conflict"*

11/10: Phil 4:8-9  
*"Redeeming the term 'Whatever'"*

11/17: Phil 4:10-23  
*"Stewardship and the gift of the fragrant offering"*

### **FALL CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES:**



**Kids' Club:** Wednesdays, beginning on September 18, we will be offering Kids' Club to children ages 5 through Grade 6. Here is the format: 6:00 pm—Dinner, 6:30—7:30 pm—Groups will go to various "stations" for 20 minutes apiece. Stations: Bible Story, Crafts (or other), Games

*Thank you to those who have signed up to help.* There are still some slots available for games, crafts and food.

### **Sunday School for All Ages...**

Kick-Off Sunday is September 8. Come for a light breakfast of rolls, juice and coffee at 9 am. An introduction to Sunday School will follow.

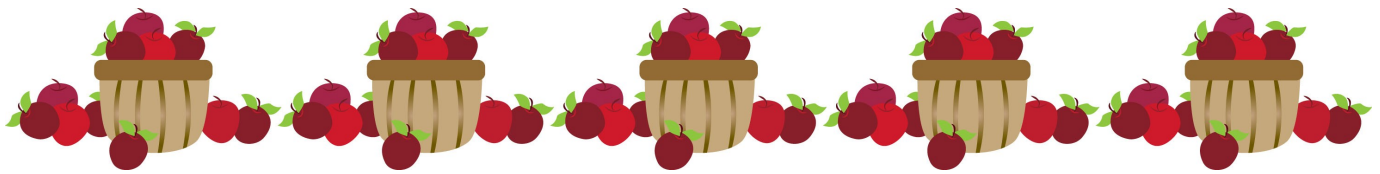
**Bible Study Fellowship for Women:** Begins the 2nd week in September. Keep tuned in for exact dates and start times. Talk to Mary Wadell or Pastor Mary if you are interested. If you want to know more about Bible Study Fellowship go to

[www.bsfinternational.org](http://www.bsfinternational.org).



**Nursery Workers:** We are in need of help in our nursery on Sunday mornings. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the back of the fellowship hall. If you have questions about the responsibilities of a nursery worker please speak to Shayla Hier or Pastor Mary.

*Continued on Page 4*



Jessica Bowerman	Sep 1
Rachel Nielsen	Sep 3
Chris Ziemba	Sep 3
Ellie Pinley	Sep 5
Clay Nielsen	Sep 6
Taylor Ostrom	Sep 8
Delainey Cramer	Sep 9
Emily Everingham	Sep 9
Lucy Jones	Sep 20



Eric & Emily Everingham Sep 15

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, September 1: **Women's Retreat Registration Forms are Due!** If you need a church scholarship, forms need to be turned in to Pastor Mary by September 1.



Friday, Sept 6: **Tail Gate Party!** At the Cougar stadium parking lot—Cross County Community Schools. 5:30 pm. Bring your snacks, chairs and Cougar gear and enjoy time with your church family before the game. There will be hot food available for purchase to support the school.

Sunday, Sept 8: **Sunday School Kick-Off!** Come for a light breakfast at 9 am. A Sunday School Introduction for all ages will start at 9:15 am.



Monday, Sept 9: **Midwest Covenant Home Birthday Party!** 2:30 pm. Please talk to Eleanor Greenwall if you are interested in helping!

Sept 18: **Kids' Club starts!**

There are postcard invitations in the church foyer if you would like to invite kids you know. The more the merrier!



Sept 20-22: **Step Away: Dig Deeper, Reach Higher Women's Retreat at Covenant Cedars.** (see page 4 for more information)

Sept. 27-29: **Covenant Cedars Bible Camp 70th Anniversary Celebration** (see page 4 for more information)

## SEPTEMBER MINISTRY PARTNERS:

### Sunday, Sept 1

Nursery: Cheryl Erickson  
Greeters: Dale & Julie Hennessy  
Coffee Time: Eleanor Greenwall  
Scripture: Dennis Nuttelman  
Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Dennis Nuttelman

### Sunday, Sept 8

Nursery: Pat Everingham  
Greeters: Gaylen & Jeannie Ahlquist  
Coffee Time: Doug & Linda Johnson  
Scripture: Dianne Nielsen  
Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier

### Sunday, Sept 15

Nursery: TBD  
Greeters: Mark & Judy Hanson  
Coffee Time: Marv & Mary Wadell  
Scripture: Neeli Noyd  
Audio/Visual: Dale & James Hennessy

### Thursday, Sept 19

Rescue Mission Meal:  
Shayla Hier and the Youth Group

### Sunday, Sept 22

Nursery: TBD  
Greeters: Bob & Eleanor Greenwall  
Coffee Time: TBD  
Scripture: Bob Orsborn  
Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Dennis Nuttelman

### Sunday, Sept 29

Nursery: TBD  
Greeters: Brian & Shayla Hier  
Coffee Time: Kent & Cheryl Erickson  
Scripture: Jeannie Ahlquist  
Audio/Visual: Dale Hennessy, Kohen Hier



## Covenant Cedars Fall Camp Opportunities:



### **Women's Retreat: Sept 20-22, 2019: STEP AWAY: Dig Deeper, Reach Higher.**

Speaker: Rev. Tammy Swanson-Draheim. Join other Nebraska Covenanters in this time of worship and learning. This weekend provides an opportunity for women to deepen their faith in Christ, find rest for their spiritual journey, and discover ways to share with each other. ***If you are planning on going and would like a scholarship from the church, please turn in your registration forms to Pastor Mary by Sunday, Sept. 1.*** You can also register online at [www.wmmidwest.org/event/](http://www.wmmidwest.org/event/). Please talk to Pastor Mary if you have any questions.

### **CCBC 70th Anniversary Celebration: Sept. 27-29, 2019**

We're invited to celebrate Covenant Cedars' 70th anniversary with campfires and s'mores, a banquet, and special speaker, our very own Jan Randell's son, Jeff. There are copies of "Clarion" the camp's newsletter, in the foyer. For more information check out the camp's website at [www.cedars.org](http://www.cedars.org) or call the camp at 402-757-3241.

## Anniversary Celebration



### **Youth Camps:**

**Junior High Retreat—November 1-3, 2019**

**Senior High Retreat—November 15-17, 2019**

There are camp scholarships available through the church. Each regular attendee is allowed one per year. For more information talk to Pastor Mary.

---

## FINANCIAL UPDATE:

### 2019 Budget Summary

(1/1/2019 through  
7/31/2019)

Income:	\$54,169.54
Budget:	\$74,400.67
Difference:	(\$20,231.13)
Budgeted Exp:	\$76,065.67
Actual Exp:	\$66,965.66
Difference:	\$9,100.01

### FINANCIAL REPORT



**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.

Evangelical Covenant Church  
103 East 6th Street  
Stromsburg, NE 68666  
402-764-5401  
[office@stromsburgcov.org](mailto:office@stromsburgcov.org)  
[www.stromsburgcov.org](http://www.stromsburgcov.org)

Pastor Craig  
[craigpin@yahoo.com](mailto:craigpin@yahoo.com)  
217-721-6049

Pastor Mary  
[singergirl33@yahoo.com](mailto: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





# September

2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 5:30 pm at Cross County Schools  Tail Gate Party	7
8 9:00 am Breakfast 9:30 am SS 12:00 noon—Lead Team Mtg	9  	10	11  PATRIOT DAY	12	13	14
15	16	17	18  6:00 pm—dinner 6:30 pm—program	19 5:30 pm Rescue Mission Meal  	20   At Covenant Cedars	21
22	23	24	25  6:00 pm—dinner 6:30 pm—program	26	27  Covenant Cedars 70th Anniversary Celebration	28 
29 	30	Every Tuesday: 7:00 pm—Prayer Gathering at Randall Home	Every Wednesday: 6:00 pm—Kids' Club (begins 9/18) 7:30 pm—Worship Team Practice	Every Thursday: 10:00 am—Ladies' Coffee at 4th Street Coffee House	Every Sunday: 9:00 am—Worship Team Practice 9:30 am—Sunday School (begins 9/8) 10:30 am—Worship Service 11:45 am—Fellowship	