

# COVENANT CALLER

October, 2015



## From Pastor Tyler's Desk.....

### **The Amezcua Family**

As you probably know by now the Iowa Regional Church Planting Group (formerly Iowa CPR) has voted to help support the initial efforts of an Hispanic church plant in Storm Lake. Since much of the details of this have come together slowly and in various place I thought I'd take some time to explain what I know of the process so far and what the future looks like.

Raphael and Guadalupe Amezcua have been serving a Hispanic church down in Carthage Missouri for a number of years now. Raphael is a co-pastor and he originally helped plant the church. For some time Raphael has sensed God's call for him to go and plant another church so they've been looking for the right place and waiting for the right time. It seems now it that time and Storm Lake is the place. So beginning October 1, the Amezcuas will move to Storm Lake and will be working on developing a core group of people with whom a church can be launched.

The initial stage is a three month commitment that is funded by both the Iowa Church Planting Group and the Midwest Conference. During this time Raphael will need to take some significant first steps in getting to know the town and gathering people. He will also need to pass a church planting assessment through the Covenant and will need to work towards licensing. This will be a busy time for them and likely stressful so please remember them in your prayers.

If all goes well in this initial period they will become an official ECC church plant and will enter an agreement with the denomination, the conference and our local group that will help support their first three year, or so, of ministry. After those years it is hoped that the church will be financially self-sufficient and stable.

The Amezcuas will certainly need our prayer support, but especially at the beginning they will need some other forms of support too. The Regional Church Planting Group is hosting a housewarming meal for them on October 1 at 5:00 in Storm Lake. As is the case with all the RCPG meetings, all are invited. To welcome them churches are asked to donate household essentials and basic food supplies to make their transition as smooth as possible. They are also looking for some furniture for their new place. So if you have extra furniture, or wish to be extravagant and buy some new stuff for them, they would find great use for it as they seek to furnish their new house in such a way that allows them to host a large group of people.

Please let me know if you have other questions about the Amezcuas or about the church planting process. Please let me know if you have some furniture to donate. This is an exciting time. Please pray fervently for their success and opportunities for us to join them and support them.

For God's Glory and Neighbors' Good, Pastor Tyler



## PASTOR'S OCTOBER BOOK REVIEW

**Book Review:** *The Nature of Creation: Examining the Bible and Science*, Mark Harris (Acumen, 2014)

*I love to read and I love to talk about what I read. If anything in these reviews piques your interest or you have any questions or you want to borrow a book, please let me know. I would love to discuss any of these books with any of you!*

This is part two of my review of this book. I introduced it last month and discussed Harris' general approach to the topic of the Bible and science. This month I'm going to talk about the fundamental point he tries to make throughout the book. It is a welcome reorientation to how the discussion of Bible and science has often gone.

Part of the challenge of discussing the biblical text and modern science is that the writers of the Bible held a dramatically different view of the world. To the writers of Genesis 1 and much of the Old Testament, the world was flat, probably disc-shaped and it was surrounded by water. In fact there were waters under the earth and even above the earth. These celestial waters were held back by the firmament (Gen. 1:6-8) and rain was the result of "windows" in this firmament opening (Gen. 7:11) and allowing the waters to fall. The structure of the cosmos was radically different to the ancient writers of the Bible than it is to us. It has even been argued that the ancients viewed creation in terms of function and order and not material, which would suggest that Genesis 1 is not talking about a material act of creation.

Without dismissing the variety of truths that this approach offers Harris suggests that there is a much more fundamental difference between the ancients' view of the world and our own. He writes, "the difference between our religious mindset and that of the ancient authors of the Bible boils down to different views of the relationship between God and the world; namely, that ours is inescapably tinged with deistic influences compared to theirs" (102). Unlike the ancients we separate God from nature in very strict ways. For us there are natural events and there are supernatural events. Natural events can be described by science and supernatural events by faith. But this distinction is completely foreign to the Bible. Every natural event was also a God-event. There was no such thing as chance or fate; there was just the will of God, or the gods. There was no such things as a miracle, there were just acts of God that were more impressive than others. God did not intervene in creation, God was already infused in the daily operations of the world.

Harris explores this idea throughout his book and draws some wonderful conclusions throughout. I highly recommend this book.

Keep Reading!

Pastor Tyler

**Board Meeting  
Evangelical Covenant Church  
September 9, 2015**

Those attending the Board Meeting were Robert Johnson, Eldon Falk, Lynn and Jeri Wenell, Scott Loving, Ellie Hillmer, Bob and Mavis Loving, Shel Youngberg, Allan and Daunajean Wenell and Pastor Tyler Johnson. Shel asked Pastor Tyler to open the meeting discussing the Relational Covenant of "Seek to communicate clearly, completely, and directly." He explained that we must exist for truth to be a healthy body. Shel continued with prayer.

The secretary and treasurer's reports with both presented, approved, and placed on file.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Tyler said that his ordination packet had been turned in. He will have an interview in Omaha on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> with the conference.

He will have an interview at Midwinter in late January, one at the April conference and his ordination will be in Phoenix, Arizona, June 22-25<sup>th</sup>. He will possibly be missing the Sunday morning in late January and the Sunday of June 26<sup>th</sup> because of these meetings.

During the past month in addition to visits with parishioners he has helped serve ice cream at Threshermens and played in the community band.

He mentioned that Esther Mullen has had to step down from the Vitality Team at this time because of time commitment.

Our new web site is up and running at [www.albertcitycovenant.com](http://www.albertcitycovenant.com)

**C.E. Board:**

C.E. will finish up things for the kick-off this Sunday.

There will be a sign-up sheet for teaching Sunday School for children and adult classes.

The Bible School bill has been paid. Hopefully we will have Bible School next summer during the last week of July or first week of August.

The Board felt that was a good time as more children were able to attend. They will decide about using the Lutheran camp staff for Bible School next summer soon.

**Diaconate:**

The Lunch Bunch will begin again perhaps in October, January, February and March.

They talked about continuing boxes of food for those in need at Thanksgiving. Lynn Wenell suggested having a meal at church instead. They will discuss this further.

October 18, 25, or November 1<sup>st</sup> have been suggested as a service project date for the mission in Fort Dodge.

### **Trustees:**

Scott Loving talked to the roofing company and they will possibly be here on the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of this month. They will come as soon as they finish their job in Sioux City.

A scholarship was paid to Aaron Youngberg for school this fall.

The trustees have purchased a sump pump and put dirt around the South side of the parsonage.

Colin Johnson was wondering about taking out the stove by the north door of the kitchen and putting the equipment for the sign in a cupboard in the kitchen.

The Trustees will interview secretary applicants soon.

### **Church Work:**

What are we as a church known for?

Leadership expectations – how do we function as a team?

Trust – we need to build trust together so that we're all in this for the same reason.

### **New Business:**

The Historical Society would like to use the church for their annual meeting. Robert Johnson moved this be allowed, Allan Wenell seconded. The motion passed.

Mavis Loving made a motion that pastor be allowed to go to the fall retreat in October. It was seconded by Eldon Falk. Motion passed.

Eldon made a motion that we give \$100 a year for three years to Eric and Kindsey Schneider who will be working in the Dominican Republic as missionaries. It was seconded by Mavis. Lynn called for the question. It was decided to put this on hold for further discussion.

Allan Wenell closed the meeting with prayer.

Daunajean Wenell, Church Board Secretary

## NEED PRAYER?

\*E-mail: [accovprayerteam@gmail.com](mailto:accovprayerteam@gmail.com)

\*Use Pew Prayer Cards (put in offering plate, hand to Pastor or Erin Johnson)

\*Wednesday's Prayer Group meets every week at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## Interested in becoming a NEW MEMBER?

Please contact Reverend Tyler Johnson.

712-843-5628 or [pastortylerjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:pastortylerjohnson@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*CHECK OUT Albert City Evangelical Covenant Church\*\*\*\*\*

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/AlbertCityCovenant>

✓ Recent updates, pictures, & current happenings found here. Become a Facebook Friend!

**NEW Website:**

✓ <https://www.albertcitycovenant.com>

✓ Pastor's sermons, monthly calendars, pictures, and more! **CHECK IT OUT!**

# October 2015

Dates to Remember

Ushers: Ron & Corrin Brechler



## BIRTHDAYS

1 Cindy Ekstrand  
Norma Loving  
7 Mary Johnson  
8 Maurice Peterson  
Lynn Wenell  
9 Joyce Peterson  
13 Floyd Myer  
14 Sally Wenell  
15 Shelby Johnson  
16 Diane Danielson  
18 Ron Brechler  
Elias Johnson (5)  
29 Francisco Ramos  
Micah Johnson



## ANNIVERSARIES

10 Tom & Kim Swalin (34)  
21 Francisco & Stephanie Ramos (26)

## GREETERS

4 Dan & Esther Mullen  
11 Al & Jewell Kruckman  
18 Lloyd & Diane Danielson  
25 Henry & Marilyn Bolte



## NURSERY

4 Teresa Loving  
11 Marianne Youngberg  
18 Luke Johnson  
25 Esther Mullen



## FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

4 Dan & Esther Mullen  
11 Al & Jewell Kruckman  
18 Don & Renae Loving  
25 Lynn & Jeri Wenell

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land."*

2 Chronicles 7:14 (King James)

**Sunday Schedule**

9 AM Sunday School  
 10 AM Worship Service  
 11 AM Fellowship Coffee

**Evangelical Covenant Church**

# October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept 27	Sept 28	Sept 29	Sept 30	1 5:00 PM Supper Iowa Regional Church Planting "Housewarming" for Amezcuas	2	3
4 Holy Communion  4:30 PM Pleasant View Home Service	5	6	7 9:30 AM Prayer Group  7:30 PM Acts Study	8	9	10
Midwest Covenant Fall Retreat – Pastor & Erin attending in Ashland, NE						
11	12	13	14 9:30AM Prayer Group @ Church  7:00 PM Quarterly Church Board Meeting	15 Women's Ministries 2:00 PM Group 7:00 PM Group	16	17
18	19 12:00 NOON Community Senior Potluck at Our Savior's Lutheran Church	20	21 9:30AM Prayer Group @ Church  7:30 PM Acts Study	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 9:30AM Prayer Group @ Church  7:30 PM Acts Study	29	30	31