

# State of the Church

Pastor Tyler Kraft



## Three Months Later

It has almost been three months since we last met to worship together in our church building. In some ways it has seemed like an eternity, in others the time has flown by. Even though COVID-19 has disrupted our routines at the church facility, we have still been able to maintain a sense of being the church through our continued community with each other. We have stayed connected through our Zoom meetings for Sabbath School and prayer meeting. We have participated in drive-by birthday celebrations and drive-thru graduations. We have shared food with each other and distributed various supplies. We have called, texted, written, and prayed for each other. Even though our facility has been closed during this crisis, I am so proud that we have continued to be the Church. You probably have some questions about what has been happening and what the next steps will be, so hopefully this document will provide some answers.



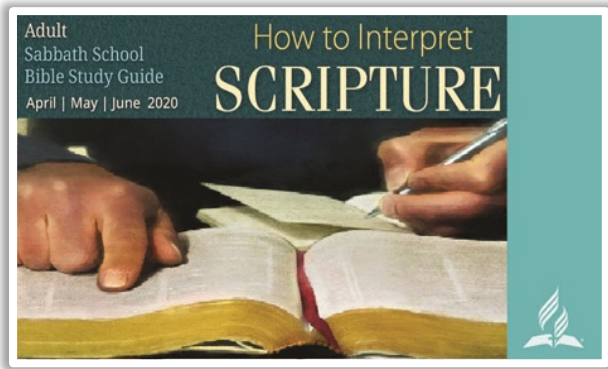
*We've had a lot of Zoom meetings!*

## Graduations

During the last week our church parking lot hosted two graduation celebrations. One on Thursday for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates from our elementary school and one on Sunday for our academy and high school seniors. Thanks to all of you who came out and hollered, honked, and honored our graduates! It was great to see their smiles as they received some well-deserved recognition!



*Congratulations to the Class of 2020!*

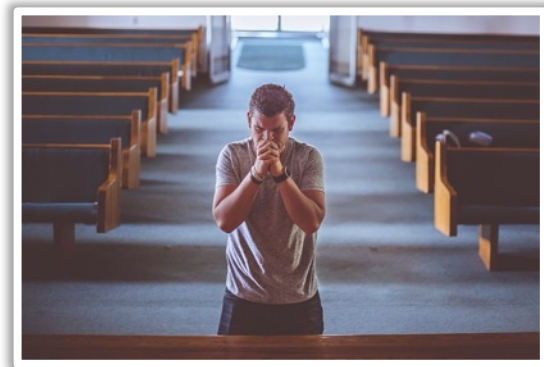



## Sabbath School

While it was a bit of an adjustment for many of us to learn how to use Zoom at first, we have become seasoned veterans with it by now. One of the brightest spots of our digital meetings has been our Zoom Sabbath School. We have had almost 50 people at times join us on Sabbath mornings to discuss the quarterly.

## Prayer Meeting

It has been a blessing for several of us to meet on Wednesday nights through Zoom to visit with each other, share our burdens and praises, and bring it all to God in prayer. While not quite as good the “real thing,” these digital meetings have been a good source of fellowship.



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| <b>Mr. Beierle is Retiring</b>   | <b>Did You Know?.....</b>   |
|   | <p><b>Mr. Beierle.....</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was accepted into the Alaska State Trooper's Academy 3 times but chose to go into teaching instead. (tested top 5%)</li> <li>• Has worked as a security officer and while on the job, was shot at!</li> <li>• Painted the entire outside of the St. Helena Adventist Hospital.</li> <li>• Has worked for the Federal Government driving recovery vehicles to pick up smoke jumpers in forest fires!</li> <li>• Played the role of Martin Luther,</li> </ul> |
| <p>This is Mr. Beierle's last year as principal/ teacher here at Tracy SDA Christian School. He will be retiring from teaching to do other things.</p> |   |

## Jim Beierle is Retiring

We are sad to say goodbye to our teaching principal of the last six years, but wish him well! We will be having a farewell drive-by parade in front of the school this Sunday, June 7, from 6:00-6:30p. Please plan to come by and honor Jim (and Vivian). Keep him, and our school, in your prayers during this transition!

## Financial Update

As to be expected, we have been behind in our church budget for the past few months. But, we are still in relatively decent shape due to an usually high giving month in February. God provided for us before we knew we would be in need! Thank you for your financial support over these past difficult months, and for your continued faithful returning of tithe and giving of offerings as we navigate the next steps!





## Our Re-Opening Plans

I'm sure most of us are wondering when we can resume our in-person worship services. You might be aware of other churches in and around Tracy that have re-opened or are re-opening soon. In order for us to reopen, we have to meet the guidelines for three governing bodies: the Center for Disease Control, San Joaquin County, and the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. So, while we have the technical ability to reopen now, after reviewing all of the regulations we would need to comply with, the church board voted last night to postpone resuming in-person worship services until the regulations were not so restrictive. Hopefully the guidelines will be adjusted in the next few weeks, at which point the board will discuss the matter further. While we are all eager to worship together again, we want to do so when we can be more focused on God than on the virus and its resulting precautions.

There is reason to rejoice however: you will no longer have to see Pastor Tyler's living room on Sabbath morning! As an interim step, the board voted to begin streaming our worship services from the church itself. This will allow for musicians and a few others to be provide more components of our usual service. So, expect these changes when our livestream returns on June 13 (not June 6).