



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

April 2014
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Whose Church is it Anyway?

The church is the *ekklesia*, literally, the “called-out group.” We are not people called *above* others, but called-out from among others; not because we’re better but because God has chosen us for a specialized role *on behalf* of all others, namely, to be God’s partners to bless all the families of the earth (**Gen 12:3; Acts 3:25**).

The church is a local assembly of the followers of Jesus. It is the Body of Christ, members of the Lord and of one another. The people of the church think of each other with the familial titles “brother and sister,” which accentuates their inseparable connection to each other. They are a group of people who know each other face to face and share life together in immediate and tangible ways. They gather together regularly (congregation = those who congregate) for worship, fellowship, teaching, the celebration of Christ-instituted practices (among Anabaptists, the Lord’s Supper and baptism), and for economic sharing as any have need. Then they disperse to serve the Lord with a view to assembling again soon. This definition of church has been consistent from the beginning and throughout the ages in all places and among all denominations of the faith.

I

Can you be a Christian and not be part of a local church? To be sure we all belong to something larger than any one particular assembly, the world-wide fellowship of believers, the “church universal.” This global affiliation and unity is very important but it is not sufficient. By definition one can’t practice Christian faith by *only* being a part of the world-wide body and not being part of a local body. The identity of the church as an assembly of the followers of Jesus who share life and mission together remains primary.

Can we compassionately make allowances for people who face challenges when it comes to assembling? Yes! Hospitals and nursing homes don’t close on Sundays and the staff may include Christian people; they can’t make it to church every Sunday. The same is true for many other jobs which include travel, labor intense work, responding to emergencies, and weekend duties.

In addition there are people who have or are caring for someone with a disability. There are other people who suffer from a clinical-level of anxiety about being in crowds and so church and other public gatherings are very threatening. There are people who are unusually susceptible to infection and so church is not possible. In our later years health and the ability to travel naturally reduce our ability to attend church. Perhaps the most sensitive category of all and the one calling for the most compassion is people who have been hurt by the church and are no longer part.

More difficult to answer are Christians who are not part of a congregation because they are disheartened by the short-comings of the church. They may see the history of the church as a continual series of compromises, from the simple-living and other-serving group of Jesus’ disciples and the fledgling congregations of Acts, to more internally-focused and self-serving “institutional religion.” Their critique has some truth and value. Pastors today are usually salaried employees with retirement accounts and healthcare coverage. We don’t find that in the Book of Romans! Many (although not all) American congregations own buildings and grounds whose continual upkeep absorbs much of the resources that would otherwise be available for outreach. Long-established churches tend to develop patterns that resist change (“we’ve always done it that way”) and can sometimes be out of touch with reality. Finally, some people level at the church the charge of hypocrisy—that we don’t act in ways that are consistent with what we claim to believe. In a mean-spirited age all institutions are liable to the charge of hypocrisy, but the church is an especially vulnerable target because of the high standards of morality and ethics and integrity by which it claims to live.

While these challenges are considerable, they do not change the foundational premise that the church is a local assembly of the followers of Jesus who share life and mission together.

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There’s more —————>

II

While we know the definition of church, church has always been influenced by the society around it. In our case, present-day American culture predisposes everyone to regard church as a consumer product. We even use that language: “I’m *shopping* for a church.” Visiting and trying out various congregations to determine one that “fits” has some legitimacy. Yet our pervasive consumer perspective produces significant distortion of the meaning of church. People can expect church to work like an appliance; they pay for it (through offerings) and they expect it to do what they want (because they’re the owners). If it doesn’t do what they want, they discard the item and look to purchase another “product” that does what it should. This is a far cry from being Christ’s body and members of one another.

American Christians are not alone in experiencing cultural influences that threaten to distort the meaning of church. The relationship of church and government is one difficulty that faces congregations in every culture.

III

The central challenge for the church, in any age, in any place, on any issue, is always the same. The challenge for the church is always the challenge of *identity*. Who are we? Who is the church? What do the Scriptures say about who the church is? And what is Christ, the Lord of the church, calling us to be? That is to say that the real challenge for the church is never a challenge posed from outside of it. It is always a challenge posed from within. In any age, any place, on any issue, the challenge for the church is always the same. It is the challenge of *identity*—who are we?

Alongside remembering that the church is a local assembly of the followers of Jesus, there is one other foundational element to our *identity*. That other central component is this: The church belongs to Jesus Christ. He is the Lord of the church. It is *his* church.

That the church is *Christ’s* church is so obvious that it may seem unnecessary to say. Yet in my experience most Christians, including myself, tend to act like it’s *my* church.

Remembering that its *Christ’s* church and not *my* church calls us back to our foundational identity. If it’s *my* church, I can pursue what *I* want. If it’s *your* church, you can pursue what *you* want. If its Christ’s church, we pursue what *Christ* wants, which is neither what *I* want nor what *you* want, neither *my* preference nor *your* preference.

The church belongs to Christ. He is the church’s Lord, that is, Sovereign Ruler. The church is a monarchy.

It is not a democracy where members lobby for

what they want or vote to determine what the majority of members want. In the end, what *we* want does not matter. We seek to obey the Lord of the church to whom the church belongs. We submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for the Breath of God to help us discern what Christ wants. Jesus said to Peter, “On this rock I will build *my* church.”

What assembles at 401 18th Avenue is *Christ’s* church. That realization calls us back to our foundational identity: (1) The local assembly of Jesus’ followers; (2) Submission to the Lord of the assembly and the need to discern and distinguish God’s will from ours.



Minutes from the Eden Leadership Team (ELT)

Eden Leadership Meeting March 8, 2014

A candle was lit to begin the meeting. Pastor Derek led in devotions.

Doing another pictorial directory was discussed. It was suggested to have a large bulletin board with family pictures in the fellowship hall. The possibility of an electronic directory was also discussed. More details to come.

An article will be written in the newspaper about Pastor Derek's arrival and his work with the youth and young adults. Another possible article may be done when the playground is finished.

Burial policies will be discussed by the trustees.

The Staff Relations Commission would like to know what kinds of needs are not being met by the congregation. The needs will be listened to and reported to the ELT by the end of May. They also are looking into hiring an office receptionist and Becky would work offsite. The salary budgeted for the secretary position would be split between the two.

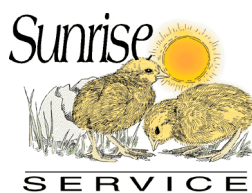
The worship commission discussed the new website and how items will appear on it. Hymnal and book holders are being worked on.

The possibility of evening church office hours was brought up.

The ELT would like to have the trustees set up a work day in the spring.

Next meeting - April 12 at 9:00 at the church office. Jeff closed with prayer.

Eden Youth Fellowship (EYF) invites you to the Sunrise Service on Easter morning, April 20. The service will take place at Norman and Nadine Wedel's pond located 4 miles south and 1 1/2 miles west of Moundridge at 6:30 a.m. (weather permitting). If there is inclement weather, the service will take place on the lawn at Eden or in the fellowship hall. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and dress for the weather. This would be a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors.



An invitation to sing in a community choir

You are invited to participate in a community choir that will perform on Tues, April 15, during Holy Week at 7 p.m. There are only two rehearsals to prepare two songs. Rehearsals are Sunday, April 13 at 3 p.m. at Eden Church, and Monday evening, April 14, immediately following the Holy Week service. For information, contact Becky Clark (620-386-4145) or Donna Stucky (316-288-0777). We hope you will join us for a meaningful experience.

Holy Week services schedule

Holy week will begin on Palm Sunday, April 13. During the worship service the children will celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry with palm branches during the children's time.

Monday and Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. the Associated Churches will meet at Eden with Pastor Brad Roth speaking. A community choir will sing both evenings, and an offering will be received for the Associated Churches of Moundridge.

Wednesday evening the Chancel Choir will rehearse at 7:00.

Good Friday the Eden Church Office will be closed and a Good Friday service will be held at the church at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, at 6:30 a.m. the Eden Youth Fellowship will host a Sunrise Service at Norman and Nadine Wedel's pond. The worship service at 9:30 will include music from the Easter Cantata *The Song of Mark* and Pastor Dave Stevens will bring the Easter message. During the last part of the Sunday school hour the children in the Junior Sunday school department will take part in an Easter Egg Hunt.



Invitation to Share



The "invitation to share" project for the month of April is Newborn Kits:

- ♥ 2 gowns/sleepers, (flannel or similar warm, soft fabric)
- ♥ 2 undershirts/onesies, (short or long sleeves)
- ♥ 4 cloth diapers, (flat-fold preferred)
- ♥ 1 receiving blanket, (lightweight fleece or flannel; 36")
- ♥ 4 safety pins (2")
- ♥ 1 bar DOVE soap, (leave in wrapper.)
- ♥ 1 pair of socks
- ♥ 1 cap.

If you want to support this project financially you may write a check to Eden with "invitation to share" in the memo line. Please mail checks to the church office, P.O. Box 406, Moundridge, KS 67107.

There's an app for that!



Western District Conference (WDC) in North Newton has announced that there is an APP for your smart phone (Apple or Android) or tablet now available for the Conference Resource Library Catalog.

1) Go to the App Store (iDevices) or go to the Play Store (Android) and search for the 'Atrium on the go' application.

2) Download the App and add this information in appropriate spaces:

Server: mennowdc.booksys.net

Port: 80 (this can also be left blank as it defaults to 80)

Library: crl

3) Voila!

No longer will you have to wonder if the WDC library has that book or resource. With the click of your App it will be at your fingertips!

Mennonite Women's Retreat April 25-27



Join the conversation with women across the Mennonite Church at Women in Conversation, a biennial retreat sponsored by Mennonite Women USA and Laurelville Mennonite Church Center. Jennifer Davis Sensenig, pastor at Community Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg, VA), will serve as keynote speaker April 25-27, 2014 at Cross Wind (Hesston, KS). To register or for more information, visit Laurelville.org/women-in-conversation or call [724.423.2056](tel:724.423.2056).



Sharing Stories of Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)

Would you like to see MDS stories shared with the next generation? A joint project between Hesston College and Mennonite Disaster Service is underway to get some stories on video.

For years people have heard Paul Unruh share his stories in informal settings. Paul has served in various areas of MDS for more than 30 years. Join us for an evening of listening to MDS stories being shared by Paul on March 31 and April 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Northlawn Theater on the Hesston College Campus. We'd like an audience mixture of both students and adults. The seating is very limited. There is no charge for this event. Please contact Becky Koller at 620-345-8320 or 620-386-0010 if you would like to be a part of this project.



Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture

A webinar will be hosted at the AMBS-Great Plains classroom (2500 Place, North Newton) on Wednesday, April 30 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. The topic is *"Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?"* with Loren Johns, Professor of New Testament at AMBS-Elkhart. No preregistration required but a fee of \$25 must be paid in cash or check to "AMBS-GP", memo line "Webinar-Scripture" at webinar. Simply show up, listen, and join others in a follow-up discussion. Contact Marlene Bogard (mbogard@mennowdc.org or 316-283-6300) for information.

Summer Classes at AMBS-Great Plains require early registration

The final two courses for the KS extension will be "Conflict, Communication, and Conciliation" taught at KIPCOR for two hours credit (or certificate option) June 10-13, 8 am-5pm and "Biblical Spirituality" taught by Jerry Truex for two or 3 hours credit Tuesday evenings, May 27-July 1, 6-10 pm. You may audit Biblical Spirituality for \$100--by registering directly with Great Plains Extension at mfaul@ambs.edu or 316-283-7098 or online at the Great Plains page at www.ambs.edu. All registrations must be received by **April 13**.

Mennonite Church USA Convention Comes to Kansas City



"On the way / En el Camino" is the theme for the Mennonite Church USA convention in Kansas City, MO June 30-July 5, 2015. The scripture passage chosen for the week is Luke 24. The passage includes stories of women finding Jesus' tomb empty, the disciples' encounter with Jesus on the Road to Emmaus, and Jesus' ascension and commissioning of the disciples. The theme was chosen by the Cabinet of Mennonite Church USA's Executive Board staff, led by Ervin Stutzman, executive director.

There are many reasons to plan to attend the convention in 2015. They include: faith formation, learning more about Mennonites across the country, networking and fellowship, opportunities for learning, opportunity to be a part of churchwide decision making, and the opportunity to interact with Mennonite Church USA agencies and colleges.

Convention is an investment of your time, energy and financial resources. Registration will begin on January 15, 2015. A cost breakdown for the convention events is as follows:

Registration

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Adults..... | \$229 |
| Youth | \$229 |
| Sponsors..... | \$219 |
| Jr. Youth/Sponsors* | \$399 |
| Children: K-5 | \$150 |
| Children: Preschool..... | \$130 |
| Infants/Toddlers | \$10/session |
| Evening childcare | \$13/session |

*The registration fee for Junior Youth includes program costs as well as a full meal plan for the week.

Meals

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Full meals..... | \$220 |
| Lunch/dinner | \$170 |
| Lunch only | \$80 |
| Dinner only | \$95 |

Now is the time to start planning to attend the convention. Because you won't have the high price of travel to this event, it makes it far more affordable than it has been the last few years.

For more convention news and updates, go to Website: www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MCUSA.convention
Twitter: www.Twitter.com/MennCon
Instagram: www.Instagram.com/MennoCon

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Dear Friends at Eden Mennonite,

Thank you so much for your recent gift to MCC! As always, we are grateful for your generosity and unwavering support. Thank you for being an important part of the work of MCC!

Blessings,
Anna Yoder
Donor Relations Coordinator
MCC Central States



Marriages

March 1, 2014

Laura Goering and Derrick Law



A foretaste of the feast

While teaching a group of First Communion students about the Lord's Supper, a pastor gave each child one M&M's candy at the beginning of class. "Eat

it!" he invited, before proceeding to teach.

Near the end of the session the pastor asked the students what they'd thought of the earlier treat. "Good!" said one. "I wanted more!" another admitted. "I wanted a whole bag!" chimed in a third.

"Now you understand another thing about Holy communion," the pastor said. He drew out of his supplies a full bag of M&M's for each student.

"Sometimes we call Communion 'a foretaste of the feast to come.'" Indeed, he explained, God promises that one day we'll feast together with Jesus in heaven, but until then, Communion is that delicious little taste of what the feast will be like. We're left wanting more because we have "[tasted] and [seen] that the LORD is good" (Psalm 34:8).

The next Communion at Eden is April 6 during worship.

Bible Quiz



When Jesus was crucified, over what time period did darkness cover the earth?

- A. 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- B. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- C. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- D. 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Answer: See Mark 15:33

Answer: D



Mennonite
Central
Committee

Job Opportunity

MCC Central States is currently recruiting for a "Young Adult Program Coordinator" position. This is a full-time position, working with the young adult programs for Central States, as well as leadership development. The location is open within the Central States region, with a preference for an urban setting. Persons who are interested can send a letter of intent and resume to Melissa Waltner (melissawaltner@mcc.org). You can view the job description at <http://serve.mcc.org/positions/young-adult-program-coordinator-cs>.



Check out our new website at www.edenmennonite.org. The new streamlined website also includes both video and audio of our scripture and sermons. Thanks goes to Flint Hills Design for the new website.

Easter Cake

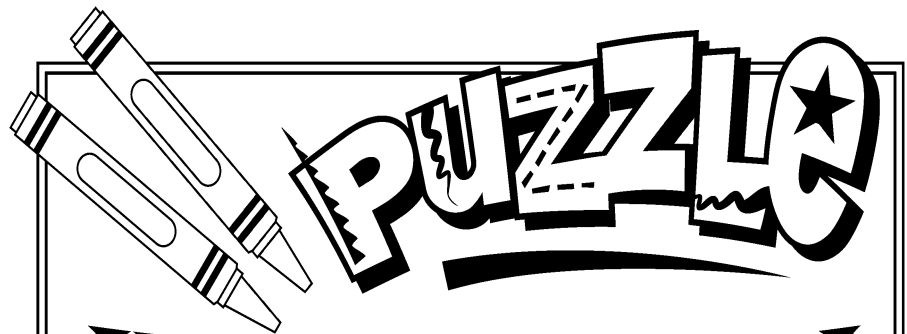
Celebrate our risen Lord with this uniquely decorated cake.

What you need:

- Adult help
- Box of cake mix (any flavor)
- Tub of brown frosting
- Shredded coconut
- Green food coloring
- Chocolate Hostess Ding Dong cupcake
- Donut hole
- Pretzel sticks
- M&M's candies

What you do:

1. Bake cake in rectangular pan. When cool, frost it.
2. Pour coconut into bowl. Add drops of green food coloring. Mix until coconut resembles grass.
3. In one corner of cake, set Ding Dong upright to resemble a tomb. Place donut hole in front of it, to one side.
4. Make three crosses with six pretzel sticks and some frosting. Arrange on opposite corner from tomb.
5. Use brown M&M's to make a path from the crosses to the tomb.
6. Use other colors of M&M's to spell out "Jesus lives!"

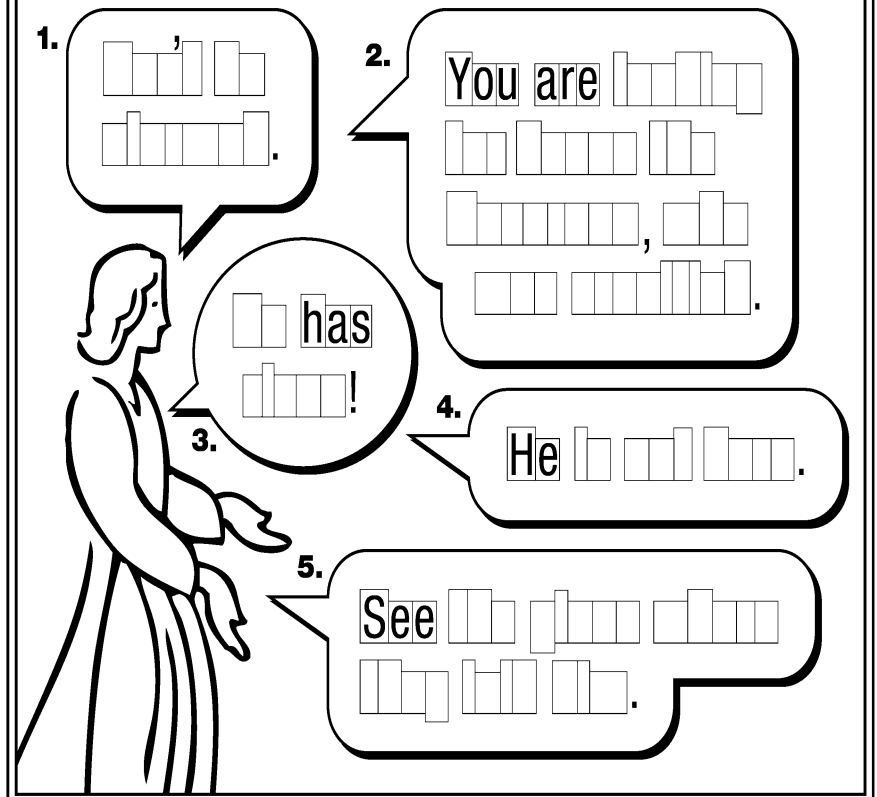


HE HAS RISEN!

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome were surprised to meet an angel at Jesus' empty tomb.

Directions: Use the word shapes to complete the angel's message, in Mark 16:6 (NIV).

for be crucified risen Don't is Jesus He
looking where not the place who here
the laid alarmed Nazarene they was him



Answer: 1. Don't be alarmed. 2. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. 3. He has risen! 4. He is not here. 5. See the place where they laid him.

April Birthdays

| | | | |
|------|---|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 1- | Janice Johnson | 15- | Benjamin Schrag (Bob & Jenny) |
| 2- | Corinne Janzen (Tony & Karen) | | Kenneth H. Stucky |
| | Elizabeth Graber (Nick & Christina Graber) | 16- | Leland Flickinger |
| | Katie Stevens (Dave & Carole) | | Kim Krehbiel |
| 3- | Gregory Flickner | 17- | Marjorie Stucky |
| | Kenneth L. Stucky | 18- | Kylee Addis (Curtis & Janine) |
| 4- | Monica Ewy | | Bonita Howard |
| | Marge Goering | | Don Kaufman |
| | Jamie Kaufmann | | Joyce Vogts |
| 5- | Bret Gillmore | 19- | Michael Flickner (Myron & Monica) |
| | Gerry Schrag | | Troy Miller (Troy & Suzanne) |
| 6- | Luene Flickinger | | Baylee Schrag (Brett) |
| | Jonathan Shirack (Ross & Christy) | | Jerry L. Schrag |
| | Rhett Stucky (David & Shelley) | | Mary Schrag |
| 7- | Greta Koehn | | Paige Wedel (Brad & Juli) |
| 8- | Angela Harmon | 20- | Eugene Stucky |
| | Scott Klassen | | Lucas Stucky |
| | Lori Parsons | 21- | Megan Goering (Eric & Ann) |
| | Betty A. Stucky | | Josh Knight (Brent & Carina) |
| | Karen Stucky | 22- | Cory Howard |
| 9- | Gib Burgan | | Rory Howard |
| | Howard Kaufman | 23- | Beverly Goering |
| | Kathy Neufeld | | Kori Krehbiel |
| | Hilda Schrag | 24- | Danielle Goering |
| | Julia Swanson | | Rachel Goering |
| 10- | Amanda Goering (Merlin & Lisa) | | Daniel Knoll |
| | Kirby Goering | | Connie Schrag |
| | Katie Gillmore | | Nathan Vontz (Nick & Lori) |
| | Cambry Schrag (Brian & Amy) | 25- | Linda Goering |
| | Sandra Stephenson | | Delmer Kaufman |
| | DeLonna Lehman | | Elwood Stucky |
| 11- | Mary Cross | | Cassidy Wedel (Ross) |
| | Taylor Mandeem (Pam) | 27- | Adrianna Stucky |
| 12- | Andrew Goering (Sam & Marcia) | 29- | Gracen Stucky (Luke & Maegen) |
| | Vernon R. Goering | 30- | Megan Krehbiel (Clinton & Shelly) |
| | Micah Graber (Jill Zerger & Donovan Graber) | | Patricia Reimer |
| | Steven Schrag | | Tenise Wedel |
| 13 - | Maxwell Preheim (Trent & Angela) | | |
| 14- | Wyatt Fiedler (Kathy) | | |
| | Heath Goering | | |
| | Nathan Graber | | |
| | Reid Graber (Nathan & Shelby) | | |
| | Kathy Waltner | | |

If there has been an omission or mistaken date
please contact the church office.

April Anniversaries

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| 2- | Mark & Pat Rupp | 19- | Ardath & Gail Graber |
| 4- | Jeff & Marcy Thiesen | 24- | Michael & Crystal Burnett |
| 7- | Wes & Sheryl Krehbiel | 25- | Zach & Kali Diederich |
| 8- | Gib & Kay Burgan | 26- | Paul & Claudia McGinness |
| 9- | Gary & Bonita Howard | 28- | Drue & Amber Durst |
| 10- | Ron & Juanita Goering | 30- | LaVerne & Luene Flickinger |
| 12- | Timothy & Susan Goering | | Leland & Kathy Flickinger |
| 13- | Greg & Glenda Krehbiel | | Del & Ann Kaufman |
| 17- | Patrick & Jennifer Goering | | Greg & Karen Stucky |
| 18- | Robert & Sondra Tolle | | |

Up-Coming Events

- Apr 6** Items for the MCC sale on display at church
Communion during the worship service
- Apr 7** 8:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission mtg.
- Apr 8** 11:30 a.m. Associated Churches pastors mtg.
- Apr 9** 6:00 p.m. EYF
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Apr 11 & 12** Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale in Hutchinson
- Apr 12** 9:00 a.m. Eden Leadership Team mtg.
- Apr 13** Palm Sunday
- Apr 14 & 15** 7:00 p.m. Associated Churches Holy Week services at Eden
- Apr 16** 6:00 p.m. EYF
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Apr 17** 5:00 p.m. Staff Congregation Relations Team mtg.
- Apr 18** Good Friday – Eden Church Office Closed
7:00 p.m. Good Friday service at Eden
- Apr 20** Easter Sunday
6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
Easter Egg Hunt
- Apr 22** 7:00 p.m. Deacon Commission
- Apr 23** 6:00 p.m. EYF
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Apr 27** Congregational Meeting, watch bulletin for details



On Wednesday Nights!

6:00 p.m. EYF

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

| April 2014 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |



Address Services Requested