



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

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Becoming like children



“Babies are God’s decision that the world should go on.” I recall hearing that or getting a card with these words in it when one of our boys was born. It is a hopeful thing. Babies are indeed precious gifts. They bring joy into our lives. As they grow it is a privilege to watch them develop into people with unique personalities. And as much as we worry about them, the delight and new life they bring is worth it. They do bring hope for the future.

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Not all adults share this view. Sometimes children are pushed away or treated like they don’t exist. Some would say children should be seen and not heard. In the ancient world this would have been the prevalent attitude toward children. They were often seen as half-human – at least until puberty. Girls were particularly mistreated, sometimes left to starve. In our affluent Western culture children may not be left to starve, but are silenced with the latest electronic toys and gadgets to keep them entertained.

But Jesus has something to say about children and their place in the kingdom of God. In Matthew 18 when some of His disciples asked who the greatest in the kingdom of heaven was, “Jesus called a child and stood her in the middle of them.” Then He said, “Unless you turn inside out and become like children, you will never, ever, get into the kingdom of heaven.” What was He telling those who expected to have a place of high honor in the kingdom?

The point Jesus was trying to get the disciples to understand was that “the weakest, most vulnerable, least significant human being you can think of is the clearest possible signpost to what the kingdom of God will be like...[it] won’t be about the survival of the fittest...the strongest, the fastest, the loudest.” (N.T. Wright, Matthew for Everyone, pg 27-8)

In chapter 19 of Matthew Jesus repeats that it is those who are like children who belong to the kingdom of heaven. In this text people were bringing children to Jesus to lay hands on them, and the disciples, who apparently didn’t get it yet, tried to send them away. “But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me! Don’t stop them.” (v. 14) We can only imagine that some of the children were scruffy and dirty, some ornery and mischievous, some bashful. Jesus let them all come to him “young life, bubbling up like water from a fountain and refusing to be quenched.” (N.T. Wright, pg. 45)

God’s kingdom is like children full of new life. Jesus is talking about now and about our participation in the kingdom. Little children are trusting, they are eager and vulnerable and willing to grow and adventure fully into life. They love to tell their stories and to hear our stories.

So what does it mean for us to turn inside out and become like children? What does it mean for who we accept into our fellowship? Are we, like children, the sort to whom the kingdom of heaven belongs?

Gail Graber



**Board of Deacons
September 19, 2013
7:00 p.m. Church Office**

Attendees: Linda Goering, Don Kaufman, Wanda Knight, Bonita Howard, Brandon Kaufman, Pastor Dave Stevens

After sharing of congregational concerns and joys, Pastor Dave led in prayer.

Dave reported that the staff is managing through this time of pastoral transition. He suggested that we especially remember Eden leadership and staff during this time and Derek King and family as they prepare for candidacy. It was decided to have Bonita place these two items in the Sept. 29 bulletin *remember in prayer* section.

Becky Koller and Jeff Snyder arrived to give an update to the mass communication system being implemented at Eden. Training is needed for the key people (messengers): the persons responsible for getting information to each subgroup. If messengers type the information, it will be transferred by voice, text and e-mail. If messengers verbally input the information, it will only transfer a voice message. When someone receives a care need, it is important to ask if it would be ok to share the information before sending any information out via the mass communication system.

After Becky Koller exited, Jeff remained to discuss the presentation of the proposed governance structural changes to be presented to the congregation on Sept. 29.

Pastor Dave's updates: 1) Eden will celebrate Communion on Oct. 6 which is world communion Sunday; 2) Heath and Samantha Doane will present Piper Jo for Child Dedication on Sunday, Oct. 13; 3) EYF seems to be managing ok through this time of transition under the leadership of Kyle and Robin Schrag and Larry Temple; 4) Since there will be no Associated Churches Thanksgiving service after the Community Thanksgiving meal, there is concern about funding for Associated Churches. Usually, there is a free will offering taken during this service which is an important piece of Associated churches funding. The deacons decided to donate \$250 to Associated Churches; 5) Derek King has been named the candidate for Associate Pastor and is scheduled to visit the Eden community with his wife and daughter Oct. 18-20 and the plan was to have a vote on October 27. Since October 27 is Harvest Mission Festival joint services with First Mennonite and West Zion, the vote will be

postponed one week until November 3. Don will talk with Carina about communicating this change to Derek King. Bonita will check to see who is in charge of the potluck Sunday Oct. 20; 6) Kristeen Goering will share about her term of VS during worship on Sunday, Sept 22.

The deacons decided to offer the congregation a recommendation to extend Pastor Gail's contract as ¼ time Associate Pastor of Visitation for 3 years to expire on December 31, 2016. This recommendation will be presented to the congregation with a vote following on Sunday, October 13, with announcements to this regard placed in the bulletin on September 29 and October 6. During this presentation, further remarks will pertain to the need for flexibility as we are in a changing situation with a new pastor potentially coming on board after the 1st of the year and thus job descriptions will be reviewed as the new pastoral team develops.

Linda will meet with Lynn Kaufman, head trustee, to figure salary and benefits for the new Associate Pastor position and communicate the proposed package with the deacons via e-mail.

Linda reported that there is an Everance meeting on October 3.

Linda asked that the deacons be available to meet with the new gifts discernment committee sometime soon after the September 29 governance structural changes presentation to the congregation to help the committee move forward on naming positions of the new structure.

The deacon/staff Christmas gathering will be Sunday, December 8 at Jay and Linda Goering's

Linda closed in prayer.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, October 15 (changed from October 17), at the church office

Future meetings: November 21, and possibly December 19

Invitation to Share



The "invitation to share" project for the month of November is a cash offering. If you want to take part in this project 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

4th Annual Moundridge Community Thanksgiving Dinner

***You and your family are invited to share a
FREE Thanksgiving dinner with our Family!***

Sunday, Nov. 17th • Meal Starting at 5:00 PM

Everything for the meal will be provided! Come Join Us!
Dress will be CASUAL! "Come as you are"

Hosted at the Moundridge High School Commons Area



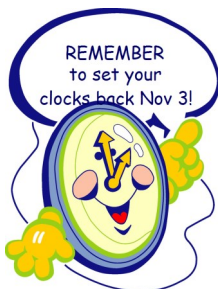
Are you a cook? Can you decorate or clean up?

The 4th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on November 17 starting at 5:00 p.m. As in the past this event will need the help of local churches. If you would be willing to provide a turkey or side dish please signup on the sheet provided in the fellowship hall. If you are willing to help serve, clean up or provide decorations, you may also indicate that on the signup sheet. If you have questions, please call Jeff Snyder 620-386-0921 or Barb Stucky 620-345-8367. We have much to be thankful for and can easily share our blessings with others. How can you share?



Eden's new structure model will be tried for two years

The Eden Mennonite Church met on September 29, to be presented with a new structure model for the church. Dorothy Nickel Friesen has been meeting with the pastors, deacons, trustees and council to discern and address the needs of the congregation. She presented the structure model and discussion followed. The response to the presentation was met with a majority showing of hands in favor of trying this model for two years with evaluation of the structure along the way.



Don't forget to set your clocks back before you go to bed on November 2. Daylight saving time ends at 2:00 a.m. on November 3.



A 93% vote extends Pastor Gail's term

On October 13, the congregation met to vote on the deacons' recommendation to extend Pastor Gail's contract for three years. A ballot vote was taken with 93% voting yes.



Let's have some fun together!

What do a wiener roast, scavenger hunt, hayrack ride, and church fellowship have in common? They will all happen on Sunday, November 3 at the farm of Gary & Bo Howard, 12923 NW 72th, Moundridge. Come anytime after 3:00. The scavenger hunt is at 4:00 and the wiener roast at 5:00. Please bring a side dish or dessert, table service, lawn chairs, and a wiener stick if you have one. Hot dogs, buns, condiments, drink, and supplies for smores will be provided. For questions, contact Gary & Bo Howard or Bret & Marla Gillmore.



Critical MDS Need

Mennonite Disaster Service has been working in Minot, ND, for 28 months now, and many families are living in the homes we mucked out and/or rehabbed. We are planning to wind down our work here in Minot before the end of this calendar year. However, in order to complete our work, we need additional long-term volunteers to serve as construction crew leaders. We also need additional short-term volunteers to respond to the needs of our final two or three families. Please read the following and consider responding and challenging others to respond as well:

An employed single mother who cares for her Autistic adult son is currently staying in a motel because the FEMA trailer was removed and she has nowhere else to live. The cost of the motel is a real hardship. MDS has committed to completing her home as soon as possible.

A husband and wife, the parents of seven children, have each been working two jobs while they also work at rehabbing a house for their family to live in. The mother has been postponing surgery in order to rehab the house so they can comply with the past due deadline to get out of their FEMA trailer. MDS has committed to completing this house soon.

In addition to the above, we have been strongly encouraged to assist two other families with at least part of their rehab tasks so the families can complete the remaining work and get back home.

It has been a long 28 months for each of the families referred to above. Please consider helping them to complete their journey home. To volunteer, call Chantel at 1-800-241-8111.

Paul Unruh
Volunteer Project Coordinator, MDS Minot

Congregation invited to take part in Pastor Dave's review

Informational letters and questionnaires regarding Pastor Dave's review have been dispersed to the congregation. The congregation has been invited to participate by both filling out a questionnaire and participating in a focus group discussion. Focus groups will commence on Sunday, November 3, during the Sunday school hour. Jr. Dept. classes will meet as usual and nursery services will be provided.



Adults from the congregation will be invited to gather in the fellowship hall where each participant will be assigned to a group. Provisions will be made for those with hearing difficulties. Marvin Zehr, support person from Western District Conference, will introduce the process after which the focus groups will meet for approximately one hour. Each focus group will be assigned a facilitator and a recorder who will record items discussed in the group without identifying who said what. EYF sponsors will conduct the high school youth focus group in the youth room during this time.

Marv Zehr will review the recorders' notes from all discussion groups and write a summary report based primarily on recorders' notes from the conversations within the focus groups. Following the adoption of the summary report by the review committee, Marv will share the report with Pastor Dave, and the deacons. The summary report will be presented to the congregation on December 8 immediately following the worship service. This is a change from the earlier announced date of November 24.



Benefit planned for playground

The Choral Society and Choir members will be providing the Wednesday night meal on November 13. The menu will consist of BJ's BBQ baby back ribs, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, with homemade ice cream for dessert.

Proceeds will go to the playground building fund. There is a signup sheet in the fellowship hall where you can indicate how many will be attending. Come one, come all, and come hungry!



Ladies, please mark your calendars for the annual SIS Christmas tea on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 9:00am in the Eden fellowship hall. We anticipate another year of celebrating the Christmas season with good food, good music, beautifully decorated tables, Christian fellowship and an inspiring program. Our speaker will be Karen Andres, chaplain at Prairie View with music provided by Angel Feet Dance Company. Please RSVP by December 1st to the church office at 345-8320, edenmc@mtelco.net or Denise Stucky at 345-2591 hdstucky@mtelco.net. All guests are welcome, so please bring your friends! Also RSVP if you or your guests require child care. Please share your favorite table service with us by setting a table for 8. If you are interested in setting a table, please contact Judy Krehbiel at 345-8784.



Congratulations to Kyle and Sarah Neufeld on the birth of a daughter, Elise Marie Neufeld, born on Thursday Oct 10. She is welcomed by her paternal grandparents, Alan and Kathy Neufeld, and great-grandparents Walt and Frieda Neufeld and Arlene Thiesen.



A special thanks to all who have been so generous with cards and letters you sent on my 90th birthday. May God bless all of you.

Milo Schrag

We thank you for the care and concern expressed for Taryn and for us when she suffered a snakebite. Taryn said, "Tell them thank you for the prayers. They helped!" It is wonderful to be part of a caring family of faith.

Carol and Larry Temple



Bible Quiz

Complete this proverb from the Bible: "Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is . . .

- A. "...than a silver platter of meat and unresolved anger."
- B. "...than a fatted ox and hatred with it."
- C. "...than a prepared bird and family bickering."
- D. All of the above.

Answer: B (See Proverbs 15:17 NRSV)

Thank you for your contribution to Mennonite Disaster Service. MDS volunteers are making a difference, one home at a time, in over 14 locations throughout Canada and the US this fall.

MDS is responding to the most recent disaster—the Colorado floods. FEMA reports that an estimated 1,882 homes have been destroyed and 5,566 homes are damaged. Within a week of the floods, MDS had some heavy equipment on the ground beginning the cleanup of mudslides and driveways.

The work continues in Staten Island, NY, responding to Hurricane Sandy. Gerald and Lee Dyck Project directors in Staten Island, reported, "One of our clients, who had endured brain surgery, Hurricane Sandy, and mold in her house said, 'I thought that you might forget about me, and I was OK with that, because I know that there are so many people that still have to get into their home. Thank you so much. You have saved me.'"

Thank you for supporting this work.

Gratefully,

Kevin King, Executive Director



Brighten your dinner table with these festive candle holders.

What you need:

- An adult's help
- Miniature pumpkins (palm size)
- Tea light candles
- Pencil
- Sharp knife
- Spoon

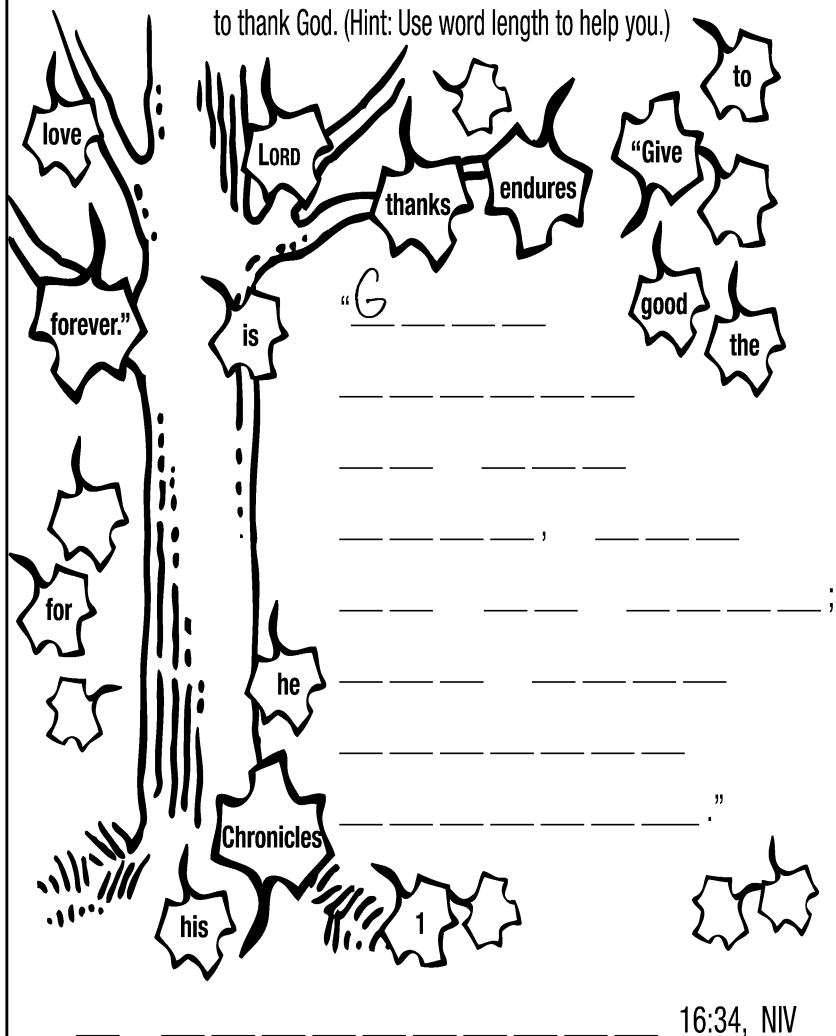
What you do:

1. Place a candle on top of each miniature pumpkin and trace around the candle's base.
2. Have an adult cut around the circle.
3. Scoop out the pulp and seeds.
4. Place a candle inside. Keep scooping, if necessary, so the candle sits inside the pumpkin nicely.
5. Decorate your dinner table with the pumpkins. Have an adult light the candles for you.



Leaves falling from trees are a sign of autumn's arrival. Giving thanks to God is a sign of our gratitude for his many blessings.

Directions: Using the words in the leaves, discover why it's good for us to thank God. (Hint: Use word length to help you.)



Answers: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV

November Birthdays

1-	Maria Britton	18-	Tammy Fast
3-	Madison Krehbiel (Clinton & Shelly)		Bob Kaufman
	Harvey Jon Stucky	19-	Floyd Flickinger
4-	Carla Shilts	21-	Walt Neufeld
5-	Joel Goering (Terence & Katherine)		Robert Tolle
	Bailey Graber (Travis & Penny)	20-	Shelley Overholt-Thiesen
6-	Orville Goering	22-	Juanita Goering
	Joseph Schrag (Darrell & Bobbi)		Victor Goering
	Keith Schrag		Art Krehbiel
	Russell Stucky	24-	Sharon Durst
7-	Rashell Kaufman		Daniel Schrag
	Ashley Schrag (Bruce & Kelly)		Leslie Thiessen
8-	Kay Burgan	25-	Wayne Ensz
	Geneva Flickner		Lowell Krehbiel
	Maynard Krehbiel	26-	Arlo Flickner
9-	Kacy Anderson (David & Joyce)	27-	Fynn Burge (Rondell & Rachel)
	Verna M. Goering		LaVerne Flickinger
	Cathy Johnson		Arielle Zerger
	Tiffany Stucky	28-	Norma Bevitt
	Chase Swanson (Mark & Julie)		Myron B. Goering
10-	Trent Preheim	29-	Cindy Bartell
11-	Matthew Graber		Verna P. Goering
	Austin Neufeld		June Graber
	Gentry Regier (Josh & Emily)		JoLene Kaufman
	Kevin Schrag		Kelly Hayes
12-	June Krehbiel		Lou Ann Lichti
	Crystal Burnett		Kevin Stucky
	Jacob Schrag	30-	Doris Flickner
	Lynette Alshanski		Beth Goering
13-	Brad Wedel		Daryl Griffin
14-	Evelyn Harms		Merlyn Johnson
	Alan Neufeld		Ashlyn Zerger (Greg & Jackie)
	Pam Mandeem		
15-	Trey Unrau		
16-	Macy Craig (Berry & Cara)		
	Kelly Stucky		
17-	Jon Hochstetler		
	Ron L. Krehbiel		

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

November Anniversaries

1-	Floyd & Edith Flickinger	23-	Anton & Patsy Klassen
	Leland & Leona Goering		Delbert & Barbara Stucky
	Byron & DeLonna Lehman	24-	Jerry & Kathy Neufeld
	Brad & Juli Wedel	25-	Gary & Jean Regier
2-	Glenn & Lynette Suderman		Bruce & Pat Stucky
3-	Ron & Renetta Stucky	28-	Ron & Nancy Krehbiel
13-	Mark & Joyce Vogts	29-	Lonnie & Jean Schrag
18-	Gerry & Wanita Schrag		

Up-Coming Events

- Nov. 3** 2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time ends
 Congregational vote for Derek King as Associate Pastor
 Lead Pastor Review focus group during Sunday school
 Church wienie roast
 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 4** 7:00 p.m. Evangelism and Outreach Committee Mtg.
- Nov 5** Mary Martha all day meeting
- Nov 13** Last Wednesday night Bible study session until January
 6:00 p.m. Fundraiser meal for playground served in fellowship hall
- Nov 14** 7:00 p.m. Review Committee mtg. @ church office
- Nov 17** Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Middle/High School
- Nov 20** Noon—All staff meeting
- Nov 21** 7:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors mtg.
- Nov 28** Thanksgiving—Eden Church Office closed
- Nov 29** Eden Church Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday
- Dec 8** Summary Report for Pastor Dave's review presented to congregation



On Wednesday Nights!

6:00 p.m.

Meal

6:45 p.m.

Eden Youth Fellowship meets

Young Men of God meet

Inter-generational activities

7:30 p.m.

Ladies Chorus

8:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir

8:45 p.m.

Men's Chorus



November 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Address Services Requested