

### EDEN ECHOES

November 2015 Issue Vol. 45 No. 9



The old adage that "Curiosity killed the cat" can be a bit threatening as Interim Pastors try to help congregations look at themselves in the mirror by asking questions that begin, "I'm curious about . . . . ." But that risk goes with the territory as I've also been encouraged occasionally by our own Staff-Congregation Relations Team to hold up that mirror of self-

assessment here at Eden as well.

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Facing such a challenge is Biblical, however, as "iron sharpens iron" (Prov. 27:17); as we are commanded to consider that which is excellent for the Lord (Phil. 4:8); and as we note God's elaborate and specific instructions for his place and order of worship in the Old Testament. The Apostle Paul also often exhorts the New Testament churches to imitate his own disciplines (Phil. 4:9), and benchmarks different congregations by challenging the church at Corinth to give like the churches in the Galatian region (I Cor. 16:1).

Reviewing best practices for consideration by other Mennonite congregations is a regular exercise at retreats and various conference gatherings as we all seek new ways of strengthening our ministries. Pastor Derek and I both come from different geographic and cultural backgrounds and experiences, which prompts challenging discussions on a regular basis with Becky Koller and various other church members who frequent the office from time to time. All of which prompt several questions today for our reflection.

First of all, I've been amazed at how complicated it is to serve communion because of our habit of spreading out so widely in our sanctuary for worship. It makes me curious about why we do this; and how might our worship be enhanced if we sat closer to one another? For singing, for example; to make preaching easier; and for physically modeling more obvious love and appreciation for one another in this local body of Christ. How might that look if we would creatively address any genuine physical issues that might strengthen our worship?

I'm also curious about why we don't present our offerings to the Lord on Sunday morning and leave them at the front until after the service like in most other Mennonite churches? Could counting the money wait until later so that everyone could remain in worship until the very end?

And finally, I'm also curious why Eden Mennonite Church doesn't share its ministries with the wider church through the Mennonite World Review for others' enjoyment and enrichment? We host various special events and have people going out on special ministry assignments. We have special concerts, classes and unique emphases like our Biblical foods and Arts display that are truly worthy of sharing like other churches do.

Would we consider this possibility if someone who enjoys writing would volunteer to share our blessings with our community and the wider church? Could we possibly be surprised at who might begin to come because they're more aware of opportunities here at Eden? I'm curious about these questions and would enjoy some conversation about whether we're aware of these opportunities; both to honor the Lord and also to bless others in some proven, new ways for our church

With appreciation for all we do here at Eden,



#### **Eden Leadership Team**

By JoLene Kaufman



The Eden Leadership Team met Thursday, October 15, 2015 at the church.

Present were: Bret Gillmore, JoLene Kaufman, Pastor Lee Suderman, Perry Krehbiel, Marcy Schrag, Dennis Wedel, Linda Goering, Jay Goering, Brenda Dalke, Pastor Derek King, Kyle Neufeld, Bonita Howard, and Bob Schrag. Absent were: Keith Albrecht and Mark Stucky

Bret called the meeting to order. Pastor Lee led in devotions. He read from a book written by Richard Criedbaum. "Know the plans that I have for you". He led in prayer.

Bret lit the candle to remind us of the Holy Spirit's presence.

The minutes were approved as printed.

**Treasurer report** - The revenue is approximately \$42,000.00 under the expenses. The mission payment will be made in November. Meat canning received some more contributions and will be paid out soon. Two more budget payments of \$1,000.00 will be made to Meat Canning. Question - Does the church credit card have a limit? Think it might be around \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00.

**The Stewardship Commission** shows a balance of \$83,031.30 which is for the expenses that the Trustees used to take care of. Has the defibrillator been kept up to date? The Trustees are responsible for that. Bret will check with the Trustees and the Ushers.

**Education/Discipleship Commission** - They met Monday night. They would like to have a work day to paint classrooms. Bret will pass this on to the Trustees for when they have another work day.

Deacon Commission - The feedback from the membership letters was discussed. They will be sending out another letter to non -attendees that they didn't hear from in this 2 year period and will inform them that they will be put on the associate list. They also will be given a chance to respond and have their names put back on full membership. Would like to see an invitation to them to join our family as a full time member. It would be more accurate to write the statements as follows: They will seek information from only those non-attendees who did not respond to the 2014 update. Included will be information regarding the automatic movement to associate membership of those who do not respond a second year. Would like to see an invitation to rejoin our family as a full time member in the future. Pastor Derek affirmed the Deacons work on this. ELT gave them permission to move forward.

**Stewardship Commission** - They will meet November 3 to work on budget and November 17 if needed. They have received budget requests from Deacons, Trustees, Worship and Education. Maybe each commission should keep track of each committees balances and have only one line item. Should we roll over all Commission balances at the end of the year and start with zero balance? We could possibly ask congregation for donations for benevolent needs instead of having a budget line. With Unified budget do we ask specifically for needs? We could

challenge the Commissions to be thrifty and be able to give the excess to a certain mission project. Would like to see giving money to the city for needs with utilities as a line item. Would rather see the trust in the Commissions to be able to give that money where needed. We should let the congregation know that the Mission payments will be made but the internal payments will not be made if the money is not there. What do we with the excess balances in the Commissions balances? Start with new zero balance on January 1. Then they will get budgeted money to start year. The Stewardship Commission will hold a reserve from the excess to have in case Commissions run short. The Trustees have 2 months of reserves for their expenses each year. If we dropped the budget amount would that affect the giving pattern? If we put everything in one pool, each Commission would still get the money if needed but need to be accountable for their expenditures. Do we maintain reserves and give away excess? Pool excess of balances in Commissions and pick a percentage to donate and rest goes in pool.

The Stewardship should bring recommendation on what percentage of excess funds will be for missions after the books close on December 31. On November 19 if ELT approves the congregation will vote on budget and affirm cleaning up the Commissions balances.

The commissions should have these items ready:

The amount in the account

How much you spent

Budgeted amount

We will make this known to the congregation.

Pastors will meet at Stutzman's cabin to discuss church business.

The youth group is going very well. Have some youth coming from other churches and some non-churched youth.

Bo and Kyle met with Peace/Witness. The transition on the benevolent proposal will go smoothly. P/W will need addition to their job description for that duty.

Gifts Discernment is still working.

The Deacons change on job description will be discussed.

We have 8 delegates out of a possible 14 for WDC Annual Assembly. They are Bret, Marla and Katie Gillmore, Jeff Koller, Jay and Linda Goering Pastors Lee and Derek. The delegates can request if they want their registration paid for. Deacons will fund that. Would delegates going to Western District Conference Annual Assembly find the round table discussions helpful?

October 25 - Will organize proposal discussion after meal.

Devotions November 19 - Bo will do them.

#### **Next meeting:**

Job descriptions Proposal for cleaning up funds Go over budget Approval of new structure.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

JoLene Kaufman, secretary



### Let's share an evening of crafts and fellowship

Ladies, mark your calendars on November 20 for craft night! We will supply the materials to make either a holiday painting or a Christmas wreath. At this time we are estimating the cost to be around \$20 a person to cover supplies. Once we determine how many people would like to attend we will finalize a location and a time. Please talk to Britney 620-386-0072 or Shayna 620-386-0600 if you have any questions or to RSVP. It should be a fun evening!



Christmas will soon be here. Ladies, start the holiday season with the Christmas tea on December 5, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the church. We will celebrate the Christmas season with good food, music by Just Friends, beautifully decorated tables, Christian fellowship, and an inspiring message by Kris Goertzen from Hutchinson. Please RSVP by December 1 to the church office at 345-8320 or (edenmc@mtelco.net) or call Carla Shilts at 245-5716. Guests are welcome. Please RSVP if childcare is needed. If you are willing, to share your table service and decorate a table for eight, please contact, Carla Shilts.



### A FAIR TRADE RETAILER

### Ten Thousand Villages is back in Newton for a limited time

Ten Thousand Villages will hold a festival sale in Newton beginning Friday, November 27 through Saturday December 5, (except Sundays) from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. They will be at a new location this year. They will be set up at Peace Connections, 612 N. Main Street

New Fair Trade items will be displayed every day, including Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join you for your Holiday Fair Trade Shopping.



### Worship & Community: Cultivating the Practices that Sustain Us

All are invited to the 3rd biennial Worship and

the Arts Symposium at Bethel College Saturday, Nov. 21. Speakers include Christine Pohl, Asbury Theological Seminary, and Michael Driscoll, University of Notre Dame. Registration information is at bethelks.edu/worshiparts, or call Denise Krase at 316 -284-5239.

#### **Invitation to Share**



The "invitation to share" project for the month of November is: Cash Offering. If you want to support 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.

### **Thanksgiving Beatitudes**

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?



Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

~ Author unknown

### What does human trafficking look like?

On Wednesday, November 4, at 7 pm, the Peace Group at the First

Mennonite Church of Christian, 719 South Christian, Moundridge, will sponsor a presentation by Sister Mary Ellen Loch and Sister Dorothy LeBlanc, of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Wichita. They will be sharing with us and helping to educate us about human trafficking -- What does it look like? How do we recognize it? What can we do about it? These topics and a few more will be addressed. All are welcome to attend.

#### **Request for Help**

My name is Melvin Schmidt, son of Carl and Hilda Schmidt. I grew up in the Beatrice Nebraska Mennonite community. My wife, son and I live in California. Recently, I was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, and I have gone through several rounds of chemotherapy. The next big step is a Bone Marrow Transplant.

I am writing to ask a big favor. The chances for Leukemia victims are greatly increased if they receive a Bone Marrow Transplant from someone who shares a critical set of genes. Full siblings have a 25% chance of sharing these genes. Close knit communities, such as Mennonites, have a much higher chance of finding a match from within their communities than from the general population.

Please go to <a href="http://www.bonemarrow4melvin.com/">http://www.bonemarrow4melvin.com/</a>. From there, you can link to the website "bethematch.org", and join. Joining as a potential donor requires a simple blood draw. This non-profit organization maintains a bank of genetic information used by cancer centers to save lives around the world. The website provides a lot of information about the whole process.

I am asking for your help to join because I do not have an available donor from my siblings, and a Bone Marrow Transplant can increase my chances from 25% to 50%. Joining will also help your own communities. I have been told that this is a big movement in Germany as a whole. Please visit the website, and join if you are able.

Thank you

Melvin Schmidt

### Community Thanksgiving Meal Canceled

There will be no Community Thanksgiving Meal this November as there has been in the past several



years. Has the need for hot meals and a community connection gone away? No. The needed is still there. It will take individuals attending to those needs on their own this year. Please consider how you might be invitational and hospitable this holiday season to those who do not have family close by.

A deep thanks goes to Jeff Snyder and many others who coordinated, prepared, served, and cleaned up after this annual event in past years.

# (gg)

### What is their address?

The following persons are listed in our church directory with address unknown. At least one of the persons in each family group is an Eden mem-

ber. It would be nice to have current contact information. Online information is not always current or reliable. If you have information received directly from someone on the list or a member of their family regarding a mailing address, phone number or email address, please let the church office know. (620-345-8320 or edenmc@mtelco.net)

Howard & Lynette (Beake) Alshanski Norma (Janzen) Bevitt Whitney Fast Karev French **Rod Gehring** Ailene (Billings) Goering Cindy (Stucky) Goering Douglas Graber John R. & Betty (Schrag) Heritage Tony & Karen (McCrary) Janzen Nathan Knight Bryce Krehbiel Denise (Huber) Krehbiel Kori Krehbiel Mervin Krehbiel Elizabeth (Conquest) Kremeier Aly Schrag Donnie D. Schrag Edwin L. Schrag Gladys (Summerlin) Schrag (Mrs. Rex) Terry & Colleen Karen (Lubbers) Schrag Ken & Judy N. (Levier) Sebo Glen Toews Ross A. Wedel Tenise R. Wedel Jacob & Erika (Doering) Zahn

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and kind thoughts given to me while in the hospital. I'm thankful I belong to a caring church.

Patsy Klassen

It is with extreme gratitude that I write this letter. I have re-written it many times this week. I have not properly been able to express my utter and complete appreciation for the church's assistance paying my utility bill. I am going through a difficult time financially at this moment and would not have had any chance to keep my utilities on if it weren't for the selfless generosity of the church. This kind act has provided me an opportunity to stay in my home and more time to try and regain my independence. So I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to every member of the church for making people's lives better. "One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his good deed." Proverbs 19:17 Jacob D. Schrag

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits and support through everything, starting with the fire, the illness of our great-granddaughter and finally Nelson's surgery. We would like to give a special thank you to Pastor Derek for his visits and prayers and also a thank you to Sarah for her prayers. All are appreciated. It's nice to have a caring church family. Nelson & Joan Goering





Florene Wedel (79) passed away on Monday, October 19. Services were held at Eden on Friday, October 23. We extend our sympathy to her children Duane and LaDonna, Dwight and Dixie, Dennis and all of her extended family.



We choose not to print our members' addresses online. If you would like an address of one of our members, please contact the church office at 620.345.8320.

### The power of gratitude

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude grat·i·tude

[grat i tood]

ioun

the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness

makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

~ Melody Beattie



November 2 is the date daylight saving time ends. That's the day to set your clocks BACK. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep!

### Pine Village's Benefit Day Season a Success!

Following the past two years of having record setting Benefit Day Seasons, this year's season came in a close second! Last year's season was just short of \$41,800 and this year's came in very close at \$41,300. Besides the Annual Dinner & Auction held Oct. 22, other events contributing to this year's success include the BBQ Dinner, Bierock Meal, Variety Show, and Garage & Bake Sales.

Top selling items at the Auction included the themed baskets which were donated by Pine Village's sponsoring churches, a Craftsman Lawnmower donated by G&G Sales, the Wichita State and Kansas University Cabinets created and donated by Nick Regier of Regier's Custom Woodworking, and 112-year-old baby cradle donated by Vera & Ted Zerger. Benefit Day Season, which began in 1959 as a one day event in a tent outside, is the largest annual fundraiser for Pine Village.

"Our continued Benefit Day Season success is the result of collaboration amongst many volunteers and community support," said Jim Huxman, Administrator. "We are deeply thankful and humbled by the support that is provided by so many through their volunteerism or financial gifts. A huge thank you to everyone for all the support you provide the residents at Pine Village! It is truly an honor to be part of such a great tradition and organization!"

Each year the funds raised through the Benefit Day Season are designated for a specific project. This year the funds will go toward the purchasing of a new phone system.

## Thankful Hearts

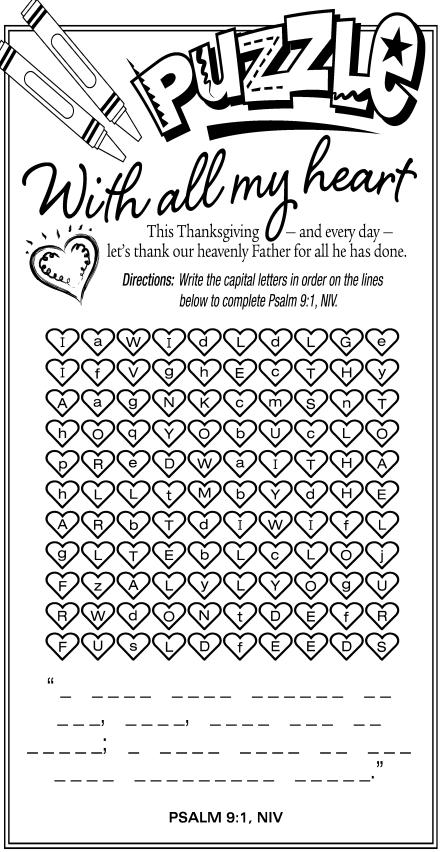
Make table decorations that serve as Thanksgiving conversation-starters.

### What you need:

- Paper and pencil
- Scissors
- Cloth or felt
- Needle and thread
- Sewing machine (optional)
- Fiber fill, cotton balls or rice
- Adult help

### What you do:

- 1. Cut out a heart pattern (any size) on paper. Allow 1/4" for a seam if you'll be using a sewing machine.
- 2. Cut out material hearts, placing pieces right sides out if sewing by hand and right sides together if using a machine.
- 3. For hand-sewing, use a running stitch or an overcast stitch. Leave an opening for stuffing.
- 4. With a machine, sew along a 1/4" seam, allowing a 1" opening so you can turn the heart inside out and insert stuffing. Trim close to seam but don't cut stitching.
- 5. Fill with stuffing. Sew the opening shut by hand.
- 6. Put a heart at each place setting. Before dinner, have guests pick theirs up and say why they have a thankful heart.



Answer: "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1, NIV



- 3- Madison Krehbiel (Clinton & Shelly) Harvey Jon Stucky
- 4- Carla Shilts
- 5- Bailey Graber (Travis & Penny) Allen Bonde
- 6- Joseph Schrag (Darrell & Bobbi) Keith Schrag Russell Stucky
- 7- Rashell Kaufman Ashley Schrag (Bruce & Kelly)
- 8- Kay Burgan Geneva Flickner Maynard Krehbiel
- 9- Kacy Anderson (David & Joyce) Verna M. Goering Cathy Johnson Tiffany Stucky Chase Swanson (Mark & Julie)
- 10- Trent Preheim
- 11- Austin Neufeld Gentry Regier (Josh & Emily) Kevin Schrag
- 12- June Krehbiel Crystal Burnett Jacob D. Schrag Lynette Alshanski
- 14- Evelyn Harms
  Alan Neufeld
  Pam Mandeen
- 15- Trey Unrau
- 16- Kelly Stucky
- 17- Ron L. Krehbiel

- 18- Bob Kaufman
- 19- Floyd Flickinger
- 21- Walt Neufeld Robert Tolle
- 22- Cecilia Goering Victor Goering Art Krehbiel
- 24- Sharon Durst Daniel Schrag Leslie Thiessen
- 25- Wayne Ensz Lowell Krehbiel
- 26- Arlo Flickner
- 27- Fynn Burge (Rondell & Rachel) LaVerne Flickinger Arielle Zerger
- 28- Norma Bevitt Myron B. Goering
- 29- Cindy Bartell
  Verna P. Goering (Virgil)
  June Graber
  JoLene Kaufman
  Kelly Hayes
  Lou Ann Lichti
  Kevin Stucky
- 30- Doris Flickner Beth Goering Daryl Griffin Merlyn Johnson



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

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

### **Up-Coming Events**

Oct 30, 31: WDC Annual Assembly Nov 3: Mary Martha all day meeting

6:00 p.m. Stewardship Commission

**Nov 4, 11, 18:** 6:00 p.m. meal served

6:00 p.m. FEWZ meets at First Mennonite (Nov 11 at Will & Ellen Kaufman's)

6:45 p.m. Bible study for all ages

7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus

**Nov 6:** MCC Meat Canning in North Newton

FEWZ helping with MCC meat canning

**Nov 9:** 7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission mtg.

**Nov 12:** 6:00 p.m. SCRT meeting

**Nov 16:** 6:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors meeting at church office

7:00 p.m. Worship Commission meeting

Nov 17: 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Commission meeting
Nov 18: Last Wednesday night Bible Study until January
Nov 19: Eden Leadership Team (ELT) mtg. at Eden
Nov 25: 6:00 p.m. FEWZ meets at First Mennonite
Nov 26: Thanksgiving (Eden Church Office closed)

Nov 27: Eden Church Office Closed Nov 29: First Sunday of Advent

November 2015										
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December 2015									
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Address Services Requested