



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

July 2016

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Worship and the Theater

Worship is like the theater...

That might seem pretty obvious. If you sit in the sanctuary of most churches and look around, you'll see theater-like seating, all pointed toward the front. The front usually includes a raised area, which in the past was called a "chancel," but is now quite commonly called a "stage." When worship (the show) begins, the congregation (audience) gathers and finds seating on the benches. They check their bulletins (programs) to see what will be happening and who is involved. Then, after a prelude (pre-show music) a worship leader or pastor (actors) steps to the microphone to begin the worship (show). After a particularly moving piece of special music (solo), the congregation (audience) may burst into applause. For the average observer, it's not much of a stretch to see some basic similarities between what happens in churches on Sunday morning and what happens in a theater on a Friday or Saturday night.

So as I was doing my research on worship for the elective Sunday school class, it didn't strike me as odd to come across this sentence: "Many theologians join Kierkegaard in comparing worship to the theater." Marva Dawn highlights this metaphor, but goes on to explain that Kierkegaard was offering a renewed understanding of who the characters in the theater should be. This shift is what caught my attention. According to Kierkegaard, we enter the sanctuary and assume that we are the theatergoers and the people up front are the actors. He asserts that in worship, God is the audience, the people on the chancel are the prompters, and the people in the congregation are the actors. Kierkegaard says, "In the most earnest sense God is the critical theatergoer...The speaker then is the prompter, and the listener stands openly before God. The listener, if I may say so, is the actor, who in all truth acts before God." So Dawn concludes that "genuine worship happens when everyone knows that God is the audience."

This metaphor could be very challenging to many of us, and I hope it is. I realize that no metaphors are perfect, so I understand that this one could steer us in the wrong direction. At its worst, it could scare us off from wanting to worship at all because it makes us think that we are in the spotlight and God is simply watching us perform while God snacks on popcorn. This image is wrong in so many ways, primarily because in worship God is be the center of all we do and say, the one who captures the focus of our eyes, our hearts, and our very lives. Additionally, it is important to recognize that the only reason we are gathered for worship at all is that God was, is, and always will be the primary Actor. The only reason there is worship is in response to God's saving work, so while the congregation may be the actors, that is only a response to God's acting in the first place. I loved basketball as a kid, but my excitement went to another level when I watched Michael Jordan. In the 1991 NBA Finals, he made a move, forever burned into my brain, in which he went down the lane, took off to dunk the ball with his right

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Soren Kierkegaard was a Danish philosopher, theologian, poet, and critic of Christianity as a state religion. He lived from 1813 -1855.

Marva Dawn, *Reaching out without dumbing down: A theology of worship for this urgent time* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1995), 82.

The prompter sits just off stage, out of sight of the audience, whispering lines to the actors. They remind the actors what to say and make sure that they are saying the right lines.

Soren Kierkegaard, *Purity of heart is to will one thing*, Trans. Douglas Steere (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1948) pp.180-181.

Dawn, *Reaching out without dumbing down*, 82.

hand, then, to avoid the defenders, switched the ball to his left hand and made a scooping layup just before landing. I spent the next several weeks practicing that very move night and day, trying to do it just like him. Jordan made a move that inspired me so much that I couldn't help but respond. So the metaphor of the theater in which we are the actors is helpful, we must remember who acted first.

At its best, this theater metaphor reminds us that in worship we are not simply passive recipients of a stage production, but actors responding to God's goodness, with prompting from organists, choirs, pastors, and worship leaders. The image of worship in Revelation highlights the active participation of everyone present: "...there was a great multitude that no one could count... standing before the throne... with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Ch. 7 Vs. 9,10) Our worship here should be an attempt to practice for, or get a glimpse of our eternal worship in God's throne room, in which everyone has an active part in the choruses of praise.

Ask yourself, if in worship I am an actor and God is the audience, does it matter where I sit? Does it matter if I sing or not? How might a shift in perception of who the actors are and who the audience is change my focus and my actions in worship?

DL A.G.

Retreat Weekend Update

Eden's Retreat is July 9 and 10 at Camp Menno'scah. Below are some details to help you plan.

Schedule

Saturday

2-5:00 p.m. Registration
3-5:00 p.m. Afternoon Swim
6:00 p.m. Supper
7:00 p.m. Group Activities
8:00 p.m. Popcorn
9:30 p.m. Campfire
10-11 p.m. Late Swim

Sunday

7:30 a.m. Morning Devotions
8:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Morning Swim
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1-2:00 p.m. Clean Up and Head Home

Please consider being with us for both days. Here are the suggested per-person rates. Please feel free to pay only what you can.

Adult/Child
\$7.00 one day rate
\$14.50/7.75 Tent/RV
\$16.50/8.25 Cabin
\$22.00/11.00 Bunk House

A room in the Retreat Center is \$67 per night for 2 people. You may add others to a room for \$15.00 per person. Limit 4 people per room.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Pastor Derek.



From Eden Leadership Team

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, June 26, 2016 after the worship service for the purpose of calling Pastor Derek for the Lead Pastor position. Kyle Neufeld, moderator elect, in place of Bret Gillmore, moderator called the meeting to order. Kyle asked for any questions or comments. A question was asked concerning the interim for Associate Pastor. That will be addressed after the election has been confirmed.

Kyle read the ballot again. The ballots were handed out and picked up by the ushers.

The meeting was adjourned.

The vote was 180 yes and 2 no.

At the meal following Sunday school it was announced that Karen Andres will be our Interim Associate Pastor for a term as Pastor Derek will assume the Lead Pastor role effective July 1.

JoLene Kaufman, secretary

Invitation to Share



The "invitation to share" project for the month of July **NEW** bars of soap (all sizes and kinds of soap, w/ wrappers) Also homemade laundry soap.

If you would like 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.



Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Search Committee met several times in May and spent considerable time in thoughtful discussion and prayer with the end result being the following document/announcement made to first ELT and then to the congregation. We currently have an individual who has accepted the invitation to be the candidate for Lead Pastor at Eden. He has agreed to go through the steps toward a congregational vote. This is the announcement that was made June 5, 2016.

It is with great joy that we announce that we have a Candidate for Lead Pastor!

This has been a long and interesting journey, sometimes quite difficult, but we believe that we have followed the direction of the Spirit at each step in the process.

The young man that we have asked to be the candidate for lead pastor is, we believe, a good fit for Eden. He is very gifted, he is steeped in Anabaptist Theology, he has a great deal of enthusiasm and energy for ministry, and he loves the church. He shows a deep maturity and professionalism, he is passionate about ministry, gifted musically, and is already invested in Eden Mennonite.

Many person from the congregation have mentioned from the beginning that Derek would be an excellent lead pastor, and we have always agreed, but had some hesitancy simply because he had only been here a short time, he was doing an amazing job with the work of Associate Pastor, and seemed at home in that role. We felt it was not fair to him to pull him away from that, in spite of the fact that we knew he would do an excellent job as Lead Pastor.

This year and a half of work on our part has given him time to work at what he was hired to do, and his performance in that time has only served to solidify what we thought from the beginning...that he will do well with wherever God places him!

Because a transition of position can be a bit touchy, we want to make sure to do this thoughtfully and with care. We have visited with Heidi Regier Kreider at Western District Conference, and have prayerfully discerned that this is certainly a viable option for our congregation.

We will need to do some altering of job descriptions, so that the distinctive 'lead pastor's responsibilities (such as calling staff meetings, speaking with the media, and being the place where 'the buck

stops') are transferred into Derek's job description, but will also allow him to continue his excellent work with FEWZ and the young adults in the congregation. SCRT, ELT Executive Committee, and the Search Committee will be meeting with Derek to clarify his role as lead pastor.

As unnecessary as it may seem to some, we will need to follow the proper procedure, and propose a candidating weekend at a date in the near future. Derek will be available to answer any questions that small groups, committees, or individuals may have in regards to his perception of this new position, his vision for the church, etc. He will also preach a 'candidating' sermon, and we will hold a congregational meeting to vote the following week. Thanks for your patience and your prayers.

In the days following the congregational announcement there was a meeting of the Search Committee, ELT, SCRT to discuss issues of transitioning Associate Pastor to Lead Pastor, specific changes to the job descriptions involved, and specifics of a "candidating" weekend, which was chosen to be June 18-19.

The Search Committee elected to have our new Lead Pastor Candidate, Derek King, have breakfast and a round table discussion session early Saturday morning, June 18. Eden Mennonite Church members were invited to attend. The weekend also included Derek's sermon on Sunday morning, June 19, followed by congregational /pastor questions and answers during the Sunday School hour.

Sunday, June 26 there was a congregational vote for members to vote on accepting Derek King as Lead Pastor for Eden Mennonite Church. The results were 180 - yes and 2- no. As a committee, we feel God has blessed us with a wonderful "gift" in our midst. We thank you, the congregation, for your ongoing input, support, and prayers which helped lead us in the path we have chosen. We will continue as a committee to secure the position of Associate Pastor in the coming days.

Larry Temple, Jenny Schrag, Cindy Bartell, Sami Doane, Jerry Schrag

Join the Junior SS Department With Collecting for Camp Mennoscah

The Junior Department Sunday school offering is going to Camp Mennoscah during the summer quarter. During the months of July and August, we would like to include the congregation to help with this offering. The children will collect items needed by the camp during the worship service offering time from those that would like to donate to the camp.

Since camp is only in session through the end of July, we have a list of items that could be donated in the first week of July and at our camp retreat. The second list will be the remainder of the quarter. We will also accept monetary donations, however we still encourage the children to keep in the habit of taking their offerings to their Sunday school classes.

We will need someone to take items up to the camp each week during the month of July, so give me a call if you know someone that is attending one of the sessions and can take a load of donated items. Thank you, Kathy Waltner 620-386-4629.

First Sunday in July and at our camp retreat at Mennoscah

Gluten free pasta	Toilet paper
Ground Cinnamon	Paper Towels
Vegetarian Baked Beans	Children's Books (elementary pic books)
Pie Filling (Blueberry, Cherry)	Table Tennis Balls
Popcorn	Soccer Balls
Sugar	Footballs
Salt	Sponges (3"x4") or larger
	Toilet Bowl Brushes
Band Aids	
Rubbing Alcohol	Washable Markers (Bright Colors)
Paint Scrapers	Permanent Markers (Bright Colors)
Gorilla Tape	Embroidery Floss (Bright Colors)
Drill Bit Sets, 3/8" Chuck	Duct Tape (Strong, Advanced or Professional)
Hack Saw Blades	Lanyard Lacing
New Paint Brushes, 1½-3"	Lanyard Hooks 1"
New Paint Rollers, 3/8"-34" nap	Office paper, stamps (envelope or postcard)
Torx Bits, 25 and 20	
Wood Screws, 1" and 1½" long, #6 and #8	
Exterior Screws 2" Torx Head	

Third week of July through the end of summer

All items above excluding the food items.

Other Items that Camp Mennoscah needs that you may donate

(They are more specific so call Olivia Bartel at camp 620-297-3290)

Refrigerator for pop breaks	Subscription to The Mennonite
Canoe, 15'6"	Renewal to the Mennonite World Review
Archery Target Cover	
Hymnal: A Worship Book vinyl covers (50)	
56" double loop bow strings for recurve bows	
40" double loop bow strings for recurve bows	



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

We learned from Becky at the Eden Church Office that Vicki had phoned to ask about the deadline for submission of notices in the June *Eden Echoes*, saying that she'd phone or mail a message to be printed. Since Vicki wasn't able to do that, we are sending this message for her. . . Thank you so very much for all the loving thoughts and prayers, the cards, and flowers and visits Vicki received during her time at Mercy Hospital and Pine Village. She greatly appreciated your kind thoughtfulness. And we add our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the care and support you've given to us. Blessings and God's grace to all of you.
The family of Verlene "Vicki" Kaufman

I want to thank those who sent cards, brought food, made phone calls, offered prayers, etc. after my surgery and recovery. God bless you.
Marjean Stucky

Thanks so much for the prayers, cards, and kind words while I was hospitalized. I appreciated your thoughtfulness.
Patsy Klassen

Thank you for the cards, gifts and well wishes. We appreciate everything so much.
Pastor Lee and Di Suderman

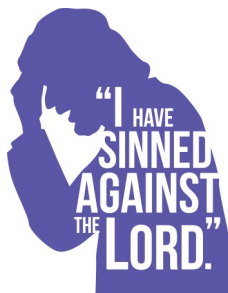


Virgil Kaufman (90) passed away on June 20 at Pine Village. Services were held at Eden on June 28 at Eden. We extend our sympathy to his wife Vernell, and his children, Lynn, Sharon, Kenton, and Marla, and their families and all of Virgil's extended family and friends.



Who said to the prophet Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD"?

- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother's birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel's greatest king



Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 12:13.)

Circles®
of McPherson County



Do you have what it takes to survive a month in poverty?

Have you ever pondered why it is so difficult for a family to break the cycle of poverty? How do they spend their time? What shapes their thinking? What role does the community play in helping families become prosperous? Are you willing to accept the challenge to take part in a simulation?

You will assume the role of a person experiencing survival mode in 4 fifteen minute weeks. This experience will bring to life the struggles families face daily and help people who are not living in poverty begin to understand why families who are make some of the decisions they make. Most importantly, learn strategies to help families stop the madness and find clear pathways out.

Thursday, July 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church—Hess Hall in McPherson you have the opportunity to see life from the poverty perspective. There are 88 slots available. Please call the First United Methodist Church at 620.241.9011 to reserve your slot.

This is and is meant to be a very stressful hour! This is how families living in poverty REALLY live! Once the 'month' is completed, a discussion will be facilitated by Rebecca Lewis-Pankratz to share your feelings, your 'aha' moments, and what may have surprised you.

This is a project of Circles of McPherson County.



Cave Quest VBS is coming up July 11-15, 6-8 p.m. at West Zion

We're looking for crew leaders and helpers to team up with us as we ground kids in God's rock solid love. Interested in serving? Talk to Kristine Schrag 620-217-2305 or krissigurl2005@hotmail.com. You can also register your kids or yourself at tinyurl.com/moundridge2016vbs Registration forms for both helpers and participants are also available on the literature table in the fellowship hall.

SUMMER FRUIT PIZZA



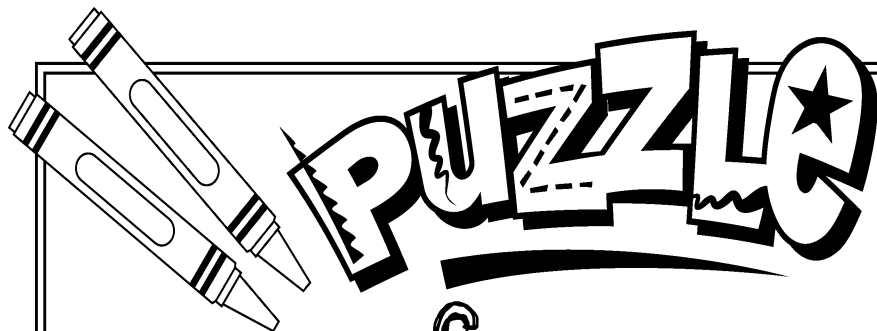
Celebrate summer with this tasty dessert pizza, using your favorite summer fruits as the toppings.

What you need:

- 1 tube slice-and-bake sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Round pizza pan
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups sliced fruit
- Adult help

What you do:

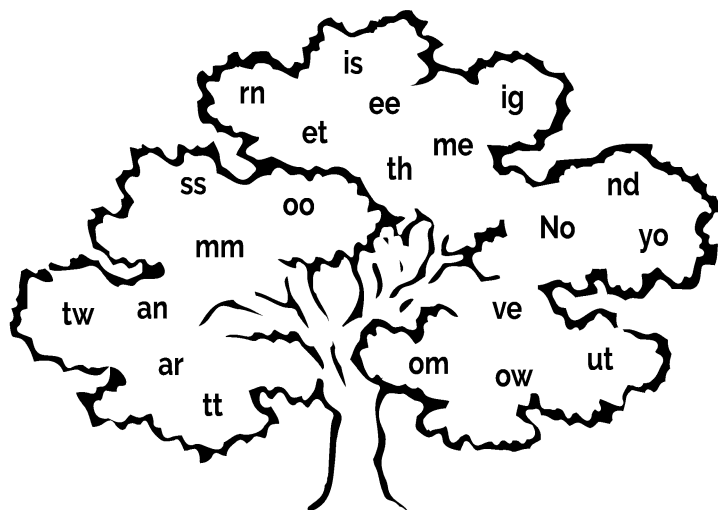
1. Cut the dough into slices $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch thick. Place slices on the pan, overlapping them slightly.
2. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 minutes. Let cool.
3. Combine softened cream cheese, sugar and vanilla, mixing well. Spread this "frosting" over the baked-cookie "crust."
4. Arrange fruit on top of the pizza.
5. Slice and enjoy!



Signs of summer

Jesus told his disciples that fig trees indicate when summer is approaching.

Directions: Complete the Bible verse below by placing the letter pairs from the tree into the correct blanks.



"___ w lea___ th___ le___ on
fr___ the f___ tr___: As s___ n
as its ___ igs g___ te___ er ___ d
its lea___ s co___ o___, ___ u
kn___ ___ at su___ er is ne___."

Ma___ hew 24:32, NIV

Answer: "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near."
Matthew 24:32, NIV

July Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1- Sheryl Krehbiel | 21- Haley Neufeld (James & Terri) |
| 2- Nile Burge (Rondell & Rachel) | Glen Toews |
| Lane Graber (Darren & DeeAnn) | 22- Eugene C. Goering |
| Aspyn Stos (DaWayne & Britney) | Dennis Graber |
| Carol Temple | Cody Krehbiel (Brian & Colleen) |
| 3- Myron Flickner | Ken Krehbiel |
| Randall Wedel | Tyler Stucky |
| 4- Katrina Zerger | 23- Nicholas Krehbiel |
| 5- Clair Stucky | 24- Jerry Schrag |
| Charmaine Clayton | Kim Snyder |
| 6- Kaia Stucky (David & Shelley) | Lynnette Suderman |
| 7- Camden Dalke (Jerrod) | 25- Aaron Goering (Larry & Sarah) |
| Neva Kaufman | Homer Goering |
| 9- Shelly Arnold (Todd & Sandy) | Peter Graber (Nathan & Krista) |
| Brent Knight | Marvin Stucky |
| Denise (Huber) Krehbiel | Bill Zerger |
| Lesli Earlston | 26- Larry Krehbiel |
| 10- Debra Whitaker | Derrick Law |
| 11- Gary Janzen | 27- Ross Gehring (Dick & Kaylene) |
| 12- Glen Goering | Robert Joe Schrag |
| Randall Goering | Mary Ellen Stucky |
| Greg A. Krehbiel (Glenda) | Aayden Wedel (Tenise Wedel) |
| Meghan Schrag | 28- Austin Goering |
| 13- Jonathan Cutting (Brad & Kim) | Dawn Johnson |
| Sharon Harris | Linda Stucky |
| Rachel Parsons (Rob & Lori) | Nadine Wedel |
| 14- Paul Crabb | 29- Brenda Childs |
| Geordan Schrag (Jeremy & Jaci) | Abby Flickner |
| 15- Terri Gehring | Emma Krehbiel (Clint & Shelly) |
| Dayton Goering (Patrick & Jennifer) | 30- Frank Schrag |
| Jim Kaufman | 31- Cindy Anderson |
| 16- Patricia Goering | Connor Childs (Jeff & Brenda) |
| Myron V. Goering | Vernell Kaufman |
| 17- Stewart Gehring | Kristen Schrag |
| Paul McGinness | Evan Stucky |
| 18- Virgil Kaufman | Greg Stucky |
| Alan Waltner | |



July Anniversaries



- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8- Joshua & Sarah Erb | 25- Dustin & Amy Krehbiel |
| Derek & Becky King | 26- Mike & Terri Gehring |
| Joe & Janice Yoder | Vernon & Marna Goering |
| 10- John & Marcia Stucky | Ernest & Judy Krehbiel |
| 11- Jim Gaeddert & Leda Kaufman | T.J. & Annie Wyssmann |
| 14- Brian & Tenae Alfaro | 27- Don & Robin Gehring |
| 15- Brad & Kim Cutting | Kenneth & Paula Goering |
| 18- Joe & Heather Krehbiel | 28- Larry & Carol Temple |
| 21- Nathan & Krista Graber | 29- David & Shelly Stucky |
| Robert & Jenny Schrag | John & Betty Heritage |
| 22- Raymond & Susan Flickner | 30- Kenneth & Marilyn Preheim |
| 23- Lynn & Karen Kaufman | 31- Matt & Rashelle Schrag |
| 24- Mark & Gail Stucky | |
| Mike & Suzette Deboard | |

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

Up-Coming Events

- July 3:** Communion served during the worship service
July 4: Eden Church Office closed for 4th of July
July 6: 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
July 9 & 10: Eden Retreat weekend at Camp Mennoscah
July 10: 7:00 p.m. FEWZ MDS planning meeting at Pastor Derek's
July 11-15: Associated Churches Vacation Bible School
July 14: SEEDS class leading the worship service
July 15: Early Registration deadline for WDC Annual Assembly
July 17-23: FEWZ service trip to Bastrop, Texas
July 24: Gail Graber speaking at Eden
 Mary Schrag sharing about her work with PULSE during SS
July 28: Lead worship at Pine Village
July 29 & 30: WDC Annual Assembly at Bethel College Campus
July 31: Les Horning, Eastern Mennonite Seminary speaking at Eden
Aug 7: Eden worship service held at Pine Village
Aug 9: 7:00 p.m. Music planning mtg. at church office
Aug 14: Worship Service held at Pine Village
Aug 21: Noon meal to honor SS teachers at church

July 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



August 2016						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Address Services Requested