



Moundridge, Kansas  
www.edenmennonite.org

# EDEN ECHOES

April 2017  
Issue Vol. 47 No. 3



## Radical Hospitality

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Matthew 25:5

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It seems rather simple to offer hospitality. When we invite visitors to our homes we are eager to offer them words of welcome. We look for ways to make them feel at home and comfortable. We often provide a meal, we engage in conversation and we learn to know them. We are friendly hosts offering our love and kindness to our guests.

*Radical Hospitality* was the theme of our Wednesday evening study on immigration these past two months. As we looked at the biblical texts we discovered that God has deep love and compassion for the most vulnerable among us. The widow and the alien, the oppressed and the stranger, the orphan and the refugee are mentioned again and again as those who are to be treated with compassion and care. Leviticus 19:34 says, “The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.” The people of God were to remember that in their history they were once aliens and someone welcomed them. In the same way today, as God’s people, we are being invited to be offer hospitality to the strangers among us for we too have immigrant stories in our history. Times in the past when our families came here to this country as migrants and found a place of safety.

Week by week, we looked at the many reasons people leave their homes, seeking a better life away from the persecution, oppression, or violence they are experiencing. People seeking to find a place of safety and opportunity in order to take care of their families. We heard stories, we thought about walls, and we wondered how the current immigrant system in our country might be fixed. We considered the balance between respecting laws and extending hospitality to immigrants. Week by week, we also were listening to current news reports that seemed to focus on ways to keep immigrants out. There were executive orders to keep any foreigner from coming in, talk of building more walls, and stories of people being deported. Immigration and how we respond to this issue is a current reality.

On the last evening of our study, two women from the Hesston Resettlement Committee (Michelle Hershberger and Kendra Alison), told of their work with refugees. I was overwhelmed with the many statistics they shared including:

Across the globe there are more than 60 million refugees.

The average length of stay for refugees in a refugee camp is 17 years.

The screening process for refugees to enter the U.S. takes at least 18-24 months.

This group in Hesston, working through Episcopal Migration Ministries has settled two refugee families from the Democratic Republic of Congo. They have offered hospitality in various forms to these families to help in the transition to their new life here. Stanley Green, executive director of Mennonite Mission Network calls, “welcome, hospitality, compassion and care,” the hallmarks of the response of God’s people to those who have become refugees.

The question that remains for us here at Eden Mennonite Church, is how are we being called to provide radical hospitality to immigrants and refugees in our world? Even though our six-week study is over, our conversation about how to respond is still before us. For Peace Sunday, April 23, the Peace/Witness Commission is planning to focus on immigration and have invited a special speaker to address this issue. (See page 3 for more information.) I invite you to talk with me and with each other, on ways we can faithfully respond to offer compassion and care to the refugee, alien and stranger among us.

In our Easter celebration coming soon, we will be invited to once again rejoice in the new life that Jesus offers through his resurrection. May we open our eyes to see anew, the ways that we can offer “new life” to those who

There’s more →→→→

are seeking a place of refuge. I leave you with this prayer, "The Migrant's Way of the Cross" by Father Simon C. Kim

*Jesus, you also were a migrant walking from town to town speaking of and making manifest the kingdom of God. Forgive us for the moments when we have not offered proper hospitality, like Joseph offered you, to the migrants in our local and global communities. Forgive us for the moments we have pushed their presence to a tomb of despair. May we become awakened to the depths of the human experience, family loyalty, and courage of the migrant's journey embracing their hopes and gifts and the joy of your resurrection together! Amen.*

*Pastor Dianne*



#### **Eden Leadership Team Minutes**

The Eden Leadership Team met Monday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

Present were: Kyle Neufeld, JoLene Kaufman, Jerry Schrag, Pastor Dianne

Schmidt, Becky Koller, Carina Knight, Pat Stucky, Jean Regier, Gary Regier, Tim Regehr, Brenda Dalke, Austin Goering and Pastor Derek King.

Absent was: Keith Schrag

#### **Mission/Vision Statement**

**Mission:** To be a community that follows Jesus in all we say and do.

**Vision:** A people transformed by the Holy Spirit in worship and service, so that through us God's grace, love and peace are made known to the world.

Kyle called the meeting to order and lit the candle to represent the Holy Spirit's presence.

Brenda led in devotions. She read a meditation called "Peace". She led in prayer.

Kyle read the Mission/Vision statement.

The minutes were approved as printed.

#### **Treasurer Report**

Budget as of March 31 is \$113,000.00

Expenses as of today: \$88,000.00

Income as of today: \$85,000.00

#### **Worship Commission**

The next Pine Village worship service will be August 20.

#### **Trustee Commission**

The work day was cancelled because of weather. They purchased a new ice machine. They were able to use the bottom tank from the previous ice machine. They also got a maintenance agreement so that it is cleaned every 3 months.

Gary passed out the new church usage agreement. Some changes were made. **Gary Regier made a motion to approve the corrected Usage Policy. Jerry seconded. Motion carried.**

#### **Peace/Witness Commission**

The Commission helped two people in the community who are having financial difficulty. One started working with Circles of McPherson County. The other one has not decided.

Peace Sunday is April 23. The topic is the immigration issue. There is only one person showing interest in writing a Peace Essay. There are only two that are eligible to write one.

After the discussion concerning the Refugee Resettlement Program on the last Wednesday night, the Commission is wondering if Eden would be willing to help with the program. The next step would be educating the congregation about the process. The Peace/Witness Commission will follow up and get the information to see how the process would work for us to support as part of our mission giving. They will try to get Kendra Alison and Michelle Hershberger back to explain the program going on at Hesston. The congregation will be allowed to give feedback. If approved it would be a line item in the budget next year. For this year the Peace/Witness Commission would take it out of their budget. **Peace/Witness will meet and then share it with ELT what they have learned about being supporting church.**

#### **Deacon Commission**

The Deacons are assisting a church member with financial issues. They are also working on their part of the Constitution and deciding on a meeting date.

#### **Stewardship Commission**

They are deciding where to pull the \$25,000.00 for the church office remodel. The Student Grant fundraising hasn't happened for a couple of years. We should be continuing it for the future when there are more students. They are working on a time to discuss stewardship of the earth and finances.

#### **Christian Education/Discipleship Commission**

The Junior S.S. offering this quarter will be going to MDS and last quarter the money went to the library in Rwanda Renae Stucky is working at though Mennonite Volunteer Service. Children's Day is June 4.

#### **Pastor Derek**

He has been working on Constitution revision for Associated Churches. It is in the final stages.

The youth group is registered for MC USA Convention.

Holy Week Services will be on Sunday and Monday at West Zion. Kurt Horst from Whitestone Mennonite Church will be the speaker. The Good Friday Service will be at Eden. There will be foot washing, communion and a meal.

Continued on pg. 3→→

He has still been working on rides to church for members living at Pine Village. There are 3 people possibly interested. The Pastors have lunch at Pine Village once a month and they conduct a worship service at the nursing home quarterly.

**Pastor Dianne:** Will give Constitution revisions to Deacons at next Deacon's meeting.

### **Church Office Remodel**

Painting is all done on the back half of the office. They are waiting on the suspended ceiling to come in. There is no time frame for completion.

### **Conference Delegates**

We have 2 delegates for WDC. They are Jay and Linda Goering. We also have 2 possibilities for Orlando convention. Kyle will continue to work on finding more delegates.

### **Constitution Revision**

Kyle will look at the Constitution and decide what portions are still needing to be revised. He will bring it to next month's meeting.

No New Business.

**Next meeting is April 24, 2017 at 7:00 at the church. Devotions: Tim Regehr.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

JoLene Kaufman, Secretary

## **Special Holy Week Services 2017**

### **Community Worship at West Zion Mennonite Church**

Join us for these worship services, planned by the Associated Churches pastors, offering time to reflect on the meaning of the cross in light of the tragedies of life. Kurt Horst, pastor at Whitestone Mennonite Church will offer the messages.

**Sunday, April 9 at 7:00 pm**

*The Cross as Tragedy*

**Monday, April 10 at 7:00 pm**

*The Cross as Healing*

### **Eden Meal & Communion Service**

**Friday, April 14 at 6:30 pm**

Come for a soup and bread supper followed by communion around tables as we commemorate the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples.

Following the meal there will be opportunity to participate in foot washing.

### **Community Easter Sunrise Service**

**Sunday, April 16 at 6:45 am**

Gather at Russ Stucky's pasture to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.  
(1 mile east of Christian on Buckskin Rd.)

## **Peace Sunday Guest Speaker: Omar T. Salavarria**

Omar T. Salavarria was born the third of eight children to a Honduran father and a Mexican mother. He was born an American citizen. Omar spent the first seven years of his life in the greater Austin, Texas area. By the year 2000, his parents had lived in the U.S. over sixteen years without legal status. In 2000, his family went back to Mexico to mourn the death of relatives. By the time they were able to try and return to the US, the attack on the twin towers in New York had already happened, immediately changing U.S. security operations at the southern border. After attempting to return to the US without success they were forced to stay in Mexico indeterminately.

In 2013 Omar started to work towards obtaining his U.S. passport. Upon eventually being granted a passport, he arrived in Westlake Village, CA. After traveling through the US for a couple of years and seeing how, regardless of the region in the country, undocumented immigrants have very difficult and disheartening struggles, he became an advocate for undocumented immigrants.

Omar currently works with an organization that helps local churches provide sanctuary for individuals and families that are in danger of being deported. Omar states, "that in the wake of the current administration, the environment has become increasingly hostile for undocumented immigrants and now, more than ever, it is important that we come together in support of our fellow neighbors who are viewed as criminals for seeking a better life and, in many cases, a situation where their lives are not in constant danger."

We are delighted to have Omar share his story with us on Peace Sunday, April 23, and encourage the Eden community to invite friends and family to learn more about how we can support our brothers and sisters who struggle for a better life in America.



Greetings Mennonite Women,  
2017 is our Centennial year! We are celebrating with the theme, **Fruit from the Vine** and have a beautiful logo available now at [mwusa.org/centennial](http://mwusa.org/centennial). Throughout the year, we are offering resources on our website so that **you** can participate in the celebration of 100 years of Mennonite Women activities.

BUT – we need your help in creating these resources! Send me prayers, readings, monologues, skits / dramas, videos, poems and songs, all that connect to the way that Mennonite Women are truly ***Fruit from the Vine***.

Here are some prompts for you to use as you write or make a short video:

*NOTE: Videos must be 90 seconds or less.*

- Do you have a story about how a group of Mennonite women listened and cared for you?
- Can you recall attending a gathering of women with your mother or grandmother?
- Are you a regular donor to Mennonite Women USA? What about our organization keeps you connected?
- Have you used one of our excellent Bible study guides? How has it impacted your faith journey?
- What does your Mennonite Women group do really well? How do you shine?
- Can you write about a favorite memory of a woman leader?
- How has being part of a women's group encouraged you to be a leader?
- What prophetic voice can you share with others?

Or...

Use our mission statement and scripture theme to jumpstart your creativity:

Our mission at Mennonite Women USA is to empower women and women's groups as we nurture our life in Christ through studying the Bible, using our gifts, hearing each other and engaging in mission and service.

John 15:5 – I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Please send your stories, poems, songs, memories and more to me : [marleneb@mwusa.org](mailto:marleneb@mwusa.org) and if accepted, we will place them on our website at [mennonitewomenusa.org/centennial/](http://mennonitewomenusa.org/centennial/) and they will be available for others to use.

Blessings to each of you and I hope to hear from you soon.

*Marlene Bogard*  
Executive Director  
Mennonite Women USA



**Mennonite  
Central  
Committee**

According to the United Nations, the world is facing the largest humanitarian crisis since the second world war. More than 20 million people across Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and northeast Nigeria are facing or are at risk of famine. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is working in the area to provide emergency food assistance and increase its response to the crisis. Because of serious conflicts and concerns for safe, unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance, this process is slow and challenging. To donate to MCC's relief fund, which supports MCC's response to this disaster and others, visit [mcc.org/learn/what/relief](http://mcc.org/learn/what/relief), call [1-888-563-4676](tel:1-888-563-4676) or send a check to MCC, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500.

### **Job Opening**

Do you enjoy mentoring young adults and living in community? Service Adventure is looking for unit leaders for our Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Jackson, Mississippi, units. The two-year term begins late July. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Susan Nisly at [SusanN@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:SusanN@MennoniteMission.net) or visit us at [www.MennoniteMission.net](http://www.MennoniteMission.net).



### **Sturdy Safe Available**

During remodeling of church office we decided to remove the safe that was located there. It is an antique Mosley-Bachman & Co. It is in workable condition, but very heavy! We are making this available to church members first. If interested, please submit your bid at Eden Church Office. The bids will end on Monday, **April 3** at 8:00 a.m.



# THANK YOU!

Thank you for all the prayers, visits, cards, hugs, for everything that touched our hearts while Eldon was in the hospital. Special thanks to Pastor Derek, Pastor Dianne, and Marlin Kym and all the doctors and nurses who cared for him.

God bless all of you.

Eldon Zerger family

Thank you for the cards, prayers and support as we journey towards health for Ronnie. Your compassion and kindness carry us through this difficult time in our lives. Ronnie and Pam Schrag

Dear Eden Mennonite Church,  
You have been a blessing to Camp Mennoscah with your gracious hosting of our Hymn Sing and Dessert Auction. Those who helped with set up dishes, the sound system, and so much more were wonderfully generous. The event raised \$5,470 for the new playground structure. We couldn't have done it without you. We look for you this summer!  
With Peace,  
Michael Unruh and Olivia Bartel

Thank you for your contribution to Mennonite Disaster Service. You are providing safe and clean shelter to homeowners struggling to repair their homes after disaster.

Your generosity supports MDS volunteers in places like Corpus Christi, Texas where they are repairing roofs damaged by strong storms and winds that hit the region in 2015. Beth Tatum, chair of the local recovery group, shared a story with us about a woman whose rood was repaired by MDS. Beth said that every time it rained, the woman would be up at night chasing the drips in the house with buckets and pans. But now that she has a new rood, she can't wait to lie in bed at night and just listen to the sound of rain.

Thank you for providing the funds necessary to restore homes to a safe and comfortable condition, for offering "shelter and shade from the heat of the dya, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain" (Isaiah 4:6)

Gratefully yours  
Kevin King, Executive Director

Your support is helping me to continue my studies at AMBS. Looking at the situation in my country these days, I was urged to study in the peace and justice program, for which we have limited resources in my country. After my graduation, I plan to go back to Nigeria to do the work of peacemaking, justice and reconciliation. Thank you for your generous contributions!  
Hassas Dicks  
Kisanchi, Nigeria, first-year MAPS student

Dear Eden Mennonite Church,

At Bethel we are thankful for many things, most especially our students, both past and present. We continue to hear stories of success from our Bethel graduates and are thankful that Bethel continues to educate leaders.

As we head into the second semester of this academic year, many of our students will be preparing for their final journey at Bethel, a journey that is made possible because of you. Your support of the efforts of faculty, staff and volunteers of this institution indicates your dedication to this process. It is a process that could not be accomplished without you and others like you.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support. We wish you all the best in the New Year.

Rob Schunn  
Annual Fund Director



## 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 would like to support this project you may write a check to Eden with "invitation to share" in the memo line and mail it to Eden at P.O. Box 406, Moundridge, KS 67107.

## Share the Gift of Music

During the summer months of May, June, July and August the choirs take a very deserved break. During these months it is nice to hear music from others in our congregation. It can be instrumental or vocal, a solo or a group. If you or someone you know are interested in sharing the gift of music during Sunday worship, please contact Cheri Kaufman at 620-345-8457 (home), 620-386-0583 (cell) or [lcmrkauf@mtelco.net](mailto:lcmrkauf@mtelco.net). Dates are available May 14 – Sept 3.



# JESUS IS RISEN!

When Jesus' disciples saw that the stone was rolled away from his tomb, they knew he had risen. Make a moveable tomb to celebrate Easter.


## What you need:

- 4 pieces of paper (brown, blue, black, yellow)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Brad fastener
- Marker



## What you do:

1. Fold the brown paper in half, short side to short side. Cut along the fold. On one half, draw and cut out a large half-circle (the tomb). On the other, draw and cut out a palm-sized circle (the stone).
2. Glue the brown tomb onto the blue paper.
3. Cut a black circle (the inside of the tomb) the same size as the brown stone and glue it onto the brown tomb.
4. Place the brown stone over the black half-circle; this is the entrance. Push the brad through one edge so the stone can move from side to side.
5. Cut out a cross from the yellow paper and glue it by the tomb.
6. Write "Jesus is risen!" atop the blue paper.

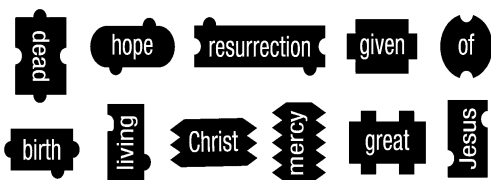


# PUZZLE

## > NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

*Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.*



In his   he has

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1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV



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

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



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

## Up-Coming Events

<b>Apr 4:</b>	Mary Martha all day meeting
<b>Apr 5:</b>	7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
<b>Apr 6:</b>	4:00-9:00 p.m. Relish Committee works in church kitchen 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission meeting at church office
<b>Apr 7 &amp; 8:</b>	Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale
<b>Apr 9 &amp; 10:</b>	7:00 p.m. Associated Churches Holy Week services at West Zion
<b>Apr 12:</b>	7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
<b>Apr 14:</b>	6:30 p.m. Meal and Communion at Eden
<b>Apr 16:</b>	Easter Sunday 6:45 a.m. Sunrise Service at Russ Stucky's pasture
<b>Apr 17:</b>	6:00 p.m. Stewardship Commission meeting at church office
<b>Apr 19:</b>	7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
<b>Apr 23:</b>	Peace Sunday at Eden followed by noon potluck meal
<b>Apr 24:</b>	7:00 p.m. ELT meets at Eden

April 2017						
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May 2017						
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Address Services Requested