



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

November 2017
Issue Vol. 47 No. 9

From the Pastor



We woke up on a lazy Saturday morning to additional vehicles and people out and about on our street. Several people had convened at the neighbor's house to help with some furniture moving and general clean-up. Impressed by the show of support, Becky and I thought we could offer a tangible "thank-you" to the crew by taking over a coffee cake. Not knowing how long they would be there, I scrambled to put the blueberry-filled pastry together and get it in the oven. Brushing flour off my shirt and waiting for the beep of the timer, I paused to mentally pat myself on the back, just imagining how grateful everyone would be for this sweet treat to arrive just in time to recharge their batteries for some more work. I pulled it out of the oven and paced through the kitchen, waiting for it to cool just enough to be able to divide it into equal squares. Then I gathered the girls and we headed over to the neighbor's house. But, to my dismay, just as we got out onto the back patio, our street had been deserted. The benevolent volunteers would not get their just reward. We came back inside, heads held low, until Becky realized that the neighbor's car was still in the driveway. So, I pulled out four pieces, put them on a plate, wrapped everything in cellophane, then stepped outside just in time to see his car pulling away. I decided to just leave them on the front porch instead of waiting for him to come back, since my timing was obviously atrocious.

Our plans to be helpful seemed doomed to fail. Despite our best efforts, our perfect image of neighborliness wasn't realized. So, the coffee cake sat on the counter, no longer a symbol of generosity, but rather a reminder of my failure. A little later that morning, the neighbor pulled up to our house and beckoned me to come to the car. As it turns out, one of the other neighbors was bothered by all the cars parked along the street earlier, cars that were blocking their driveway and mailbox. That neighbor decided to make her opinion known to this neighbor, blaming him for all the problems that this work crew made for her. He was visibly shaken by the encounter and needed to talk to someone about it. I tried my best to just be present and empathetic. He decided that he would try to go talk to the other neighbor to make peace with her, and I offered more coffee cake as part of the peace offering. He gladly accepted and reported to me later that day that he had made peace with the other neighbor and he was feeling much better about the whole situation.

As I thanked the Spirit for moving through our neighborhood, I thought about how God used my bad timing for a small gesture to bring about healing and restoration. I was reminded of the times when unlikely individuals were used by God despite, or perhaps because of their weaknesses. Moses, the stutterer was called to bring a powerful word of freedom to his people and their captors. Jeremiah, the boy, was sent to confront kings with authority from on high. Paul put someone to sleep by his preaching, but was empowered to bring him back to life after a fatal fall out of the window. God uses our weakness to show His glory. Paul writes "...we have this treasure in clay jars to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." I get the sense that occasionally, God even quietly humbles us, so that we do not have reason to boast in ourselves, but simply to be in awe of the surpassing goodness of our Lord.

This doesn't mean that we should stop baking cakes for our neighbors, on the contrary, bake away! (especially if you live near me) However, we must also be open to the moments in which God opens the door for something even deeper and more meaningful: a chance to listen, to empathize, to apologize, or to forgive. May your neighbors know God's peace through your best efforts **and** your failures.

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Eden Leadership Team Minutes

Vision/Mission 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 love and peace are made known to the world.

The Eden Leadership Team met Monday, October 30, 2017 at the church office.

Present were: Pastor Dianne Schmidt, JoLene Kaufman, Kyle Neufeld, Becky Koller, Gary Regier, Austin Goering, Jean Regier, Jerry Schrag, Carina Knight, Brenda Dalke, Pat Stucky and Pastor Derek King.

Absent: Tim Regehr

Devotions: Brenda Dalke read from a devotional on Philippians, titled *Rejoice in the Lord* and led in prayer. Kyle read Vision and Mission Statement and called the meeting to order.

The minutes were approved as printed.

Budget Report:

Income - \$336,000.00

Expenses - \$446,000.00

Difference - (\$ 109,000.00) includes mission giving.

Budget - \$376,000.00 Deficit in budget (\$70,000.00)

Last year we were behind \$71,000.00

Trustee Commission:

Gary Regier gave an update on the church office remodel. He reported that everything is done on the interior of the office. The exterior will be completed in a week or two. They will wait for the roof repair till warmer weather next spring. They plan to have an open house at the office for the Moundridge Christmas Open House on November 18.

A coffeemaker was replaced in the kitchen at church.

Gary also reported as sexton, that a grave was added to the cemetery for October Shilts. Someone hit a post in the cemetery and that has to be replaced.

Peace/Witness Commission:

Jean Regier asked if the Peace/Witness Commission could put up a large banner in the church yard and a smaller one at the office welcoming all people to the neighborhood. It would be a larger version of the signs made available to the congregation earlier this month. ELT approved the request.

Peace/Witness Commission attended a shower for Dianne, the Congolese refugee from Wichita. She was very grateful and she and her family would like to visit Eden to say thank you.

They are planning two more showers in January for other refugees. Jean would like to show a few slides from this shower, possibly during the offering, or at some point in the service.

Worship Commission:

They cleaned up the sanctuary and arranged the hymn books. People are not taking responsibility for putting things back as they found them.

Eden Camp Mennoscah Retreat weekend will be July 14 and 15, 2018.

Stewardship Commission:

Carina Knight will bring the new budget to the next ELT meeting for approval. It will be presented to the congregation for review on December 3 and be voted on by the congregation on December 10. The budget requests are due this Wednesday, November 1.

Christian Education/Discipleship Commission:

Pat Stucky reported that the kids singing is going well.

They need people to be on their commission for next year.

Pastor Dianne:

Looking forward to the joint service with West Zion and First Mennonite on Sunday, November 5. This Wednesday is the last one for Bible study for the fall season. She has been pleased with the attendance and engagement by the participants.

Pastor Derek:

He is finishing the Confession of Faith class he has been teaching. There were 8 - 15 people there each Sunday. The class had a consistent group of non-members. He will have the membership conversation at the end of this class.

Youth group is going well. There has been consistent attendance. He is still working to find a sponsor for the middle school age group.

ELT Position Update:

The Moderator-Elect position has been filled for next year.

There are still 3 positions to fill for SCRT and Gifts Discernment. Kyle will fill those.

Business Meeting:

The budget and the slate will be presented on Sunday, December 10.

Pastor Review Process:

The review committee is ELT Executive: Brenda Dalke, Austin Goering, Kylie Goering, JoLene Kaufman, Becky Koller, Kyle Neufeld, and Western District Conference resource, Keith Harder. They had good discussions. There will be two opportunities for people to take part in the review process, November 12 and 15. Recorders and facilitators will need to be at both meetings.

No new business.

Next meeting: Monday, November 27, 2017 at the church office at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions: Carina Knight.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.
JoLene Kaufman, Secretary

Pastor Derek's Review

As is customary, we are quickly approaching the time for Pastor Derek's review. A committee has been formed consisting of the Eden Leadership Team Executive (Kyle Neufeld, Austin Goering, JoLene Kaufman), Eden Leadership Team At-Large (Brenda Dalke, Becky Koller), and one additional At-Large (Kylie Goering). With the help of a Western District Conference consultant (Keith Harder), this committee has established a plan to execute a comprehensive review with the purpose of providing meaningful feedback for Derek.



The method of review is a facilitated discussion session.

In this process, individuals will be placed in small groups (5-6 people) with focused conversation centered on three defined questions. These questions will be available for all participants to prepare their responses before coming to the review. **The review will take place on Wednesday, November 15 at 6:00 PM at the church.** Due to Derek's involvement with certain groups in the congregation, all individuals involved within the following groups are highly encouraged to participate if they are able:

Commissions
SEEDS Sunday School Class
FEWZ Youth
FEWZ Parents
FEWZ Sponsors

We know that there are others who would like to be a part of this process as well. Therefore, we are extending an open invitation to anyone who wishes to participate. **Everyone who would like to participate in this process, please contact Kyle Neufeld (at kaneufeld@gmail.com or 620-386-4199) on or before November 5.** This early notification will ensure enough volunteers and resources are available to accommodate all who wish to participate.

In order for this process to go smoothly we need up to 20 volunteers to serve as Facilitators or Recorders for the small group conversations. **These volunteers will meet in the afternoon on Sunday, November 12 to participate in the review and prepare for the Wednesday session.**

When you contact Kyle Neufeld to indicate your participation in the review, please let him know if you are also willing to help in this way.

Thank you for your willingness to further Derek in his ministry!



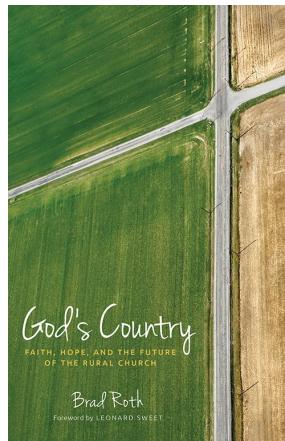
Daylight Saving Time ends November 5. Be sure you set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 4.

*No importa de dónde eres,
estamos contentos que seas
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are
from, we're glad you're
our neighbor.

لا يهم أين ولدت، و لكننا
سعداء انكم جيراننا.

The Peace/Witness Commission is promoting a way to welcome our neighbors of different backgrounds and places. There is a "Welcome Your Neighbor" yard sign, 24" x 18", in Spanish/English/Arabic located in Fellowship Hall with a sign-up sheet if you wish to purchase. The cost is \$10/sign. It is a means of reaching and welcoming the stranger, seeking justice and sharing love with friends and neighbors.



Mission Sunday November 5, 2017

How can the rural church live Christ's mission? Drawing on research and reflection from his book: *God's Country: Faith, Hope, and the Future of the Rural Church*, Pastor Brad Roth from West Zion will preach from John 15, exploring how the Jesus way of friendship is a model for mission in rural communities and congregations. During the Sunday school hour, Brad will lead us in a discussion of 1 Peter 3:15-16 as a key passage that lends practical tools for community evangelism.

Mission Sunday will be a joint Worship and Sunday school with West Zion and First Mennonite joining us at Eden. Following Sunday school, the FEWZ Youth Group will serve a fundraiser meal supporting their activities, including a summer service trip.

Join us as we rekindle a vision for sharing the good news in God's country!

? ? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown, bound, into a blazing furnace for refusing to worship false gods, how many men did King Nebuchadnezzar see walking around in the fire?

- A. None — they were all dead
- B. Three — unbound and unharmed
- C. Four — and the fourth looked like a divine being
- D. Too many to count



Answer: C (See Daniel 3:25.)



Exercising our gratitude muscles

Expressing gratitude isn't just a good thing to do; it also appears to be good for us! Indiana University researchers found that participants who performed gratitude-focused writing exercises felt uplifted, and were more likely to express gratefulness through generosity, even weeks later.

Furthermore, brain scans revealed increased gratitude-related activity even months down the road (*New York Magazine*).

Though the study was small, we seem to have a "gratitude muscle" that can be strengthened through exercise. If so, there may be more than we thought to the popularity of gratitude journals and Mom's insistence that we write thank-you notes. Not to mention the biblical call to "give thanks to the LORD, for he is good" (1 Chronicles 16:34, for example).

Might God have hardwired us for gratitude — not only at Thanksgiving but year round — because it's good for *us* as well as for those we thank? To that, we respond, "Thanks be to God!"

Opportunity for Visual Artists

The Mennonite Church USA Resonate Team is calling for visual artists to submit content to be considered for inclusion in the new collection. Artists are encouraged to explore the "Theological Inspirations and Possibilities" and to take seriously the "Aspirations for the Use of Visual Imagery" outlined in the "Call for Submissions of Visual Art" available at MennoMedia.org/Resonate. Important technical requirements are also delineated there. Artists may submit a single image or a series of pieces. Submissions are welcome between October 2017 and February 2018. "As we receive submissions we will continue to discern whether the visual elements chosen will draw from several artists or focus on a single contributor's work," said general editor Bradley Kauffman. "We're excited about how visual art can offer new ways to draw us into God's presence." The 13-member volunteer committee, working under the name Resonate Team, is discerning content for the 2020 release of a suite of new worship and music materials to be published by MennoMedia in cooperation with Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. For more information or to schedule an interview, contact LeAnn Hamby at [540-908-3941](tel:540-908-3941) or emailLeAnnH@mennomedia.org.



Congratulations to Congolese family!

Marcos Kefa, the first child of Dianne Bawili and Diedone Bigirimana, was showered with the blessings and gifts of Eden on October 29. This family came as refugees from Congo and settled in Wichita with the assistance of the Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM). Our Peace/Witness Commission is working together with the EMM to offer assistance to displaced refugees. Thank you to the Eden congregation for blessing this family with numerous baby items.



Thank you very much for the cards and many acts of kindness to our family through our Dad/Grandpa's illness and passing. It is very much appreciated.

Thank you,
Family of Harold R. Schrag
(Chuck and Diane Knight & family)

Thank you for your contribution to Mennonite Disaster Service.

I was part of an MDS assessment team to determine how we could help in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. We visited Bloomington in Victoria County, TX and met Danny Garcia the county commissioner. Already an economically stressed community, they took the full force of Harvey's wind as it moved north towards Houston.

We could see that Garcia was carrying the burdens of the people in his community. When we told him we could have volunteers come with heavy equipment to help clean up, he had tears in his eyes. And now, thanks to your support, MDS volunteers are cleaning up in Bloomington.

Another MDS assessment team is traveling to communities impacted by Hurricane Irma to assess damage and find opportunities for early response volunteers to clean up and muck out.

Thank you for this gift and your ongoing prayers for those affected by Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma and other disasters throughout the U.S. and Canada.

With gratitude,
Kevin King, Executive Director

Greetings from Camp Mennoscah! Thank you so much for your gift. Our vision to create a sacred space for people of all ages to renew themselves, their relationships, and their connection with God through Jesus Christ is realized only with your help.

On behalf of the Camp Mennoscah Board of Directors and the Camp Mennoscah staff, I would like to thank you for your donation to Camp Mennoscah. Your gift will be used to continue our mission to provide a retreat for people of all ages. Your willingness to share in our work through your giving is greatly appreciated.

We gratefully acknowledge your contribution toward our Playground Equipment fund. Thank you for helping Save the Whale!. We're working hard to start construction as soon as possible.

With peace and prayers,
Olivia Bartel, camp director

Thank you to all our Work & Play Camp and Annual Meeting attendees! We had a blast with you here at Camp Mennoscah. You gave generously of your time, skills, and money. To all who bid on a meal--or are providing a meal--as part of our Meal Auction Fundraiser, thank you! Your support of our camping ministry keeps us reaching out to so many people.

Thanks for your gift to the Bethel College Fund and all it does to support our students.

Rob Schunn

It has been an incredible blessing to be able to study at AMBS. One of the things that I appreciate most is the holistic education. AMBS has shaped their program around three things: knowing, doing, and being. AMBS is not just a place to learn more about the Bible and Theology. It is a place to practice ministry gifts and engage in spiritual disciplines. It is a place to reflect and shape who I am as a person and leader. AMBS seeks to shape not just our minds, but our whole selves.

Thank you for your generous gift to AMBS. Thank you for caring about an institution which "educates leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world" (AMBS's mission statement).

Ben Bouwman



Invitation to Share

The Invitation to share for the month of November is a cash offering.

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.



We choose not to print addresses of our members online. If you are looking for an address please call the church office at 620-345-8320.

Holiday PLACE MATS



Add fall décor to your family's Thanksgiving table by making these festive place mats.



What you need:

- Large pieces of paper
- Several large leaves
- Crayons (fall colors)
- Fine-tip permanent marker

What you do:

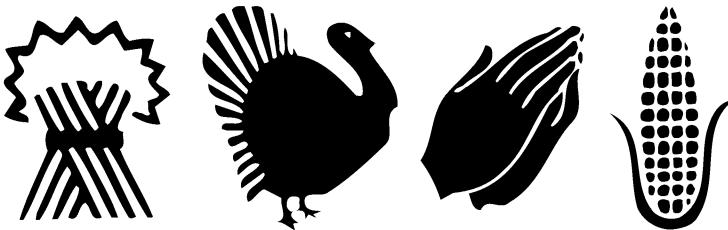
1. Working on a flat surface, place the leaves underneath the paper.
2. Peel the wrappers off the crayons. Rub crayons sideways over the paper so the details of the leaves become visible.
3. Use other crayons to add additional details, if desired. With the marker, list what you're thankful for and add a Bible verse about thankfulness.
4. Optional: Laminate the place mats so they're reusable.



GIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.



A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,

K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,

S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

" _____ will _____ 16 18 1 9 19 5
7 15 4 19 name in 19 15 14 7
and 7 12 15 18 9 6 25 8 9 13 with
20 8 1 14 11 19 7 9 22 9 14 7."

Answer: "I will praise God's name in song and glory him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30, NIV



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>3- Madison Krehbiel (Clinton & Shelly)
Harvey Jon Stucky</p> <p>4- Carla Shihts</p> <p>5- Bailey Graber (Travis & Penny)
Allen Bonde</p> <p>6- Joseph Schrag (Darrell & Bobbi)
Keith Schrag
Russell Stucky</p> <p>7- Rashell Kaufman
Ashley Schrag (Bruce & Kelly)</p> <p>8- Kay Burgan
Maynard Krehbiel</p> <p>9- Kacy Anderson (David & Joyce)
Verna M. Goering
Cathy Johnson
Tiffany Stucky
Chase Swanson (Mark & Julie)</p> <p>10- Trent Preheim</p> <p>11- Austin Neufeld
Gentry Regier (Josh & Emily)
Kevin Schrag</p> <p>12- June Krehbiel
Crystal Burnett
Jacob D. Schrag
Lynette Alshanski</p> <p>14- Evelyn Harms
Alan Neufeld
Pam Mandeen</p> <p>15- Trey Unrau</p> | <p>16- Kelly Stucky</p> <p>17- Ron L. Krehbiel</p> <p>18- Bob Kaufman</p> <p>19- Floyd Flickinger</p> <p>21- Karsyn Kaufman (Brandon & Morgan)
Walt Neufeld
Robert Tolle</p> <p>22- Cecilia Goering</p> <p>24- Sharon Durst
Daniel Schrag
Leslie Thiessen</p> <p>25- Wayne Ensz
Lowell Krehbiel</p> <p>27- Fynn Burge (Rondell & Rachel)
LaVerne Flickinger
Arielle Zerger</p> <p>28- Norma Bevitt
Myron B. Goering</p> <p>29- Cindy Bartell
Verna P. Goering (Virgil)
June Graber
JoLene Kaufman
Kelly Hayes
Lou Ann Lichti
Kevin Stucky</p> <p>30- Doris Flickner
Beth Goering
Daryl Griffin
Merlyn Johnson</p> |
|---|---|



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

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

Up-Coming Events

- Nov 1:** All Saints Day
 6:00 p.m. Meal served by Cornerstone SS class
 6:00 p.m. FEWZ meets at Eden
 6:45 p.m. Bible Study for all ages
 7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Nov 2:** 7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Comm. mtg.
- Nov 5:** Daylight Saving Time Ends
 Mission Sunday at Eden with First Mennonite and West Zion
 Noon—Fundraiser meal served at Eden by FEWZ
- Nov 6:** 8:00 p.m. SEEDS women meeting at church office
- Nov 7:** Mary Martha all day meeting
- Nov 8:** Last meal for fall session
 6:00 p.m. Potluck Meal served by Mary Martha
 6:00 p.m. FEWZ meets at Eden
 6:45 p.m. Game Night
 7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Nov 11:** Veterans Day
- Nov 14:** 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission meeting in church office
- Nov 23:** Thanksgiving Day - church office closed
- Nov 24:** Church office closed
- Nov 27:** 7:00 p.m. ELT meets at Eden Church Office
- Nov 29:** 6:00 p.m. FEWZ meets at Eden
 7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus

November 2017						
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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		



December 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				31		



Address Services Requested