



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

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If Life Puts Dead Fish in Your Water...

A couple weeks ago, I had the privilege of participating in my sister's wedding in Virginia. I served as the pastor for the ceremony as Lisa married Hans in my parent's church, perched on a hill overlooking the valley and the mountains to the west. It was a picturesque place to have the perfect wedding. While the wedding was a success (they are now married), there was a bit of a hiccup in the picture-perfect ceremony. Lisa and Hans

had chosen to wash each other's feet during the wedding as an embodied sign of their lifelong commitment to serve one another, following the command of Jesus for his disciples in John 14. This was to be a beautiful and sacred symbol of their commitment and a reflection of our commitments to one another in the body of Christ.

So, when the nephews of the groom asked if our family might be offended if they put fish in the pitcher they would use, I hesitated. But, quickly, I decided that if they wanted to play a lighthearted prank (done out of love, I assumed), then I wouldn't stand in their way. What no one had realized was that the pitcher had been filled with hot water, so as to be comfortable for the couple when it came time to pour it over their feet. So, as Lisa grabbed the pitcher and prepared to pour water over Hans's feet in this sacred act, what she saw as she looked down were multiple goldfish, floating belly-up in the top of the "holy" water.

In this beautiful moment, with a quartet singing about unity, Hans and Lisa had noticeable looks of surprise and mild disgust. The congregation, unsure of what was going on up front couldn't help but giggle at their bizarre facial expressions. Eventually, Hans and Lisa shook off their initial reactions and carried on with the act of service. I'm sure they will tell the story for years to come and will likely laugh about it, but in that moment I couldn't tell how they really felt about a potentially sacred moment being so surprisingly interrupted.

The event got me thinking about interruptions in my own faith life, and how I respond to them. I have been on a long road of trying to be diligent in praying, reading the Bible, and growing in discipleship alongside others. My challenge has always been to stick with those disciplines, because something always seems to interrupt them, whether it is circumstances of life or just my own mind going elsewhere. I'm sure we've all experienced things like these: falling asleep while reading the Bible, minds racing to work-related concerns while praying, schedules interfering with small group gatherings, etc. I don't know anyone who can claim to have had the "perfect" spiritual life, if there even is such a thing. So, how should we respond when dead fish show up in our holy water?

First, *it's OK to get a little annoyed*. It is very human to get annoyed when your plans are interrupted. Also, some specialists maintain that one sign of addiction is agitation when a specific activity is interrupted. So, if we are showing signs of being addicted to growing our spiritual life, I'd say we're on the right track.

Second, *let go of that agitation* as quickly as possible. Don't be too hard on yourself if you can't stay focused during prayer. Pay attention to your child's concerns, even if her late-night intrusion interrupted some holy silence that you and your spouse were sharing. Don't hold onto guilt because your small group hasn't met for several months.

Finally, *keep at it*. Don't let interruption keep you from continuing to try. We call them spiritual *disciplines* precisely because they don't come easy. If certain ways of praying, or reading, or disciplining aren't working for you,

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There's more →→→→

don't be afraid to try something different. I don't believe that God expects us to be perfect in our faith life. Instead, God wants us to be hopeful in our faith, which means continuing to try, even when the evidence is that we're not very good at it. May we follow the lead of our Lord Jesus, who, while the evidence suggested that his disciples just never quite got it (read the gospel of Mark), kept living in faithful hope that God's purposes would be worked out in the world.



The Eden Leadership Team (ELT)
met August 13, 2018 at the Eden
Church Office

Present were: Becky Koller, Marcia
Goering, Austin Goering, Jay Goering,
Glen Goering, Larry Kaufman, Cheri

Kaufman, Teresa Graber, Jerry Lankford, Pastor Dianne
Schmidt, Candy Unrau, Kyle Neufeld, and Kirby Goering

Kyle read Psalm 46 in Lectio Divina format. God is our
refuge and strength . . .

Eden's Vision and Mission Statement were read.

**Minutes from 7/9/18 meeting were approved as submit-
ted.**

Budget report—Austin Goering: Income to date--
\$226,000, which is \$7,000 more than at this point last year.
Expenses--\$247,000, which is \$20,000 more than last year.
Budget was for \$50,000 more than actual expenses.

Commission reports

Worship Commission—Cheri Kaufman: Music sched-
ules for the year have been prepared for choirs and accom-
panists. Worship Commission wonders if the back doors by
the Junior Sunday school classes should be locked during
Sunday school or all the time to comply with Safe Sanctu-
ary practices? Marcia will take this consideration to the
Education commission for their next meeting.

Stewardship Commission—Teresa Graber: Nothing to
report at this time. They meet later this month.

Education Commission—Marcia Goering: They are
working on securing Sunday school and Wednesday night
teachers. They are hosting a teacher appreciation meal this
Wednesday, August 15 for supper.

Deacon Commission—Glen Goering: They recently lis-
tened to a presentation by the advocacy group, "Safe
Hope". They are a resource for those affected by domestic
violence and/or sexual abuse, providing emergency shelter
and other services. They gave materials such as brochures
and business cards to offer to the public. They recommend
having access to the brochures in the church bathrooms.
They have a 24-hour hotline 1-800 487-0510. The deacons

are looking forward to the Worship service at Pine Village
8/19/18 which will include communion.

Trustee Commission—Larry Kaufman: Goering Hard-
ware was at the church today to begin work on repairing/
replacing the air conditioner. Their work could take up to 2
weeks to complete. The trustees are also looking into op-
tions for replacing the broken window in Rm 130.

Peace and Witness Commission—Kirby Goering: They
will work with deacons on assisting a person in need of a
household kitchen range to replace one that is broken. The
Welcome Sign has been placed at the East entrance of the
church.

Pastor Dianne Schmidt: There has been good attendance
for Sunday school with the "Messy Bible stories." There
will be a final session August 26. The July 29 forum on
response to violence was well attended (75-80) and two
videos of the session are circulating for those who missed
the live discussion. Eden church successfully hosted the
assembly of the Western District Conference, which took
the help of many volunteers. The lack of adequate air con-
ditioning was a challenge, but some extra fans were
brought in. Chairs were borrowed from West Zion. It was
noted that the some of the newly replaced pads on the
chair feet are not staying in place. Dianne started a semi-
nary class this past week on Spirituality and begins another
course after Labor Day entitled "Theology One." She will
be spending a week in Elkhart on campus next week. Pas-
tor Derek will return this week from his sister's wedding
in Virginia and will be back in the office 8/15/18

Old Business

Emergency Coordination—Jay Goering shared a map of
the church facility with exits, fire extinguishers, fire
alarms, and tornado shelters marked. He also has a revised
draft of "Eden Mennonite Church Safety Procedures"
which he will share with the ushers to see if they have ad-
ditions/corrections. There was discussion of the possibility
of having training on the use of the defibrillator. A larger
representation of the map will be color coded and placed
in the fellowship hall, and smaller maps will be available
at multiple sites in the church to show escape routes, etc.

There was no new business. Next meeting will be Sep-
tember 10 at 7pm at the Eden Church Office. The meeting
was adjourned.

Candace Unrau, secretary



Worship Series: The Bible and Our Bodies September 16-October 21



During this six-week worship series we want to affirm that we are all created very good. Each of us individually

and all of us together are created in the divine image. Our sexuality, our drive to be in meaningful relationships, our maleness and our femaleness, the core of our very being, reflect the very good image of our Creator God. Yet this reality is not always proclaimed in our lives together, even within the church. We have failed to see the image of God within ourselves and within others. Our bodies created very good have been put down, violated, abused. We have exchanged the truth of being created good, created equal, created beautiful, for lies.

The topics of this series are as follows:

- Created in God's Good Image
- Created for Meaningful Relationships
- The Gift of Singleness
- The Witness of Marriage
- Lamenting Sexual Abuse
- Adopted into God's Family

It is our hope that as a church we can proclaim the worth of all as being created in the image of God. May our lives reflect the goodness of our bodies and our relationships together witness to the love of the God in whose good image we are created.



The choirs will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, September 5. Becky Setser has a great year planned for Ladies Chorus, Chancel Choir and Men's Chorus. Once again her choice of music will bring a beautiful way of praising God. The ladies will begin rehearsing at 7:30, Chancel Choir at 8:00 and Men's Chorus at 8:45 p.m. If you have toyed with the idea of singing in one of the choirs in the past, take the leap this year and let your voice resonate with joy.

Wednesday evenings will bring a flurry of activity beginning September 12. The noise level will rise as young and old fill the fellowship hall. You will enjoy the wonderful aromas of supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. It's always a joy to see the little ones kick off their shoes, eat, play and learn with their friends. High school youth will meet with the other Mennonite youth forming the FEWZ group, (First Mennonite, Eden, and West Zion). Their

gatherings will rotate monthly around all three attendance locations. The adults will have curriculum for both men and women this fall.

On September 12, following supper, all generations will work together to pack up school kits for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). There is always excitement when school supplies are purchased, and it's a great time to help children understand that there are others who wouldn't have those supplies without the help from MCC. Purchase those supplies now while they are on sale and bring them to church on Sunday morning. The children will gather them up and take them to the front of the sanctuary during offering. See a list of items needed for the school kits on page 4 and also in the Sunday morning bulletin.

On September 19 the Bible study sessions will begin. This year men and women will meet separately for Bible study. The adult women will be gathering to consider stories of biblical women in affirming women as an integral part of God's vision in the world. This study will draw on resources from the Mennonite Church USA's Women in Leadership Project entitled *Do You See This Woman?* This title comes from Luke 7:44 where Jesus guides the Pharisee Simon, to see the woman for the valuable creation that she is. During this six-week study, we want to look at ways we as women can nurture right relationships, affirm our giftedness, and face the ways that the influence of patriarchy has been limiting to full involvement in the church and in the world. Opportunity will also be given to share our own stories. Pastor Dianne will provide leadership for this study.

In the Men's Bible Study this Fall, we will be asking the question, "What does it mean to be a man?" This series of six group studies explores some of the voices that shape our masculine identity and seeks to expose the confusion and the damage done when men try to prove their manliness according to the prevailing American "myths of masculinity." So, instead of continuing these cultural myths, we will seek a biblical understanding of masculinity. This will hopefully be a step along the way to our growth as healthier men, who find our identities in Jesus alone.

The Bible study sessions go through October 24. On October 31, the last session for the fall, something special is being planned. Watch the bulletin for details.

Deer

The deer symbolizes safety in God's care, as seen in David's praise of God for delivery from enemies: "[The Lord] makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights" (2 Samuel 22:34; Psalm 18:33, NIV). The deer also represents faithfulness and eager devotion: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God" (Psalm 42:1, NIV).





Where could your skills be used?

Natural disasters are all around us. There are record numbers of wildfires, 2017 brought numerous hurricanes, and living in the Midwest we often hear of tornadoes. Mennonite Disaster Service is constantly responding to multiple disasters.

Long after news of a disaster has been dropped from the front page, the people who were displaced from the disaster are just beginning the recovery process. Most Long Term Recovery Groups tell the people who have been affected by disaster to not expect to rebuild for a year after the disaster. A year?!?! That is how long it takes to get paperwork for insurance, FEMA aid, recovery grants, etc. to be processed.

There are always some surprises for homeowners. If you lost your home to flooding, you may not be able to rebuild on the same land. When a natural disaster occurs, government agencies will look at where the most damage occurred and may determine that the flood plain has changed and not allow homes to be built in that area again. FEMA will buy the land from the homeowner, but the price is generally not enough to buy another plot. Now you're faced with no home and nowhere to build.

Because of the length of time it takes for rebuilding to begin, it is not uncommon for MDS volunteers to hear homeowners beg, "Please don't forget about us!" In fact, many homeowners can give you the exact date their disaster was no longer on the front page of most newspapers. MDS depends on many volunteers to help bring these people back home. Weekly volunteers are needed. Volunteers who can spend several weeks are needed even more!

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is currently working, and needs volunteers in the following areas for the months of October through December:

- Pine Ridge, South Dakota (2015 and 2016 wind-storms)
- Lake County, California (2015 and 2016 Wildfires)
- Victoria County, Texas (2017 Hurricane Harvey)
- LaGrange, Texas (2017 Hurricane Harvey)
- West Virginia Bridges (2015 & 2016 Flooding)
- Puerto Rico (2017 Hurricane Maria)
- Fort Myers, Florida (2017 Hurricane Irma)
- Citrus County, Florida (RV Project, 2017 Hurricane Irma)

Often people say, "I could never go to help rebuild a house. I don't have building skills." That's where the long-term volunteers come in. They teach people how to do the tasks that are needed. You may learn to hang sheetrock, run PEX tubing, (and even learn what PEX stands for), put down laminate flooring, install ceiling fans, help cook meals, do office work or paint. There truly is something for everyone to do.

Learn more about the various projects by going to <https://mds.mennonite.net/> or volunteer with MDS by [clicking here](#). For more information or to serve, please call: Josh Carson at 800-241-8111 or email him at jcarson@mds.mennonite.net.



Invitation to Share

The invitation to share project for the month of August and September is School Kits:

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)
(Because the right type of pencil sharpener is hard to find, Mary Martha will supply the pencil sharpener.)

Place contents in a 11" x 16" fabric double drawstring bag.

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 P.O. Box 406, or take it to the Eden Church Office at 109 E. Hirschler, Moundridge, KS 67107.



Camp Mennoscah celebrating 70th anniversary

All are invited to camp on Sunday, September 23, as we dedicate The Whale playground and celebrate Camp Mennoscah's 70th Anniversary at the Annual Meeting! Events are part of the Work & Play Camp starting on Sept. 21. Annual Meeting events begin with worship at 10a.m. on Sunday with the Whale playground dedication at 5 p.m. and annual meeting following. Register online at campmennoscah.org to let us know you're coming to celebrate with us!



Doris Stucky (97) passed away on Wednesday, August 15 at Pine Village. The memorial service was held on Sunday, September 2. We extend our sympathy to her children Mark (Gail) Stucky, Pat (Bruce) Stucky, and Barbara (Doug) Ewy and all of her extended family and friends.



Dear Eden Church brothers and sisters,
Thank you to each of you who volunteered to help make the WDC Assembly, hosted at and by Eden Mennonite Church, such a joyous time together. From sound techs to those taking care of little ones to those who moved many tables and chairs into place to those of you who did things behind the scenes, know that the Assembly Planning Team recognizes all the work you did to help make this year's Assembly a wonderful time of fellowship. God bless you.
Kathy Neufeld Dunn
Assembly Coordinator

To: Congregations, Area Conferences and Racial/Ethnic groups of Mennonite Church USA

The board of The Mennonite Incorporated has made the following request to the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA. "That the boards of Mennonite World Review Inc. and The Mennonite Inc. begin movement toward merging operations and governance, with an expected completion date of July 1, 2019." The merger means that The Mennonite, Inc. will cease being a program entity of Mennonite Church USA as outlined in our bylaws (Article X):

The Mennonite. There shall be a self-supporting entity that produces a denominational magazine (dba The Mennonite, Inc.). Its board of directors shall be responsible to the Executive Board. Its mission is to help readers glorify God, grow in faith and become agents of healing and hope in our world. Its goals are to provide a forum for the voices within the denomination, to promote the ministries of, and to support identity-building for Mennonite Church USA, and to offer an editorial voice

distinctive from but collaborative with other leadership voices within Mennonite Church USA.

Accordingly, before the Executive Board can approve the termination of a church-wide program entity, the Executive Board must seek counsel and advice of the Delegate Assembly:

Establishment or termination of Churchwide Program Entities. Churchwide program entities may be established or terminated as the Executive Board determines from time to time and on such terms and conditions as the Executive Board determines, with the counsel and advice of the Delegate Assembly.

Due to the timetable proposed by The Mennonite and Mennonite World Review for the proposed merger, the Executive Board has decided it is not best to wait until our regular Delegate Assembly to receive counsel from the church in Kansas City next summer. **The Executive Board is hereby giving notice of a special meeting of the Delegate Assembly to be held on November 26, 2018 at 8:00 pm Eastern Time, at the Mennonite Church USA offices, 3145 Benham Ave., Elkhart, Ind.** We will also provide electronic access for delegates who cannot attend in person. The purpose of the meeting is to give counsel and advice to the Executive Board regarding the termination of The Mennonite as a program entity of Mennonite Church USA. The proposed action is to: *"Authorize the Executive Board to update the MC USA by-laws as needed to reflect the change in status of The Mennonite as a churchwide program entity."*

Every Mennonite Church USA congregation is invited to appoint one delegate for each 100 congregational members (or fraction thereof). The Mennonite Church USA online directory is the official source for congregational size and guides the number of delegates who can be sent.

Each area conference is eligible to send one delegate for each 1,000 area conference members, or fraction thereof.

The following Racial/Ethnic groups have been officially recognized by the Executive Board and may send three delegates, plus one delegate for each 1,000 members of the group: African American Mennonite Association, the network of Asian Mennonite Church USA congregations, Iglesia Mennonita Hispana and Native Mennonite Ministries.

Delegates must register in advance to participate. Complete the form at the following link **by November 1:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Nov26DelegateMeeting>

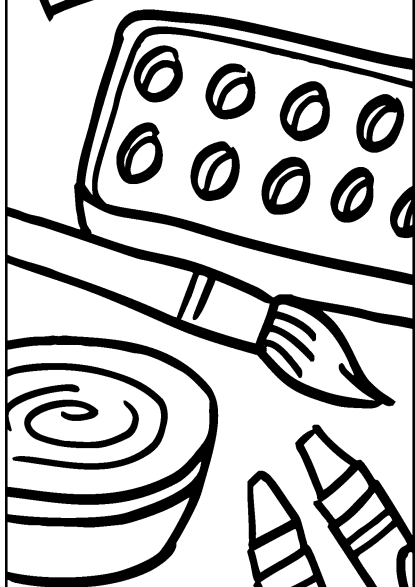
Contact Shelley Buller at ShelleyB@MennoniteUSA.org, 316-281-4257 if you have any questions.

Blessings,

David Boshart, Moderator
Mennonite Church USA

Miracles happen!

Create this colorful reminder of God's wondrous works.

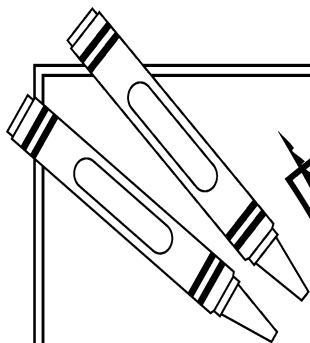


What you need:

- white cardstock
- white wax crayon
- paintbrush
- water
- watercolor paints

What you do:

1. Across the paper horizontally, write with the white crayon "Miracles happen!" (or a Bible verse such as Job 5:9; Psalm 77:14; Jeremiah 32:27; or Matthew 19:26).
2. Wet the paintbrush and paint over the words with different colors.
3. Let dry and then hang up.



PUZZLE

IT'S A MIRACLE!

Jesus performed many amazing miracles during his earthly ministry.

Directions: Match the words and pictures of different healings, from one column to the other. Then fit the word pairs in the blanks below to complete Matthew 11:5, NIV.



blind



leprosy



lame



deaf



dead

hear



walk



raised



sight



cleansed



The _____ receive _____, the / _____, those
who have _____ are _____, the _____
_____, the _____ are _____ ...

MATTHEW 11:5, NIV

Answer: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised ... Matthew 11:5, NIV



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1- Dick Gehring
Will Krehbiel | 15- Hayden Schrag (Brian & Amy) | 24- Cameron Clark (Becky)
Timothy Graber
Lindsey Begnoche |
| 2- Zoe Burnett (Shane & Chris)
Bethany Odell | 16- Vaughn Goering
Betty Heritage
Peter W. Schrag
Robert D. Schrag | 25- Ron Goering
Sheri Marsh |
| 4- Reagen Dalke (Jerrod) | 17- Jan Craig Goering | 26- Janine Addis |
| 5- Brian Kaufman | 18- Jaeden Dalke (Jerrod)
Irvin Harms
Gracelyn Stewart (Kimberley Kaschke)
Saylor Stucky (David Stucky) | 27- Kristeen Goering
Shawn Rath
Robin Schrag
Brenda White |
| 6- Carol Zerger (Mrs. Dan) | 19- LuVerna Goering
Joe Lichti
Ruth Ann Ritthaler | 28- Tony Janzen |
| 8- Elden Austin
Shirley Delk | 20- Jenny Schrag | 29- Carolyn Goering
Valeria Graber |
| 9- Kason Graber (Zach & Kali)
Aaron Vogts | 21- Jerome Goering
Aubree Schrag (Matt & Rashelle)
Arlene Thiesen | 29- Annette Krehbiel |
| 10- Marcia Goering
Coy Kaufman (Brandon & Morgan) | 22- Jeffrey Kaufman
Jamie Mulder
Lorita Zook
Bobbi Schrag
Rebecka Stucky | 30- David G. Goering
Edwin L. Schrag |
| 11- Nathan Knight
Becky Koller
Valeda Krehbiel
Cheryl Stucky
Pat Stucky | 23- Brittaney Addis (Curtis & Janine)
Cade Graber
Evelyn King (Derek & Becky) | |
| 13- Kathy Ensz
Michael Gehring
Sharon McCown | | |
| 14- Tenae Alfaro
Pixie Doane (Heath & Samantha)
Mark Graber
Kristopher Rath
Jill Zerger | | |

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



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1- Jim Haag & Carol Lichti | 18- Elden & Neva Austin |
| 2- Robert & JoLene Kaufman | Lanny & Linda Stucky |
| 3- Darren & DeeAnn Graber | 21- Donald & Dorothy Wedel |
| 4- Heath & Samantha Doane
Billy & Sara Hocking
Howard & Neva Kaufman | Allen & Lauren Bonde |
| 5- Greg & Jackie Zerger | 22- Brian & Erin Stucky |
| 6- Jay & Linda Goering | 24- Jay & Jane Krehbiel |
| 8- Sam & Marcia Goering | 27- Darwin & Pat Mead
Jason & Shelese Newmark |
| 15- Terence & Katherine Goering | Kenneth & Glenna Schrag |
| | 28- Reese & Meghan Gehring |
| | 30- Wayne & Marlene Waltner |

Up-Coming Events

September 2: 4:00 p.m. memorial service for Doris Stucky
September 3: Eden Church Office closed for Labor Day
September 5: 7:30 Ladies Chorus
 8:00 Chancel Choir
 8:45 Men's Chorus
September 6: 6:30 p.m. Edu/Disc. Commission mtg. at church office
September 10: 7:00 p.m. ELT mtg. at Eden Church Office
September 11: 6:00 p.m. SCRT meeting at church office
 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg. at church office
September 12: Wednesday Evening Activities begin
 6:00 p.m. Supper
 6:45 p.m. Service Project (packing MCC School Kits)
 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
September 29 & 26: 6:00 p.m. Supper
 6:45 p.m. Bible Study
 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus

September 2018						
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October 2018						
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Address Services Requested