



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

April 2019
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Love and Fear

God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. I John 4:16, 18 (MSG)

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- 105 people die from guns each day in the U.S.
- Gun violence is the second-leading cause of death among our youth.
- More than 25,000 guns are manufactured per day in America.

These statistics along with many more equally alarming statistics on gun violence were part of an event I attended recently in Hesston. Shane Claiborne and Michael Martin are journeying around the country on a tour called, “Beating Guns” which is also the title of their newly released book. They are literally taking guns and turning them into garden tools, which is what we were able to witness during the evening. Their inspiration comes from the biblical prophet’s call to “beat swords into plowshares,” a familiar image to us as Mennonites. The transformation of guns into garden tools is about a transformation of our way of life to help us reimagine the world where we turn from death to life.

At the beginning of the evening they warned us that it would feel heavy but we would move toward hope. This was certainly true for me as I found myself becoming weighed down feeling sadness over so many lost and devastated lives due to gun violence. But hope came in the form of two personal stories. Two different individuals who had been employees at Excel during the 2017 shooting there, told their experience on that fateful day.

One young man, who had been shot multiple times, recounted the sense of peace that poured over him as he was cared for and transported to the hospital. Because of his own recognition of past mistakes and brokenness, he was able to offer his forgiveness to the perpetrator and live in hope for the future.

The second man shared how he has been able to turn his fear into love. He described how it is not possible to hold both fear and love. He looks for ways to reach out in love to those he works with rather than cowering back in fear. He is releasing fear so he can fully love.

Fear is very prevalent and it is easy to get caught up into being afraid. We are told to fear *the Other*: those who don’t look like us, or who have a different skin color, or speak a different language, or have different religious beliefs. We fear the future and all the things that could possibly go wrong. Fear seduces us into believing that we need more security to protect our things and ourselves. Fear makes us forget who we are and whose we are. Fear immobilizes us from being able to move forward.

Jesus, our teacher, models for us a way forward. Jesus chose to reach out and love *the Other*: lepers, women, tax collectors, Samaritans, and those whom others had rejected. Jesus chose to keep going towards Jerusalem, even though he knew what awaited him there. Jesus chose love over fear. In love Jesus was willing to even lay down his life.

The challenge before us is to release our fears and risk loving *the Other*. Our ability to love those different from ourselves is not based on our own willfulness or insistence. Our ability to love is based on God’s love of us. We

There’s more →→→→

can love because God first loved us. Through God's love, we can see others as God sees them—created in God's good image and worthy of love and respect. We can allow God to live in us, casting out fear, so that we love fully and completely.

Songwriter John Bell composed a simple song (STJ #105) that voices God's promise to us: "Don't be afraid, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised to be always near." May we claim this promise in confidence, letting go of fear and reaching out in love.

Pastor Dianne



The Eden Leadership Team met March 11, 2019 at the Eden Church Office

Members present: Jay Goering, Dianne Schmidt, Derek King, Berni Kaufman,

Barbara Stucky, Kenneth Stucky, Jerry Lankford, Mark Stucky, Becky Koller, Keith Albrecht, Austin Goering, Marcia Goering, Josh Regier, and Candy Unrau

Jay lit a candle to represent the Holy Spirit's presence. ELT members read Eden's Mission/Vision statements in unison. Jay led in prayer.

1. Lectio Divina devotions were from I Kings 19:11-13
2. The February 11, 2019 ELT minutes were approved as submitted.
3. Austin gave the Eden church budget report. Income to date: \$60,000; Last year at this time: \$65,000; Expenses \$82,000. Deficit of -\$22,000; Current expenses are \$13,000 under budgeted expenses.
4. Commission and Pastor reports

Worship Commission: Berni has nothing to report. Their commission is planning to meet 3/12/19.

Deacon Commission: Barb reports that the deacons met 3/4/19. They discussed communion procedures, visitation schedule, Faith forum Sunday coming up 3/31/19—topic will be "church and politics." They also discussed bereavement support and the on-call schedule.

Stewardship Commission: Ken reported that they have had round table discussions on why our church is running "in the red." Attendance has been stable the past few years but is about 100 down from 2008.

There was discussion on how to make improvements on giving. Currently 45% of our budget goes for staff, 27% to internal operations, and 28% to outside giving.

Peace and Witness Commission: Mark shared that there are two more baby showers on the horizon for refugee families. He mentioned that West Zion has a bicycle ministry for refugee families. They are making plans for Peace Sunday, which will probably be held 4/28/19 with the guest speaker spending the SS hour with adults in the sanctuary.

Trustee Commission: Keith reported that they solved the soap dispenser malfunction in the hall bathroom

near the west entrance. They got a quote from Vogts Construction to replace the floor in the men's restroom, the hall restroom, and the choir loft. The cost will be approximately \$5975.00. They are also looking at replacing the floor on the stage, but as of yet do not have a quote. Also, Mark Vogts looked at the two driveways onto 18th Ave at the church. He is planning to cut the ground down just a little and fill it in with crushed asphalt. He estimates the cost at \$200-\$300. Keith asked if their commission needs approval to move ahead on these projects and the consensus was that they don't need approval if they are using their own budget resources.

Education and Discipleship Commission: Marcia reported that Kathy Waltner will lead the service night scheduled for 3/20/19. The project will be to create jars of trail mix and other mixes to be sold at the Kansas Relief Sale. The committee is discussing adult SS options for the summer months. There will likely not be an elective class, but several classes may combine for efficiency.

Pastor Derek: In relating to our accountability to WDC, Derek will be doing online training on Healthy Boundaries April 1-2. MC USA leadership are asked to complete this training program every three years. He reports that our church has been processing three funerals in the past three weeks.

Pastor Dianne: She reports that she recently spent time on campus at AMBS as part of her on-going seminary training. She also had a recent one-week vacation in sunny, warm weather which she enjoyed. We have finished the sermon series on discipleship and have begun the Lenten series on Blessed Hunger, Holy Feast. She has been working on securing preachers to fill the pulpit during Derek's sabbatical this summer.

Fiber Optic Internet—More research still needs to be done. This is on HOLD for now.

Board Member Replacement: Pastors Derek and Dianne asked that the ELT discern the process by which various Eden members are appointed and replaced to serve on external community boards. There has been some confusion on the process whereby new board members are named. Questions discussed included, "Is it important for Eden to have a more well-defined and unified understanding of how representatives are chosen, replaced, and relate back to the congregation?" "Should there be regular check-ins by commissions to offer support?" "Should there be opportunity for reporting from the representatives?" "How should representatives be chosen and/or replaced?" "What

is the role of Gifts Discernment (if any) in the replacement of positions for external boards?" After lengthy discussion, it was determined that Pastor Derek and Jay will collaborate to create an inventory list of current board members. It was consensus that we have a connecting point between the board members and the ELT, which should have an umbrella role between the church and the various boards.

Jay reported that Eden church has 5 delegates to recruit for the July 2-6 MC USA conference in Kansas City. The ELT will pay a minimum of \$500 to defray expenses for each delegate.

As we enter severe weather/tornado season in Kansas, **Jay has expressed the need for an annual fire or tornado drill.** This will be led by the ushers after an upcoming worship service.

Other Business:

Derek's Sabbatical: Jenny Schrag has agreed to assist with worship coordination, pastoral visitation, and fill in with funeral services. She will likely be paid on an hourly basis. Jay and the SCRT will be working on her contract. Pastor Derek and Jay will coordinate plans for announcing this as well as a summary of Derek's plans to the congregation. There will be an opportunity for a blessing for Derek's sabbatical and for Jenny's role in assisting in his absence.

Dianne's evaluation: Jay has been in communication with Heidi Regier Kreider, who will have someone guide us through this process in the coming months.

Next meeting will be April 8, 2019 at the Eden Church Office.

Candy Unrau, Secretary



Consider Sharing Your Gift of Music

The worship commission is looking for persons to share their gift of music during worship starting the second Sunday in May. The music may be vocal or instrumental, an individual or a group. Usually two numbers are shared. Contact Judy Goering at 620-345-8519 or hkjkgoering@gmail.com if you or someone you know is interested.



Invitation to Share

The project for the month of **April is Newborn Kits.** Purchase items for 3-9 months size. Please limit your generosity to these items:

- Gowns or sleepers, (flannel or similar warm, soft fabric
- Undershirts/onesies

If you would like to support this project financially 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.



**April 14, 7:00 p.m.
Palm Sunday
at Eden**

Join us for community Holy Week services! Peter Goerzen, Bethel College Campus Pastor and Instructor of Bible and Religion, will preach on the hope we have through Jesus' self-emptying on the cross

**April 17, 4:30 p.m.
Funeral Home parking lot**

Join us for a prayer walk. It's a time to lift up our community before God!

**April 18, 6:30 p.m.
at Eden**

Maundy Thursday Service
Meal and Communion

**April 21, 6:30 a.m.
at Russ Stucky's pasture**

Easter Sunrise Service with light breakfast

SMCHA Offers Educational Financial Assistance Grants

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association (SMCHA) is again offering education financial assistance grants to individuals preparing for full-time Christian service, Mennonite ministry, Mennonite voluntary service, or other related careers. The maximum grant available is \$1,000 for full-time ministerial students with lesser amounts for part-time students and Mennonite voluntary service participants. The grants are for the 2019-2020 school year. The application deadline is May 30, 2019.

These grants are available to members of the following Swiss-Volhynian churches and to individuals of Swiss-Volhynian descent who may attend elsewhere:

Eden Mennonite ChurchMoundridge, KS
 First Mennonite Church of Christian.....
Moundridge, KS
 First Mennonite Church McPherson, KS
 First Mennonite Church Pretty Prairie, KS
 West Zion Mennonite Church.....
 Moundridge, KS
 Kingman Mennonite Church Kingman, KS
 Salem Mennonite Church Freeman, SD
 Salem-Zion Mennonite Church..... Freeman, SD

Criteria for Awarding:

1) Applicants must have membership in one of the historic Swiss-Volhynian churches listed above or be of Swiss-Volhynian descent, and are either:

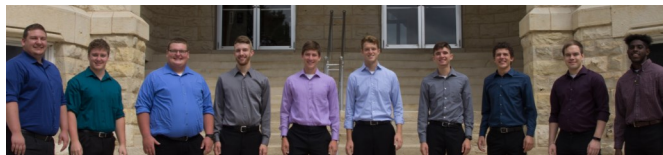
--- Accepted by or enrolled in Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary or Eastern Mennonite Seminary. (These will be given preference.)

--- OR, accepted into or involved in Mennonite voluntary service programs sponsored by Mennonite Mission Network or MCC.

--- OR, will be or are involved in ministry exploration programs or other Christian service career-related programs at Mennonite colleges.

2) Applicants must submit a letter of application by mail or email to the **Swiss Mennonite Selection Committee, c/o Roger Juhnke, 328 Lakeshore Dr., Newton, KS 67114** rjuhnke@gmail.com. This must be accompanied with or followed by a letter of recommendation from his/her pastor or a congregation member. **Application deadline is May 30, 2019.**

For further information contact Roger Juhnke at 316-283-0452 rjuhnke@gmail.com, or Kerwin Graber at 605-660-3382 krgraber@goldenwest.net, or consult our website at www.swissmennonite.org.



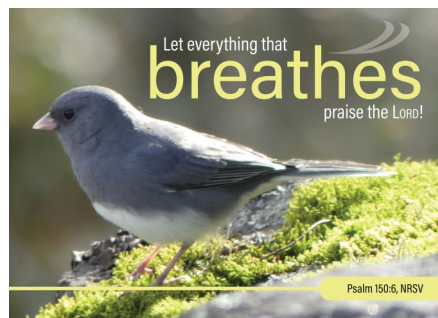
Bethel College's Open Road & Woven to Perform at Pine Village Anchors Banquet

Pine Village will host its 15th Annual Anchors Banquet on Friday, April 5th at 6 p.m. in the Wellness Center. Tickets are \$100 and on sale now. All proceeds go toward growing the Memorial Home Endowment Foundation; the Anchors Banquet is the single fundraiser for the Foundation. Featured entertainment will be one you won't want to miss as both the men's and women's choirs from Bethel College - Open Road & Woven – will be co-entertaining us. Dinner will be a plated meal catered by Keith's Catering and service will be conducted by the Moundridge High School FFA and FCCLA students. Tickets can be purchased through Pine Village by calling 620.345.2901 or stopping by Pine Village at 86 22nd Ave., Moundridge.

Woven is a student directed women's ensemble that began in the fall of 2010. Established to perform the best of women's chorus literature, they have a deep commitment to the lives of women everywhere and their choice of literature describes and supports the role of women in contemporary society.

Open Road began in the 2000–2001 academic year as a group of college men who came together twice a week to sing. Since that time, the group has established an active concert schedule that serves both Bethel College and the surrounding community. All members of Open Road are active singers in the Bethel College Concert Choir and their music is often featured during the annual Concert Choir tour.

Make plans to attend and purchase your tickets today!





Thank you for your contribution. Because of support from donors like you, hardworking MDS volunteers are rebuilding this winter in response to powerful hurricanes and wildfires. Darrel and Linnea survived the 2016 Erskine Fire near Lake Isabella, California, but their home was destroyed.

“When that thing came over it wasn’t like any other fire that we had up here,” Darrel said. “I could see those flames just roaring down the hill and I knew it was over for the house.”

Two and a half years later, MDS volunteers are building Darrel and his wife Linnea a new home.

“I didn’t think this would ever happen,” Darrel told us. “I actually thought the fire wiped us out and that we were destined to leave the area and go somewhere else. But thanks to Mennonite Disaster Service I’m looking forward to sleeping in my own house again instead of a rental trailer. The warmth from this group, I’ve never seen anything like it.”

Thank you for providing the resources needed to provide hope and a warm home to disaster survivors. With gratitude,

Kevin King
Executive Director

Thank you for your gift to AMBS. Your support is vital in helping us to carry out our mission to educate leaders with hearts on fire for God’s reconciling mission in the world.

I chose to study at AMBS for two reasons. The first was because of my growing interest in spiritual direction and Christian formation. This was a personal interest and I was at a place in life where I was ready to explore this through study. The second reason was that of my work with pastors and congregations in Mennonite Church USA. I wanted to better understand my constituents and to know firsthand the theological issues that they work through in their contexts. This increases my ability in resourcing and dialoguing with pastors, church leaders, and others.

Marisa Smucker
Elkhart, IN

A Master of Arts in Christian Formation student

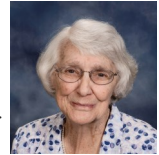
Thank you to our many volunteers who were part of our Youth Volunteer Weekend and those who helped put in the dam! Branches were picked up from the recent winds, the “tree farm” was tended and prepared for spring, mulch was spread, and fun times were had. Our numbers were small for putting in the dam, but it was a beautiful day for both watching and being in the river. You are the greatest!

Olivia Bartel, Camp Director



Verna M. Goering (103) passed away at Pine Village on Sunday, March 3. Services were held at Eden on Saturday, March 9. We extend our sympathy to all of her family and friends.

Ruby Graber (91) passed away on Thursday, March 14 at Pine Village. Services were held at Eden on Tuesday, March 19. We extend our sympathy to her children, Melvin (Janice), Dennis (Teresa), Mark (Tindy) and her daughter-in-law Gail Graber, and all of Ruby’s extended family.



Calvary Cross (Graded Cross)

This Latin cross with three steps symbolizes both Jesus’ climb up Calvary’s mountain and the three gifts of faith, hope and love. Those gifts are intrinsically connected to Jesus’ death and resurrection and are ours by sheer grace. “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV).



Tiny breeze or mighty wind,
swirling round as God commands.
Hats go flying. Branches bend.
Little seeds spread through the lands.

God Almighty makes the wind;
great big gusts can shape the sands.
Awesome is the power of God,
when even wind obeys his plans.

—MaryAnn Sundby

God so
loved the
world

Remember God's special gift of Jesus by making this craft.

What you need:

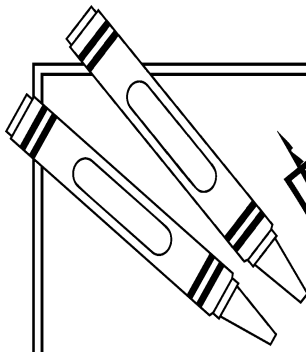
- Large piece of blue paper
- Large bowl
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Paint (green and red)
- Paintbrush
- Wet wipes
- 3 wooden craft sticks
- Craft glue
- Black marker
- Bible



John
3:16

What you do:

1. On the paper, trace around the bowl. Cut out the circle.
2. Paint your palms green, one at a time, and press them in the circle side by side. (Clean your hands with wet wipes.)
3. Dip a finger in red paint and make a dot on the center of each handprint.
4. Between the handprints, glue two sticks end to end vertically. Glue the third stick horizontally to make a cross.
5. In marker, write the words of John 3:16 around the blue circle.



PUZZLE

Jesus gives us *life*

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.

People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8)

Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3)

Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26)

This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)

Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24)

Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17)

Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25)

While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29)

This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1)

These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56)

These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7)

Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15)



Answer: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, dice, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, linens, silver coins



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

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



- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2- Mark & Pat Rupp | 18- Robert & Sondra Tolle |
| 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 | |

Up-Coming Events

- April 1:** 8:00 p.m. Bible Study - Eden Church Office
April 2: 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg. at church office
April 3: 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
April 8: 7:00 p.m. ELT mtg. at the church office
April 9: 7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission mtg.
April 10: 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
April 14: 7:00 p.m. Community Holy Week service at Eden
April 15: 7:00 p.m. Deacon Commission mtg.
April 17: 4:30 p.m. Community Prayer Walk
 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
April 18: 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday meal and communion
April 19: Eden Church Office closed
April 21: Easter
 6:30 a.m. Sunrise service
April 24: 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:30 p.m. Men's Chorus

April 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	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				



May 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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	31	



Address Services Requested