



EDEN
Mennonite
Church
Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

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Learning and Growing

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This is the time of year when we transition from summer into fall. As I look back over this summer I'm grateful for the many ways that the Spirit has been moving among us. Through a variety of voices we were invited to breathe in God's Spirit and look for the ways that the Spirit calls us to listen and live into the Spirit's life-giving ways. The Spirit moves with us into this next season.

Fall is the time that many of us establish a more structured routine with the beginning of the new school year. Families with children in school must adjust their relaxed summer day schedules into morning routines to make it to school on time, times for reading and homework, and regular bedtimes. Although there is a letting go of some flexibility, it is a time to welcome these new patterns as well.

This fall I am beginning my final year of class work for my MDiv degree. During the third week of August, I was on campus at the seminary in class with others who are in their last year of study, looking forward to finishing next spring. Of the seven students, three of us were already in pastoral roles, and the others were in the process of discerning what ministry roles they might pursue. We all came from different places and had different stories to tell about our journey to seminary.

For this "Capstone" course each of us were asked to reflect upon these questions: "What have I learned?" "What have I not learned?" and "How have I changed while here?" We had to write and then share with each other the ways in which we had experienced personal, professional, intellectual, intercultural, and spiritual formation. As we told our stories, I was impressed by the variety of paths down which each of us had traveled. Through class work, interactions with professors and classmates, persisting in spiritual practices, becoming more self-aware, we had grown in distinctive ways. In the midst of life challenges, God's Spirit had been at work transforming our lives and moving us forward.

Each of our stories was unique. Yet within each of us there was distinct growth. We had deepened our knowledge as well as our capacity to reflect deeply upon how God was at work within us and around us. We had deepened our awareness of our own personalities and the ways this shapes our ministry and interactions with each other. We also named areas to explore further and the questions that still remain that need to be grappled with.

These structured reflections were part of the requirements for this course. Yet I wonder if all of us shouldn't stop and take time to reflect on how we are growing and deepening our spiritual roots. Perhaps we might all benefit from doing an annual spiritual check-up at this time of the year. We can pause and ask ourselves, "What have I learned?" and "How have I grown deeper?" over this past year. Intentional reflection offers us opportunity to notice what patterns and routines were fruitful in our growth. It also offers us a time to see what we are missing and establish new patterns or start a new spiritual discipline in order to foster growth.

In his letter to the Colossian church, the apostle Paul describes what it means "to live a life worth of the Lord." (Colossians 1:9-14) Here are the four qualities of such a life:

- Bearing fruit in every good work
- Growing in the knowledge of God
- Being strengthened with power...that you may have great endurance and patience
- Giving joyful thanks to God

There's more →→→

I invite you to take an inventory of your own life using these four indicators and then set one goal for this fall. I would love to hear from you about how you are planning to grow and deepen your spiritual life. My spiritual formation goal for this year is to pause at the end of each work day and give thanks for all the gifts that God gave me that day. With this practice I hope to grow in my capacity to be more grateful.

I leave you with a prayer from Jan Richardson's book, *In the Sanctuary of Women*. It is a prayer for the beginning of the day reminding us to breath in God's Spirit, a practice for all of us.

*Blessed are you, O God,
who created the world with a word
and fashioned your people
from dust and from delight.
In our waking, may we know you
breathing in us,
breathing through us,
creating us anew
with your longing and love. Amen.*

Pastor Dianne



The Eden Leadership Team met on Monday, August 12 at the church office.

Members present: Jay Goering, Pastor Jenny Schrag, Mark Stucky, Keith Albrecht, Pastor Dianne Schmidt,

Marcia Goering, Austin Goering, Barbara Stucky, Berni Kaufman, Josh Regier, and Candy Unrau

Jay lit a candle to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit. The ELT members read Eden's Mission and Vision statements in unison.

1. **Devotions:** Scripture was read by Jay from Mark 10: 46-52 in Lectio Divina format. Jay led in prayer.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** The June and July ELT minutes were approved as submitted.

3. **Budget report—Austin:** Income to date: \$230,000, Expenses \$287,00, leaving a deficit of -\$57,000. Last year at this time we had a deficit of -\$16,000. Austin reported that there has been a slight increase in giving since the stewardship committee made announcements about the growing deficit.

4. Commission and Pastoral Reports

A. Peace and Witness Commission—Mark Stucky: He reports there was a great send off event for Michelle Schrag and Emily Knight with generous monetary donations. The committee is planning another baby shower for an immigrant family on September 8. They are also thinking about a project collecting refugee detainee backpacks this Christmas season. They will coordinate with the Worship Commission to use these backpacks as decorations under the Christmas Tree in the Fellowship Hall.

B. Worship Commission—Berni Kaufman: The Camp Mennoscah retreat was attended by 65 people—41 on Saturday and 24 additional attended on Sunday. Eleven of the attendees were from First Mennonite of Christian. There has been a suggestion to invite the members of At the Feet of Christ church next year. There has been concern raised about the noise in the Fellowship Hall carrying into the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. The ushers will plan to close all doors to the sanctuary except the far west door at 9:25am. This will be a sign to encourage those in the Fellowship Hall to move into the sanctuary for worship. Kathy Waltner will be updating the art gallery this fall. The Elfrieda Dyck quilt will be in full display for several years and then will be folded and displayed in the glass cabinet after that.

C. Trustee Commission—Keith Albrecht: The floor in the choir loft and the floor on the bathroom in the southwest hall are scheduled to be replaced the week of August 19.

D. Education and Discipleship Commission—Marcia Goering: They are planning to meet August 14. They are looking for teachers for Junior Sunday School and Wednesday night. There will be a teacher appreciation brunch August 25. There will be no Junior or Adult Sunday school that day.

E. Deacon Commission—Barbara Stucky: The deacons are working on a Pastoral Care policy and continue their work on the Safe Church policy. They are discussing faith forum topics for the 5th Sunday in September. They continue to replace pamphlets in the restrooms.

There's more →→→

ELT minutes continued

F. Pastor Dianne: The Camp Mennoscah weekend provided a good spirit of fellowship. The variety of speakers and services this summer has been refreshing. It is noted that there hasn't been a large slump in attendance this summer. She attended the half day before WDC annual meeting program for pastor resourcing. She is looking forward to a week of seminary classes on campus followed by a week of vacation.

G. Pastor Jenny: She helped with Camp Mennoscah worship and camp fire sessions. She has helped with Sunday morning service planning. She has done more visitation in July in preparation for her more limited availability with the start of her teaching commitment at Windom. She helped put together the MC USA conference report. She wrote the pastor's article for the *Eden Echoes*. She has enjoyed her time serving the congregation this summer.

5. The 125th Anniversary of the Eden Mennonite Church will be in 2020. There was discussion on how we might commemorate this anniversary. We will revisit this topic next month.

6. Other business: Gib Burgan may be ready to provide an update regarding upgrading the Wi-Fi service to the church by next meeting.

7. Next ELT meeting will be September 9, 2019 at 7pm at the Eden Church Office



The project for the month of **August 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 pencil eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)

Place contents in a 11 2/4" x 16 3/4" fabric double draw-string bag.

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.



Gathering as community in various settings enables relationship building. In recent years, an Eden church picnic has been held sometime in the fall. The weather varies but Edenites have braved the elements with good participation for fellowship and food despite cold and wind on occasion. Another picnic is scheduled for the afternoon/evening of **Sunday, September 22**, at the home of Gary and Bonita Howard. Past activities are planned including a scavenger hunt and hayrack ride. Lawn games will be available. Ideas for other activities are welcome. Watch the bulletin for further information and scheduled times of activities. Thanks to the Deacon Commission for providing hamburgers/hotdogs, buns and fixings for s'mores. Table service and water will also be provided. Bring a salad or side dish to share and lawn chairs. You may come to eat and participate in as many of the activities you wish or just visit. For more information or to share ideas, contact Bret and Marla Gillmore or Gary and Bonita Howard.



Wednesday evening activities will begin on September 18. Supper will be served from 6:00 to 6:30, followed by a service night. All ages will work on packing school kits for MCC. On September 25, classes will begin for all ages beginning with age 4. There will also be a nursery for the younger ones. The last Wednesday evening during the fall will be November 6. A game night will be planned for everyone on the 6th. Please sign up early for your group or Sunday school class to serve a meal, so everyone can enjoy the evening activities.



The Wednesday evening fall Bible Study for adults will be a study of the book of Ephesians. This letter of Paul holds a wealth of wisdom for us as a community of faith on how we are to be "gathered into One in Christ." We will study one chapter a week and will delve into the many ways we learn to be the church together. Pastor Dianne will lead this study and is looking forward to a rich time of learning and growth.



We choose not to print addresses of our members online. If you are looking for an address, please call the church office.



A legacy of faith

National Grandparents Day became an official observance in 1978, thanks largely to the lobbying efforts of Marian McQuade, a West Virginian who had 15 children and 43 grandchildren during 60 years of marriage.

The purpose of National Grandparents Day, celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day, is threefold: to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children and to help children become aware of strength, information and guidance older people can offer.

Grandparents - and, in this mobile society, surrogate grandparents - also serve as examples of how to endure challenges with God's help. Elders describe how God remains present, faithful and steadfast throughout the years. As Psalm 145:4 (NIV) says, "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

Puzzle!

Match each numbered description with the correct biblical dreamer. Use the passages as hints, if needed.

1. His brothers were irritated when he told them of his dreams. (*Genesis 37:5-8*)
2. He saw angels going up and down a ladder. (*Genesis 28:10-12*)
3. This ruler dreamed about some skinny cows eating fat cows. (*Genesis 41:17-21*)
4. She had an unpleasant dream and told her husband to have nothing to do with Jesus. (*Matthew 27:17-19*)
5. He saw a statue whose feet were smashed by a stone. (*Daniel 2:24-34*)
6. He was warned to take his family to Egypt. (*Matthew 2:13*)
7. He saw a vine produce grapes, and he squeezed their juice into a cup. (*Genesis 40:9-11*)
8. They were warned in a dream about Herod's evil plan. (*Matthew 2:12*)

- A. Pharaoh
- B. The magi
- C. Jacob
- D. Pharaoh's cupbearer
- E. Joseph (Mary's husband)
- F. Joseph (Jacob's son)
- G. Pilate's wife
- H. The King of Babylon

Answers: 1. F, 2. C, 3. A, 4. G, 5. H, 6. E, 7. D, 8. B

Great Quotes

"The simplest toy, one which even the youngest child can operate, is called a grandparent."

—Sam Levenson

"God is not out there or back there or yet to be, but hidden in the most ordinary things of our ordinary lives."

—Sallie McFague



Words cannot express the love and support we have felt from our church family after losing our home to fire. The hugs, texts, offers of a place to stay, money and many other ways your love has been shown to us has been wonderful. We were so grateful to have many volunteers to clean up the debris. Your hard work was very much appreciated.

Our plan is to rebuild at the same site. We are so grateful Gary and Bonita Howard offered their pig barn for us to stay in until Wayne and Danielle Goering head back to Arizona in October. We will relocate to their house at that time.

With all of our household items gone, it is very overwhelming thinking about what to replace and what we can do without. The loss of family heirlooms, and handwritten recipes of deceased family and friends are two of the things that are impossible to replace and we grieve those losses. We are thankful we live in a digital age where we have lots of photographs online, but the loss of our children's baby pictures, etc. is difficult.

We ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers as we transition through this journey.

Sincerely,
Jeff and Becky Koller

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. 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.

With peace and prayers,
Olivia Bartel, camp director

Thank you for celebrating with us! The Camp Mennoscah Camp Sing at Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church was a blast with approximately 175 people singing their hearts out. You raised over \$1000 for a new digital piano and sound system-- a great way to keep singing and worshipping! Be ready for next year!



Dear Eden Church Congregation,

We both want to thank you all for attending and providing the lovely breakfast at our MVS commissioning Sunday, August 4. We truly appreciate all of the many kinds of support you have given us and continue to give us as we begin our MVS assignments in Puerto Rico and Tucson. We want to report that we have both arrived and are settling in to our new communities and placements where we will be for the upcoming year. Our mailing addresses and brief details of our assignments are as follows.

Emily Knight: I am working at Academia Menonita Betania and I go to the church that is connected directly with the school. My address is Academia Menonita Betania PO Box 2007 Aibonito, Aibonito PR 00705

Michelle Schrag: I am working at Community Home Repair Projects of Arizona (CHRA) and attending church at Shalom Mennonite Fellowship of Tucson. My address is 6050 E 33rd St Tucson, AZ 85711

With love,
Emily and Michelle

Special Dates

- ◆ Labor Day, September 2, 2019
- ◆ National Grandparents Day, September 8, 2019
- ◆ Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept 15-Oct 15, 2019
- ◆ First day of autumn, September 23, 2019



GROWING generations

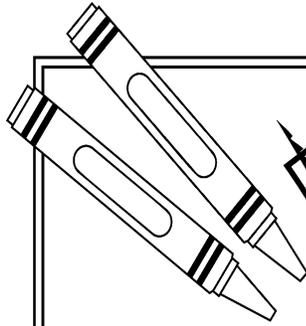
Honor your grandparents with a gift that all generations can enjoy.

What you need:

- Cups (various sizes)
- Pencil
- Family photos
- Scissors
- Colored paper
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Clothespins
- A small potted tree or bush

What you do:

1. Use a cup to trace a circle around faces in the photos. Cut out the circles.
2. Cut larger circles out of paper. Glue each photo onto a paper circle.
3. Glue a clothespin to the back of each photo. Clip photos to the branches.
4. Present the gift to your grandparents, and tell them you're glad to be in their family tree.

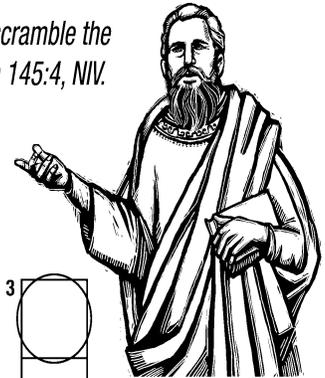
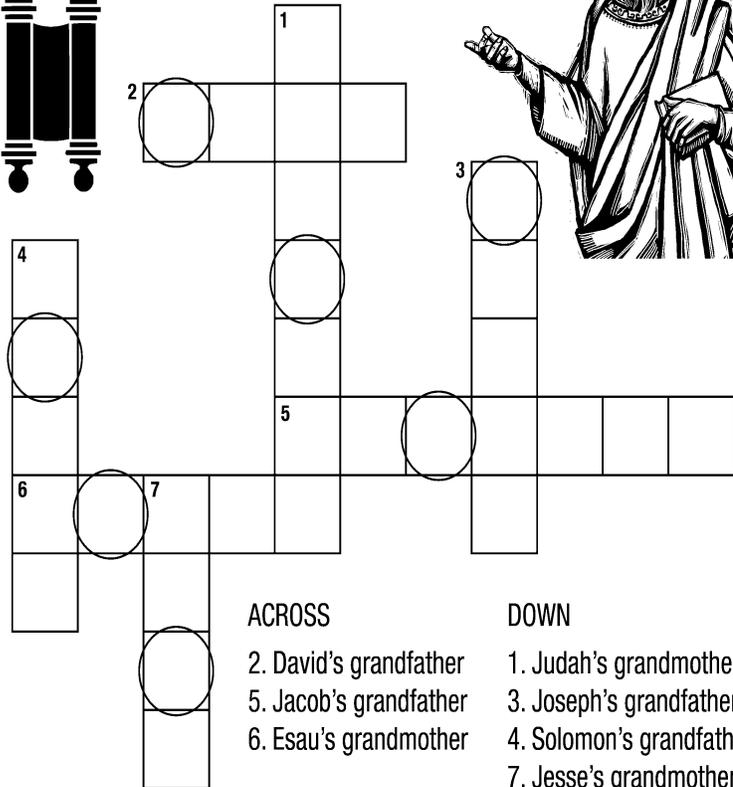
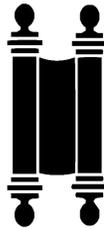


PUZZLE

Grandparents of the Old Testament

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

Directions: After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.



ACROSS

2. David's grandfather
5. Jacob's grandfather
6. Esau's grandmother

DOWN

1. Judah's grandmother
3. Joseph's grandfather
4. Solomon's grandfather
7. Jesse's grandmother

One G _ N _ _ _ _ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

Answers: ACROSS 2. Obed, 5. Abraham, 6. Sarah; DOWN: 1. Rebekah, 3. Isaac, 4. Jesse, 7. Ruth. Generation

- 1- Dick Gehring
Will Krehbiel
- 2- Zoe Burnett (Shane & Chris)
Bethany Odell
- 4- Reagen Dalke (Jerrod)
- 5- Brian Kaufman
- 6- Carol Zerger (Mrs. Dan)
- 8- Shirley Delk
- 9- Kason Graber (Zach & Kali)
Aaron Vogts
- 10- Marcia Goering
Coy Kaufman (Brandon & Morgan)
- 11- Nathan Knight
Becky Koller
Cheryl Stucky
Pat Stucky
- 13- Kathy Ensz
Michael Gehring
Sharon McCown
Justin Soriano
- 14- Tenae Alfaro
Pixie Doane (Heath & Samantha)
Mark Graber
Kristopher Rath
Jill Zerger
- 15- Hayden Schrag (Brian & Amy)
- 16- Vaughn Goering
Betty Heritage
Peter W. Schrag
Robert D. Schrag



- 17- Jan Craig Goering
- 18- Jaeden Dalke (Jerrod)
Irvin Harms
Gracelyn Stewart (Kimberley Kaschke)
Saylor Stucky (David Stucky)
- 19- LuVerna Goering
Joe Lichti
Ruth Ann Ritthaler
- 20- Jenny Schrag
- 21- Jerome Goering
Aubree Schrag (Matt & Rashelle)
Katie (Handley) Stucky
- 22- Jeffrey Kaufman
Jamie Mulder
Lorita Zook
Bobbi Schrag
Rebecka Stucky

- 23- Brittaney Addis (Curtis & Janine)
Cade Graber
Evelyn King (Derek & Becky)
- 24- Cameron Clark (Becky)
Timothy Graber
Lindsey Begnoche
- 25- Ron Goering
Sheri Marsh
- 26- Janine Addis
- 27- Kristeen Goering
Shawn Rath
Robin Schrag
Brenda White
- 28- Tony Janzen
- 29- Carolyn Goering
Valeria Graber
- 29- Annette Krehbiel
- 30- David G. Goering
Edwin L. Schrag



- 1- Jim Haag & Carol Lichti
- 2- Robert & JoLene Kaufman
- 3- Darren & DeeAnn Graber
- 4- Heath & Samantha Doane
Billy & Sara Hocking
Howard & Neva Kaufman
- 5- Greg & Jackie Zerger
- 6- Jay & Linda Goering
- 8- Sam & Marcia Goering
- 15- Terence & Katherine Goering

- 18- Lanny & Linda Stucky
- 21- Donald & Dorothy Wedel
Allen & Lauren Bonde
- 22- Brian & Erin Stucky
- 24- Jay & Jane Krehbiel
- 27- Darwin & Pat Mead
Jason & Shelese Newmark
Kenneth & Glenna Schrag
- 28- Reese & Meghan Gehring
- 30- Wayne & Marlene Waltner

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

Up-Coming Events

- September 6-8:** WDC Women and Girl's Retreat at Camp Mennoscah
- September 9:** 7:00 p.m. Eden Leadership Team
- September 10:** 7:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors mtg.
- September 12:** 7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship mtg.
- September 15:** 10:00 a.m. Worship at Pine Village. No Sunday School.
- September 18:** 6:00 p.m. Wednesday night supper served at church
6:30 p.m. Service Project
- September 22:** Church Picnic (watch for details in the bulletin)
- September 25:** 6:00 p.m. supper served
6:45 p.m. Bible Study for all ages begins

Wednesday Night Choir Schedule

- 7:30 Ladies Chorus
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus (the week before
scheduled to sing)

September 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					



October 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