

# The Garden

*See what's growing in Eden*

January 2022 Issue Vol. 2 No. 1

## Note from the Pastor

My dad was “that dad” at Christmas. You know, the dad that likes to tease the kids when they’re at the height of their expectations. So, he would pretend we weren’t getting presents. Or, he would take extra long eating breakfast and drinking his coffee while we waited beside the tree, tortured that we had to wait so long to tear into the gift wrapping. A few times, he pulled that oh-so-funny prank of presenting our gift in a gigantic box, which turned out to be a small gift inside a Russian Doll style progression of smaller and smaller boxes inside the big one. He seemed to have as much fun watching our reactions to his antics as he did in giving gifts.

Guess what? I get it now. I like doing it to my kids, too. I’m “that dad.” I think it’s because I like to see the discomfort of delayed gratification and subverted expectations. It’s sick, I know. So, to make up for it, I try to put myself in a place of delayed gratification and subverted expectations: I read the Bible.

Especially at Christmas, it feels like we know the Bible stories related to Jesus’s birth by heart. So, it can feel like there’s not much new or much to learn. Yet, every time I go back, I notice something new. Did you realize that Matthew spends a whole lot of time showing Jesus’s family connection to Abraham through Joseph, only for it to be clear that he’s not really biologically from that line? I don’t know if I saw that before, but it certainly felt more powerful this year as I saw how God worked through adoption and reflected on how much adoption has been a part of my extended family.

Most of us know the very basic outline of the story of Jesus. But, in the coming year, let’s dig into his story with patience, opening one box at a time, as slow and frustrating as it might be. May we learn the delayed gratification. May Jesus subvert our expectations by showing us things about himself that we hadn’t noticed before.



## News from the library!

### New Year’s Reading Resolutions for 2022

By Church Librarian, Amanda Harrison

- Set yourself a reading goal, will it be 25 books, 50? 100?
- Try out Audiobooks
- Try a Christian memoir where the author lives outside the United States
- Join a Book Club or Bible Study Group
- Set a goal to read 1 chapter of the Bible every day
- Read 10 books about extraordinary events in history
- Give yourself permission to abandon books that don’t hold your interest
- Read a book in the Bible in several different translations
- Explore an aspect of the Bible or religion that you want to learn more about
- Read a book where faith and the faith community is a strong part of the narrative
- Check out a book, or two from our Church Library



## Eden Leadership Team

The Eden Leadership Team met on December 14.

JoLene Kaufman representing the Worship Commission reported that Becky Setser will survey choir members in January to see how much willingness members have to expand the current ensemble or possibly resume choirs. She also shared that they have reached the dollar goal for the number of hymnals they plan to purchase. They are currently on back order, so we will continue to store the hymnals we have on carts to be picked up and returned back to the carts after each service. They are also planning to involve children in greeting or handing out bulletins in the new year.

Matt Schrag, representing the trustees shared that the cost of the new boilers was a bit higher than expected because they had to add a sequencer to rotate the load from boiler to boiler. The HVAC system can now be controlled remotely by computer. The trustees have decided to move forward with the carpeting project, possibly in stages. A 2/3 majority congregational vote will be required to use funds from the Capital Building Fund for this project.

Deacon representative, Barbara Stucky shared that the deacons got together for a Christmas dinner and plan to have the same officers for the coming year. Barb's term on deacons has ended and Jenny Schrag will be the new deacon.

Marcella Schrag shared that the Education/Discipleship Commission plans to begin Bible Study on Wednesday nights beginning January 12 and they are looking to re-start the mentoring program.

The SEEDS class has now become two separate classes due to increased size.

Pastor Dianne shared she has been spending time with funeral planning and caring for families. She recently attended a webinar from MC USA in preparation for the KC conference planned for May 27, 28, and 29. She has also been working on the Leadership Retreat planned for January 8.

Pastor Derek has also been involved with multiple funerals. He expressed gratitude to share

this load with a two-pastor team. He recognizes that it takes a concerted effort of many people to make this funeral ministry possible, including the pie makers, kitchen workers, ushers, sound operators, musicians, etc.

The Year-end celebration will be held February 6, 2022. There will be a potluck meal. The blessing of those elected and appointed to church committees will be held in early January.

The pastoral review process has been delayed due to a shortage of facilitators.

MC USA conference May 27-30, 2022 in Kansas City. Eden can send 4 adult delegates and 1 youth delegate.

A new battery is needed for the defibrillator at the church building. Matt will obtain quotes for this. There was discussion of the possibility of having a training session on use of the defibrillator at the Leadership Training. JoLene reported the first aid kit has been restocked with supplies.

Concern was brought up about the masking policy. There was discussion about communication and being sensitive to the various needs and opinions of the church members and those visiting our church. We will continue to strive to follow the county guidelines for mitigation of the spread of COVID-19.

The next ELT meeting will be January 11 at 7:15 p.m.



Wednesday evening meals and Bible Study will begin again in January. Our first meeting will be January 12, at 6:00 p.m. After the meal we will gather around tables and experience Bible truths in a new way. It will be a time of fellowship, sharing and learning with all ages; children, youth, and adults. A nursery will be provided. Volunteers are needed to provide meals. If your Sunday School Class, family, or any other group would be willing please choose a date and sign on the sheet provided in the Fellowship Hall or use the following computer link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4CAA92EA0F85-wednesday>

## Thank You!

**Thank you** so much for the generous gifts of the paper goods that you shared with us at dad's passing. Darrin and I were both very impressed by the generous and kind treatment we were afforded by Eden Mennonite! Thank you for your efforts and contributions!  
Darrin and Randy Flickinger

**We want to express** our deepest appreciation to each of you for the support and many expressions of caring that you have shown to our family these past weeks.

The deep loss that we have felt has been more bearable especially through your many prayers and deeds of kindness shown to each of us. We are so blessed to have a caring church family.

Esther Schrag,  
Darrell & Bobbi Schrag Family  
Donna & Craig Rodenfels

**To the Eden Church,** deacons, ministers and all involved,  
I want to give a heartfelt thank you for all of the paper products, stamps, etc. So appreciated and also to the ministers for doing such a wonderful job with all of the funeral. My entire family was so grateful for everything you all did! And I want to express to you my sincere gratitude and thankfulness for all the little things all of you did to help my parents through the years. They had fond memories of their time spent at Eden!  
Thanks again for your loving kindness!  
Bob & Deanne Loganbill

**Words cannot express** my gratitude for the all kind words, notes of appreciation, and gifts I received after announcing my retirement. Serving 21 years as office secretary for Eden has been an honor. Working so closely with so many of our pastors and getting to know the congregation so well has been a true gift. Learning the behind-the-scenes workings of the church is something I will always treasure. I look forward to continuing to worship with you.  
Sincerely,  
Becky Koller

**Bethel Graduates are changing the World!** Among many ways to measure success, Bethel College embraces the values of calling and community and how these ideas infuse our students' lives with meaning and purpose. The college years are both formative and transitional, a place and time to explore, investigate, form relationships, and establish habits. Our alumni continually demonstrate that the skills and knowledge they developed as students can be transformational in a world that demands creativity, critical thought, and compassion.

Your support helps today's students succeed and engage our common future. Thank you.

Ben Lichti  
Coordinator, Alumni & Church Relations

**Thank you for supporting Hesston College.** I have seen myself grow at Hesston over the past 2 1/2 years in many different ways. Hesston has really broadened my perspective and point of view by taking different classes and meeting people from all over the world. I have loved learning about their different cultures and seeing our similarities and differences. Personally, Hesston has helped me to become more confident in myself and my beliefs. I play basketball here, and there have been multiple faculty and staff members that have come and supported me. I always feel supported here by my friends, classmates, coaches, professors and everyone else. I am so thankful for my time here and for you —alumni and friends of the college who make financial donations, pray for the college and encourage students. Your support has helped make my experience possible. Thank you!

Sydney Bontrager (nursing student)  
Milford, Nebraska

### **Thank you for your gift to AMBS.**

My learning at AMBS helped me to deepen my understanding of what the Anabaptist way of faith formation means for discipleship through theological reflection in class lectures and discussions among different front-line ministers from every corner of the world. I want to express my deepest gratitude for the support the AMBS community gave me to be able to study. I feel grateful to the generous donors who helped me pursue my academic studies, which would have been impossible without their support.  
Endalk Degefu

*Endalk is from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and graduated from AMBS in May 2021 with a Master of Arts in Christian Formation. He also was selected to receive an Award for Excellence in Christian Formation from the seminary's Church and Ministry Department. His home congregation is the Ethiopian Meserrete Kristos Church in Addis Ababa.*

## January Birthdays

- 1- Lori Vontz
- 2- Emily Regier
- 4- Sam Goering  
Wanda Knight
- 5- Josh Regier  
Sondra Tolle
- 6- Judy Goering
- 7- Mason Krehbiel
- 8- Ashley Stucky
- 9- Denise Stucky
- 10- Kenneth Preheim
- 11- Penny Graber
- 12- Elaine Krehbiel
- 13- Harold Kaufman
- 17- Paula Goering
- 21- Kenneth Schrag
- 22- Larry Kaufman  
Perry Krehbiel  
Jacob Westfall
- 23- Cheri Kaufman  
Darrell Schrag
- 25- Mary Albrecht
- 28- Kelly Thomas  
Katy Schrag  
Larry Temple
- 29- Linda Graber
- 30- Juanita Graber  
Becky King
- 31- Dorothy Goering  
Derek King



Cameron Clark shared Dec. 12 with the Eden 7-12th grade SS class about his three years of Brethren Volunteer Service in El Salvador. Pictured are class members (from left) Ashley Schrag, Alli Schrag, Aspyn Stos, Avery Schrag, and Gentry Regier along with Cameron Clark. Grade 7-12 teachers for the year are Danielle and Wayne Goering, Derek King, June Krehbiel, and Jean Regier. Other class members are Rhett Stucky, Joe and Hannah Schrag. (Photo: J Krehbiel)



## January Anniversaries

- 1- Murray & Melody Stucky
- 3- Jan Craig Goering & Abigail Hubbard
- 21- Brandon & Morgan Kaufman

Everyone is invited to the *WDC Final Thursday Book Discussion* on **January 27, 2022 at 7:00pm via Zoom**. We will discuss ***This is God's Table: Finding Church Beyond the Walls*** by Anna Woofender and explore what it means to explore "raw, honest, gritty way[s] of doing church." Contact the library at [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org) to register or borrow a copy of the book.

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ? ?

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried. What was his second wife's name?

- A. Miriam
- B. Keturah
- C. Bathsheba
- D. Tamar

Answer: B (See Genesis 25:1.)