



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Offering Christ's peace to hearts, homes, community and world

November 25, 2015

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

Today's Chuckle

It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.

I wanna make a joke about sodium, but Na.

What do you get when you cross a joke with a rhetorical question?

Happy Birthday!

Peggy Moore 11/26
Evelyn Reeser 11/26
Miles Doblosky 11/29
Ron Schertz 11/29

Happy Anniversary!

None this week

Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

*Health concerns for:

- *Cal Hubbard
- *Deborah Spacek
- *Jerry Musselman
- *Russ Oyer
- *Holly Nester

*Meghan Reha MCC volunteer in Bangladesh.

*Matt & Deb Hickman as adoption process moves forward slowly.

If you have a prayer concern for which you would appreciate the prayers of your church family, please call the church office at 452-6622 or email Lynn.

Partners in Healing

Mennonite Church of Normal join with other churches in the area to pray for various sections of Advocate Bro Menn Medical Center and

Worship with us this Sunday, November 29 The scriptures for the worship are Mark 1:2-8; Isaiah 9:2-6. Pastor Tim Schrag asks, "Prophetic voices have a message for their time, and for all times. How do you experience the words of Isaiah?"

Reclaiming Christmas: See with New Eyes. Hear with New Ears. For most of us The Christmas Story is very familiar. We've seen it in artwork and heard it told or sung for most of our lives. It might even seem ho-hum. But even though this sacred Story seems to remain much the same year after year, our lives do not. For some among us, and for our world, this year has been full of hardship. Our worship this Advent Season is an invitation to see and hear the Christmas Story anew! What might we see, or what will we hear this Christmas that is Good News in our needy lives and in our hurting world?

Sharing Time By Pastor During Advent. We look forward to celebrating Advent and Christmas as a church family. We especially enjoy all the carols and holiday music. In order to include these musical treasures in worship during Advent and Christmas, the Worship Committee is asking that all Sharing Time items be put in writing and given to Pastor Tim *before the service*. Blue slips of paper are in a basket on the Entryway table for this purpose. Or you may send him an email. Pastor Tim will share all items for prayer each week prior to the Congregational Prayer.

Serving this Sunday

Greeters

South—Ken & Doris Shoemaker

West—Mark Roeschley

Welcome Table

Gail Fisher

Ushers

John & Kay Reimer

Satchwell Family

Worship Leader

Barbara Gillespie

Accompanist

Dorothy Loepf

Song Leader

Cindy Ropp

Children's Time

Chris Culbertson

Scripture

Barbara Gillespie

Sermon

Tim Schrag

Technology

Rick Harnish

Toddler Nursery

Angela Liew

Preschool Nursery

Alena Culbertson

MCN Events This Week

Thur Nov 26

Thanksgiving Meal 12:00 pm

Sun Nov 29

Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am

Worship 9:30 pm

Christian Education 11:00 am

Junior Choir 6:00 pm

Youth Choir 6:45 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Upcoming Events at 805 S Cottage

Thanksgiving Meal will take place at MCN at noon on Thanksgiving Day, November 26. Please sign up for your part in this potluck meal on the Atrium Bulletin Board. Any

Advocate Eureka Hospital. This month MCN is asked to pray for the Medical Adult Day Services at Advocate BroMenn.

Please call the church office if you or someone in your family is hospitalized. Due to HIPAA regulations, persons may be hospitalized for several days before your pastors are aware of a need for pastoral care.

Voice of the Day

The greatest gift one can give is thanksgiving. In giving gifts, we give what we can spare, but in giving thanks we give ourselves. – Br. David Steindl-Rast

Conference Newsletters

[Click the link](#) to read the current *Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength*, IMC Conference Ministers Michael Danner & Kim Lltwiller's weekly message to IMC churches. Also, the latest copy of [Missional Crossroads](#) is available. The CDC Focus is available [here](#) and the CDC Reporter [here](#).

The Church Office is closed November 26 & 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

questions? Please see Marge Nester.

Sale to benefit Mennonite Youth Fellowship Want to provide a unique Christmas gift AND donate to the MYF? Lois Jett will be selling some American Girl doll clothes from her collection. This will take place in the Atrium on Sunday, November 29.

Homebuilders Larry Schrader will present *An Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away—Make Mine An Extra Fancy* on Sunday, Nov 29, 6:45 pm

Surprise Luncheon (December 6) hosts and guests will be announced early this year. If you signed up, look for the announcement about your surprise luncheon spot in your mailbox this Sunday, November 29.

Calling all musicians young and old! We want everyone who plays an instrument and wants to play Christmas hymns to join us for two practices December 5th and December 12th and performing in Church December 13th. (Times TBA) Open to wind instruments, percussionists, and strings alike. We want everyone who has a passion for playing with other musicians ages junior high and up to come! If interested please talk to or email Lydia Hedberg, Alena Culbertson, or Wesley Hershberger.

Brass Advent Choir The Worship Committee is seeking musicians for a Brass Choir on December 20. The choir will play in the Atrium prior to church. If you are Jr. High or older and wish to participate, please contact Randy Zehr. Randy can be reached by e-mail at rkzehr@hotmail.com.

MDS to Pilger, Nebraska, March 20-26, 2016. Our congregation has "reservations" for volunteers to go to Pilger, NE in March, 2016. Who is in?? Please let Pastor Jane know.

Items of Interest

Alternative Gifts Fair The total so far is \$20,570. MCC will get \$12,494 and AGI \$8,076. The final deadline for handing in your shopping lists is Sunday, Nov.29. If you still need MCC cards see Roelie in the fellowship area. The inserts will be in your mailboxes on December 6. Thank you again for all your very generous donations which will bring new hope to many people around the world.

Thank you from Tshiselekas A lovely thank you card is posted on the Entrance Bulletin Board. Tshitshi writes: I want to thank my church community for supporting my family during all these past years. I'm grateful for your solidarity to my family. We all thank you for that. Let God bless everyone who supported our childcare. Let God give them back one hundred times what they did for us.

Used Stove (Gas) Needed A family in our congregation is in need of a working used stove. Preferably gas, but either is OK. The oven on theirs has gone out. Please contact Pastor Jane.

High school seniors: Don't miss out on receiving one of our top scholarships! A Goshen College achievement scholarship could save you and your family tens of thousands of dollars on a nationally-ranked Anabaptist-Mennonite education. Dec. 15 is the priority application deadline for eligibility. Apply now at: <http://goshen.edu/dec15>

Pastor Tim Schrag
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Pastor Matt Hickman
Youth and Family Life
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Pastor Jane Roeschley
Worship and Lay Ministries
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Lynn Reha
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