

Christmas Day Worship **10:00 am (Note time change!)**

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MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

December 21, 2016

Worship with Us This Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day 10:00 am

The Scripture for this Sunday is Luke 2:1-20. The title of the sermon is *Handle with Care*. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "In those days when Jesus was born, infant mortality was a prominent reality. What a fragile beginning for the Kingdom of God! Are all 'beginnings' in God's Kingdom so fragile and tender?"

The hymns are *To Us a Child of Hope is Born* (HWB 189), *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (HWB 206), and *Away in the Manger and The First Noel* (HWB 199).

All Sharing and Prayer Requests to Pastor Tim During Advent - Please write out or send by email to Pastor Tim all items for sharing and prayer for Sunday worship. There is no open microphone sharing during Advent.



Prayers and Condolences

We offer our condolences to Lois and Wayne Hochstetler. Lois' father, Lloyd King, 91, passed away on December 18 as a result of a car accident near Tofield, Alberta.

Please pray for

- Harvella Stutzman, former member of the congregation who now lives in Colorado, who had a stroke.
- The residents of Aleppo, Syria

We give thanks for

- Bryan Oyer, Mannie Oyer and Larry Reeser who worked tirelessly to get our parking lot clear for Sunday worship.
- The wonderful gift of music, especially Christmas music sung and played by MCN'ers.

This Week at 805 S Cottage

Sat Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm
Sun Dec 25	Worship Service 10:00 am NO Christian Education
Thurs Dec 29	Staff Meeting 9:30 am
Sun Jan 1	Worship Service 9:30 am NO Christian Education
Mon Jan 2	Church Office Closed



Serving This Sunday



Greeters	South: Chellie and Eric Miller West: Mark Alsene
Welcome Table	Doris Shoemaker
Ushers	Adam Augspurger, Caleb Augspurger Mark Roeschley, Ardys Serpette
Worship Leader	Darrel Miller
Song Leader	Barry Weaver
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp
Scripture	Darrel Miller
Children's Time	Holly Zehr
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Technology	Adam Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Lucy Unzicker
Preschool Nursery	Caeli Haab

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to			Happy Birthday to		
Guilford & Eve	Zook	26-Dec	Mary	Kauffman	25-Dec
Rick & Connie	Yoder	28-Dec	Joelle	Friesen	27-Dec
Frank & Lisa	Jablonski	29-Dec	Paul	Watkins	30-Dec
Randy & Holly	Zehr	29-Dec	John	Gundy	31-Dec



Contemplative Coloring

All persons of *all* ages at *anytime* during Advent are invited to help us complete an extra-large set of coloring posters. They combine to form the entire Christmas story. Posters and coloring pencils will be available at the table in the Atrium.



Christmas Eve

The Fellowship Committee invites you to bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share to the Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 6:30 pm. Please bring your own plate and then take any leftovers home at the end of the evening. Sharing cookies will enhance our visiting after the Worship Service.

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Spending Plan Update

The Financial Stewardship Committee would like to update the congregation with our most recent spending plan numbers. As of November 30 our Year-To-Date income was \$431,335 while our Year-To-Date expenses are \$461,779. This leaves us with a current deficit of -\$30,444. Knowing the generous nature of our congregation we are still very confident that this deficit can be overcome and we will end the year with a surplus. We would ask that everyone prayerfully consider their response to this knowing that God's blessing will be with us.

Envelopes 2017

Offering envelopes will be distributed in mailboxes on Sunday. Envelopes are provided for anyone who would like to use them, but we are saving the expense of sets for those who do not regularly use them. If you do NOT receive envelopes by January 1 and you would like to have them, please let Lynn in the Church Office know. Also, if you would like information about giving electronically or through a bank service, please talk to the Financial Stewardship Committee members, Doug Ulrich, Linda Clemmons, Gail Fisher, Adam Augspurger, or Rick Yoder.

STAR Literacy Volunteer Meeting

Sheila Diaz, Literacy Coordinator of the STAR Literacy Program will present information for volunteers from MCN who may be interested in tutoring community residents. These community members are studying English as an Other Language or preparing for the GED Test. The meeting will take place on January 5 at 7 pm at MCN and is open to all who are interested.

The 2017 Relief Sale

The Sale board is looking for a new treasurer for the 2018 Sale. We would like someone to be able to train with the current treasurer at the 2017 sale. Please contact Dennis Kennell if interested dk@speednet.com.

For those churches who make pies we have a suggestion to help with pie crusts. There is business in Arthur that will make the pie crusts for \$1.00 a piece. The pie tins do need to be dropped off and picked up. The board is offering to help coordinate the drop off and pick up of pie tins. Below you will find information about this service. Your church would be responsible for paying for each pie crust. If this is something you are interested in, please contact Dennis Kennell at dk@speednet.com.

[Beachy's Bulk Foods](#)
259 N CR 200E
Arthur IL 61911
[217-543-3447](tel:217-543-3447)

Moro Moro Scholarship Fund

The [Moro Moro Scholarship Fund](#) is a fund that my late father started to benefit children from his hometown in rural Bolivia. I would be honored if you took a minute to read over the good work going on there. A few extra copies are on the table in the narthex. Many Blessings!

Would You Like to Help Out?

The Church Board has openings for persons to serve on some important committees. We have openings in two areas: Everence Advocate, and Leadership Selection Committee. The Everence Advocate position is the connection between our congregation and Everence, the churchwide program agency which offers insurance and financial stewardship tools. The Leadership Selection Committee chooses persons to fill the committees which are constitutionally mandated. If you have questions or interest in filling any of these roles, please contact Lynn Reha at church@normalmennonite.org, or Wayne Hochstetler at hochwayne@icloud.com. Thank you, Wayne Hochstetler, Congregational Chair.



Cancellation Procedures 2017

If you are wondering if an all church event will be called off because of inclement weather, check these communication spots:

- Church website www.normalmennonite.org/
 - Scroll down on the home page
 - Look at the first Newsroom Post
- Your email account
- WJBC radio (AM 1930, FM 98.7)
- WGLT Radio (FM 89.1)
- WEEK-TV (NBC-25) & WHOI-TV (ABC-19) Cable Channels 10 & 19
- Pantagraph online – Cancellations <http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/weather-related-cancellations>
- Church answering machine 309-452-6622

Please note:

- Generally speaking, cancellation decisions will be made no later than 7:00 am the day of the event.
- If a small group event, like a committee meeting, is going to be cancelled, the members will be contacted directly by email or phone.

YOUR SAFETY is the first priority. No matter what the weather or the status of cancellation, consider your safety first. Conditions around Central Illinois vary. Please don't take chances because you have a responsibility at church. Safety first!

MCC Material Resources Drop-off Location

Thank you for your faithful donations of kit supplies, comforters and blankets for Mennonite Central Committee to distribute around the world. We are grateful to Metamora Mennonite Church (1393 Mennonite Road in Metamora) for agreeing to serve as a new local drop-off location, replacing the former location in Congerville. Materials can be dropped off between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, Tuesday through Friday. Please call Michelle Burns at 309-367-4892 to let her know you are coming. More information about after office hours will be forthcoming. For more information about kits and comforters, visit mcc.org/kits. Thank you for your part in bringing comfort and dignity to families facing disaster or crisis. Jennifer Steiner, MCC Great Lakes Communications Coordinator

Schroerer's Address

Please add this additional address for Meredith and Juergen Schroerer: 705 5th Street East, Northfield, MN 55057

Partners in Healing

Mennonite Church of Normal joins with other churches in the area to pray for various sections of Advocate Bro Menn Medical Center and Advocate Eureka Hospital. This month MCN is asked to pray for Advocate Addiction Recovery Unit. 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.

Conference Newsletters

[Central District Conference \(CDC\) Focus](#) The CDC Focus is now available in this online format. Just click the picture of the newsletter or the title. A copy is available on the Entrance Bulletin Board. Also available is the [CDC Reporter](#). [Click the link](#) to read the current IMC Weekly: Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC) Conference Ministers Michael Danner & Kim Litwiller's weekly message to IMC churches. Also, the latest copy of [Missional Crossroads](#) is available.



Thought for the Day

“Want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.”

– Steve Maraboli, *Unapologetically You: Reflections on Life and the Human Experience*



Today's Chuckle

What does Jack Frost like best about school? (Snow and Tell)

What has a jolly laugh, brings you presents and scratches up your furniture? (Santa Claws)

Define claustrophobia. (Fear of Santa Claus)

What do elves do after school? (Their gnome work!)

What's the difference between Santa's reindeer and a knight?
(One slays the dragon, and the other's draggin' the sleigh.)

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a dog? (Frostbite)
