

# LIFE @ FIRST

Our mission is to extend grace, build peace, and share love within and beyond our faith community.

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 45

NOVEMBER 22, 2017

## ON THE JOURNEY

Lately I have been reading through Romans and in chapter 5 verses 1 through 8 it speaks about what we have as believers in Jesus. Verse 8 states that While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Some versions of the bible use the word enemy, "while we were still enemies" Christ died for us. This Thanksgiving I urge you to stop and consider for a while what Christ has done for us on the cross and be thankful for that. On the cross he has not only given us the gift of salvation but he has given us His righteousness, peace, grace for living, mercies that are new every morning, love that is so large that we can't fully understand it, hope for the future, and on and on.

In Isaiah 61:1 it describes what the Messiah will do as well, bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Has he loved you when you were broken hearted, has he given you freedom from a captivating sin, has he given you understanding in situations where you were burdened with doubt and fear? There is a song that says "The cross has the final word" and it does and can in all of our lives if we allow it to. We have so much to be thankful for because God loved us so much that he sent his only Son to die on the cross and all we have to do is believe in him and follow him. I am so thankful for what Christ's death on the cross means to me and the more I think about it the more I discover what he has done for me, it just keeps multiplying. I hope that you will take some time to ponder what Christ has done for you because of his sacrifice on the cross and have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Submitted by: Dean R Miller

### CALENDAR

<b>Wed 11/22</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
		<b>No Wed. Evening Meal</b>
<b>Thurs 11/23</b>	8:00 am	Fellowship Hall Reserved
	4:00 pm	Fellowship Hall Reserved
<b>Sun 11/26</b>	9:30 am	Youth In Charge Of Worship
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 11/27</b>		Health Department
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 11/28</b>	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Wed 11/29</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
		<b>No Wed. Evening Meal</b>
	5:30 pm	Outreach Commission
<b>Fri 12/1</b>	6:00 pm	Ladies Night In
<b>Sun 12/3</b>	9:30 am	Kent Preaching
	1:00 pm	Fellowship Hall Reserved
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 12/4</b>	6:00 pm	Worship Commission
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 12/5</b>	6:30 pm	Discipling Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Wed 12/6</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:45 pm	Wednesday Evening Meal
	6:00 pm	POPS Advisory Board
	6:30 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board

- All newsletter submissions need to be in to Maribeth by noon on Tuesday.

\*Please note that the office will be closed tomorrow and Friday.

### November Birthdays

Marilyn	Bontrager	22
Noah	Frye	22
Bob	Rhodes	22
Ernie	Wingard	24
Kody	Bontreger	26
Sharon	Wyse	28

## WORSHIP

**Looking Ahead:** This Sunday we look forward to our youth and sponsors leading us in "A Series of Thanks" as we celebrate God's goodness to us. Please bring a few canned/dry goods to donate to the pantry as a part of the worship service. You will also have an opportunity to share something you are thankful for, and why.

**Background scriptures:** Psalm 100

### Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Cheryl Miller

Next Sunday: Dave Gruber

### Administrative Assistant Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm

(Kent's daily schedule varies; you may want to call ahead.)

**Closed Friday**

## Welcome Center

This Sunday: Sam & Verna Weirich

Next Sunday: Shari Graber

**Worship Commission** met, Monday evening, October 23. Advent season plans were discussed.

- December 3 is the first Sunday of Advent.
  - Sunday, December 17, will be our carry-in Christmas breakfast. There will be no Sunday School that morning.
  - We will have a Christmas Eve service on Sunday evening, Dec. 24, at 8:00 PM. We invite several people to share a special Christmas memory at that service, possibly on the theme, "What is the best Christmas gift you ever gave?" Speak to a worship commission member, if you have something to share.
- Future Worship Commission meetings will be on the first Monday of each month.

## ADMINISTRATION

### **Stewardship Report for November 19:**

Money Given to Budget \$8,416.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,860.76

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$67,017.20

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$70,329.12

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Bethany Christian Middle School** will hold a Christmas Choral Concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28. Instrumental concerts will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5, with beginning instrument groups performing at 6:30 p.m. and the middle school band and orchestra at 7:30. The concerts are in the school's chapel and open to the public. There is no admission charge.

**We all want a livable planet** with clean air, water and soil for all. So how do we work with people who are different from us for the good of our shared planet? Join Northern Indiana members of Mennonite Creation Care Network for a discussion of barriers, bridges and doorways that can help us move forward in hope. Meet Wednesday, December 6 at 7 p.m. at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, 2509 Berkey Avenue, Goshen, IN. RSVP to [mccn@goshen.edu](mailto:mccn@goshen.edu) appreciated.

## DISCIPLING

**The Preschool Advisory Board** met and heard the classroom activities/visitors for November. They will be partnering with the FMC Women's Sewing Group to put together 100 hygiene kits and giving blankets to a neonatal unit in Michigan. They hope to adopt 8-10 families this Christmas and will participate in the coat drive with the food pantry. We approved a high school senior volunteering for 4-6 weeks in preschool to see if she wants it for a vocation. We will sell Ben's Pretzel kits in November as our fall fundraiser.

**Tickets** are now on sale for Goshen College's 14th annual musical celebration of Christmas, "A Festival of Carols," on Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. in the Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall. This special celebration of the holiday season is patterned on a traditional English worship service, and features Christmas carols, spirituals, scripture readings and sacred works of music for the holiday season.

**Goshen College** is once again offering free online Advent devotions, starting Nov. 27, the week before the first Sunday of Advent, and culminating on Christmas Day. Goshen College students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on the theme "Yes! Let it be!" and lectionary Scripture passages. Subscribe to the daily email or read online at [www.goshen.edu/devotions](http://www.goshen.edu/devotions).

**Shop Ten Thousand Villages** in Goshen (206 S. Main St.) Dec. 4-9 and support Bethany Christian Schools. Tell the cashier that you are shopping for Bethany and 20 percent of sales will be donated to Bethany. Your loved ones will enjoy the creative handcrafted gifts you purchase and artisans will receive vital, fair income as you support Bethany.

## OUTREACH

**First Mennonite Women's** project for December is putting together fruit plates for the shut-ins and supporting Goldenrod.

**This holiday season** as you pick out gifts for loved ones, why not add a few supplies for MCC kits to your list? As families around the world face disaster and crisis, MCC kits and comforters remind them that their needs are not forgotten. There is a new, easy way for you to get involved! MCC Great Lakes has put together a list of most needed items on Amazon.com. Simply purchase the pre-selected items on the wish list and the items will ship directly to the material resource center in Goshen. (Due to space limitations at MCC Connections in Kidron, all items are being shipped to Goshen.) Thank you for joining MCC in sharing God's love and compassion in this tangible way this Christmas.

Direct link to Amazon Wish List:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2Q8X1M1HPMQ92/ref=cm\\_go\\_nav\\_hz](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2Q8X1M1HPMQ92/ref=cm_go_nav_hz) or search "MCC Great Lakes" in Amazon Wish Lists.

**In an effort to help** spread the message of love and welcome for all, MCC has developed a t-shirt with the message from the Welcome Neighbor yards signs. The MCC Great Lakes office at The Depot in Goshen has the all-cotton, dark gray t-shirts available for \$15. Now you can take this message with you wherever you go. Stop by the office (1013 Division Street in Goshen) to pick one up during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

