

# LIFE @ FIRST

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

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DECEMBER 5, 2018

## ON THE JOURNEY

*It's not about me. I can't imagine going through life as I know it, without faith, hope, and trust in our Lord, Jesus Christ. It's not about me—it's about the Lord—faith that He will be with me every step of the way, hope that we are on the same road together, and trust that He will be with me always. But then, it's not about me! The author of Hebrews 11:1 writes, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Definition of trust: Firm belief or faith in another. Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." It definitely is NOT about me. There is simply no way to have gotten through family illness, parents deaths, a sister's death, son Erik's death, Jozi's moving away, grandson Erik's birth, Jozi's life spared, grandson Erik's life spared—all of those things, and many more—all that I couldn't control—but it's not about me!! I believe it is accepting the Lord's leading—whether I felt Him leading or not—it is all about Him!! How can I not have faith, hope, and trust in Him, when I look back on my life's journey? It's about Him! So, as Don and I embark on this new adventure—this new journey in our lives, I ask for your prayers as we seek to do His will, that we will continue to have faith, hope, and trust, and that He will continue to guide ALL of our paths—because it's not about me, or us, or you, it's about our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

Submitted by Bernie Miller

### CALENDAR

<b>Wed 12/5</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Discovery Bible Study
	6:45 pm	Food Pantry Advisory Board
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Thurs 12/6</b>	6:30 pm	Board
<b>Fri 12/7</b>	6:00 pm	Ladies Night In
<b>Sun 12/9</b>	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 12/10</b>		Health Department
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 12/11</b>	6:30 pm	Discipling Commission
<b>Wed 12/12</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Discovery Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Thur 12/13</b>	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women
<b>Sun 12/16</b>	9:00 am	Carry-in Breakfast
	10:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 12/17</b>	12:00 pm	Blood Drive
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 12/18</b>	6:00 pm	Community Life Commission
<b>Wed 12/19</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Discovery Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Music Practice

**Administrative Assistant Office Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-2:00 pm  
Closed Friday

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

### December Birthdays

Shena Yoder - 5  
Sara Weaver – 8  
Theo Outman – 8  
Rich Yoder – 11  
Levi Mast – 13  
Lloyd Troyer – 14  
Terry Rheinheimer – 15  
Gary Miller – 16  
Betty Birk – 17  
Curt Troyer – 19  
Bobbie Werker – 21  
Loretta Troyer – 23  
Fannie Hochstetler – 24  
Wilbur Schlabach – 24  
Kim Christner - 26

### WORSHIP

**Focus statement:** Voices Around the Manger: "John the Baptist – Prepare the Way for the Lord!"

**Background scriptures:** Matthew 3:1-12

### Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Ward & Pam Bingaman  
Next Sunday: Kris Rheinheimer

## Welcome Center

This Sunday: Carolyn Miller  
Next Sunday: Karen Pletcher

The Java Class is planning the **Christmas Eve** Service this year which will be at 7:00 PM. We hope many will be able to attend! Much preparation has gone into planning our **Advent** series (**Dec 2 – Jan. 6**). Phil has written the materials “Voices Around the Manger”; there are numerous participants doing readings, lighting candles, portraying characters; lovely visuals have been added; music has been prepared – please join us for this exciting time and be a part of this Advent Season. Also, the Worship Commission is planning another **Communion** Service (not foot washing) for Sunday, **December 30**. Let’s prepare our hearts, as we take opportunity again to observe this meaningful part of our Faith journey.

## ADMINISTRATION

### **Stewardship Report for December 2:**

Money Given to Budget \$10,390.00  
Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,565.25  
Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$75,490.90  
Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$77,913.50

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Elkhart County Rally and Prayer Walk for Life** is on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at the Lerner Theater, 410 S. Main St., Elkhart at 12:00 noon. The program will include emcee Jeff Fater, RETA Men's Coaching Manager and keynote speaker Ramona Trvino. The Rally will include testimonies from those who have experienced abortion and will be followed by a short pray walk to RETA and the Women's care Center in Elkhart. Go to [www.elkhart4life.org](http://www.elkhart4life.org) for more information.

**Emma Church's Men's Chorus** will present their 7th annual Christmas program, "Goin' to Bethlehem," Sunday, December 16, at their home church in Emma Town (1900 S 600 W, Topeka). Finger food will be served following the 6:30 program. For more information, go to [www.emmachurch.net](http://www.emmachurch.net) or call 260-593-2036.

## DISCIPLING

**Bethany Christian Schools Alumni Night.** Bethany alumni will receive free admission and be eligible for prizes at the boys and girls evening Holiday tourney basketball games on Saturday, Dec. 15. Girls game begins at 6:00 and boys at 7:30. Note, alumni night does not include the morning games of the Holiday Tourney.

**Bethany Christian High School** will hold its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, in Goshen College's Sauder Concert Hall. Come hear choral and instrumental groups as they celebrate the birth of Christ in music and join them on stage for their concluding song “The Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s Messiah.

## OUTREACH

**FMW's** next project is collecting items for MCC hygiene kits. Contents (**new** items only) are 1 adult-sized toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging), 1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper), 1 nail clipper (good quality), 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16 in x 26 in), and 1 wide-toothed comb (6-8 in). They will also be putting together fruit plates for the shut-ins. LuEtta Friesen will have devotions at the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**MCC Great Lakes** is hosting an Engagement Day on December 8th at Belmont Mennonite Church located at 925 Oxford Street, Elkhart, IN 46516. Throughout the day MCC will showcase interactive learning tools around mass incarceration, Doctrine of Discovery and viewpoints of guns in America. The day will culminate with a keynote address by Juan Sebastian Pacheco Lozano on Immigration. You are welcome to participate in one workshop or the whole day. This would be a great opportunity for small groups, youth groups or Sunday School classes to participate together. You can find more information at [mcc.org/gl-engagement-day](http://mcc.org/gl-engagement-day). Please direct any questions to Brooke Strayer at [brookestrayer@mcc.org](mailto:brookestrayer@mcc.org) or 574-534-4133.

**Give a kit for Christmas!** From hurricanes and flooding to conflict and drought, MCC is responding to many disasters around the world. This Christmas, why not

gather your family and pack a relief kit as a gift to other families whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster? For more information about relief kit contents and how you can get involved, visit [mcc.org/kits/relief](https://mcc.org/kits/relief).

**Volunteer with SWAP:** Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP), a program of MCC Great Lakes, has openings for volunteer groups. Groups of all ages are an essential component of SWAP's ministry, addressing multiple challenges of low-income families in Appalachia, including home repair and personal need. If your church has never been to one of our SWAP locations, or if it has been a while since you have been to SWAP, please consider forming a group to come and experience a week at one of the locations in West Virginia or Kentucky. For more information go to <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap> or call Angela Maggard at 606-633-5065. You can also check out the latest newsletter at <https://mcc.org/media/resources/8302> .



**Fátima's Children's Home** has been providing safety, shelter, and love to children in vulnerable situations for over sixteen years. Now, the organization, which receives no governmental support, is opening a new Home. The second location will be in Sololá, located in a region of the country with a high poverty rate and high need. Guatemala has a very small, underfunded foster care system and these homes are the only alternatives to large, state run institutions for children who are removed from their families for reasons of abuse or neglect. At Fátima's Children's Home children are treated as family - help our family grow!

<https://hipgive.org/project/fa-la-la-la-la-to-solola/>

