



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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

December 16, 2015

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

Today's Chuckle

Bulletin Bloopers:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace to men.

Bring one dozen coolies
wrapped for Christmas.

The Advent Retreat will
be held in the lower level
of St. Mary's Cathedral.

Happy Birthday!

Wilma Dyck 12/17
Christopher Haab 12/17
Timothy Kauffman 12/17
Aaron Hickman 12/18
Cal Hubbard 12/19
Taylor Mathews 12/19
Marcia Rossi 12/19
Grant Reeser 12/20
Henry Lovellette 12/21
Doug Valverde 12/22

Happy Anniversary!

none this week

Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

*Health concerns for:

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

*Jules Lunda & family. His
sister passed away last
Saturday (Congo).

*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-*

Worship with us this Sunday, December 20

The scripture for the worship is **Luke 1:1-7** and the title of the sermon is *More Than a Manger*. Pastor Schrag comments, "There are several larger narratives strongly hinted at in these 7 verses, and they find close parallels to our modern times. Which ones would you identify?"

Christmas Sunday is a joyful celebration with extra singing and all of our choirs. Worship will be extended and Christian Education classes shortened a bit. Dismissal from Christian Education will be the usual time.

Reclaiming Christmas: Hear with New Ears. See with New Eyes. 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—Kay & John Reimer West—Ardys Serpette
Welcome Table	Marge Nester
Ushers	Mike & Stephanie Company Larry Schrader; Elfriede Massier
Worship Leader	Wayne Hochstetler
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp
Song Leader	Barry Weaver
Children's Time	Abby Warfel
Scripture	Wayne Hochstetler
Sermon	Tim Schrag
Technology	Caleb Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Emily Petri
Preschool Nursery	Christian Engel

MCN Events This Week

Thur Dec 17	Next Man's Bible Study 6:15 am Outreach Committee 5:00 pm Longest Night Service 6:30 pm
Sun Dec 20	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 pm

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 Advocate Eureka Hospital. This month MCN is asked to pray for the Obstetrics Unit 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

If you want to make a difference, the next time you see someone being cruel to another human being, take it personally. Take it personally because it is personal! *Brene Brown*

Mon Dec 22 Christian Education 11:00 am
Staff Meeting 9:30
Thur Dec 24 Financial Stewardship 6:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm

The Church Office will be closed December 24 & 25.

Need help with holiday cleaning, decorating or shopping? Tina Hubbs is available to assist you. Please contact her at 309-750-6163 to schedule her to make your holiday preparation a little bit easier.

Save the Date Spring 2016 Women's Retreat, April 22-23, at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center. Women of all ages are invited to come away together for a time of Bible study, reflection and fellowship. Details and registration information coming soon! Retreat co-sponsored by Illinois Mennonite Conference and IL Mennonite Women.

58th ANNUAL ILLINOIS MENNONITE RELIEF SALE March 18-19, 2016 Interstate Center - Bloomington, Illinois **ANNUAL RELIEF SALE DISTRESS SUPPER FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH OF MORTON FEBRUARY 9, 2016 - 6:00 P.M.** The Relief Sale Board would like to encourage early donations for various booth areas. During this Christmas season, please consider making a gift to the Relief Sale to help those in need in 60 countries of the world. The list of suggested donation items is on the Atrium Bulletin Board.

Conference Newsletters

[Click the link](#) to read the current *Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength*, IMC Conference Ministers Michael Danner & Kim Litwiller'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](#).

Faith in Action Desk Volunteer needed. One special individual to answer the phones and add senior transportation requests into the RideScheduler software. Training provided. Must have pleasant disposition. 3.5 hour shifts available. Variable schedule. May work one shift a week or one a month. Call 827-7780.

Pastor Tim Schrag
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