

# Greater Things

*Jesus said to his followers: "... if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father." (John 14:12)*

Arthur Mennonite Church · 710 East Park Street · Arthur, IL 61911 (217) 543-2781 · arthurmennonite.org

## A New Home for Doug

*From Lamar Miller*

Congratulations! You helped provide a home for Doug Schmidt who lost nearly everything in a tornado 16 months ago. You have given him a warm and safe place to live that he is extremely grateful for.

This Partnership Home Project (PHP) started approximately two years ago with some casual conversation about how this Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) program seemed to fit our congregation. Several of us became excited with the information we received and the opportunities it would provide for our entire congregation. The planning began and several other churches were asked to join us in building a new home. Sunnyside Mennonite agreed to participate with volunteers and fundraising efforts.

You can look at the numbers and realize it was a task that involved many people in numerous ways. It started with six people on the committee who planned a fund raiser. Then many others donated or bought items to the fundraiser. On June 6<sup>th</sup> we built the walls at CHI with at least twenty five volunteers combined from both churches. The home was started at the site in Pilger on June 15<sup>th</sup> and dedicated on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. During that time there were seven trips made to Nebraska with a total of nineteen volunteers from the two churches. The total number of volunteers who worked on the house was around fifty which includes some volunteers from



*Lamar and Doug Schmidt at the dedication of the home.*

Nebraska that were not from our congregations. The total number of hours put in at the home site by Sunnyside and Arthur Mennonite volunteers was around nine hundred. Total funds raised by both congregations were almost sixteen thousand dollars. A big "Thank You" goes to anyone who helped in any way to make this possible. The numbers are nice but, they're not the main story.

The main story is that everyone involved became the hands and feet of Jesus to Doug Schmidt. Doug continually thanked the volunteers verbally and in other ways. He always had water, coffee and other drinks along with snacks at the build site.

Doug took volunteers out for lunch sometimes and provided a wonderful meal after the dedication. He shared about his experience during the tornado and the feelings he experienced after the destruction. We spent time talking and becoming friends. Doug prayed for us just as we prayed for him. Several comments that I heard Doug say more than once were: "this is my mansion," "I can't ever thank you enough," "I am the most blessed man in Pilger," and "God gave me the best crew." He also mentioned that he was excited about being able to have the family over for Christmas this year. On our final day there Doug mentioned the possibility of coming to Arthur sometime to thank

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# THOUGHT & VISION

From the AMC Ministry Team

## Yes, Christ is King

*From Glen Rhodes,  
Minister of Discipling  
& Community Life*



For the past decade our church has celebrated Christ the King on the Friday or Saturday night before Christ the King Sunday is observed on the liturgical church calendar. This year the Ministry Team has decided to try something different. We are going to celebrate Christ the King Sunday on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> during the morning Christian Education and Worship time.

You may be asking, "What is Christ the King Sunday anyway?" It is the last Sunday of the church calendar year, set aside as a time to give thanks and celebrate God's church established through his Son Jesus Christ. Many churches around the world celebrate this. Yes, He is the King and our lives should testify that Jesus is the Lord of our life. It is a time to celebrate this truth that Christ must reign in our minds, in our wills, in our hearts, in our bodies and in everything we do as His Church. This is also a time to reflect on our thankfulness for what God has done and continues to do among us. The Church calendar then begins anew the following Sunday as we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent and anticipate the Christmas Season.

Communion and Foot Washing has always been a part of our Christ the King Fellowship along with pictures to remember the past year. There have also been opportunities to share a note of thankfulness or blessing from the past year. Those same things will be included in this year's Christ the King Sunday.

The plan for that morning is as follows. During the normal Christian Ed. time beginning at 9:30 a.m. we will have two options. One C.E. class will meet in Room 5 in the East Basement for those who do not wish to participate in foot washing. Those who do wish to participate will gather in the fellowship hall for a time of teaching about the act of foot washing and then a time of washing each other's feet. Men and women will have separate areas to do this. The children will still have Sunday School that morning and arrangements will be made for them.

During the 10:30 worship celebration we will be sharing a special time of communion and other things that help us to celebrate Jesus Christ and His Church. There will also be a noon fellowship meal. I hope that you will plan to join us that Sunday. Thank you for all that you do to make this church of Jesus Christ here at Arthur Mennonite Church a light on the hill and salt for the earth. Many people serving Christ our King in so many different ways is definitely something to be celebrated!

## GETTING TO KNOW:

### Marie Schrock

#### An AMC Personal Profile



- 1. What is your job and what does it consist of? If you are retired, please tell us what your job was before you retired.** Now I just try keeping my house clean. I used to work for MarSan sewing a piece for lawn sweeper bags.
- 2. If you could go anywhere or do anything all expenses paid, what would you do?** To Texas to see my granddaughter, her husband and her little boy. Or, to Oklahoma to see my 93 year old uncle, the only one left.
- 3. What is your favorite verse and/or book of the Bible?** The book of Luke, about the life of Jesus. And verse: *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'* This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: *'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* Matt. 22:37-39.
- 4. What toppings would you choose for your pizza?** Sausage, mushroom, green pepper, cheese & onion.
- 5. What is your favorite kind of pie?** Cherry and butterscotch.
- 6. Do you have a favorite book? If so, what is it?** I like Beverly Lewis books about the Amish and I like the Bible.
- 7. What hobbies do you enjoy?** Cook books. I have a lot of them!
- 8. Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time?** When we were in California going up a mountain and a semi truck was coming down very fast. I looked out my side and there was a very deep ravine. I said 'Lord be with us and the truck driver.' I felt God was with us. Simon said the driver had lost his brakes. Also, when I had surgery in 1995. I was at peace and had no fear going in. They moved me quicker to my room then they had planned to.
- 9. Interesting Facts?** I did embroidery on casket lids and throws on a sewing machine in my house for the Progress Casket factory.

## FIRST FRUIT GIVING

### *Giving God Our Best*

#### Stewardship & Attendance

	Attendance	Offering
9/27/15	137	\$3,769
10/4/15	127	\$4,154
10/11/15	128	\$4,254
10/18/15	202	\$3,117
10/25/15	159	\$3,611

# New Home . . .

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everyone for the generosity shown to him.

Another part of this story or project that needs to be mentioned is the Holy Spirit's leading. Jeff Koller, the MDS regional coordinator talked about this some at the dedication. We the church had to be open and willing to respond to the Spirit's nudging and guiding. We had to be open to where and who we might be called to. I remember being a little disappointed that it was a single retired man instead of a family with children that we would be helping, but we moved forward trusting this was where we should go. I have been thankful in many ways that we built a home for Doug. Doug also had to be open to what God had for him. He had people who he didn't know a thing about that were going to build a new home for him. He had to trust God that they knew what they were doing. So here is another "Thank You" for being open to what God calls us to and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead and direct you.

AMC has a new friend in Pilger, Nebraska. If you ever get a chance to stop by and say hello to Doug, take the time, you will enjoy it. Put him on your Christmas card list and if you didn't get to participate this time, keep your ears and heart open. There has been talk of another PHP sometime in the future.



Sandy Snyder with Doug on his new porch.

## PHP By The Numbers

 <b>2</b> Churches partnered	 <b>6</b> People on the committee	June <b>15<sup>th</sup></b> Project started	 <b>50</b> Volunteers worked on the house	 Trips to the job site in Nebraska
 <b>16,000</b> Dollars raised by both congregations for the project	 <b>900</b> Hours of work on the house	October <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> Home was dedicated	 Doug Schmidt's Address <b>205</b> South Madison, Pilger, NE 68768	

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Larry Kauffman	Nov. 5	Reed Weber	Nov. 12	Adriene Lane	Nov. 21
Kim Weber	Nov. 6	Joe Gingerich	Nov. 13	Andy Plank	Nov. 21
Kimberly Kauffman	Nov. 6	Katie Ann Yoder	Nov. 13	Levi Schrock	Nov. 23
Virgil Gingerich	Nov. 6	Jacqueline Lane	Nov. 13	Floyd Miller	Nov. 24
Faye Oye	Nov. 7	Gary Miller	Nov. 13	Rowen Miller	Nov. 24
Janice Yoder	Nov. 9	Robert Yoder	Nov. 15	Nadine Miller	Nov. 27
Marilyn Miller	Nov. 12	Ed Gingerich	Nov. 21	DuWayne Miller	Nov. 29

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kenny & Melissa Schrock	Nov. 6
Gary & Dorothy Kauffman	Nov. 14
Colby & Jordan Herschberger	Nov. 16
Floyd & Clara Wood	Nov. 26
Joe & Liz Diener	Nov. 27
Delmar & Linda Schrock	Nov. 29

# Arthur Ministerial Association Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 22nd at 6 p.m. at Vine Street Christian Church

*Carry-in fingerfood fellowship following the service.*

*Join us for this wonderful community event!*

# The Discipline of Worship

From Paul Rocke of the AMC Discipling Commission

As we look at the corporate discipline of worship, it is a direct expression of our ultimate purpose for living, Isaiah 43:6-7 says: *I will say to the north, give up, and to the south, do not withhold bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.*



Just meditating on the fact that the Lord God made you and me is amazing in itself! But that he bore our sins also! Think about this: the average human body has more than 60,000 miles of blood vessels, for every pound of fat gained your body makes up 7 miles of new blood vessels. I am grateful that it is God who sustains, and protects us, that's the God I want to worship.

When we come into this sweet relationship, we are beginning to learn astonished reverence, breathless adoration, awesome fascination, lofty admiration of the attributes of God, which adds up to what the Bible calls the "fear of God." I believe that the Reverential fear of God mixed with the love, fascination, astonishment, admiration and devotion is the most enjoyable state and the most purifying emotion the human soul can know.

What does God do when we worship him? The amazing truth of Scripture is that as the creation glorifies God, he also takes delight in it (see Genesis 1:31). God takes special delight in human beings he has created and redeemed.

Because God is worthy of worship and seeks to be worshiped, everything in our worship services should be designed and carried out not to call attention to ourselves, lest we steal his worship, but to call attention to God and to cause people to think about him. Peter says that spiritual gifts are to be used in such a way that "*in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ*" 1 Peter 4:11.

We are called in Mark 12:30 to *Love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.* Not only is this a call to worship God with your mind, will, and emotions but also physically, your strength. So when I sing along, saying the words, but thinking about what's for lunch, or my problems at work, I am not really worshipping. At best I only appear to be worshipping.

I challenge you to give God your best focused attention when worshipping whether it be in corporate worship or private worship, and he will reward you immensely.

## CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Join us on  
**November 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
for Christ the King  
Sunday at AMC.

Be a part of our annual celebration of God's work through the people of AMC over the past year.

### 9:30 a.m. Feet Washing

come and learn about the practice of feet washing and what it signifies. Afterward we will have a time of feet washing for those that would like to participate. *(There will be a regular C.E. class in Room 5 at this time as well)*

### 10:30 a.m. Christ the King Worship Celebration

In addition to our traditional worship we will relive memories of the past year through pictures, sharing, and communion.

### Noon Fellowship Meal

*Note that this will be considered our first Sunday fellowship meal for December.*

Let's celebrate the mission, ministry and the movements of God that we have witnessed in this past year.

Happy  
Thanksgiving!



**AMC** arthur  
mennonite  
church  
Transforming Lives → Embracing Opportunities Through Christ



Submit articles and content ideas to editor Melissa Schrock at 578-2522 or by email to [arthurmennonite@gmail.com](mailto:arthurmennonite@gmail.com)

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