

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)

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Greater Things

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

The Holy Way

Walking in the way of God's Heart

from Glen Rhodes, Minister of Administration and Community Life

The Advent season is upon us! Each Thanksgiving we end the church year with the celebration of Christ the King Sunday which leads into the beginning of the new Christian year. Let me be the first to tell you “Happy New Year!” The first Sunday of Advent (November 27) is the beginning of our theme for the four Sunday’s leading up to Christmas. By the way, Christmas is on Sunday this year!

Our theme this Advent encompasses the celebration of the arrival of Jesus Christ, which is the embodiment of God’s heart. Our invitation this year is to walk in the way of God’s heart. The “way of God” has a double meaning of walking like someone else walks and walking as a journey or pilgrimage. Both of these will invite us to consider God’s heart and his kingdom. When we walk in the way of God’s heart, we are bringing forth the reign of God here on earth. This is “The Holy Way” that we will be talking about during this time of Advent.

In Leviticus 11:44 God says “*For I am the LORD your God Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.*” The Lord truly want us (his people) to be holy, set apart, unique, and different from the world. The Old Testament gives us the Old Covenant with the Ten Commandments and other guidelines for life. The New Testament give us Jesus who brings with him the New Covenant. Jesus is the perfect example of what holy living



looks like. In John 17 when Jesus is praying for his disciples he says, “*I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.*”

The focus statement for each Sunday of Advent and the scriptures that go with each Sunday are listed in this edition of Greater Things. There are also daily email devotions that go along with the advent theme. You can sign up for those by going to goshen.edu/devotions and they will arrive in your email inbox each day.

We are looking forward to celebrating the Advent and Christmas season here at AMC. Please note the special events planned for this month as well as the change in schedule for the Sunday’s of Christmas and New Year’s. May God’s Holy Way be made known to us and may the coming of Jesus be our reason for celebrating this season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!

THOUGHT & VISION

From the AMC Ministry Team

“Flawsome”

(adj.): an individual who embraces their “flaws” and who knows they’re awesome regardless.



From Ashley Litwiller, Minister of Youth and Worship

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” Psalm 139:14

Some people find beauty in designer items that have no nicks, no discoloration and have been perfectly crafted by a factory. Some find the beauty in antiques, things that are discolored, things that have a unique story and were built by hand.

When I was younger, my aunt decided to teach me to sew. I spent a few weekends piecing my first quilt. While I have the proof of the finished quilt at home, what I remember was her hovering over my shoulder making sure every single stitch was right, making sure there were no uneven lines. I also have a father who digs holes for a living. While he does have to measure precisely how big a hole the builder is needing, I would watch this huge machine he ran move mountains of dirt to the side. I looked at the edges and they weren’t very clean cut. But that was expected from a 25,000-pound machine.

As I grew, more and more of my “friends” pointed out my flaws and told me I needed to change them to fit into the culture. Whether it was the odd color of my hair or my height or the way I was friends with a boy who lived in a trailer park. There were times where I would feel shameful that I am not perfect. But the Bible has never changed. Its message when it told me that I am fearfully and wonderfully made; that I am the daughter of a King! God not only knows me inside and out, including my flaws; He specifically GIFTED me with those flaws for His purpose. Now there are some flaws He wants us to change (like a bad attitude or self-discipline or loving others as He loves them) but I can’t have this immature idea that God gave me flaws to feel shameful OR to make others feel shameful. This quote says it all: “Shame says that because I am flawed, I am unacceptable. Grace says that though I am flawed, I am cherished”

Some people still pick out my flaws - sometimes my memory isn’t that great, sometimes my lawn isn’t as manicured as others, sometimes I let my car get a little dirty, sometimes I need to say No to outings so I can spend more time with God. What others see as a flaw, God is my judge and if I hear him tell me I am loved and cherished despite my un-straightened hair or my car making a weird sound, I’m listening to my King over those human voices.

I think of this at Christmas time because I’m sure Mary & Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and the ones who wrote the Christmas story down, all had flaws. But the one thing they have in common is that they all worshiped and adored the Son of God who had come to save them. So as celebrations continue, remember that any “flaws” that occur in your Christmas plans; God has the power to make amazing memories *flawsome*.

Advent and Christmas Sundays at AMC: The Holy Way *Walking in the way of God’s Heart*

Sunday, November 27 (First Sunday of Advent)

Focus: *God’s peace is at hand*

Isa 2:1-5; Pslm 122; Matt 24:36-44; Rom 13:11-14

Sunday, December 4 (Second Sunday of Advent)

Focus: *God’s harmony is at hand*

Isa 11:1-10; Pslm 72:1-7, 18-19; Matt 3:1-12; Rom 15:4-13

Sunday, December 11 (Third Sunday of Advent)

Focus: *God’s healing is at hand*

Isa 35:1-10; Pslm 146:5-10; Matt 11:2-11; James 5:7-10

Sunday, December 18 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Focus: *God’s restoration is at hand*

Isa 7:10-16; Pslm 80:1-7, 17-19; Matt 1:18-25; Rom 1:1-7
Christmas Program at 6 pm. then fingerfood fellowship.

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Sunday)

No Christian Ed. classes! Prelude and Worship will begin at normal time

Focus: *Jesus is Born, walk in the way of God’s heart!*

Isa 9:2-7; Pslm 148; Luke 2:1-14

Sunday, January 1 (Epiphany Sunday)

No Christian Ed. classes! Prelude and Worship will begin at normal time. No Fellowship Meal

Focus: *God’s day of radiance is at hand*

Isa 60:1-6; Pslm 72:1-7, 10-14; Matt 2:1-12; Eph 3:1-12

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Henry Herschberger	Dec. 1	Edna Gingerich	Dec. 19
Jake Chupp	Dec. 2	Les Helmuth	Dec. 19
Colton Weber	Dec. 2	Mel Yoder	Dec. 22
Sandy Snyder	Dec. 3	Christian Miller	Dec. 22
Kendall Schrock	Dec. 5	Levi Yoder	Dec. 25
Waylon Miller	Dec. 5	Lela Reynolds	Dec. 28
Austin Kauffman	Dec. 5	Larry Yoder	Dec. 28
Janet Gingerich	Dec. 12	Bob Plank	Dec. 29
Trinity Schrock	Dec. 12	Ron Thomas	Dec. 29
Linda Jo Schrock	Dec. 17	Vernon Chupp	Dec. 31
Myra Beachy	Dec. 18		

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Ray & Sherrill Shunk	Dec. 1
Elmer & Kim Miller	Dec. 1
Michael & Brittnay Yoder	Dec. 13
Henry & Mary Herschberger	Dec. 21
Larry & Pat Yoder	Dec. 21
Jake & Maranna Chupp	Dec. 27
Ervin & Nancy Kuhns	Dec. 27
Cory & Emily Kauffman	Dec. 27
Vernon & Irlene Chupp	Dec. 28
Floyd & Marilyn Miller	Dec. 30



GETTING TO KNOW: Jenni Marner

An AMC Personal Profile

Jenni and her husband Jeff have three children: Jillian(7), Denton(5), and Makai (3).

What is your job and what does it consist of? I am a daughter of God, wife to Jeff, mom to Jillian, Denton and Makai and then I'm an Illinois Professional Engineer working for Fuhrmann Engineering in the civil engineering industry. Basically, I design things; mainly pavements, drainage systems, and parks. Some of my more notable projects include the Windsor Road overpass pavement connections, the Monticello Road shoulder and ditch widening project, and the Porter Family Park trails and pond.



What is your favorite verse and/or book of the Bible? Romans 12:2 – Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, then you will be able to test and approve God's will; His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time? Yes, when I was about 14 and was going through a time of questioning my own life and direction and didn't think that God was near or knowable. I asked Him to reveal himself to me in a very specific way by honking a horn while I was hiding in a place where no one could see me or know where I was. Within 5 minutes a car drove by and honked to nothing else in particular and I knew that He can hear me, and see me and direct all the steps of my life. While that was the

start, He seems to continue to speak to me in what I call the "overlap", meaning when I'm looking at something in one area of my life and it shows up in another unrelated area. I call this the "overlap" and generally find God is active in the overlap for me.

Do you have a favorite book or author?
A few :-)
CS Lewis's *The Weight of Glory* or *Screwtape Letters*. I appreciate his insight into the human condition and resonate with his descriptions of situations we find ourselves in. J.R.R. Tolkien's - *The Lord of the Rings*. I appreciate the allegorical battle as it rages. (The world would be worse off if the Inklings had not met.). Thomas Sowell, Ravi Zacharias...I'll stop here.

What hobbies do you enjoy? Reading, crossfitting, camping, and playing games (Puerto Rico, Settlers of Catan, Dominion, 7 Wonders, Ticket to Ride)

What would you say is your favorite meal? Fried Chicken, broccoli casserole and mashed potatoes.

What is your favorite song or hymn that we sing at church? Holy, Holy, Holy

Do you have a favorite inspirational quote? Be the change you want to see in the world. (Ghandi)

Christ the King Sunday

November 20th at AMC

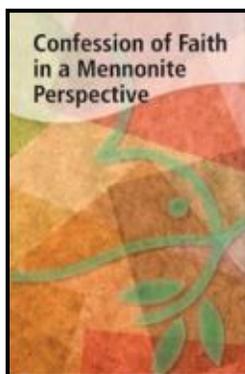
Our annual celebration of the mission, ministry and movements of God through the people of AMC.



CONFESSION OF FAITH IN A MENNONITE PERSPECTIVE

Article 11 ~ Baptism

Editors Note: This is the eleventh in a monthly series. Each month we will include one of the twenty four articles from the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective so that we can all be refreshed in what they express.



We believe that the baptism of believers with water is a sign of their cleansing from sin. Baptism is also a pledge before the church of their covenant with God to walk in the way of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers are baptized into Christ and his body by the Spirit, water, and blood.

Baptism is a testimony to God's gift of the Holy Spirit and the continuing work of the Spirit in the lives of believers. Through the Spirit we repent and turn toward God in faith. The baptism of the Holy Spirit enables believers to walk in newness of life, to live in community with Christ and the church, to offer Christ's healing and forgiveness to those in need, to witness boldly to the good news of Christ, and to hope in the sharing of Christ's future glory.

Baptism by water is a sign that a person has repented, received forgiveness, renounced evil, and died to sin, through the grace of God in Christ Jesus. Thus cleansed, believers are incorporated into Christ's body on earth, the church. Baptism by water is also a pledge to serve Christ and to minister as a member of his body according to the gifts

given to each one. Jesus himself requested water baptism at the beginning of his ministry and sent his followers to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Baptism is done in obedience to Jesus' command and as a public commitment to identify with Jesus Christ, not only in his baptism by water, but in his life in the Spirit and in his death in suffering love.

The baptism of blood, or baptism of suffering, is the offering of one's life, even to death. Jesus understood the giving of his life through the shedding of his blood for others as a baptism. He

also spoke about his disciples' suffering and death as a baptism. Those who accept water baptism commit themselves to follow Jesus in giving their lives for others, in loving their enemies, and in renouncing violence, even when it means their own suffering or death.

Christian baptism is for those who confess their sins, repent, accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and commit themselves to follow Christ in obedience as members of his body, both giving and receiving care and counsel in the church. Baptism is for those who are of the age of accountability and who freely request baptism on the basis of their response to Jesus Christ in faith.



AMC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, Dec. 18th at 6 p.m.

A fingerfood fellowship will follow the program

FIRST FRUIT GIVING

Giving God Our Best



Stewardship & Attendance

	Attendance	Offering
10/23/16	128	\$3,316
10/30/16	159	\$3,780
11/6/16	157	\$10,631
11/13/16	134	\$6,549

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 11th at 9:30 a.m.

Come hear reports from the various commissions about what is going on at AMC.

We will also be affirming the new vision, the 2017 budget, and the GDCC commission callings for the upcoming year.



AMC

arthur mennonite church



AMC Ministers: All of Jesus' followers here at Arthur Mennonite

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