

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

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

November 20th 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 and looking forward to the year ahead.

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

Bring a dish to share and join us. *Note that this will be considered our fellowship meal for December*

Let's celebrate the mission, ministry and movements of God!

God is in Control

By Elena Buckwalter

Editors Note: This article is in the October issue of The Mennonite magazine. It is reprinted with permission.

At the peak of primary election madness, I became mildly obsessed with researching different candidates and examining every angle to prove that mine was the best. I registered to vote, voted for my candidate and told everyone I knew that they should vote for him, too. When he dropped out of the race, I watched his concession speech alone in my dorm room and cried. Seeing my candidate crash and burn caused me to fear for the future of the United States.

Talking to a friend later that week, I expressed my disappointment about the way the political race was shaping up and was surprised at how unbothered she seemed. She was well-informed, politically minded and had taken great interest in the primaries. She said she was refraining from too much involvement because she wanted to put her hope in God rather than humans.

This stuck with me. I was raised Mennonite, and our Anabaptist beliefs affected the political stances in my home. My parents had different political positions but discussed them peacefully in front of my siblings and me. They voted in presidential elections, but I knew people who never did and had attended churches that believed voting was wrong. This confused me because they'd complain about the current president, even though they hadn't voted. Was it possible to vote in elections while understanding that our only hope for positive change is through God?

In the Old Testament, God's ultimate will for his people did not include a governing human. In 1 Samuel 8, God's people chose to move from being ruled by God through a judge to living under the rule of a human king. Although God accepted this, he said that by requesting a king the people had rejected him. God even compared this to unfaithfulness toward God (1 Samuel 8:7-8). Does our obsession with politics and governing leaders take us away from full trust in God?

Escaping politics altogether would be difficult at best. Christians would have to create their own nation-state, which would likely exclude the people Jesus wants us to minister to. As much as many of us Mennonites might want to flee

*Does our obsession
with politics and
governing leaders
take us away from
full trust in God?*

(Continued on page 2)

THOUGHT & VISION

From the AMC Ministry Team

The Sovereignty of God

From Glen Rhodes,
Minister of Administration and
Community Life



What does the word sovereignty mean? It can be summed up in three words; Dominion, Power, and Authority. Do we believe that God has those over our world? Christians would respond right away to that question by saying, “yes, of course.” But what do our words, actions, and feelings say? As we approach another Presidential election day (November 8th) here in the United States this is an important thing to consider.

In this issue of Greater Things we are sharing a wonderful article by Hesston College student Elena Buckwalter from Fulks Run, Virginia. She has some important words to share with us as we contemplate the upcoming election. One phrase that especially stood out to me was, “Does our obsession with politics and governing leaders take us away from full trust in God?”

As bad as our world seems to be at times and as difficult as these issues are to sort out, we must never forget that God is in control. It’s one thing to say that but it is quite another thing to live your life with that kind of faith and attitude. The book of Job in our Bibles is a book of calamity, disaster, and heartache. It’s hard to imagine what Job must have felt as he went through the many seasons of loss, pain, and turmoil. He lost nearly everything and the future looked hopeless for sure. He questioned God at times and asked why, but he never cursed God as his wife had suggested. In Job 42:2 Job replies to the Lord and says, “I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.”

God will remain Sovereign and in control no matter what happens on November 8th. You may be passionate about politics or you may not follow it at all. You may be passionate about voting or you may not participate in the process at all. Each person has their own views about those things. But whatever your situation I hope that you will put your faith in God for the days ahead. No country, politician, or political party has all of the right answers, but God does. And in God we must place our hope and trust.

On Sunday, November 6th, I will be preaching a message from Isaiah 41 entitled “A Posture of Godly Faith.” The prophet Isaiah will encourage us to enter this election day with the right perspective and a Christian attitude. On Tuesday, November 8th the church will be open all day and into the evening for times of personal prayer. Come and pray that our eyes will remain on God’s promise of hope and salvation. The Lord is Sovereign and in control.

God is in Control

(Continued from page 1)

from political systems riddled with war, infighting and saying mean things, this would make it much more difficult for us to engage in other things we love: mission work and sharing the love of Christ.

Jesus lived under an oppressive government. He taught methods of quiet statements against such rulers, such as offering to carry a soldier’s pack two miles when asked to carry it one. Jesus also taught his disciples to pay taxes, telling them to “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s” (Luke 20:25). In doing this, Jesus didn’t give his disciples an excuse to avoid paying taxes or some exciting way to protest the government but commanded them to follow the rules, except when they conflicted with God’s rules.

In Romans 13, Paul instructs the church to submit to God’s servants, the authorities. He claimed God put in place the people in governments as “agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer” (Romans 13:4). This can be a problem for today’s Anabaptists as we look at the injustices our governments commit. Many of us find torture, abortion, capital punishment and warfare immoral, but our government legalizes these things, and even celebrates some. Shouldn’t we try to elect leaders who will represent our beliefs and stand against these things we see as wrong?

The church at that time was not facing an easier government than ours. In fact, Romans 13 comes right after a passage about persecution. Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Paul knew the church would face hard times and instructs them to “bless those who persecute you” (v.14), “not repay anyone evil for evil” (v.17), and “not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good” (v.21). Perhaps his call to obey the authorities was simply adding to these teachings of living in peace and harmony with those around us. But maybe he’s trying to remind us that the governing powers really aren’t something we need to worry about because, ultimately, God is in charge. We Mennonites and any other Christian can learn a lot from this teaching.

I plan to vote in this year’s election. I like to believe my vote may make a difference, even though I know it won’t be much. I want to respect whatever leader gets elected, no matter how much chagrin it may cause me. Yet I also want to hold lightly to my vote. I want to be well-informed and vote for a candidate I think will be the most competent in leading our country, but I want to recognize that all our leaders will be flawed and that at the end of the day, God is in control. We can all sleep a little better at night knowing we have a trustworthy leader in heaven—one we can hope in much more than we ever could a president.

Come & Pray on Election Day!

If you would like to come by the church on Tuesday, Nov. 8th to pray, the doors will be open and the lights will be on. Pray for God’s Sovereignty to reign in our hearts, in our country, and in our world. Pray that we and the people would turn to the Lord and place our faith, hope, and trust in Christ and in Christ alone.

*Sanctuary will be open from
8 am to 8 pm on Tuesday, November 8*



AMC WELCOMES: Missionaries Jon and Lindsay Birkey

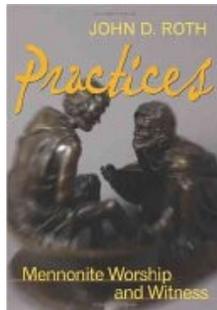
On Sunday, Nov. 6th the Birkey's will share during a Combined Christian Ed. Time and for a Moment in Mission during worship. Come and hear about their work with Native American children and youth in Arizona. Pray about how you might partner with them in this ministry.



RESOURCE OF THE MONTH Practices: Mennonite Worship and Witness

by John Roth

In Practices: Mennonite Worship and Witness, John D. Roth examines the traditions of Anabaptist-Mennonite worship. These practices, he argues, are part of an essential unity that transforms and renews the people of God and calls them to lives of integrity that are embodied with discipleship and mission. Roth reflects on how distinctive Mennonite practices such as baptism, communion, foot washing, and common meals extend beyond the church as a witness to the world. Practices is Roth's third book on Mennonite life in the 21st century, following Beliefs: Mennonite Faith and Practice, and Stories: How Mennonites Came to Be.



This book is available for checkout from the book rack in the foyer.

AMC Fall Festival

On October 9th we gathered as a church family at the Moultrie County 4H center for our annual Fall Festival.



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kenny & Melissa Schrock Nov. 6
Gary & Dorothy Kauffman Nov. 14
Colby & Jordan Herschberger Nov. 16

Floyd & Clara Wood Nov. 26
Joe and Liz Diener Nov. 27
Delmar & Linda Jo Schrock Nov. 29

Arthur Ministerial Association Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 22nd at 6 p.m. at Arthur First Baptist Church

Various members of the faith community will be sharing stories of Thanksgiving.

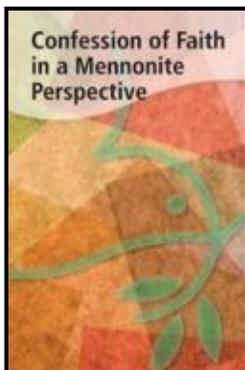
Join us for this wonderful community event!

An offering for the AMA benevolence fund will be taken during the service.

CONFESSION OF FAITH IN A MENNONITE PERSPECTIVE

Article 10 ~ The Church in Mission

Editors Note: This is the tenth 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 church is called to proclaim and to be a sign of the kingdom of God. Christ has commissioned the church to be his witnesses, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe all things he has commanded.

In his mission of preaching, teaching, and healing, Jesus announced, "The kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." After his death and resurrection, Jesus commissioned his disciples, saying, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. . . . Receive the Holy Spirit." Empowered by that Spirit, we continue Jesus' ministry of gathering the new people of God, who acknowledge Christ as Lord and Savior.

The church is called to witness to the reign of Christ by embodying Jesus' way in its own life and patterning itself after the reign of God. Thus it shows the world a sample of life under the lordship of Christ. By its life, the church is to be a city on a hill, a light to the nations, testifying to the power of the resurrection by a way of life different from the societies around it.

The church is also to give witness by proclaiming the reign of God in word and deed. The church is to seek the lost, call for repentance, announce salvation from sin, proclaim the gospel of peace, set free the oppressed, pray for

righteousness and justice, serve as Jesus did, and without coercion urge all people to become part of the people of God. The church is called to be a channel of God's healing, which may include anointing with oil. Even at the risk of suffering and death, the love of Christ compels faithful witnesses to testify for their Savior.

Such witness is a response to Jesus' call to make disciples. As they are welcomed and incorporated into the church, new Christians learn to participate in the church's worship, in its fellowship, education, mutual aid, decision making, service, and continuing mission. New believers also help the church to learn new dimensions of its mission.

God calls the church to direct its mission to people from all nations and ethnic backgrounds. Jesus commissioned his disciples to be his witnesses in "Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The apostle Paul preached to the Gentile nations. The church today is also called to witness to people of every culture, ethnicity, or nationality. The mission of the church does not require the protection of any nation or empire. Christians are strangers and aliens within all cultures. Yet the church itself is God's nation, encompassing people who have come from every tribe and nation. Indeed, its mission is to reconcile differing groups, creating one new humanity and providing a preview of that day when all the nations shall stream to the mountain of the Lord and be at peace.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Larry Kauffman	Nov. 5	Gary Miller	Nov. 13
Kim Weber	Nov. 6	Robert Yoder	Nov. 15
Kimberly Kauffman	Nov. 6	Ryker Yoder	Nov. 19
Virgil Gingerich	Nov. 6	Ed Gingerich	Nov. 21
Faye Oye	Nov. 7	Adriene Lane	Nov. 21
Janice Yoder	Nov. 9	Andy Plank	Nov. 21
Maria Yoder	Nov. 11	Levi Schrock	Nov. 23
Marilyn Miller	Nov. 12	Floyd Miller	Nov. 24
Reed Weber	Nov. 12	Rowen Miller	Nov. 24
Joe Gingerich	Nov. 13	Nadine Miller	Nov. 27
Katie Ann Yoder	Nov. 13	DuWayne Miller	Nov. 29
Jacqueline Lane	Nov. 13		

FIRST FRUIT GIVING

Giving God Our Best



	Stewardship & Attendance	
	Attendance	Offering
9/25/16	51	\$613
10/2/16	134	\$8,172
10/9/16	139	\$3,751
10/16/16	93	\$3,641

Happy Thanksgiving!



AMC
arthur mennonite church



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

Minister of Administration and Community Life:	Glen Rhodes	glenr68@gmail.com	273-5026
Minister of Discipling:	Jeff Marner	wookiee_77@hotmail.com	273-5089
Minister of Outreach:	Lamar Miller	lmillerrpm1@yahoo.com	369-8237
Minister of Youth and Worship:	Ashley Litwiller	ashlit234@gmail.com	309-303-5159
Submit articles and content ideas to editor Melissa Schrock at 578-2522 or by email to arthurmennonite@gmail.com			