

December 18, 2016

# ADVENT

## THE HOLY WAY

Walking in the way of God's heart

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19



**AMC**  arthur  
mennonite  
church

Transforming Lives → Embracing Opportunities Through Christ

710 East Park Street • Arthur, Illinois 61911

[arthurmennonite.org](http://arthurmennonite.org) • 217-543-2781

**TODAY'S WORSHIP CELEBRATION**  
**10:30 am Sunday, December 18, 2016**

**Worship Leader:** Lynn Marner  
**Song Leader:** Ashley Litwiller **Message:** Glen Rhodes  
Prelude Singing begins at 10:20  
\*indicates those who are able may stand

**GATHERING AS A CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY**

\*Gathering Song:  
Brown 128 "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"  
Welcome & Congregational Information  
Advent Reading: Come, Walk in God's Presence  
Opening Prayer

**PRAISING AND WORSHIPING GOD**

Children's Time  
Children's Choir "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
"Go Tell It On The Mountain"  
We Worship God by Presenting our Tithes & Offerings  
\*With Voices We Sing:  
Blue #189 "To Us a Child of Hope is Born"  
Blue #197 "Angels We Have Heard on High"  
Screen "O Come Let Us Adore Him"  
Intercessory Prayer - Jeff Marner

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Readings: Matthew 1:18-25; 1 Peter 5:6-11  
Message: "Restore us, O God" Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

**SENT FORTH IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

\*Prayer of Response & Sending  
\*Sending Song: "Away in A Manager"

**Come forward for prayer following the service for anything in your life that you would like prayer for. A minister will be at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you.**  
**Have a Blessed week!**

## Read Through the Bible in One Year

- Dec. 19 - Jonah 1-4, Rev. 10
- Dec. 20 - Micah 1-3, Rev. 11
- Dec. 21 - Micah 4-5, Rev. 12
- Dec. 22 - Micah 6-7, Rev. 13
- Dec. 23 - Nahum 1-3, Rev. 14
- Dec. 24 - Hab. 1-3, Rev. 15
- Dec. 25 - Zeph. 1-3, Rev. 16

## Memory Passage

“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered for a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever Amen.”

**1 Peter 5:10-11**

## WELCOME TO AMC!

If you are a guest we look forward to meeting you and invite you back next Sunday.

- Information about AMC is available in the literature rack near the north doors.
- For more information check out our website at [arthurmennonite.org](http://arthurmennonite.org).
- Children are welcome in the service and buddy bags are in the foyer for their use. We also have a nursery for children 5 and under in the east basement.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**BEGINS AT 9:30 AM**

**Children:** Ages 2-5 and Grades 1-5

West Basement

**Jr High:** Grades 6-8 - Youth House

**Youth:** Grades 9-12 - Youth House

**Adults:**

**Fell. Hall:** Creation: A Divine Cycle

**Room 1:** Joshua, Judges, & Ruth

**Room 5:** Variety of Lessons

Feel free to grab a cup of coffee before you head to class!

## PERSONAL WORSHIP NOTES

Use this space to write down things that encourage you, inspire you, or speak to you during the Worship Celebration.



# Outreach Our Relationships with the World

## **LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

At Methodist Church

Arthur United Methodist Church is having a “Longest Night” service this Wednesday, Dec. 21st at 7 p.m. This service is to support those who might be feeling blue or depressed during this holiday season. Everyone is welcome, especially those who can offer support.

## **WINTER RETREATS**

In January

Menno Haven will be hosting three winter retreats this year. Early registration discounts are available Jan. 2nd so we will be making arrangements soon!



**Young Adults ~ Jan. 6-8      Jr High ~ Jan. 20-22**  
**High School ~ Jan. 27-29**

## **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

Thursday, Jan. 5th

The Arthur Ministerial Association and the Arthur Lion’s Club are co-sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, Jan. 5th at the Arthur Community Building from 1-6 pm. You can call the AMC church office to make an appointment time or you can visit their website at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). Walk ins are welcome as well.



## **POINSETTIAS**

Take Home Next Sunday

Thank you to those who purchased a poinsettia to honor loved ones and beautify the sanctuary this Sunday and next. Please take them home after the Christmas service next Sunday. Please put your \$12 in the secretary’s mailbox if you still need to pay.

<b>JUNIOR HIGH</b>		<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>
<p><b><u>Jan. 8th</u></b> Bible Study: Worthwhile Ashley’s @ 3 p.m.</p> <p><b><u>Jan 20-22</u></b> Menno Haven Winter Retreat</p>		<p><b><u>Wed, Dec 21st</u></b> Christmas Party Ashley’s @ 7pm</p> <p><b><u>Wed, Dec 28th</u></b> Merry Christmas &amp; New Year! No Youth</p>

# KEEPING UP WITH AMC

- The Christmas pictures that the primary department drew and colored for Advent are displayed in the foyer near the elevator.
- Ashley Litwiller is quoted in the December issue of IMC's Missional Crossroads. Copies are near the north doors.
- Jake Chupp recently turned 80 and his family and friends celebrated yesterday in Decatur.

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Today Myra Beachy  
Mon. Edna Gingerich  
Les Helmuth  
Thurs. Christian Miller  
Mel Yoder

## ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Wed. Henry & Mary Herschberger  
Wed. Larry & Pat Yoder



## Community Life Our Relationships with Each Other

### **AMC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Manger Tales  
Tonight

This year's Christmas Program includes "Manger Tales," the wonder of the Christmas story through the eyes of the animals that were there. Join us tonight, Dec. 18th at 6 p.m.



The AMC Christmas Choir will also be singing! We will have a finger food fellowship afterward. Please bring a fingerfood to share and we are hoping to have some guests so plan accordingly.

### **Program Practices Today:**

9:30 a.m.—Primary, Jr High and High School  
4 p.m.—Adults, Primary, Jr High and High School

### **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS**

No C.E.

Christmas Day and New Years Day both fall on Sunday this year. We will not have Christian Ed. on either of those Sundays. The prelude singing and Worship celebrations will start at their normal times.

### **PATHFINDERS**

Dec. 30th

The adults in the Pathfinders fellowship group will be going out for a holiday dinner at Alexanders Steakhouse on Friday, Dec. 30th at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Lyndora Miller if you plan to attend.



# Discipling Growing in our Relationship with Jesus

## **AMC VISION**

For 2017  
and Beyond



The vision for our church for the next five years has been developed by the AMC vision team with your feedback and direction. This vision was shared and affirmed during the congregational meeting last week.

*By 2022, Arthur Mennonite Church will be a courageous people guided by God to rely on Christian practices and to deepen our intergenerational relationships. We will use a spectrum of spiritual gifts and embrace our welcoming atmosphere to show God’s love through our actions and fearlessly share his gospel with words.*

The story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10 had a big impact on this vision and the shorter vision statement for the upcoming year and years will be:

*Grow Like Mary, Serve Like Martha*

You will be hearing more about this AMC vision and vision statement in the days ahead.



# Administration

**Developing & Coordinating  
our Relationships**

## **LAST SUNDAY**

### **Attendance**

Worship Celebration	108
Christian Education	71

### **Offering**

General Offering:	\$2,545
Budget Goal	\$4,245
Year-to-Date Progress	-.4%
November Primary Dept.	
Mission Offering	\$9.42

### **Nursery**

**Today:** Kenny & Erica Schrock

**Dec. 25:** Lamar & Karen Miller

## **REMINDERS**

### **Fellowship Meal - Jan. 8th**

Virgil & Sondra Gingerich

Lela Reynolds

Willis & Dee Kuhns

Josephine Marner

### **Arthur Home Service – Dec. 25**

Led by Room 1 CE Class

### **Visitor of the Week: Glen Rhodes**

### **Homebuilders - December**

Cliff & Kathy Yoder

### **Community Meal Helpers –Dec. 14**

2-4:30 p.m. Josephine M.

4:30-7 p.m. Dorothy K./ Karen L.



## **THE HOLY WAY**

Advent Theme



Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. This year’s theme is “The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God’s heart.” You can learn more about the theme in this month’s Greater Things newsletter. You can also sign up for daily email devotions at [goshen.edu/devotions/](http://goshen.edu/devotions/)

*The AMC primary department is contributing to the bulletin covers during advent. Today’s cover art, depicting the angel speaking to Joseph, was colored by Kenny & Erica Schrock’s daughter Trinity.*

## **NEW YEAR**

New Things

As January rolls in very soon you will notice some new things. Glen will be sharing more about these in the January Greater Things newsletter but here is a glimpse of what is coming:

- New banner in foyer with our AMC vision statement
- Sermon questions in the bulletin each week
- Coffee and Conversations at Roselen’s on Wednesdays
- Friday emails with bulletin/sermon links and more.

## **PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY**

- Kim Kauffman - Had another surgery in Ohio this past Wednesday.
- Henry Herschberger - Healing from knee surgery.
- Gloria Yoder - Healing from foot surgery.
- Family of Andy Ray Yoder - Andy passed away in MO last week.
- Merle Plank - Larry & Cliff Yoder’s brother in law. Hospital in STL.
- Mary Yoder - Lela Reynolds sister, health and healing.
- Joe Diener & Kara Kuhns - Health and healing.

## **PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD**

- Our Community, State, and Country post election
- The people of Aleppo, Syria
- The worldwide refugee crisis.
- Those effected by earthquakes around the world.
- Those who need to know Jesus as their Savior
- Ongoing war in Syria and Iraq
- All Missionaries in this country and around the world.





# CHURCH CALENDAR

Today

9:30 a.m. Program Practice  
9:30 a.m. Christian Education  
10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration  
4:00 p.m. Program Practice  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Program  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Practice  
11:00 a.m. Ministry Team Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party  
Christmas Day  
No Christian Education  
10:20 a.m. Prelude singing begins  
10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration

Mon., Dec. 19th

Tues., Dec. 20th

Wed., Dec. 21st

Sun., Dec. 25th

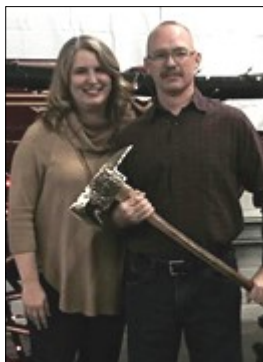
## FUTURE EVENTS

Christmas Day & New Years Day No Christian Education  
Worship Celebration starts at normal time.

## SNAPSHOT OF THE WEEK

## JUST FOR FUN

*Kenny Miller was presented with a cast bronze firefighter axe in recognition of 25 years of service with the Arthur Fire Department. Kenny, with wife Lelia received the axe at the fireman's Christmas party last weekend.*



What do you get when  
you cross a snowman  
and a dog?  
*Frostbite.*



Where do snowmen  
keep their money?  
*In a snow bank.*

## ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH

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Website: [arthurmennonite.org](http://arthurmennonite.org)

IL Conference Website: [illinois.mennonite.net](http://illinois.mennonite.net)

Administrative Assistant: Melissa Schrock



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

### Ministry Team Members

Outreach: Lamar Miller  
Worship/Youth: Ashley Litwiller  
Discipling: Jeff Marnar  
Administration/Comm. Life: Glen Rhodes

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