

# Greater Things

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
MAY 2020

## SUCH A TIME AS THIS

by Glen Rhodes

During this last month or so of social distancing and stay at home mandates due to the Covid-19 virus which has spread around the world I have heard many people say that they have never seen anything like this in their lifetime. While that is probably true in our lifetime there have been situations like this in the very distant past.

In the Mennonite World Review writer John Longhurst shares a story from 1665 that happened in a small village (350 people) in England named Eyam. During that year the Black Death bubonic plague (the second pandemic ever recorded) was wreaking havoc in Eurasia and North Africa. During that time a tailor in Eyam received a bolt of cloth from London that was carrying the virus on it. Before long many in the town started to get sick, including the tailor, who died within a week. When the residents of the town started to realize what was happening they wanted to flee to other towns to get away from the disease. That was when Eyam's Anglican priest convinced them not to go. He preached a sermon pleading with the people

to stay in their town instead of spreading the virus to other towns. He proclaimed that it was their Christian duty to stay and allow the plague to stop with them. The priest said that he would stay as well and do anything he could to help alleviate their suffering.

There is more to that story, but the example or lesson of it is clearly self-sacrifice and looking out for your neighbor. In Matthew 7:12 Jesus said, "Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also for them." Those words are often referred to as "The Golden Rule" but I like to think of them more as a calling instead of rule. As the church of Jesus Christ we are called to help others, look out for others, and even sacrifice for others at different times, especially in such a time as this.

It has been an incredible blessing to hear how you are looking out, reaching out, and staying in touch with each other during these difficult days. Keep it up! We will get through this together and we will move forward together as Christ's church.

Minister of Administration,  
Community Life, and Worship  
Glen Rhodes

**AMC**  
arthur mennonite church

Minister of Outreach:  
Lamar Miller  
Minister of Discipling and Youth:  
Jeff Marner

How old are you? **13 years old**

What school do you attend? **Arthur Grade School**

What is your favorite subject in school? **Math**

What would you say is your favorite meal? **Sushi and shrimp**

What hobbies do you enjoy?

**Riding my bicycle and playing sports.**



## **AMC Personal Profile: Kendall Schrock**

What is the happiest memory of your life?

**Getting an Xbox One**

If you could have dinner with ANYONE (dead or alive), which three people would you choose?

**My grandpa, my dog Abby, and my great grandpa. They have all passed and I miss them very much.**

What is your favorite verse and/or book of the Bible?

**John 3:16**

Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time? **Yes**

What are some interesting facts about you that people at AMC might be surprised to know.

**I've done the zipline at the Ark Encounter which was really fun.**

**I love to show off that I am taller than my mom, and almost as tall as my dad.**

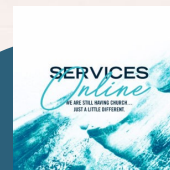


Arthur Community VBS has been postponed to a later date in mid-late July, which will be announced soon. Please continue to pray for this program, the committee, and the children of this community!

### **MOTHER'S DAY LADIES' SALAD SUPPER CANCELLED**

Due to the ongoing "stay-at-home" order, this event has been cancelled.

We encourage you to make Mother's Day special, even in this unfortunate situation.



Although we are still unable to hold services in our building, we are continuing our Sunday morning services via Facebook Live, as well as posting those videos to our website. Watch our Facebook page for other interactive posts and videos to stay connected!

### **Article 23 - Confession of Faith In a Mennonite Perspective**

## **Church's Relation to Government and Society**

We believe that the church is God's "holy nation," called to give full allegiance to Christ its head and to witness to all nations about God's saving love.

The church is the spiritual, social, and political body that gives its allegiance to God alone. As citizens of God's kingdom, we trust in the power of God's love for our defense. The church knows no geographical boundaries and needs no violence for its protection. The only Christian nation is the church of Jesus Christ, made up of people from every tribe and nation, called to witness to God's Glory

In contrast to the church, governing authorities of the world have been instituted by God for maintaining order in societies. Such governments and other human institutions as servants of God are called to act justly and provide order. But like all such institutions, nations tend to demand total allegiance. They then become idolatrous and rebellious against the will of God.

As Christians we are to respect those in authority and to pray for all people, including those in government, that they also may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. We may participate in government or other institutions of society only in ways that do not violate the love and holiness taught by Christ and do not compromise our loyalty to Christ.

## **First Fruit Giving *Giving God Our Best***

	<b>Stewardship</b>
<b>4/5/2020</b>	\$2,244
<b>4/12/2020</b>	\$4,040
<b>4/19/2020</b>	\$4,028

If you would like to give tithes & offerings during this time of no services, the AMC Administration Commission suggests mailing your envelope/check to the church address: 710 E. Park, Arthur, IL, 61911. Please include your envelope so numbers can be recorded.