



Greater *things*

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2021

“Reading It Wrong Or Not At All”

by Jeff Marner, Minister of Administration & Youth

It comes as no surprise to most of us that sometimes we can read the Bible and not understand its meaning. Maybe we just find it confusing in general, or we can't fully relate to the context of the story which makes the people's interactions strange to us. Even the characters in these accounts retold in the Bible don't fully understand what is going on in the moment. It might be a parable that Jesus tells and then needs to be explained immediately to the listeners who just don't get it.

In one such case we may think of David, who's encounter with Bathsheba has come up a few times recently. Nathan confronts David with a parable of a man and his beloved sheep and how that sheep was taken from his owner to be used frivolously by another wealthier man. The story outraged David who could see the injustice for what it was when he was in a position of distance from the situation. When Nathan shared that David should see himself in the position of the wealthy man, David was rightfully grieved and repentant about his own actions.

How about the rich young ruler who came to Jesus seeking understanding of how to attain eternal life? Jesus listed the commandments that would go under the umbrella of 'love your neighbor as yourself' to which the ruler had confirmed he upheld those commandments. He didn't steal, murder, or covet. In fact, he seems relatively just and so may have been well liked by a wide range

of people. But when it came to the 'loving the Lord with all your heart' commandments, Jesus cut straight to the heart of the matter and showed him he had set up a god in money that held the first place in his heart. I assume this man to be highly esteemed by those around him and he may have bought into the idea that that was enough, but Jesus made him aware of his shortcomings.

Do we do the same? Do we sit in the seat of Nathan when we read about David's affair with Bathsheba? Maybe we stand next to Jesus when contemplating the status of this young man who has placed money ahead of God. Maybe we're always poor and hungry and merciful and then humble when Jesus is preaching his sermon to us.

Do we ever ask how we are like David? Maybe it's not money but something else we've placed ahead of God. Is Jesus intending to say, 'Woah' to us? We are certainly more like David and the rich man than the other characters in these stories and that is usually the case with every account of the Bible. Praise God that the Bible is not just a collection of stories of perfect people showing the works they did to achieve heaven. The Bible is at many times offensive to who we are. If we can read it and never be offended, never be confronted to change our ways, and never remind us of how much we need a Savior, then we are reading the Bible wrong or not reading it at all.

Minister of Discipling & Worship:
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Community Life
Nancy Kuhns

AMC
arthur mennonite church

Minister of Outreach:
Emily Kauffman

Minister of Administration & Youth:
Jeff Marner

BUTTERFLY PORK CHOPS

RIVER FRIES

Thank you to all who helped, supported, and prayed for the 59th Annual Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale!

Almost \$100K (gross) was raised this year!

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Brittnay Yoder	3rd
Karen (Lamar) Miller	3rd
Chad & Maria Yoder	4th
Darrel & Janet Gingerich	12th
Les & Marlene Helmuth	14th
Jillian Marner	14th
Bernadine Yoder	15th
Ray Shunk	15th
Makai Marner	17th
Michael James	19th
Dawson Miller	22nd
Delilah England	22nd
Katrina Taylor	22nd
Dorothy Kauffman	24th
Marie Schrock	26th
Alicia Yoder	29th
Andy & Lynn Marner	29th
John & Alta Yoder	29th
Cliff Yoder	30th

First Fruits - Giving God Our Best

Stewardship

7.25.2021	\$3,667		8.15.2021	\$4,141
8.1.2021	\$3,817		8.22.2021	\$3,270
8.8.2021	\$4,806		8.29.2021	\$3,075

If you would like to give tithes & offerings during this time, please place it in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary or mail your envelope/check to the church at:
710 E Park, Arthur, IL 61911.

Please include your envelope so your number can be recorded.



AMC PERSONAL PROFILE
SKIE JAMES

How old are you? **13**

What is your favorite verse, book, or story in 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? **The first day I went to church**

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

What is your favorite meal? **Pizza with ranch**

If you could have dinner with anyone (dead or alive), which 3 people would you choose? **Clifton, Grandma Cathey, and Grandma Jo**

What hobbies do you enjoy? **Music**