



# Greater Things

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
JULY 2025

## “Built To Belong”

*by Emily Kauffman, Minister of Outreach*

Rolling dunes and the rhythmic crashing of waves, white sand stretching endlessly under the sun’s warm glow, a salty breeze carries the soothing sound of surf and seagulls. Whether it’s the sparkle of morning tide or the glow of a coastal sunset, there’s something magical about the beach. I recently returned from a lovely family beach vacation. The sounds and sunsets will bury themselves in my memory.

While we were there, my son and I stole away on a golf cart and decided to take a tour of the beach town. As we slowly drive around we admire the beautiful beach homes. They often feature weathered wood or pastel-painted exteriors, large windows that reflect the sunlight, and wrap around porches perfect for ocean views. Many are accented with white trim, wooden shutters, and gently swaying hammocks or rocking chairs, all nestled among palms and sea grasses with the sound of waves nearby.

As we turn a corner, we come across some new construction. Alongside these beautiful homes we see a towering, sturdy concrete structure beginning to take shape. Gray walls rise from the ground, rough and unfinished, with steel rebar jutting from the tops like skeletal fingers waiting for the next phase. It’s a raw, powerful scene—foundations of permanence in progress. This house is not beautiful right now, but very soon there will be no visual evidence of concrete or rebar. There will be no visual evidence of steel beams or joists. Someone will come in and complete this home with all of the

beautiful finishing touches. I know that we often think of the church as a body of Christ, (as this is how the bible describes the church- 1 Corinthians 12) but I couldn’t help but think of the church as I was looking at this towering concrete wall. I may admire all of the ornate and beautiful details that make the house so appealing, but I can’t forget the essential parts that come together to create the whole.

I may sometimes feel like someone’s big personality or charming wit overshadows my reserved nature. I may feel inadequate to complete a task because my strengths do not fit into a certain wheelhouse. Sometimes I feel plain and ordinary. Sometimes I wonder if my work is “good enough”. Just like every part of a house has a purpose—whether seen or unseen—God has uniquely designed each person with specific gifts, personalities, and talents for a reason. In building His Kingdom, no role is too small, and no individual is without value. Every person is needed, just as the concrete, rebar, steel beams, pastel siding, and shimmering windows are all needed. Together, we reflect the fullness of God’s plan. When we each offer what we have, the Kingdom of Heaven grows stronger, more beautiful, and complete. Your purpose matters! Your presence matters! Your personality matters! Every person in God’s kingdom is irreplaceable! 1 Corinthians 12:18 “But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it.” Don’t forget that you are perfectly equipped for your purpose.

**AMC**  
arthur mennonite church  
MINISTRY TEAM

**Glen Rhodes**  
Minister of  
Discipling  
(M.T. Leader)

**Sam Miller**  
Minister of Youth  
and Family Life  
(Community Life)

**Emily Kauffman**  
Minister of  
Outreach

**Les Helmuth**  
Minister of  
Administration

**Nadine Miller**  
Minister of  
Worship





*Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale Events are coming up soon!  
There are many opportunities to get involved and/or support the sale.  
We hope to see you and your family join us for these events in August.*

**Relief Sale Ice Cream Social**  
**Tuesday, August 5th | 5:00-8:00pm**  
**at the Arthur Community Building**

**Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale**  
**Friday, Aug. 22 - Saturday, Aug. 23**  
**at the Otto Center in Arthur**

Arthur Community VBS saw over 100 kids and over 60 volunteers each day who came ready to learn about Jesus through fun activities and Bible Stories. Highlights of the week included the large parachute games, learning songs, road trip type snacks, and Friday's program followed by committee members smashing eggs over their heads. On Thursday, the 4th & 5th grade group combined with Junior High to distribute Blessing Bags around town. Junior High traveled to Aikman's Wildlife on Monday, the park on Tuesday and Thursday, and then Bryan Yoder's pond on Friday.

Mission Projects this year: Molly Appleby (local) and Samaritan's Purse (global)  
Mission Project Goal: \$1,000. Total Raised: \$2,800. PRAISE THE LORD!

The VBS Committee is incredibly grateful for the prayers, donations, and support of the church congregations and community. We continue to see God's blessings and abundance through this ministry and we could not see it happen each year without you! God is good! All the time!



**Theme Verse: The Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9**

## **JULY BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES**

4th - Henry & Amanda Chupp	16th - Cheyanne Miller
5th - Denton Marner	21st - Jeff & Michelle Snyder
6th - Everlynn Yoder	24th - Dawson Yoder
7th - Bob & Cari Plank	Jeff Marner
12th - DuWayne & Karen Miller	27th - Kody Burdick
15th - Darrel Gingerich	Seth Gingerich

## **First Fruits Stewardship ~ Giving God Our Best**

May 25 - \$5,109	June 8 - \$2,238
June 1 - \$6,766	June 15 - \$2,641
June 22 - \$7,757	

If you would like to give tithes & offerings, please place them 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.