

# The Lorraine Avenue Messenger

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June 2018



## Worship during June

As always, the summer months will kick off with our annual Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscah (see below). The Sunday morning service takes place outside on the large, covered patio, "in the midst of God and everybody," and will include Communion, and the Chancel Choir's last performance of the season. Later that same day, Tom and Lois will depart for their "World of Paul" tour, and so the remaining three Sundays in June will feature "guest" preachers from our midst. Come, let us worship together.

June 3 (Camp Mennoscah Sunday):  
Sermon by Tom

Psalm 139: 1-18; Deuteronomy 5:12-15;  
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

June 10 (Proper 5): Sermon by Angie Smith  
1 Samuel 8:4-20; Genesis 3:8-15;  
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

June 17 (Proper 6): Sermon by Michelle Armster  
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Ezekiel 17:22-24;  
2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34

June 24 (Proper 7): Sermon by Matt Lehman  
Wiens

1 Samuel 17:1-23; 32-49; Job 38:1-11;  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

## The Unknown, Uncertain, Exciting Future

As of this writing, Lois and I do not yet know what we will do once our term at LAMC ends in August. Some doors have closed. Others remain (or are newly) open. The net result is an unknown, uncertain future. I still feel that I want to keep pastoring. But the process of looking for a new pastoral placement is a slow one (for both candidates and congregations). On good days I feel excited about the yet unknown future, remain

focused primarily on the present, and am able to let go of the worry. On not-so-good days, the uncertainty weighs heavily. What if I don't get a new pastoral assignment? What will we do then? Where will we live? How will we put Anna through college?

Meanwhile, all of you at the Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church also face an unknown, uncertain future. After twenty-two years together, Lois and I will no longer be your pastors, and will need to find a different church home. Some of you might be asking questions such as: What will things be like after Tom and Lois leave? What will worship services be like? What will community life be like? What will the new pastors be like? What if you're not able to find new pastors? What if people start leaving for other churches?

Change of course is inevitable. We know that to be true. But that doesn't make it easy. The fact is, we like living in familiar, comfortable "grooves." We like knowing what to expect each day, each week, each month, each year. Repetition is comforting. And, like the sun rising each day, the regular rolling around of Sunday morning worship, the passing of the seasons, and the perennial cycle of the Christian calendar, repetition is orienting. We wake up each day in the same house and can say, "Yes, this is familiar. I know this. I know where I am. I feel safe." And then, we go about our day.

But the truth is, behind the cyclical repetition and the comfort it provides is a single-line trajectory of mortality. Our lives don't run on and on and on forever. They run their course, and then they end. We're all keenly aware of this right now, with the spate of deaths we've had in recent weeks. Ann Daum. Fiona Okene. Darrel Doerksen. And most recently, Lucille Phillips. Regardless of age, each of them died too soon. We weren't done with them yet. Each of them left a gaping hole that can never completely be filled, and an ache that will never quite go away. This is what we call grief. It's a sense of loss, emptiness, sadness.

But grief is not a single, static, unending feeling. It is a process. In part, a process of learning to let go. And, it's a process that can only unfold gradually.

Which brings us "back to the future." The unknown, uncertain future. While change can be abrupt or gradual, unexpected or expected, the future can only unfold gradually. In the case of Lois and me leaving LAMC after twenty-two mostly wonderful years, the change is neither abrupt nor unexpected. We have the opportunity to say our goodbyes slowly, in stages.

Which doesn't change the fact that Lois and I don't yet know what's next for us. Nor do you know who your next pastor(s) will be. But perhaps this much we all do know. Change like this provides the opportunity for a fresh start, the chance to write a new chapter in the story of our respective lives. And for now at least the possibilities are wide open. C'mon, isn't that exciting? 😊 May God be with us in our uncertainty.

Tom Harder

## LAMC FAMILY WEEKEND AT CAMP MENNOSCAH

Our congregational retreat weekend at Camp Mennoscah will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. We hope you will join us for a time of fun, fellowship, eating, playing, worshipping, singing, and spending time with God's creation!

Our schedule for the weekend will be as follows:

### Saturday:

- 2:00 Check-in opens
- 2:30 – 5:30 Free time (river play, sports equipment, creative group activities, etc.)
- 3:30 – 5:30 Pool open, with lifeguard on duty.
- 6:00 - Supper (provided, with vegetarian option)
- 7:30 Hymn Sing
- 8:30 Campfire 
- 9:30 Popcorn and snacks

### Sunday:

- 7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast (provided)
- 10:00 Worship service
- 12:00 Potluck lunch
- 2.00 Check-out deadline

Lodging will be on a first-come, first-served basis during check-in on Saturday afternoon. No sign-up

in advance needed. We encourage you to consider staying in a cabin – there are brand new, updated bathhouses with individual shower stalls and power outlets! Pick a cabin as a family, a house church, or group of friends and experience Camp as youth campers do every summer. Sign-in sheets will be at the dining hall for all lodging except the Retreat Center. If you are staying at the Retreat Center, please sign in to the RC kitchenette. Please bring your own bed linens and pool/shower towels.

**We are once again asking all weekend attendees to sign up for a cleaning task**, either as a family, individual, or house church, since we are responsible for cleaning all common areas at the end of our retreat. Sign-up sheets will be in front of the church office for the two Sundays prior to our retreat weekend. There will also be sign-up sheets for providing breakfast food items.

**We will be having a cold salad potluck lunch for the Sunday noon meal. Please bring a dish to share that does not need to be heated up, but don't feel limited to just salads.** Sandwiches, desserts, fruit, and other creative non-heated items are welcome, especially those that are "kid-friendly"! Table service will be provided.

A couple of reminders **regarding Camp Mennoscah rules:** no smoking on camp grounds, no alcohol allowed, and no pets allowed. We appreciate your willingness to abide by camp rules! If you have any questions about the rules, please reference the Camp Mennoscah website at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org) or ask Roger Kaufman.

Directions and a map to Camp will be on the table outside the church office for the two Sundays prior to our retreat weekend, and can also be found on the Camp Mennoscah website, [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org).

The expenses for this weekend are paid for by the church, and all are welcome and encouraged to attend! We ask that you consider, in addition to your regular giving, contributing towards the expenses for the weekend. Some suggested amounts, based on lodging chosen are as follows:

- Retreat Center* \$50/adult, \$30/child
- Bunk House* \$35/adult, \$25/child
- Cabin/Tent/Camper* \$30/adult, \$20/child
- Day Only* \$10/adult, \$5/child

A reminder to all that **there will be no services in our church building on Lorraine Avenue on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Please feel free to contact Roger Kaufman with any questions or comments.

- Roger Kaufman,  
2018 Camp Mennoscah  
Family Weekend Coordinator

## Work of the Church

### Board of Deacons May 10, 2018

**Attending:** Nadine Reimer Penner (Deacon Chair); Lois Harder, Tom Harder, Linda Buller, Gerry Lichti, Adella Ozor, Pete Emery, Mike Fetters (ad hoc).

#### ***We Gather in God's Name***

Gerry opened and, in his devotions, remarked upon the challenges of dealing with death as we age. Drew upon the Billy Graham book *Nearing Home* as a resource. The late **Fiona Okene** was fondly remembered. Adella gave a report on her family's arrangements for the coming funeral. The impending death of **Darrel Doerksen** was somberly noted. **Lois and Tom** will be on their footsteps-of-Paul journey from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### ***Sharing Our Present Work***

An extended discussion ensued on what the challenges are, and what the best practices should be, for implementing our Safe Sanctuary efforts.

Nadine distributed copies of an article from the *Mennonite World Review* about a group called GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment).

Preparations are proceeding for the June 3<sup>rd</sup> congregational retreat at Camp Mennoscah. The deacons will serve communion.

Lois addressed the deacons ongoing information-gathering with respect to the house churches.

#### **Looking to the future-**

Pete is the deacon-on-call for May; Gerry for June.

Submitted by Peter Emery

## Board of Christian Education May 12, 2018

**Attending:** Grayce Kaufmann, Alex Muñoz, Tom Harder, and Jill Robinson

### **Children**

Summer Sunday school and fall teacher list. We are making sure we have a plentiful supply of teachers for this summer and the upcoming school year. We might be a bit short to comply with safe sanctuary recommendations and comfort of teachers. Recruiting will happen in June.

### **Youth**

Update on *mentor program* from Alex. We set dates for mentor training and launch of program. July 7 will be the training date. Start at 8 or 9 am and run through 3 pm. Lunch will be served. Alex has a list of potential mentors and he will be recruiting in June. He is having conversations with youth to be mentees.

*Youth activity for May* is a picnic this Friday. It was announced in church and in the bulletin. Suggestion to move 8<sup>th</sup> graders up to HS class in the fall was affirmed.

### **Adult**

*Faith and Issues plans:*

*May 20* – Transition Panel led by Karl Swartz (Ruth Tieszen, Donna Froese, Miles Thompson, Earl Schlabach)

*May 27* – Transition Panel led by Karl Swartz (Erica Schmidt, Linda Buller, Matt Lehman-Wiens)

*June 3* – Camp Mennoscah retreat

*June 10* – guest preacher? Alex facilitating sermon discussion

*June 17* – guest preacher? Sermon discussion

*June 24* – Tom leading sermon discussion

*July 8* – Tom

*July 15* – Tom

*July 22* – Episcopal Social Services

*July 29* –

*Aug 5* – Sermon discussions led by....?

*Aug 12* – Sermon discussions led by.....?

*No Sunday school Aug 19-Sept 2*

### **Other**

*Congregational Information form questions assigned. Teacher appreciation Sunday is last*

Sunday that we teach, May 27. Teachers will receive a gift. Jill will speak.

### **Coming Up**

Church Council meeting, Tues May 15, 7pm (Jill can't be there, Curtis is graduating); BOCE meeting, TBD.

Submitted by Jill Robinson

## **Lorraine Avenue Mission Board Minutes May 3, 2018**

*LAMB Mission Statement: To provide leadership and direction for the service programs initiated by the congregation as Christ would have us do.*

**Attending:** Dan Eigsti, Sue Streit, Cindy Thompson, Lois Harder, Meribeth Buhr

Dan lead the group in prayer.  
Minutes of April were approved.

April Church Council meeting report: Dan shared that **Wheatland Mission Church** wants to share our building. This will continue to be under discussion by the Council.

**Love Project:** Sue Streit organized volunteers from our church. Two projects were assigned to the group but clean-up help was only needed at one.

**LAMP:** We will postpone the ingathering of LAMP supplies and will promote this for May 20 instead.

Greater Wichita Ministerial League Hope Scholarship money has been sent.

**633 House:** The two men currently living there insisted on paying some of their utility bills. Our church pays these but they wanted to help to do their part. On another note...Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church sent \$200 in support for our efforts with immigrants.

**Family Promise:** They continue to look for an executive director.

**MCC Relief Sale:** Thank you notes to our church contact people will be sent.

**New Poor People's Campaign:** Lois went to a training about this movement. We will be in discussion about possible ways to be involved.

**Board member recruitment:** Vicki Blaine is not able to finish her term so we will recruit a new member.

Church Council will meet Tuesday, May 15 at 7 p.m. and Dan and Cindy will be able to attend. Next LAMB meeting will be June 7 at 5 p.m.

Submitted by Meribeth Buhr

## **Board of Trustees May 13, 2018**

**Attending:** Joel Tieszen, Bryce Schmidt, David Mathis, Gene Kaufman. **Absent:** Marcel Kouame and Matt Lehman Wiens.

### **Summary of work day:**

The day went well and we completed many of the items that we planned to do. A couple of items still need attention: loose toilet seats in a couple bathrooms and the exit sign off of Lorraine. Gene will see about a replacement. Comments for improving the next work day were discussed.

### **Cemetery committee:**

Willard spoke to the Trustees about the cemetery committee. Currently, there are 2 members, who have both been on it for a while. Trustees will try to find 2 new members for the committee. The mowing schedule will change from mowing just the area with plots to mowing the whole property to improve the look.

### **Updates on maintenance and other items:**

Ice maker leak and the banner in the front lawn have been fixed. Electronic door locks – Joel met with a company to get a quote for locks on the north and south door. We will plan to turn off the boiler in a couple weeks to complete the transition to cooling for summer. No update on the tool drive – Joel still needs to create a list of tools. Audit committee – Joel will check with Matt and Marcel.

### **New maintenance items:**

External trim on sanctuary windows – Bryce will look at it. Carpet squares in the fellow ship hall – Joel will see if we have any replacements. Stairway tile – Not a priority yet, but Joel will see if there is spare tile. Ants were spotted around the church exterior – we'll keep an eye on it and address if they

move inside. Elevator inspection is coming due – Dave will coordinate. Emergency lighting isn't working – Joel will ask about it. Glass repair – there are multiple panes that need repaired or replaced.

### **New Projects:**

Fellowship hall paint – touch-up or repaint is okay, we will trust those with more artistic expertise. Fellowship hall blinds – may be coming, we can help install. Cameras to remotely monitor the north and south doors – Gene and Dave looking at options.

Submitted by Joel Tieszen

## **Church Council Meeting May 15, 2018**

For **Centering and Invocation**, we sang SJ 87 *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands*.

In attendance were (in no particular order), Tom Harder, Lois Harder, Dan Eigsti, Nadine Reimer Penner, Murray Reimer Penner, Alex Muñoz, Katie Mitchell-Koch, Melanie Mitchell, Linda Buller, Cindy Thompson, Pete Krause, Eugene Kaufman, Joel Tieszen, and Reid Kaufmann.

### **God's Work Among Us**

We heard a verbal update from BOCE because minutes were not available. VBS is in question because other churches dropped out and our planning is way behind. The Mentor/Mentee plan is beginning in June with a rollout in August before school starts. Deacons noted their communication on boundaries and asked for feedback and that anyone speak up if they don't feel safe. Minutes were approved.

The treasurer (Murray) reported that we have a significant cash balance of approximately \$157,800 (only down a bit since last month).

Council decided to transfer the Hearing Loop line item from Deacons to Trustees and also to use the remainder of the Eugene E. Kaufmann restricted fund for this. Upcoming expenses were noted and memorial funds were discussed. The Roland Krause memorial fund will be used to sponsor Mennoscah campers. The Vena Stucky fund will pay for piano maintenance; this fund will be merged into the piano restoration fund and no longer tracked separately. Lois indicated that discussions are taking place with regards to the Anne Daum, Darrel Doerksen, and Fiona Okene funds. Other

restricted, non-memorial funds were reviewed. LAMB needs to review its restricted funds.

### **Furthering the Kingdom**

Mennonite Higher Education committee tentatively plans to do a fundraiser meal for the Jun. 24<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting. Committee and board members added since the last meeting need to be approved. (Marla Kauffman to Deacons. Linda Doll to LAMB to finish final 2 years of Vicki Blaine's term). Reid will determine if there were any other yet-to-be approved appointments and draft an agenda to be reviewed at the next council meeting. Trustees will dispose of the large tube TV in the fellowship hall because it is unneeded and occasionally in the way.

Transitional leadership (following Tom and Lois) has been lined up and Staff Relations is pleased with how it worked out.

Stewardship committee proposed a process for volunteers to adopt and renovate a room in the church. It adds a review of proposed plans by Stewardship committee and Trustees and the possibility of negotiation if there are any concerns. Council will form a task force to generate design guidelines (color pallet, preferred carpet, window coverings...) to be provided to the adopting entity so they can be creative but still "color inside the lines."

The Wheatland congregation has withdrawn its request to rent our building on Saturday evenings. The carpet on the stairs at the entrance has some stains. Trustees will consider professional cleaning and/or replacement. On a related topic, Cindy located five extra carpet squares for the fellowship hall.

**Closing and Sending:** Katie (chair) read SJ 184 before council dispersed.

Submitted by Reid Kaufmann

**PayPal** Contributions to LAMC by electronic payments are now possible through PayPal! Just follow these steps –

- Go to the PayPal website, [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com), and select **Send**

- Enter the pay-to email address of [treasurer@lorraineavenue.org](mailto:treasurer@lorraineavenue.org) and the amount to be paid, and then click **Continue**

- Select the **Friends or family** option· Add a note to explain the purpose of the contribution (such as “General fund”)

- Follow the online instructions to complete the payment. If you instruct PayPal to send the money from your bank account, rather than from a credit card, no fees will be charged to LAMC. Contact our treasurer, Murray Reimer Penner, for more details.



## Birthdays and ANNIVERSARIES

(Please let the office know if any birthdays or anniversaries are not included)

- 2 **BETTY & BRYCE BALTON (6th)**
- 2 **LOIS & TOM HARDER (34th)**
- 3 Ruth Rutschman Holliday
- 3 Amy Swartz Windham
- 4 Dan Eigsti
- 4 Esther Schmidt
- 4 **MURRAY & NADINE REIMER PENNER (41<sup>st</sup>)**
- 5 DeAnn Diller
- 5 Catherine Everingham
- 5 Sherri Stapleton
- 5 **BOB & BARBARA WALTNER (53rd)**
- 7 **TREVA & GERRY LICHTI (54th)**
- 7 Robert Gaeddert
- 8 **CAROLYN SMOKER & JUNIOR SPILKER (18<sup>th</sup>)**
- 8 Carrie Dicke
- 8 Elsie Steelberg
- 9 **BETTY & ROBERT RATZLAFF (56th)**
- 11 **MIRIAM NOFSINGER & JIM JUHNKE (12<sup>th</sup>)**
- 11 **WALLY & DOLLY SEIBEL (53rd)**
- 13 **BJ & JONELL DAVIES (37<sup>th</sup>)**
- 15 **JANET & ROGER KAUFMAN (44th)**
- 16 Mel Epp
- 16 **BETH & JONAS LICHTY (17<sup>th</sup>)**
- 17 Cheryl Schmidt
- 19 Sylvia Epp
- 21 **CATHY & STEVE CHRISTMAN (32nd)**
- 21 **MARCEL & RACHEL REIMER KOUAME**
- 23 **JANICE & MICHAEL PENNER (39<sup>th</sup>)**
- 23 **MICHAEL POAGE & GRETCHEN EICK (27th)**
- 24 Lawrence Mitchell
- 25 Amanda Waltner
- 26 Yolanda Coria
- 26 **MELVIN & SYLVIA EPP (54th)**
- 26 **MYRA & KARL SWARTZ (41st)**
- 27 Archer Muñoz (7)
- 30 Steve Waltner

JUNE 2018

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 12:00 Yoga	2 <b>CAMP MENNOSCAH!</b>
3  Worship at <i>Camp Mennoscah</i>	4 4:45 Centering Prayer  5:30 Yoga 6:30 Ngbhd Assn. 6:45 Wellness Group	5	6 4:45 Yoga	7 12:00 Lifestyle Strategies- Gath Rm <b>5:00 LAMB</b> 5:30 Lifestyle Strategies – FH 6:00 NAMI – B3,4,5	8 12:00 Yoga	9  <b>11:00 BOCE</b>
10  9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School  10:45 Trustees	11 4:45 Centering Prayer  5:30 Yoga 6:45 Wellness Group	12  <b>7:00 Deacons</b>	13 4:45 Yoga  6:30 Music Cmte	14 12:00 Lifestyle Strategies- Gath Rm  5:30 Lifestyle Strategies - FH	15  12:00 Yoga  4:00 Peace Cmte	16
17  9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	18 <i>Messenger</i> articles due  4:45 Centering Prayer 5:30 Yoga 6:45 Wellness Group	19  1:00 Library Cmte  <b>7:00 Council</b>	20  4:45 Yoga	21  12:00 Lifestyle Strategies- Gath Rm 5:30 Lifestyle Strategies – FH 7:00 <i>k4p</i>	22  12:00 Yoga	23 8:00 Men's Breakfast
24  9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	25 4:45 Centering Prayer  5:30 Yoga 6:45 Wellness Group	26	27  4:45 Yoga	28 12:00 Lifestyle Strategies- Gath Rm  5:30 Lifestyle Strategies – FH	29  12:00 Yoga	30



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## **Mission Statement of Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church**

*We are called to be followers of Christ  
seeking God's will through the Holy Spirit  
sharing the good news of love, peace, healing, and hope  
through worship, fellowship, and service  
in our community, our city, and beyond.*

Scripture passages foundational to this statement include: Micah 6:8; Matthew 5-7; Mark 12:29-31; John 3:16; John 13:34-35; John 20:31; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 1 Peter 4:7-11; and 1 John 4:16

We welcome all persons without regard to their race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, social status, education, ability, or any other factor subject to discrimination and exclusion in our world. *"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).*