

# The Lorraine Avenue Messenger

Published by Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church  
Wichita, Kansas

February 2016



## Worship during February

Sunday, February 7

Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138;  
I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Preacher: Lois Harder

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will follow  
Sunday school and lunch.

Wednesday, February 10 – Ash Wednesday

Fat Tuesday pancake supper 5:45-6:15 –  
Fellowship Hall

Ash Wednesday service 6:30-7:00 – Sanctuary

Sunday, February 14 – Lent 1

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;

Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Preacher: Matt Lehman Wiens

We will take **Communion** together  
on this First Sunday of Lent

Sunday, February 21 – Lent 2

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;

Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Preacher: Lois Harder

Sunday, February 28 – Lent 3

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;

I Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Preacher: Tom Harder

Israel's years of wandering before they entered the Promised Land, in Elijah's journey to Mt. Horeb, and in Noah's days and nights of rain on the ark. Every year Christ's followers are encouraged to embark on their own 40-day journey into this darker season as a way of preparing to receive and share more fully in the contrasting resurrection light of Easter Sunday.

In the three-year lectionary cycle, Year C has a particular focus on those who have wandered from Christ and the church. Like the people of Israel in their season of wandering, we, too, wander from Jesus in a variety of ways. God can use this season of wandering as a time of preparation and pruning. Pruning makes room for the light to reach the parts of the tree that will bear much fruit. Similarly, in this season of wandering and preparation, we are invited to make room for God's Spirit by wrestling, struggling, and letting God do the pruning so that the Light reaches into our lives and we bear fruit.

What (we) discovered in the texts for this season was a story of an Author inviting the people of God into the grand narrative – a tale that encompasses all our struggles, pain, joys, and victories. This Author calls us to co-authorship, using our very lives to shape Jesus' ongoing kingdom story. In the ups and downs found in the pages and chapters of our stories, Christ journeys with us. As we come to the end of our own resources, Christ invites us to give up our pens, relinquish full control, and acknowledge God's co-authorship. As we do this, we catch glimpses of light in the dark that help us carry on. We find ourselves leaping off the page with Christ as we discover new things. Even when we encounter unexpected twists and turns and the plot thickens, the old and ever new salvation story embraces us. We hear God's "Fear not!" and find our places in this grand narrative as individuals and as communities. We receive God's Word with joy as we drink from the spring of reconciliation in the desert landscapes of our lives. This, we find, is the end of the beginning – another new chapter as we live into the resurrection." Come, let us worship God together!

**"Living Ink" is the theme of this year's denominational Lenten curriculum.** The writing team is from Mennonite Church British Columbia congregations in the Fraser Valley. In the introduction they write, "Lent is that 40-day season when the church commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent in solitude, in silence, and fasting in the wilderness. This time apart was Jesus' season of preparation before beginning his ministry. The Biblical story is full of seasons of "40" – of wandering, preparing, and facing the darkness. We find them in the biblical stories of Moses and in

- Lois Harder



## Wellness Committee

***As children of God, we seek to nurture and encourage wholeness within our church family.***

*Committee members: Ruth Holliday, Janet Kaufman, Marie Krehbiel, Kathy Long, Dolly Seibel, and Myra Swartz.*

### Why Walk?

Walking is an excellent way to be active and regular physical activity is important to our health. Adults who engage in regular activity, like walking are at lower risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, breast and colon cancer, and depression compared



with inactive adults. Adults who are physically active may obtain other benefits and positive outcomes such as maintaining or losing weight, improvement in sleep routines, and older adults are able to maintain their

independence, and it helps reduce their risk of falls and delay the onset of dementia.

National guidelines recommend that adults even older ones Obtain at least 150 minutes a week of moderate physical activity or 75 minutes a week of vigorous physical activity. A brisk walk is a good way to accumulate weekly minutes toward meeting physical activity guidelines.

Walking can be done by most Americans. It does not take any special equipment or attire other than good walking shoes.

Inactive or unfit people can start a walking program safely. Walking offers flexibility and you can set your own pace to fit your fitness levels. You can vary how many days a week and how far you walk to fit your comfort level. As you improve your fitness level, you can increase frequency, intensity, or duration of walking. Walking programs should be tailored to include persons with varying levels of mobility.

During cold times of the year mall walking is a safe comfortable physical activity. Malls provide shelter from the environment, traffic congestion, and can be used most days of the year regardless of weather or season of the year.

Submitted by Marie Krehbiel

### *from the Safe Sanctuary Committee*

“It is our desire that Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church be a safe and nurturing place in which all may worship, learn, and serve. We recognize that abuse, whether physical, emotional, or sexual can happen even in a church.” These are the opening lines to our Safe Sanctuary policy. When was the last time you read our policy or thought about it? A copy is in the church library and on our church website. Please take time to read it to remind yourself what it says.

Submitted by Myra Swartz

## LORRAINE AVENUE MENNONITE PANTRY REBORN

The Lorraine Avenue Mission Board is excited to announce the newly reconfigured “LAMP 2.0.” After more than 15 years of providing household, personal and infant care items to young mothers through Youth Development Services, YDS has moved to focus on other community needs.

Several current and former LAMC members currently serve with International Rescue Committee here in Wichita. This is a federally-funded program which resettles and provides services for legal immigrant families entering the country. IRC provides help in seeking employment, training in US laws, English language classes as well as other supportive services. Generally, immigrants are able to find employment within 30 days of arrival.

As part of its relocation services, IRC must set up a household for each new immigrant or family. They have an extensive list of items required for each new household and among those are some of the same items we have previously provided through LAMP. Items provided by LAMP allow immigrant families to use their limited resources for other needs. We are enthusiastic about this opportunity to be part of a welcoming and supportive presence to these refugee families who have endured dangers and

severe hardships and seek a safe place to begin a new life.

IRC expects to relocate about 300 individuals in 120 to 150 family units this year in Wichita. We hope to provide a household kit for each of these units. We have created a revised list of items for LAMP household kits. Of these, several of the items will be purchased from the LAMP fund (i.e. waste baskets, brooms, dustpans and light bulbs).



LAMB anticipates the cost per kit to be \$40-50. By standardizing on certain sizes, we will be able to provide a significant amount of help to these new neighbors in their first few weeks here. We encourage financial donations to LAMP for that purpose as well as donations of the following items and sizes:

- Laundry detergent (40-60 load size)
- Dish detergent (20-28 oz.)
- Paper towels (large roll)
- Toilet paper (4 rolls totaling 1200 2-ply sheets)
- Kitchen/bathroom spray cleaner (32 oz.)
- Scrubber sponges (3-4/pk)
- Bath soap bars
- Toothpaste (large tube)
- Trash bags (13 gal. Tall kitchen bags—25 count)



On February 7, we will launch the new LAMP program with a display of needed items and begin collecting donations of funds and items. Please join in generously responding to the Biblical call to care for the stranger and sojourner in our midst.

Submitted by Connie White



Students: if your family uses Everence faith-based financial services, you are eligible to apply for scholarships of \$750-\$2,000 for the 2016-2017 school year. Submit your application by Feb. 29, 2016. Go to <http://www.everence.com/college-scholarships/#gs.cw0TEzc>, or search for Everence and scholarship in Google.com, or contact me for a copy of the application.

Allan Tanner, [atanner68@yahoo.com](mailto:atanner68@yahoo.com),  
your Everence Advocate

## BITS & PEACES

### *Beyond Tolerance, Here We Come!*

Remember “Beyond Tolerance”? It is a local effort to inspire African American and Anglo congregations to move beyond mere tolerance of one another into genuine relationships of caring, sharing and learning. In this spirit, Lorraine Avenue Mennonite is being invited to enter a relationship with Greater Faith Christian Church (located at 21<sup>st</sup> and Woodlawn).

Recently Cynthia Wolford, pastor of GFCC, Lois and Beverly met to talk about ways our congregations can grow together and learn from one another. Two weekend events are in the works, one planned for April and one for May. Our hope is to use these times—a Saturday social time at Lorraine Avenue followed by Sunday worship (beginning at 10:00 a.m.) at Greater Faith in April, and a Saturday social time at GFCC followed by Sunday morning worship at LAMC in May—to get to know one another, share from our interests, and worship God together.

Exciting possibilities lie on the horizon, including delicious food, laughter, singing, prayer, inter-church children’s activities, and pulpit exchanges. The times and dates for these events will be announced as they are confirmed between churches. Because space is limited at GFCC, the opportunity to attend Sunday morning worship at GFCC in April will be available to the first fifty who sign up through the church office or via the Facebook event that will be created. *Everyone is invited, welcomed and heartily encouraged to attend the April social event at LAMC!*

Please keep the Beyond Tolerance movement and the budding relationship between GFCC and LAMC in your prayers and stay tuned via the *Messenger*, e-news and the bulletin for confirmation of upcoming events.

Submitted by Beverly Baumgartner

## HOPE

– the theme for the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS), April 8 & 9 2016...

*Help brighten our world by  
Offering our blessing that  
People both far and wide might have  
Expectations of joy and peace*

KMRS' purpose is to raise funds for MCC ([www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org)). it takes a whole host of individuals playing their part in order that we might carry out the Lord's bidding to care for the "least of these" found in Matthew 25. We call upon our supporting churches to donate toward the sale budget so that every dollar raised at the sale can go to MCC. **Quilters** – complete your quilts and gather extra supplies to donate to Quilters' Corner. Donate items to the General, Silent and even Kids' Auction. Now's a great time to divide house plants and start vegetable plats to sell at Plants & Things. Finish up those tea towel sets for Kansas Crafts. Sign up for Fellowship Meals. **Runners (and non-runners)** – challenge yourself to participate in the Run for Relief, a 5k run/walk on Saturday, April 9 – you have a couple of months to gather your pledges. In May, after the sale, **motorcyclists** – there's the MCC Ride for Relief, and in June, there will be "Songs on the Lawn" – an evening of music. **And, of course, there's ATTENDING the sale – and eating and bidding and buying!**

## COMMON SENSE ISN'T PARTISAN

I went to Topeka yesterday - to the beautiful building where folks gather to enact laws that affect us. I was with the Wichita Coalition Against Gun Violence, passing out information and talking with people about sensible gun laws and checks. It was an interesting and positive day – spending 4 hours getting to know a friend better (a friend who, with her partner, has excruciatingly and intimately experienced the loss of their 19-year-old son by gun violence); visiting with a woman who sits on the first floor of the capitol, a map of Topeka spread on her lap, waiting to welcome people and shine their shoes; talking with visitors and legislators; singing under the dome (almost).

One legislator who dropped by (twice) – a Republican from Mission Hills and a woman – urged us to tell Kansans that it is so important to contact their legislators on the issue of "open carry [guns]"

on college campuses. This law, allowing open carry, will start in 2017 but there are some who hope to repeal it. Three-fourths of Kansans responding to a poll (last year) oppose legislation signed by Gov. Sam Brownback that allows people to carry concealed weapons without a permit or training. The results are part of the annual Kansas Speaks survey conducted by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University.

Barbara Bollier, the representative from Mission Hills, a retired physician, has worked to recast the gun violence debate as a public health issue. This session she intends to focus on removing the new requirement on state colleges and universities. Some student groups and faculty groups have voiced their opposition to this law – but WE need to speak up too! Rep. Jim Ward, D-Wichita, said this law should be repealed before it has a chance to begin. And, Rep. John Wilson, Democrat, adds "It is certainly a tough road, but we shouldn't back down from issues that are tough, and I'll certainly do my part. **But it's a lot easier to do the work when we have a whole choir of Kansans.**"

There are many issues facing us in Kansas – so many it's easy to despair. It's time for me to act. Here's part of a song, written by Phil Ochs in 1963, to inspire (my granddaughter, Basil, thinks it's an anthem. Indeed!)

*Here's a land full of power and glory  
Beauty that words cannot recall  
O her power shall rest in the strength of her  
freedom  
Her glory shall rest on us all*

*Yet she's only as rich as the poorest of the poor  
Only as free as a padlocked prison door  
Only as strong as our love for this land  
Only as tall as we stand.*

Submitted by Barbara Gingrich

## Work of the Church

### Board of Deacons Minutes January 12, 2016

**Attendees:** Lois, Mike, Tom, Susan, Cheryl, Myra, Sylvia, Linda, Miles

**Devotions:** Susan (Bogota religious writings)

## **Our Present Work**

*Fat Tuesday/Ash Wednesday pancake supper*

Fat Tuesday is Feb. ninth (the night that the deacons meet). As an alternate celebration, the deacons will make pancakes for the Wednesday evening meal Feb. tenth.

*Report on possible deacon replacement*  
(discussion)

*Communion on Feb. 14, first Sunday of Lent*

Cheryl and Sylvia

*Deacon Budget*, concern for funds for conference delegates: Will it be the same amount as last year?

Myra will check with Murray

*Church family concerns*

## **Looking to the Future**

*Sylvia is on call in January*; Susan in February.

*Next Deacons' Meeting February 9<sup>th</sup>*: Devotions:

Cheryl; Host: Mike

*Church Council meeting attendees January 19*:

Myra and Mike

Submitted by Miles Thompson

## **Lorraine Avenue Mission Board Minutes - January 8, 2016**

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

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

*Present*: Janice Penner, Ellsworth Kaufman, Pete Krause, C.B. Balbierz, Jane Tanner, Connie White, and Lois Harder

*Focus Question* - Did you make any New Year's Resolutions?

*Approval of December e-Minutes*

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

Church Council report

*Church Plant Report* – Janice

Amber will check with members of the committee if they wish to continue

*Lord's Diner, Harbor House, Inter-Faith Update* – CB and Jane

Contribution from Christmas Eve to Inter-Faith \$1,258.

Lord's Diner— LAMC volunteers continue to serve—very busy during winter

Inter-Faith Ministries – LAMC will provide supper Feb. 7 for Warming Souls (homeless men's shelter)—Jane and CB coordinating

Operation Holiday –Linda Doll reported 17 people from Lorraine helped with distribution—very successful

Menno Housing – Ellsworth shared an article on housing in Wichita which referenced Menno Housing and its projects of building affordable housing

LAMP Report – Connie

International Rescue Committee (IRC) anticipates resettling 120-150 families/households in Wichita in 2016—they could use 10-12 boxes per month from LAMP for this purpose.

The items needed from LAMP by (IRC) for setting up households for new refugee families involves some changes in the list of items for each box. Estimated cost per box is \$40-50.

We will prepare a new list for the congregation with appropriate size recommendations.

Feb. 7 congregational meeting day as the new kick-off day for LAMP. Connie will place an article in the Messenger with the new list. We will create a display of needed items.

### **New Business:**

*Budget Review* -- no changes in our current designations are recommended

*Re-enrollment for Dillons contribution program*—reminders to go into bulletin and e-news

*Missional Priorities Committee* - Look at current and new programs, rank and establish priorities. LAMC is actively involved in and strongly committed to a number of programs in which we believe LAMC should continue. Most of these are run by other organizations to which LAMC and its members contribute significant time and financial support. In addition, we looked at two major issues as possible new areas of missional focus:

Immigrant/refugee issues—possible use of newly acquired house for short-term immigrant housing for those awaiting permanent housing arrangements. This would be related to our association with IRC and providing LAMP items to new immigrant families.

Homelessness in Wichita—Lois described the Family Promise organization which provides assistance to newly homeless families and has a high success rate in helping them to find permanent housing, jobs and transportation. The program is

designed to work with local churches to provide temporary housing during this transition period. *Family Promise* plans to initiate a program in Wichita in the next 12 to 18 months. LAMB is interested in investigating both of these issues and programs further as mission possibilities for LAMC which would address critical needs, could effectively use our facilities and be a response to the Biblical call to care for the stranger and the “least of those” in our community.

#### **New year activities:**

Board members will contact the members of their respective committees to verify if they wish to continue to serve. A list of suggested persons for new LAMB members was prepared and given to Lois.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

*January date for clothing sort*—16<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> of January pending arrangement with Linda Doll  
*Church Council meeting* Tuesday, Jan. 19 – Pete and CB to attend (and others as available)  
*Next LAMB Meeting* Feb. 6 Saturday 9:00 a.m. -- Prep for 2 Feb. 7 meals after the board meeting  
*Annual meeting - February 7<sup>th</sup>* LAMB will provide the congregational meal

Submitted by Connie White

### **Board of Trustees Minutes January 10, 2016**

**Attendees:** Al Beck, Nathan Ebersole, Roger Kaufman, Wes Miller

**Architectural Drawings** --- Krehbiel and Regier Architects are closing their business, and called to ask if we wanted their copy of the architectural drawings they did for our church some years ago. Roger drove down to their offices and picked up the drawings. We will file them with the Trustees documents, or in the vault in the Gathering Room.

**633 house update** --- We reviewed last week’s walk-thru inspection of the 633 house. Everything was clean and in order. The main thing found was no smoke detector. That can be easily fixed. It appears the large driveway light is on 24/7, using a lot of electricity. Those who are light-knowledgeable say there is a sunlight sensor on top

of the light that is apparently not working. We will check this out and try to repair it.

*633 house utilities* --- We have contacted the gas service, water service, and electric service and arranged for the billing to be changed over to the church.

*633 house insurance* --- Roger has contacted our church insurance carrier and arranged to have the 633 house added to our church policy.

**MennoKate Parsonage plumbing** --- We arranged for the installation of a new hot water heater and kitchen sink faucets. Pastor Lois reports they are working well, and now residents can take three showers in a row and still have hot water left! Luxury!

**MennoKate Parsonage patio roof** --- Some part of the corrugated plastic roof over the back patio is reportedly coming loose and making buzzing noise on windy days. We have seen this in years past. Those who are roof-knowledgeable say there are special screws with big rubber washers that are the bees knees for fastening this stuff down. We will get some of these screws and climb up on the patio roof to make the repair, sometime soon when the outdoor temperature is not 6 degrees.

**Snow removal service** --- One of our congregational members read about our need for a snow removal service in last month’s minutes (in the Messenger) and recommended her former lawn service man, who also does snow removal. Thanks for the referral! We gave him a call, negotiated over the phone, he came by the church to look over our parking lot, and we have hired him! His name is Russ Bauchmayer, and he owns Par 4 Landscaping. He has been doing snow removal for a couple of other churches, so he knows the job. We are glad to have somebody lined up, in case it ever snows again.

**Christmas Wreath** --- We adjourned the meeting and went out to the north entrance to take down the big Christmas wreath that we put up after last month’s meeting.

**Next meeting** - Our next Trustees monthly meeting will be February 14, 2016.

Submitted by Roger Kaufman

**Board of Christian Education Minutes  
January 9, 2016**

**Attending:** Beth Lichty, Cathy Everingham, Cindy Thompson, Bev Baumgartner

**Adult**

Faith & Issues class is changing gears. Jan. 10 will be a sermon discussion class. Jan. 17 will be three reports from church committees. Andrea Unzicker will begin leading a "Stewards of Grace" series on Jan. 24. The series will conclude March 27, and will include speakers on the themes of time and talent,

**Other**

Beth and Cathy will be VBS representatives for Lorraine Avenue. 2016 VBS will be held at Hope Mennonite Church. New church council meeting volunteer schedule is set.

**Children/youth**

December 12 Advent retreat was awesome. There was a great turn out and participation. December 22 youth lock-in was a success. The kids had a great time. Beth Lichty and Myra Coulter from Church of the Brethren accompanied the youth, with the assistance of Alan Stucky, Myra Swartz and Hillary Harder, who helped decorate and clean up. Beth will order spring curriculum for the children.

Next BOCE meeting is Saturday, February 13, 11:00 a.m. Next Church council is Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7 pm.

Submitted by Bev Baumgartner

**Church Council Minutes  
January 19, 2016**

Present: CB Balbierz, Nathan Ebersole, Cathy Everingham, Mike Fetters, Linda Gebert, Lois Harder, Ellsworth Kauffman, Roger Kaufman, Pete Krause, Melanie Mitchell, Murray Reimer-Penner, Karl Swartz, Myra Swartz, Susan Unruh, Terry Unruh

Centering and Invocation. Karl offered a prayer.

Staff Relations Committee – Terry presented some options of staffing during Tom's illness, and his sick-leave status. Council concurred with the plan, and affirmed Lois's dedication to working full time in the interim.

God's Work Among Us  
The Minutes of December 15, 2015 were approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

52 weeks through 12/31/2015

	Cash	
General fund	\$ 80,679	
Restricted	40,779 (incl. \$21,500 for 2016 General fund)	
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Total	\$ 121,458	

	52 wks	Budget	Variance
Contributions	\$363,679	\$315,000	\$48,679
Expenses	<332,847>	<315,000>	<17,847>
	-----	-----	-----
Profit	\$30,832	\$0	\$30,832

**Furthering the Kingdom**

Final budget proposal: Murray presented the final budget proposal for the Church Council's consideration. He pointed out that the property at 633 S. Lorraine, which the church now owns, has necessitated an increase in utilities and insurance for the church. A few other items have been reduced from last year, and a few increased. The council approved presenting the budget at the Annual Meeting on February 7, 2016.

Status on Board Vacancies: Lois reported that the names have been selected from the lists sent in by Boards, and they are in the process of soliciting new members.

Nominees for Council appointed positions: Linda Gebert agreed to be church clerk for the coming year.

Congregational Meeting: A tour of the 633 house will be offered following the meeting.

633 S. Lorraine. The closing took place January 7, 2016.

Website status report. Nadine emailed Council chair that the final changes are being made, and training is expected to begin in early February.

Other business: Roger, Trustee Chair, contacted the contact person for FLICT, the home schooling group, to determine the status of their insurance for

the coming year. They indicated it is too much of a financial burden for them to carry liability insurance. Representatives from LAMB advised the council that other uses of TLC were under consideration. After discussion, the council decided to terminate the arrangement with FLICT, and asked Roger to give FLICT the notice of termination provided for under the letter of understanding.

Closing and Sending: We closed by reading our Mission Statement together.

Submitted by Linda Gebert, Church Clerk

## **Congregational Meeting November 22, 2015**

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

Nadine Reimer Penner, Congregational Chair, opened the meeting with the group singing *Let Justice Roll Like Streams*.

### *Celebrating Our Past*

Acceptance of Minutes from August Congregational Meeting.

### *Sharing Our Present Work and Looking to the Future*

Treasurer's Report – Murray said at 46 weeks Contributions are approximately 306,000, and expenses are approximately 302,000. Cash on hand is 73,000, 54,000 of which is in the General Fund for our use.

The Treasurer presented the opportunity that has arisen for the church to buy the property directly adjacent to the north, **633 S. Lorraine**. It was talked about at length at the recent November Church Council meeting, and the idea that emerged from that meeting was that an individual church member, or a group of members would purchase the house, with the idea that the church would buy it from them within a specified amount of time. Murray said that he had considered this, and wanted to propose what he thought was another, possibly better option, and for the congregation to consider the pros and cons of each option, plus the option of not buying the property. The second option was the church buying the property with the money being loaned by a member at the typical "unsecured" interest rate of 9%, to be repaid quickly. All in all, he felt that there was favorable opinion from many that we should acquire the property. Following is a reflection of the types of comments and questions that occurred in discussion:

Do we pay property tax? Answer: No, only

certain things such as sidewalk fees. Several said it should be used for missional purpose.

Why not use Everence? The church doesn't have enough credit ability to justify.

Should we allow the seller to put it on the market, to establish a fair market price? Then ask for a right of first refusal? Answer: She has already given us the option of buying it before putting it on the market.

Linda Doll was asked to explain the condition and description of the house. The condition is excellent with many improvements, including recent roof and H/AC. It needs appliances, as the owner sold those.

Some said we should give the full asking price, others said minus what would be a typical real estate commission, since she wouldn't have to deal with a realtor. (\$4 – 5,000 less than asking price of \$79,000).

Some asked if there was incentive to use the property for more parking, and some were opposed to tearing down a perfectly good structure for parking. There could be a few extra parking spaces created without demolishing house. However, if the church expands, it would obviously be to the North, where we would lose parking spaces.

A comment was made that if we purchase it, decide we don't have a need for it, we could sell it again.

A Comment was made that if a member purchased it, we would have time within the Long Range Planning to consider its use.

If a church member buys it and rents it for a time, the asking price might be more if they have added maintenance expense. Someone suggested the church could buy it and use it for a money generating rental for a time.

Lois Harder offered encouragement for us to think prophetically about the possibilities for using the new property. One use for the house would be to further our involvement with the International Rescue Committee (or the Episcopal agency) to provide housing for refugees. LAMC could make a loud and clear statement about our biblical understanding of the mandates to "welcome the stranger" and "care for the least of these", particularly in the current climate of fear and mistrust of Muslim people. Many (not all, of course) of the refugees arriving through the IRC are Muslim; let's give them a safe place to live and build relationships.

Early in the discussion a straw poll was taken that determined we were divided between a member or the church buying it. Later, after more discussion, the consensus was to have the church buy the property.

Tom stated that a Missional Priority Committee is being formed, and they will study the use of the property.

*Stewardship Campaign Update:* Guy Wenzel, Chair. Guy explained the process of the committee, but they do not have any financial projection yet. They extended 127 letters, with 32 being mailed. So far they have received 71 estimates, which is close to a 50% return.

*Western District Conference Delegate reports:* Tom introduced the delegates. Judy Ebersole described the Friday and Saturday evening worship services; Dwayne Schrag described the breakout session on Mass Incarceration and Racism; Karl described the breakout session on Doctrine of Discovery; Tom Harder and Myra Swartz discussed the Conversation with Denominational Leaders; Linda Gebert read the Rainbow Resolution, and gave the results on the voting; Karl gave an overview of the discussion at his round table. No questions.

*Officiating at Same Gender Ceremony:* Lois said she really doesn't know anything yet, as the Ministerial Commission will meet with her on December 11. But because WDC voted as it did on the Rainbow Resolution, Tom Harder believes she will not be considered "at variance" within WDC.

*Supportive Communities Network:* CB Balbierz read a proposal from Peace Committee, a committee under LAMB, that LAMC join the Supportive Communities Network and that the Peace Committee be responsible for the \$100 yearly fee in their budget. She further explained there are now 80 churches in Canada and the US in SCN, with 4 in Kansas. Someone asked what this did for a church to be a part of SCN, and the answer was that it proclaims publicly that we are indeed a place of welcome for all, including LGBT people. It was agreed that we should join.

*Closing* – Nadine thanked LAMB for the delicious lunch, the child care providers and everyone for attending and closed with prayer.

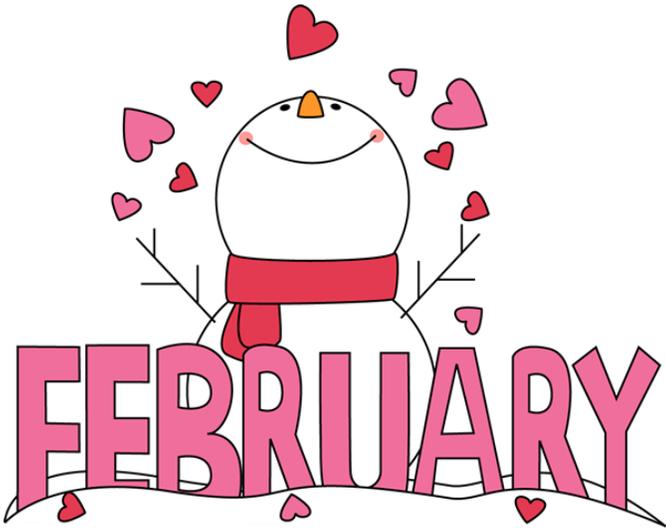
Submitted by Linda Gebert, Church Clerk



### 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)

- 1 Tim Hallacy
- 3 Nathan Ebersole
- 3 Lucille Phillips
- 4 Lauren Adair Lichty (2)
- 5 Murray Reimer Penner
- 9 Ron Glanzer
- 10 Anne Daum
- 11 Susan Unruh
- 12 Nathan Buhr
- 12 Kalyn Lichty (7)
- 13 **TYLER & AMBER SCHROEDER (6<sup>th</sup>)**
- 14 Hassan Gutierrez Everingham (9)
- 14 **MILES & CINDY THOMPSON (34<sup>th</sup>)**
- 16 Laura Aronis
- 19 Steve Christman
- 19 Susie Wenzel (8)
- 20 Ruth Klaassen
- 21 Glenn Janzen
- 21 Rylee Jo Schmidt Stapleton (7)
- 22 Kermit Daum
- 22 Amelia Yvonne Reimer Kouame (2)
- 23 Cheryl Kaufman
- 23 Chuck Moyer
- 24 **GUY & ALISON WENZEL (15<sup>TH</sup>)**
- 25 Marjorie Krause
- 25 Aspen Schmidt
- 25 Sondra Wilcox

**FEBRUARY  
2016**

**Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>  4:15 CenteringPrayer 5:30 Yoga 6:45 Wellness Group 6:30 OZ Bike group 6:30 Sunnyside Assn	<b>2</b>  7:00 Wellness Cmte	<b>3</b>  4:45 Yoga  5:30 ShiningLights 5:45 Supper 6:30-7:15 Bible Study; kids' act's 7:15 ChancelChoir	<b>4</b>  1:00 Serendipity	<b>5</b>  12:00 Yoga  <b>5:00 LAMB</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  <b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>8</b>  4:15 CenteringPrayer 5:30 Yoga 6:45 Wellness Group	<b>9</b>  <b>7:00 Deacons</b>	<b>10 Ash Wedn'day</b>  4:45 Yoga 5:30 ShiningLights 5:45 Supper 6:30-7:15 Bible Study; kids' act's 7:15 ChancelChoir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  12:00 Yoga	<b>13</b>  <b>11:00 BOCE</b>
<b>14</b>  <b>10:45 Trustees</b>	<b>15</b>  1:30 Library Cmte  4:15 CenteringPrayer 5:30 Yoga 6:45 Wellness Group	<b>16</b>  <b>7:00 Council</b>	<b>17</b>  4:45 Yoga  5:30 ShiningLights 5:45 Supper 6:30-7:15 Bible Study; kids' act's 7:15 ChancelChoir	<b>18</b>  1:00 Serendipity  7:00 <i>knitting4peace</i>	<b>19</b>  12:00 Yoga	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>   4:15 CenteringPrayer 5:30 Yoga 6:45 Wellness Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  4:45 Yoga  5:30 ShiningLights 5:45 Supper 6:30-7:15 Bible Study; kids' act's 7:15 ChancelChoir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  12:00 Yoga	<b>27</b>  8:00 Men's Breakfast
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  4:15 CenteringPrayer 5:30 Yoga 6:45 Wellness Group					

