

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

March 21, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, March 17

We began a new section of Luke that examined Jesus' Jubilee principles more carefully, starting with the teaching to "Love your neighbor as yourself" in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37

This Sunday, March 24

This Sunday, Frank will guide us through Luke 12:13-34. In showing compassion to others, Jesus still wants us each to have enough for our daily sustenance; and yet, when we become preoccupied with our tomorrows, we exemplify scarcity rather than God's abundance.

Key verse: Do not *set your heart* on what you will eat or drink...God knows you need them...but instead, seek God's kingdom, and the rest will come your way. (Luke 12:29-31)

Next Sunday, March 31

Next Sunday, Sabrina will preach from Luke 14:1-24.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

Sun, March 24 – Guess Who's Coming for Dinner

Mon, March 25 – No Roving Office Hours

Wed, March 27 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Mon, Apr 1 – "Roving Office" 10:30am to 3:30pm, Panera, 789 US 31N, Greenwood

Thu, April 4 – Meal 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

Sun, April 7 – Brian's Ordination Service, 2 pm

Mon, April 8 – "Roving Office" 10:30am to 3:30 pm – Della Leva Esp Bar, 8220 E 106th

Wed, April 10 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Sun, April 21 – Easter Breakfast 8am

Meals for Hochstetlers: To help with the twins' arrival, we would like to provide 4 wks of meals to the Hochstetler family. This is longer than we usually help with (2x the new babies, 2x the meals!), so please consider providing a fresh or frozen meal for their family. They have requested for meals to start 2 wks after the babies arrive, as they will have help at home until then. Sign up at <https://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/PKEQ7313> OR at www.takethemameal.com using last name "Hochstetler" and password "Shalom".
Kristen Metzler-Wilson

Membership at Shalom

Brad Yoder has requested that his membership be transferred from Manchester Church of the Brethren to Shalom Mennonite Church. The Pastoral Team has affirmed that Brad is a disciple of Jesus Christ and active member of our church and welcomes this membership transfer. If you have any affirmations or reservations about Brad becoming a formal member of our congregation, please email a member of the pastoral team.

Brian's vacation

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from Monday, March 25 to Sunday, March 31. Please direct any pastoral care concerns to Pastors Frank and Sabrina during that time.

VAT – VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Job Announcement: Administrative Assistant. Prairie Street Mennonite Church is searching for a part time (20 – 24 hours per week) Administrative Assistant. The Administrative Assistant has a vital communication and coordination role in the congregation. This person is often the first point of contact with the congregation through phone, email or in person visits to the church office.

Principle tasks include creating the weekly bulletin; paying bills/expenses through Quickbooks; creating and sending out the weekly email of announcements, activities and updates; answering phone & email messages; maintaining official congregational records.

Interested persons should contact congregational board chair David Miller (dbmiller@ambs.edu) or by phone: (574) 296-6246 (daytime), (574) 226-0189 (evenings). Applications will be received until Friday, March 22, 2019. To apply email your resume to dbmiller@ambs.edu. Include names and contact information of two references, work history, education, and a statement of proficiency with Microsoft Office and QuickBooks™ software. Persons with bi-lingual (English & Spanish) ability are particularly encouraged to apply. Anna Board, Administrative Coordinator Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference PO Box 702, Goshen, IN 46527 Phone: (574)534-4006 Email: imoffice@im.mennonite.net Website: <http://im.mennonite.net/>

To IN-MI Mennonite Conference Churches, We invite ANY person of ANY age who cares about the Church, who wants to be refreshed in their spirit, or who wants to discover new resources for leadership to consider attending the IMMC Annual sessions... "Practicing Our Hope". Annual Sessions 2019: June 13 to 15, 2019. Register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/immc-annual-sessions-2019-tickets-55928987106>

More info can be found at <https://im.mennonite.net/events/annual-sessions/>

SWAP volunteers urgently needed: MCC's Sharing With Appalachia People (SWAP) program has an urgent need for volunteer groups and individuals. Summer will be here before we know it, so make your summer plans now to join SWAP in Kentucky or West Virginia. Don't miss out on your chance to serve with this home repair ministry while learning about life in Appalachia. Individuals or groups, including families, adults or youth can volunteer to serve for week-long opportunities. For more information about bringing a group to SWAP, visit swap.mcc.org or contact Angela Maggard at AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org or 606-633-5065.

MCC Borderlands Learning Tour:

Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes welcomes you to join us on a learning tour designed to bring awareness to the issues caused by the border wall along the Mexico/U.S. border. Participants will increase their understanding and knowledge of the social, economic, political and theological significance of migration in border communities, including advocacy tools and capacity building to engage others on borderlands and migration issues. The learning tour will take place on May 22-26 in Arizona and will include crossing the border into Mexico. Attendees will also have the option to participate in the Migrant Trail walk following the tour. For more information, including a tentative schedule and online registration, visit mcc.org/borderlands-may-2019 or contact Juan Sebastian Pacheco Lozano at JuanPacheco@mcc.org or (574) 534-4133.

Giving Corner:

In March, the emphasis will be on pasta for Second Helpings. This is in addition to the regular food pantry items for Morning Star, Muncie.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Worship Commission minutes have been posted.

MILEPOST #673

In the Name of Jesus

In our study of Luke's gospel, we have seen that casting out demons and healing people wasn't just something that Jesus did in his spare time, but he understood this to be a fundamental part of his *purpose*. He had come to proclaim and establish the good news of Jubilee on earth (Luke 4:43). Thus, Jesus went from town to town and village to village attacking the evil spirits that dominated those regions and reclaiming them for the kingdom of God. Furthermore, Jesus did not do this alone, but he commissioned first twelve and then seventy disciples to join him in proclaiming Jubilee, so that it could spread far beyond the territory that he could cover by himself. Indeed, this ministry of spreading Jubilee continued after Jesus' resurrection. From the day of Pentecost until our present time, Jesus' disciples have been proclaiming and establishing Jubilee wherever they go.

But if the Jubilee movement has been continuously spreading for the past 2,000 years, this raises a question: Why isn't the whole world a utopia by now? After all, Christian missions have traveled with the good news about Jesus to nearly every corner of the globe. But when we look at the places where Christianity has been firmly established (such as the United States), we often find that those societies don't reflect the social order that Jesus proclaimed: one of justice, equality, freedom, and abundance. The injustice and inequality that we see in the United States is evidence that Jubilee has not fully "taken hold" here. So what went wrong? Why do "evil spirits" continue to plague even societies that have encountered Jesus?

To explain this, I want to highlight a point I made in an earlier sermon: Jesus *alone* is able to proclaim and establish Jubilee. This is part of his unique calling as God's Messiah. He alone has the power to cast out evil spirits. He alone can establish a new social order. How was it possible, then,

for his disciples to spread Jubilee when Jesus wasn't with them? They could only do this because he transferred his authority and power to them (9:1-2). When they acted in his name, they were able to cast out demons and cure diseases (10:17). "Acting in Jesus' name" doesn't mean saying the magic words "in the name of Jesus," but rather working under his authority or functioning as ambassadors of Jesus rather than in their own right.

But Jesus was well aware of the possibility that his disciples could be tempted to act on their own authority or to be influenced by others when he was absent from them (22:31-32). Indeed, this was the greatest risk associated with his ascension: when he went away, his disciples would be susceptible to other influences. And because of this, the reign of Jubilee will not be permanently established until Jesus returns. His disciples will plant the seeds of the gospel wherever they go, and these seeds will have various degrees of success (8:5-8). We can expect to see some communities move closer into Jubilee and others regress back into injustice. We can't control this, but we can seek to be among the servants who wait faithfully to Jesus (12:35-40) until he returns, when he will bring the reign of Jubilee *in its glorious fullness* to the earth.

- Brian Bither

Do you have some thoughts to share about this month's spiritual discipline? The Pastoral Team invites you to share your thoughts as one of the weekly milepost entries. Please email Sabrina, Frank, or Brian to explore this further.

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 shalommennonite.com

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Vision & Accountability Team: Brad Sommer, Jeanne Smucker, Wilma Bailey, Carl Rhine, Rod Maust, Brian Bither

Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to office@shalommennonite.com