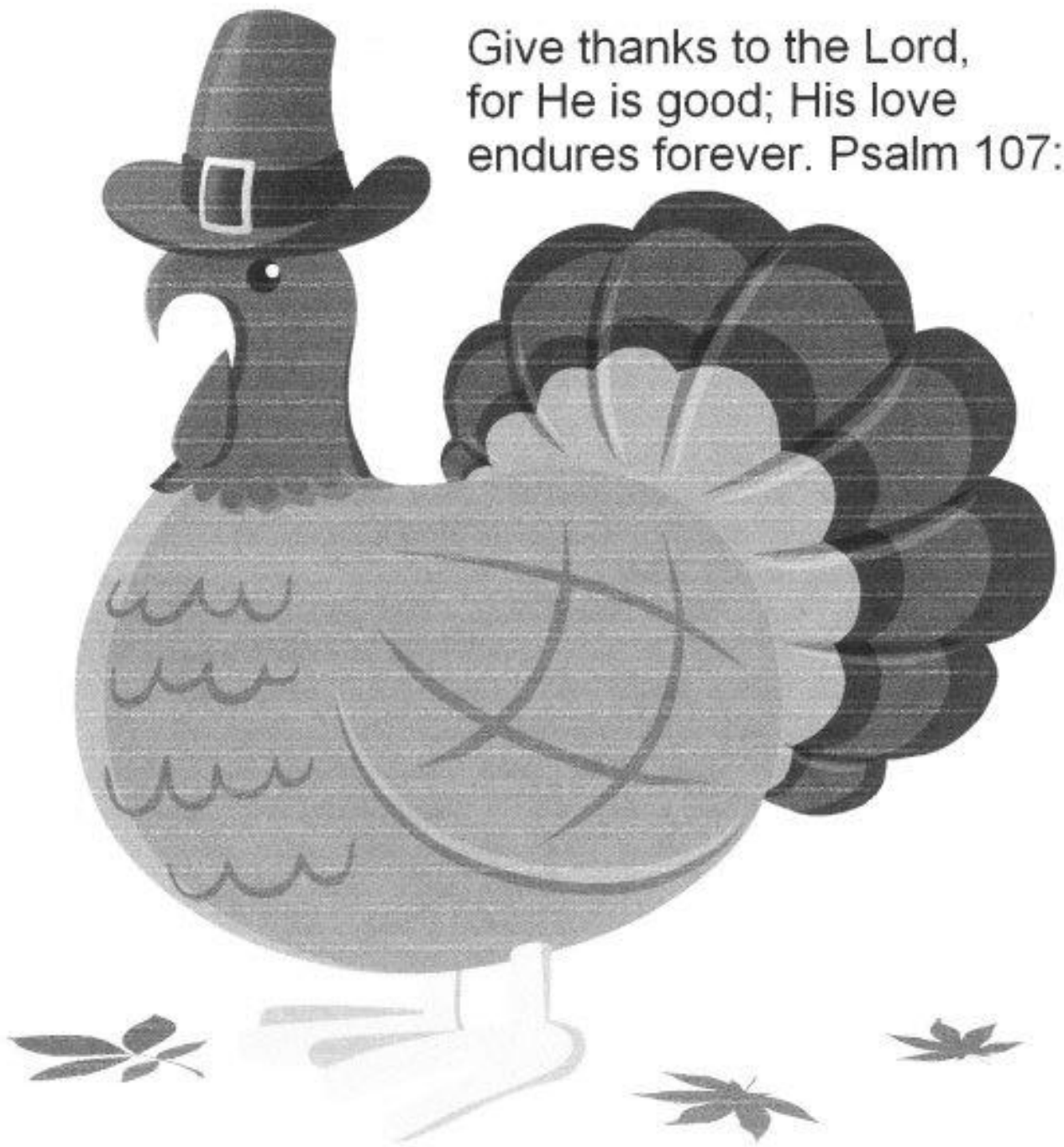


New Danville Newsletter

New Danville Mennonite Church, Volume 23, Issue 12, December 2009

Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good; His love
endures forever. Psalm 107:1



Youth Group

On November 1st, we had a Bible Study at my house, led by Trent and Emily Hess. The following weekend, the youth group worship band led worship at the Missions Conference Saturday and Sunday evening. The youth group also spends a lot of time practicing worship songs and will be playing at LMH for a chapel service. I'm looking forward to the upcoming youth group events.

Drew Sommerfeld

Sewing Circle

Six women met on Wednesday, November 4 and knotted seven comforters.

Lois Garber

SMILE

SMILE met three times in November. The first Tuesday of the month we continued our Prayer Study led by Audrey Kanagy. Audrey led the discussion on a variety of questions that we face when coming to prayer such as "Why do we need to ask", "How do we approach our Father", "The pain of unanswered prayer" and "Prayer with perseverance". One thing that really stuck out to me was that God is our Father. He loves us and wants to have conversations with us, just as we as mothers love our children and want them to talk to us. We love doing things for our children, but it is still nice to have them ask, "Mama, will you read me a book?" rather than them just assuming we will read to them. In the same way, our Father in Heaven wants us to talk to Him and ask Him for good things. He wants to bless us; maybe He is just waiting for you to ask him.

The second Tuesday in November we did a Christmas tree craft. There were a lot of heavy prayer requests in the beginning, so it

was nice to lighten the mood with a fun craft. The ladies enjoy each other's conversation so much that many of us were unable to finish the craft and it had to be completed at home. I was excited to set up my adorable tree on top of my new cabinets for decoration.

The final time we met this month Audrey continued our prayer study, this time on confession and forgiveness. I heard her confirming a lot of what John Bevere talked about during the time we went through the Bait of Satan series. Something that I really like about when Audrey leads a prayer study is how much she uses Scripture. It is certainly one thing to have a good discussion and ideas, but when you can back up your thoughts with several different verses it really is encouraging. I will leave you with an interesting point that Audrey made after a few women shared their personal struggles with forgiving people in their past: "Forgiveness is one person, reconciliation is two people."

Emily Hess

Christmas Excites Me Because...

---Jesus is born and we get presents.

Breanna Kanagy

---Jesus is born, the presents, giving and getting. Wynn Kanagy

---It's Jesus' birthday, get gifts, an awesome breakfast. Logan Garber

---I like giving and getting presents. We go to my aunt's house and all my family come over.

Katie Graybill

--I love to put Christmas decorations on the tree, presents under the tree and sing Christmas songs. Cameron Harnish

--I like helping pick out a Christmas tree and putting on the lights and decorations

Logan Weldy

A Day with Delvin Kropf

It's Friday, November 13 at 5:25 A.M., a good time of the morning to get up and get started. After breakfast of cereal and coffee I tend the wood stove and get ready for work at my welding business (D.L. Kropf Welding and Fabricating). I also am a part time farmer and sometimes in my free time I'm a part time truck driver but not today. I have much welding to do.

I make a call to Rodger from the Lancaster City Parking Authority to reschedule a job for Monday that was scheduled for this week but there's no way I'll get that done today.

I do my morning chores of feeding cows and cats and then go to the hardware store to get parts for a truck I'm working on. Then I hurry home to the shop to finish welding a custom deer guard I built for a customer's F450 truck. I grind and sand it up nice and prep it for painting. An excavator customer stopped in before lunch to go over a drawing of something he wants built by Thursday of next week. I spray paint on the deer guard and then go for lunch.

After lunch I tend the wood stove and then it's back to the shop to finish painting the deer guard. I start welding Harley Davidson's motorcycle parts. They brought a lot this time and want to pick them up by 7:30 Tuesday morning so I got to keep moving. When I'm finished welding them they go to get chrome plated or powder coated depending on which part it is. They then go to Kansas City. Every Harley gets one of my parts on it regardless of model.

At 3:00 Drew Sommerfeld comes to work and I get him to help me mount the deer guard on the F450 truck. (It's kind of heavy.) I weld the final supports on it and touch up paint that we messed up installing it. It looks great and solid, too. Drew is working on getting my shop stove ready to use and is building a steel chimney for it. (Every year I've needed to replace the outside pipe but that

should change with the new pipe he's building!)

Now I need to make new teeth out of special abrasion resistant (A.R. plate) for the in-feed on a large square baler. The plate came in yesterday. The old teeth got bent in a U shape and put the baler out of service. This plate is 3/8 inches thick and very expensive. It's different to work with than mild steel. I got the teeth made, welded on and it looks like new again. He also needed a shaft straightened for the baler so got that done also. All of this for a fraction of the cost of buying a new part.

I use the forklift to bring the steel plate in that came yesterday as well as the aluminum plate that I got in for a landscaping job coming up soon. I need to separate the aluminum sheet to dry so it doesn't get bad white marks from the rain.

8:45 P.M.--I guess it's quitting time. Oh, I almost forgot I need to check to make sure my welding truck is loaded and ready for tomorrow at 5:00. This evening I got an emergency service call from the farmers about one mile from Indiantown Gap in Lebanon county for whom I've done work for the past couple of years. They just had a gravity bin wagon axle snap off that was loaded with corn. (This is a very large bin wagon.) They need me to come tomorrow and weld it back together. (I guess it didn't rain as much there.) I try not to do my business work on Saturday but this is the second Saturday in a row that I had farmer break downs to repair. I need to leave at 5:00 A.M. so up at 4:30 tomorrow.

I do my chores, feed the cows with calves at home and the cats, get in my pickup and run feed down to the neighbor's meadow where I keep my steers over the summer. I sell the steers each spring to customers as quarters, halves or whole beef. All my steers come from my own cows at home.

I head back home, take a shower, get a snack and relax a little bit, have my devotions and scripture reading. It's 11:00 and time to

go to bed for a little nap before I get up and do it all over again!

Well, thanks for tagging along today. I hope I didn't wear you out too much but it's great and I enjoy it! If you ever need anything done with metal or want some real good beef, just come to see me anytime. I'll see what I can do!

Missions Conference

Jim and Donna Dombach were our speakers for the annual district missions conference. Jim works for Eastern Mennonite Missions where he represents Europe. Saturday evening he began by sharing how he was attending a commissioning service for someone else when the speaker spoke words that seemed directed specifically to him, causing him to reignite an earlier call to missions. He began to come up with all sorts of excuses why he shouldn't go, but he knew the speaker was talking to him. Although it was difficult, he and his wife left their optometry practice and moved to eastern Europe.

Although Europe has a rich Christian heritage, it is now spiritually destitute and Christianity has been reduced to a fraction of what it once was. Many people are atheists or agnostics. Many are caught up in pursuing leisure. According to Jim, America is not far behind. We, too, are often caught up in pursuing material things and spending our time on ourselves at the expense of building God's kingdom both locally and around the world. It was a wake up call for us to hear of the lack of Christianity in those areas and to recognize we are headed in the same direction. How can we stop the losses and draw more to Jesus? How much of my time is spent on myself? We need to wrestle with these questions before it's too late.

Jim and Donna were excited and hopeful as they shared the need for workers for the harvest in Europe. Although we can all come

up with plenty of reasons to let others be the missionaries, we can look at the Dombachs as a great example of a couple who followed God's call in middle age and have no regrets, and who now encourage the rest of us to not let age, occupation, or family get in the way of doing what God wants us to do.

Marty and Mary Sommerfeld

The messages of Jim and Donna Dombach on Sunday evening centered on Isaiah 54:2, "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left." Living in the spirit of this scripture will call for making adjustments in our personal living networks. The Dombachs urged us to become involved, knowing that God empowers us.

One way this scripture has been recently fulfilled in eastern Europe was the printing and selling of 70,000 modern translations of the Bible in just a few days in the Czech Republic.

Jay and Lois Garber



Prayer Quotes

By: Martha Thomas

"PRAYER without expectancy is unbelief in disguise." (Our Daily Bread)

"PRAYFUL thinking leads to purposeful thanking." (Our Daily Bread)

"Jesus hears our faintest cry."
(Our Daily Bread)



Bits and Pieces

--Troy Hess designed the cover for this month's newsletter.

--In support of the Millersville International House, April Horst had a letter to the editor published in the November 13 edition of the Intell/New Era. The letter is as follows:

International House Fosters Respect

I was more than surprised to read in the November 3 edition of the Intell/New Era that plans for the expansion of the Millersville International House are stalled, partially because of sentiments of one individual who thinks the proposal could lead to terrorism. Terrorism? I can think of no better way to combat terrorism than by supporting the efforts of such organizations as Millersville International House that create an environment for listening and mutual respect between cultures. Let's make sure we don't throw the baby out with the bath water. I feel safer going to bed at night knowing that M.I.H. is using their good judgment to provide a positive American experience to foreign students on our soil. After all, some of the most hostile world leaders toward Americans are folks who studied here as international students and by their own testimony, were not welcomed by us--individuals who were not received with friendship and hospitality or invited into our homes. They now have become bitter and dangerous enemies of ours.

I hope the Millersville Boro Council will use their wisdom to help promote the sustainability of the Millersville International House and in so doing, the safety of our community.

~April Horst

Pastor's Corner

"There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child."

- Erma Bombeck

Do you remember what Christmas was like as a child? How exciting it was to wake up Christmas morning anticipating presents galore? Now as adults we have come to the place where Christmas is about giving and not getting right? O.K. I have to admit that I am still a child at heart as it comes to getting Christmas gifts. Don't get me wrong there is nothing more wonderful than seeing the eyes of your children grow wide with anticipation and joy as the tear open their presents. But I must say that opening up another pair of socks is not quite as exciting as when I got the race track as a kid. The real lesson here is not about the giving or even the getting but the innocent joy that is found in childhood.

In the gospel of Matthew we read, "***He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'***"
Matthew 18:2-4

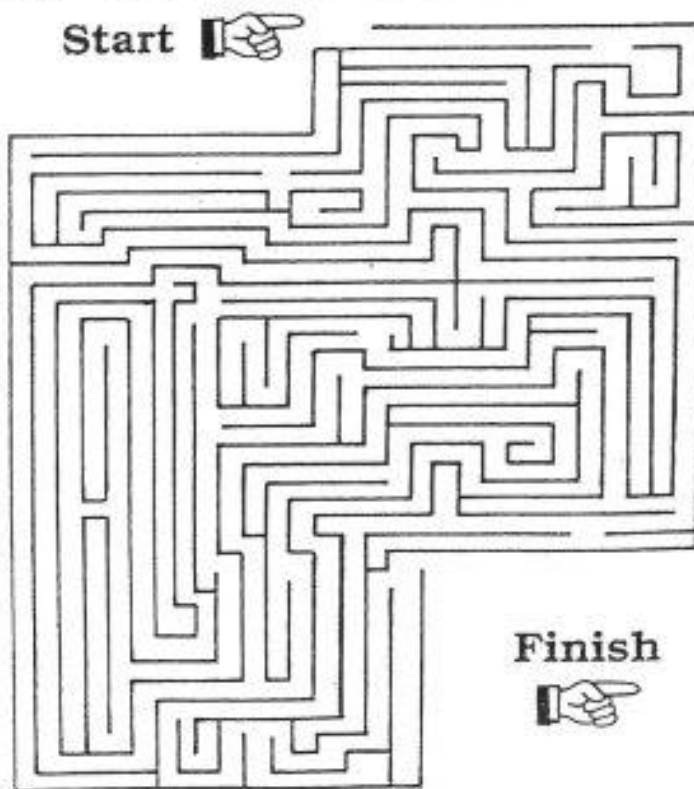
What a challenge to become a child not only at Christmas but at all times and places. It means receiving joy from little things like toads and crickets, rocks and flowers. Becoming like a child allows us to become engrossed in God's love. It places us in position to receive all the benefits that simple faith and unconditional love have to give.

During this Advent season, don't be too mature to enjoy the Christ child and the

excitement of Christmas morn. God's intention is for us to return to our childhood so that our eyes will once again become as big as saucers and with uttermost joy say that we have received the best gift ever!

Blessings,

Curtiss



Answer to last month's Cryptoquote – "No one is stronger than the weakest person who is totally dependent upon God" – Roy Lessin

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 SMILE 9:15-11:00	2 Sewing Circle 9:30-4:00	3	4	5 Duane Stoner
6 Soup meal at noon at church David Hess	7 Ministry team mtg. @ 7 PM Gordon Leaman	8 SMILE 9:15-11:00 Ashley Herr Maria Borrero John Kauffman	9 Prayer Mtg. 7pm	10 Marshall Hess Ken Bowman Kyle Horst	11	12
13	14	15 SMILE 9:15-11:00 Helen Mylin	16	17	18 Jay Brenneman	19
20 Pat Johns John Gerlach	21	22	23 Prayer Mtg. 7pm	24 David Schrock	25	26 Gabriel Medile
27 Janet Hess	28 Anita Warfel	29 Ernie Hess	30 Ron Horst	31		