



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

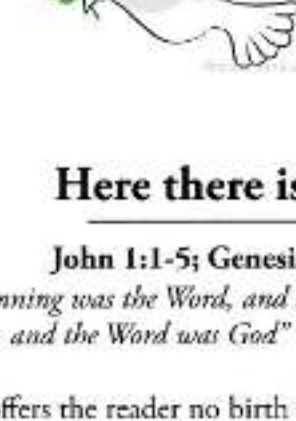
Isaiah 9:6

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Here there is life

John 1:1-5; Genesis 1:1-5

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

JOHN'S GOSPEL offers the reader no birth narrative of Jesus. There is nothing here that can easily be inserted into the children's Christmas pageant or the live nativity on the church's front lawn. Jesus appears on the stage in the middle of John 1 as a grown man beginning his earthly ministry. But that is not to say there is nothing here of value for our Advent preparation. John's beginning reminds us that to understand Jesus, we need to pay careful attention to the beginning. When we read John 1:1, we ought to be thinking about Genesis 1:1. Whereas Luke's "orderly account" might be compared to looking through a microscope, John invites us to look through a telescope, and realize the big picture.

John wants us to understand that God's activity always moves in the direction of life. In the Genesis account, we see God's hand at work bringing light out of the darkness and life out of the chaotic waters. At that point of creation, Jesus was there, helping hang the stars in the sky, form the mountain peaks and high valleys, and fill the earth with plants, animals, and ultimately human life. Jesus' earthly ministry would continue this movement toward life, inviting people to new life out of the darkness of sin and through the waters of baptism. At this point of spiritual re-creation, Jesus is there, making the way for our salvation and enabling the Spirit to equip believers with the gifts necessary to continue the ministry and to grow into spiritual maturity.

This Advent, as you sing hymns and carols together, as you watch the children's pageant; or view a live nativity, remember creation, and how God's mission always moves us toward new life. ✪

God, in the twinkling of an eye, help me remember your work in creation and salvation, making new life possible.

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for October 1 – October 31, 2015
Sunday School – 73
Worship Service – 198

Beginning Checkbook Balance – General Fund	\$62,552.24
Income	\$16,008.77
Expenses	\$44,175.45
Voided Check	\$ 0.00
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$34,385.56
Beginning Checkbook Balance – Building Fund	\$12,948.45
Income	\$ 4,971.89
Expenses	\$ 5,859.65
Ending Checkbook Balance	0.00%
Music Fund CD	8/31/15 \$12,260.36

Please remember these people in your prayers

Betty Jane Berger, Bud Brubaker, Mary Ann Gible, Lois Romberger, Bill Yoh, Sr., Mark Ziegler

Pizza Hut

We are still continuing to have Pizza Hut Day the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Look for the paper in your newsletter or on the bulletin board.

Home Care

Let's remember in thought and prayer those living in nursing homes/assisted living homes: Clara Miller, Mary Lineweaver, Nancy Moyer, June Swisher, Arlene Crouse, Joanne Ealy, Orpha Doutrich, Iris Liskey

Gift Cards

The gift card order is always the first Sunday of the month. Look for your order form in the newsletter or on they bulletin board. The list of businesses is always changing. If there is a business that you would like to know about, call the church office at 866-5517 to see if those cards would be available. How many cards do you think you can use in a month's time? You don't have to give the card as a gift, you can use them yourself.

The Christian Education Commission is praying for our congregation. Has God placed a calling on your heart to work with our youth? Our church is currently in the need for Youth leaders and Sunday School teachers. Please include this need in your prayers. If God opens your heart to this opportunity, contact any of the Christian Education members.

Christmas Shopping

Have you started Christmas shopping? Did you know that you can purchase gift cards from the church and then use them to buy your Christmas gifts? You can also pay your Kohl's charge by using a Kohl's gift card. Giant Food Store cards make a great gift, or you can purchase them and use it yourself for your groceries. Like to go out for dinner, why not look over the gift card list and decide where you might want to eat this month? The possibilities are endless and by purchasing gift cards, you are helping the church.

Kids Club

We are currently working on starting a Kids Club again at the church to meet Wednesday nights. We are only in the planning stages and would like to see if we have enough interest from the church to get volunteers. If anyone is interested in helping out, we will be having a meeting on Monday, November 9 at 7:00pm or you can contact Nicole Hauck at 484-930-5103.

There is a need for new or gently used adult hats, scarves and gloves/mittens for the Susan Dowhower House. We will have a tree in the Gathering Place where you can hang them and will be collecting them from Dec. 1st through Dec. 24th.....Missions and Fellowship Commission.

2016 Church Board

There will be a special board meeting held on December 8, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. for all members that will be on the 2016 Church Board. The purpose will be to reorganize and approve all church appointments.

Drawing Contest

There is a drawing contest for the cover, the insert and the back page of the 2016 Church Directory. This is open to all ages. Place your drawing in the Missions and Fellowship mailbox by Dec. 31st.

Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Meeting was called to order @ 8:12 p.m.
Present were: Treasurer – Robert Dubble
Present were: Secretary-Robert Noll

Secretary's Report of October 20, 2015

Treasurer's Report of November 12, 2015

Commission Reports & Members Present

Ministry & Evangelism Commission: Chairperson – Kenneth Wagner, Steve Krick, Lori Martin

We opened with prayer.

We reviewed the duties of the Ministry & Evangelism Commission and the appointments.

A chairperson and secretary will be appointed at the December 2015 meeting. The new commission members are Dave Dubble, Nicole Hauck and Grace Ziegler. Due to two members being missing tonight, we will decide the positions in December.

A new letter will be sent out to members notifying them of Pastor Randy's resignation. This letter will be sent out this week.

We reviewed a list of speakers for Sunday worship services that we will be contacting to speak at our services. Speakers will be paid \$150.00 plus mileage which will be based on Federal IRS mileage guidelines. We discussed rewriting the Student Ministerial Scholarship. We will be discussing this in more detail at the next meeting.

Glenn Hassinger has volunteered to take on the duties as Pastor of Visitation and work with the Spiritual Nurture Board until an Interim Pastor is in place.

Our appointments for 2016 are as follows:

Organist	Barbara Heffner
Assistant Organist	Barbara Weidman
Choristers	Jeanette Beisel, Earl Liskey, Barbara Weidman
Chancel Choir Director	Earl Liskey
Bell Choir Director	Barbara Weidman
Hand Chime Director	Jen Zimmerman
Praise Team Director	Suzanne Auman
Cherub Choir	Cindy Liskey
Junior Choir Director	Leslie Fuhrman, Lindsey Fouch
Children's Church Coordinator	Crystal Liskey, Heather Miller

Ushers

Bruce Behney	Scott Martin
Andrew Bender	George Nagle
Joel Fahnestock	Robert Noll
Tim Fetzer	Scott Reazer
Jason Fuhrman	Jason Ruth
Robert Gible	Eli Shirik
Carl Hartman	William Yoh, Jr.
Dale Houtz	John Zimmerman, Jr.
Jason Krall	

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Date: November 17, 2015

by Vice Chairperson – Steve Krick

Prayer by: Ken Wagner

Approved at November 2, 2015 Council Mtg.

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

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Missions & Fellowship Commission: Co-Chairpersons – JoAnn Houtz, Janet Dubble, Susie Dundore, Crystal Liskey

We worked on the church directory and the pictorial directory.

82 boxes were collected for Operation Christmas Child.

Our commission provided drink and cookies for board members present, which has been customary at the November board meeting.

Christian Education Commission: Co-Chairpersons – Linda Zimmerman, Judy Umbenhauer, Lisa Maurer

We discussed Christmas gifts for the children, teachers and children's church volunteers.

We ordered Sunday School material for the children's classes.

We worked on appointments for our commission.

Trustee and Property Commission: Chairperson – George Nagle, Ducey Peiffer, Dale Houtz

We talked about ceiling repairs in the sanctuary. Doug Swanger is going to do the repairs and painting. Heating problem has been repaired.

Finance and Stewardship Commission: Mark Bomberger, Glenn Hassinger, Andrew Heisey, Tom & Dolly Hoffman

October 31, 2015
Year to Date Budgeted to General Fund \$236,270
Year to Date Actual to General Fund 202,678
Difference -\$ 33,592

Year to Date Budgeted to Building Fund \$ 58,930
Year to Date Actual to Building Fund 56,804
Difference -\$ 2,126

Mortgage Balance \$366,274
Sharing Cupboard Savings Account \$ 9,301
Building Fund Balance \$ 9,442
Music Fund CD Balance \$ 12,260

We reviewed Treasurer's Report

Pastor Report

No Report

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

The treasurer reported that the new heating and air conditioning has been paid out of the general fund, however there is still a shortfall for the A.C. unit. The amount needed for the budget line item is \$2,737.0. After some discussion, there was a motion to call for a special offering to fund this line item (and second). If not enough money received, take balance needed from proceeds of gift card profit. There was an amended motion and second that if there is any excess money, that it be placed in the emergency/mechanical fund.

The original motion was approved by an aye vote.

The amended motion was approved by an aye vote.

Robert Noll resigned as church clerk effective January 1, 2016.

There was a motion and second to accept the resignation of Robert Noll.

Motion approved by an aye vote

Mark Landis, Sr. has agreed to become church clerk to fill the unexpired term of 1 year till December 2016. There was a motion and second that Mark Landis, Sr. fill the unexpired term of 1 year till December 2016.

Motion approved by an aye vote

A recommendation was received from the Kitchen Committee to revise policy #60. Policy #60 is the pricing and menu for banquets. The request is to increase meal costs by \$1.00 due to rising prices. Also, to not offer family style meals, but to offer a hot buffet style option. There was a motion and second to approve this recommendation.

Motion approved by an aye vote

With the resignation of Pastor Randy Devor, a second letter will be sent to the members informing them and also that there will be no vote taken as the first letter stated. After some discussion as to the process for a new pastor, the board was informed that the next 6 to 10 weeks guest ministers will be invited to speak while the district searches for an Interim Pastor. It was decided to add this information to the letter and that Glenn Hassinger will assume the duties as a Pastor of Visitation.

There will be a special board meeting held on December 8, 2015, for all members that will be on the 2016 Church Board. The purpose will be to reorganize and approve all church appointments.

Interests & Concerns

None

Adjournment

After no further business, there was a motion and second to adjourn.

Motion approved by an aye vote and prayer by Steve Krick



DECEMBER WORSHIP SPEAKERS

December 6	Rev. Eric Brubaker, Minister of Christian Education Middle Creek Church of the Brethren
December 13	Children's Christmas Program & carol hymn sing
December 20	Rev. Dr. Kirby Keller, retired President of Evangelical Seminary of Myerstown
December 27	Rev. John Harpold, former Pastor at Midway Church of the Brethren

Ministry & Evangelism Commission

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	Hand Chime 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am						
28		Junior Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm					
29			PIZZA HUT				
30			Board Mtg. for 2016 Church Board				
31				Bell Choir 6:15 pm Prayer Mtg. 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm			
1					Sharing Cupboard 10-1		
2					Spiritual Nature Mtg. 7:00 pm		
3						Sharing Cupboard 3-6	
4						Youth Bake Cookies	
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