

May 2016

Ministry through Faith, Vision, and Action

RENDER TO CAESAR



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[d] will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency[e] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-9

Address **51 West Stoever Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067**

Office Phone **717-866-5517**

Pastor’s Study **717-866-2217**

Web Page **myerstowncob.org**

Church Email:
myerstowncob@myerstowncob.org

This is the season many of us dread – TAX SEASON. There are frustration and anxiety associated with the event. The very struggle to get all our information together and organized is enough to turn our hair grey, if we don’t pull it out first.

The government wants to extract as much as possible from us. Someone has said eventually we will just turn our whole paycheck to the government and they will return enough for us to live. Of course that is the core of socialism and we know that is a failed system. But there are still some who would move us in that direction.

We will of course have the government we deserve for we elect our leaders. But consider what Scripture tells us in Romans 13.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.... Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good.... Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

On one occasion Jesus was asked whether it was right to pay taxes to Rome. He asked to see a coin and asked whose likeness was on the coin. It was Caesar’s. Then came the famous quote, “Render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” Even non-believers will quote that verse. Of course, our money does not have Caesar’s likeness but that of past (long dead) presidents. Do we render to dead leaders? No, but they represent our present day system. Of course we will use a lot more Franklin’s and Grant’s than Washington’s.

The problem is many will emphasize the first part, “render to Caesar” and overlook the last part, “render to God.” So let’s take a look.

2 Corinthians 9 tells us, The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

We as followers of Jesus are called to willingly support the ministry of the Church. When we do so, we are being faithful to Jesus. The ministry of the church continues even when you may not be present and needs your support.

Well, I have to go now. I have to render to Caesar (finish my tax return).

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for March 1 – March 31, 2016

Sunday School – 63
Worship Service – 192

Beginning Checkbook Balance – General Fund		\$39,297.39
Income		\$24,370.45
Expenses		\$15,730.30
Voided Check		\$ 0.00
Ending Checkbook Balance		\$47,937.54
Beginning Checkbook Balance – Building Fund		\$19,443.51
Income		\$ 4,706.16
Expenses		\$ 5,859.65
Ending Checkbook Balance	0.00%	\$18,290.02
Music Fund CD	8/31/15	\$12,263.42

Please remember these people in your prayers

Betty Jane Berger, Bud Brubaker,
Mary Ann Gibble, 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

LVBH Volunteers

The LVBH is in need of volunteers in the
following areas... people who are willing to visit
with our residents, read to the residents, offer
wheelchair rides, or just sit and talk with the
residents. They also need people who would
like to fill water mugs in the Alpha and Leffler
units. If you are able to give just one hour or
more of your time each week, call Mary Lee
Harpel at 838-5406, ext. 3186.

Attention

It's that time of year when you probably are
cleaning out good but unused or unwanted
items. The annual Bazaar is November 19th
(mark your calendar), but we are already
accepting items for the "White Elephant" table.
The items are stored in the Sharing Cupboard
area until November. See or call Anna Mae
Snyder, Dottie Nagle or Jean Bomberger.

Gift Cards

The gift card order is always the first Sunday of the month. Look for your order form in the newsletter or on the 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.

Lebanon Valley Brethren Home offers a Caregiver Support Group the second Thursday of every month on their Stoneback Pavilion from 2-3pm. Led by our Social Services department, the Caregiver Support Group offers an intimate setting where caregivers can share their stories, receive support through guest speakers, staff and others who may be facing similar challenges. For more information please contact our Social Services department at 717-838-5406 ext. 3502 or 3501. You can learn more about our Caregiver Support Group by logging onto our website at www.lvbh.org. Lebanon Valley Brethren Home is located at 1200 Grubb Rd. in Palmyra.

Graduation

Anyone graduating, please contact Toni in the office. Graduation Sunday will be June 12th.

Save the Date

Vacation Bible School is July 10-14, 2016. This year VBS theme is Cave Quest. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Leslie Fuhrman or Christine Blackwell.

Chicken BBQ

We will be having a chicken bbq on Wednesday, May 18th from 3:00 p.m. till 6:00 p.m. at Smith's Candies. The cost is \$7.00 and that includes ½ chicken, baked potato and drink.

At the recent church board meeting, representatives from Fulton Bank made a presentation on e-tithing. E-tithing is where members of the congregation will be able to automatically have their offering withdrawn from either their savings or checking account. The board is looking for your input as to whether you are interested in participating in this program. Enclosed in the bulletin is a form to check yes or no. Completed form may be deposited in the box on the table where board members will be. By answering the questionnaire, you will be in no way obligated to participate.....this is only a questionnaire.

In an effort to try to add transparency between church board and the congregation, the board has decided to have a table in the Gathering Place with members of the board in attendance for anyone to ask questions. Attached in the bulletin is also a form whereby members may ask specific questions directed to a commission or to the board in general. There will be a box on the board table to deposit your questions.

JOIN US AT SHADY MAPLE for food, fun, and fellowship! Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 19, 2016, when we will enjoy an evening of fellowship and great food at Shady Maple. Please sign up in The Gathering Place by Sunday, May 15 if you can come. We will work out transportation from the church when we have a list of those that will be joining us. If you have any questions, see anyone from the Missions and Fellowship Commission.

The Missions and Fellowship Commission is coordinating a partnership with Myerstown area churches and businesses to encourage, organize, and mobilize people to better our community through acts of service. This project is called GO BEYOND and our church family will have the opportunity to participate in many service activities in the next weeks and months. Watch the weekly bulletins for dates and descriptions of upcoming activities.

COLLECTING GENTLY USED SHOES AND ALUMINUM CANS

Beginning on May 1 through May 22, the Missions and Fellowship Commission will be collecting gently worn shoes and aluminum cans. Shoes should have no holes and the soles must be attached. The shoes will be traded for funds that can be used to purchase supplies for local construction projects serving the elderly, and families in need. Please place your donations in the labeled bins in The Gathering Place. This is a GO BEYOND activity.

May Wedding Anniversaries

- 3rd Tom & Debbie Schwalm
- 6th Mike & Greta Koppenhaver
- 10th Scott & Lori Martin
- 16th Justin & Trisha Hocker
- 20th Michael & Barbara Krall
- 28th Ken & Joyce Wagner
- 30th Nathan & Jessica Sherk

FIVE FINGER PRAYER

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is as C. S. Lewis once said, a “sweet duty.”
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God’s guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger – the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, “The least shall be the greatest among you.” Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Golden Age Dinner	2 Praise Team 7:00 pm	3	4 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	5	6	7
8 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	9 Praise Team 7:00 pm	10 PIZZA HUT DAY Music Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm	11 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	12 Sharing Cupboard 10-1	13 Sharing Cupboard 3-6	14 Mother/Daughter Breakfast
15 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	16 Praise Team 7:00 pm	17 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 8:00 pm	18 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm Chicken BBQ	19	20	21
22 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	23 Praise Team 7:00 pm	24	25 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	26 Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	27 Sharing Cupboard 3-6	28
29 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	30 Praise Team 7:00 pm	31	Notes:			

~ May 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Steve Krick	2 Dixie Gasper Jeremy Lackey Shelby McClure Matthew Shutter Wesley Stehr	3 Mary Anne Diamond	4 Katie Macrina	5 Lori Fox	6 David Dubble Gwen Wenger Mildred Wenger	7 Stephanie Shutter Kitty Wenger
8 Jason Burke Verna Grosteffon Eric Layser, Jr.	9 Kathryn Hartranft Cate Liskey Wilma Mauser Brad Reppert Pam Sunday Brad Tobin Jason Zimmerman	10 Joshua Zimmerman	11 Sara Behney Corrine Hankins Joel Hibshman Matthew Krick Tabitha Krick John Layser Philip Potena Stuart Wagner	12 Beckett Albright James Krall	13 Kalene Arnold Dennis Hartfanft Skylar Liskey	14 Jami Freed Brenda Lentz Lori Ruth
15 Dorothy Nagle Blake Shirk Geoffrey Shutter	16 Jeanette Beisel Logan Krick Michael Snyder	17 Stanley Eckert	18 Dennis Brubaker	19 Ian Long	20 Joanne Fahnestock Janet Post Carl Wenger Daniel Whitman Rebecca Wolfe	21 Ken Gross Declan Shelly
22 Julie Haring Claire Moyer Aiden Schwalm Roarke Singer	23 Amy Harvey Dennis Seldomridge	24 Bryson Brown Jay Lentz Larry Swonger	25 Chris Frederick Eileen Heller Isaiah Hostetter	26 Jennifer Hostetter	27 David Bender Sara Hartranft Nettie Krall Findlay McClure	28 Dennis Dieffenbach Jason Schwalm
29 Faye Brubaker Emma Landis Debbie Wagner	30 Debbie Frederick Anna Mae Kupp Jeremy Krick Linda Smith Lois Yoder	31 David Beisel Frank DiScuillo Mary Lineweaver	Notes:			