

<FIRST SUNDAY LIMA MENNONITE LINK>
October 7, 2018, Volume 2, Number 10



<WELCOME LINK>

September was a remarkable month. Sept. 9 Northside Child Care Center celebrated its golden anniversary. And, on the weekend of Sept. 21-23, 29 members of Lima Mennonite Church joined hundreds and participated in the wedding of Jonathan Brenneman and Sarah Thompson as they became Mr. and Mrs. Nahar. Makes one wonder what joy's October will bring.

Thanks to all those who contributed to this month's LINK. All of those efforts are appreciated.

<THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR LINK>

- Each Sunday, LMC Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
- Each Sunday, LMC Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
- Each Sunday, Brazo en Brazo Church Service, 4 p.m.
- Oct. 7 - Et Cetera Shop Inc., Bluffton, open house, 1 p.m.
- Oct. 11 - Spiritual Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12-14 - Men and Boy's Retreat: Healthy Masculinity Oct. 14 - Bluffton University will Concert Band, 2:30 p.m., Oct. 14, Yoder

Recital Hall.

- Oct. 30 - Teacher appreciation dinner for childcare, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 3, Game Night, 5 p.m.

<BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES LINK>

- Oct. 3 Mary Hofstetter
- Oct. 8 Eric Basinger
- Oct. 8 Jen Zickafoose
- Oct. 9 Larry Oatman
- Oct. 14 Michelle Thomas
- Oct. 25 Brian Good

<PROFILE LINK>

(Ed. Note: The following is published for the number of people who requested copies of my remarks made Sept. 9, on the history the Northside Child Care Center.) NORTHSIDE CHILD CARE CENTER 50TH YEAR CELEBRATION By Larry L. Oatman

It's an honor for me, to share with you some history this morning, about the Northside Child Care Center. I'd like to thank the number of people helped me discover this fascinating story.

Seven years, after two brothers from nearby Dayton invented the world's first successful airplane, the Jefferson Street Mennonite Church, in 1910, was established in Lima at 825 N. Jefferson St. That was before any of us in this room today were created by God.

Then 56 years later, the Jefferson Street Church congregation decided it needed a new, larger church building.

In 1966, that group of God's people voted to acquire property and build a new church building on 3.2 acres, in 1300 block of North Main Street, across the street from St. Gerard's Catholic Church.

In 1967, the Jefferson Street church building and parsonage were sold by the trustees to a Southern Baptist congregation.

The Jefferson Street congregation vacated the church before the North Main Street site was completed. During this interim period, the congregation conducted their church services in Lima's Emerson Grade School.

Using money from the sale of the Jefferson Street church building and parsonage, along with funds from the Ohio Mennonite Conference, the vision was still short of its building goal of \$300,000. In 1968, the average wage was \$5,500.

The vision of a new modern brick church seemed impossible.

Rev. Robert L. King, former Jefferson Street pastor from 1961-64, and his wife Elouise, had a solution.

Lima's northside area needed a facility to care for the growing number of children during the day, while their parents worked to provide for their family.

The fees charged for the needed child care service would help provide the funds for the building and operation of the church.

Based on Christian faith, construction began in 1967 on the new church building.

According to church records, it was named and dedicated as the Northside Mennonite Church. The congregation took possession of the new church building in the spring of 1968, with Rev. Lawrence Brunk serving as pastor.

In August of 1968, the Northside Mennonite Child Care Center was officially established and is operated by the church through a five-member Child Care Board.

Elouise King was selected the new center's director and church members volunteered as teachers and staff.

The following July, a man from nearby Wapak walked on the moon.

Initially, the enrollment started with 10 children, but soon grew and became licensed by the state of Ohio to 125 children.

The center's class ranged in age from 18 months to four years during the school year, and up to 12 years during the summer.

During the past 50 years, under the leadership of two directors and more than 50 teachers and staff have provided Christ-centered care and teaching for more than 5,000 pre-kindergarten children.

With a director and 11 teachers and staff members, the current child care enrollment is 75, and its \$110 per week fee is the most economical in the area.

In 1995, the First Mennonite Church, on Eureka and Orena Streets, on Lima's east side, merged with Northside Mennonite Church, which was renamed the Lima Mennonite.

With us this morning are members of the current staff, former teachers and some adults who are child care alumni, some of whom are now grandparents.

A tree has been planted to honor the center's founder and first director Elouise King.

Following this morning church service, light refreshments will be served as we celebrate those memorable golden 50 years.

If, there is one verse that could symbolize the philosophy and conviction of all those involved in Lima Mennonite Church and the Northside Child Care Center, it could be what I found in the church achieve's. It's I Corinthians 3:6 "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."

And God's people said (amen).

<PROVERBS LINK>

Never let yourself think that you are wiser than you are: simply obey the Lord and refuse to do wrong (Proverbs 3:7)

<ATTENDANCE LINK>

From a scrap of paper from Deb:

Sept. 2 - 34

Sept. 9 - 52

Sept. 16 - 36

Sept. 23 - (no church) Jonathan and Sarah Nahar wedding - 29 Sept. 30 - 33

<FINANCE LINK>

Found under George's chair: As of Oct. 31, Budget income was \$71,212.50 as opposed to actual income of \$61,460.27 for a shortfall of \$9752.23. Also found a slice of birthday cake from Sept. 29. Happy Birthday George!

<MENNONITE HERITAGE LINK>

Menno Simons, a Catholic priest started to rethink his Catholic faith and at the age of 40, Simons left the Roman Catholic Church. He soon became a leader within the Anabaptist movement.

<ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE>

Lima Mennonite Church is one of the sponsoring churches of the Et Cetera Shop Inc., which will host a two hour open house on Sunday, Oct. 7, at 1 p.m. the Bluffton store.

<TRIVIA LINK>

On his first visit to New Orleans, 19-year-old Abraham Lincoln first saw a large number of slaves being sold at a slave market. It horrified him and intensified his anti-slavery position. from the book "The Importance of Abraham Lincoln" by Karen Marie Graves.

<CAMP FREDENSWALD LINK>

Oct. 12-14 - Men and Boy's Retreat: Healthy Masculinity Oct. 12-24 - Art Retreat: Skill Print making Nov. 2-4 - Craft Retreat

<LEAH LINK>

If there is information to be printed in the Sunday bulletin or weekly newsletter, please <mailto:csblevins@hotmail.com>

<YOUTUBE LINK>

Visit The Ark Encounter in Kentucky. The Ark Encounter was opened on July 7, 2016 and it's the full replica based on a Biblical account. Click on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeNOURXWCmM>

<SERVICE AND NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON INTERNET> If you are unable to attend church a recording is posted after each Sunday's service at [<http://www.limamennonite.org/sermons/>]. Also, thanks to Randy Wapperom, this monthly newsletter is also achieved at [<http://www.limamennonite.org/test-1/>]

<GAME NIGHT LINK>

Saturday, Nov. 3, is Game Night. It's an opportunity to spend some time with others and have fun, beginning at 5 p.m. There are all kinds of games to play or bring your favorite and there are snacks to eat too.

<BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY LINK>

The University will host a free concert featuring its Concert Band at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14, in Yoder Recital Hall.

<HUMOR LINK>

Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times.

But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

<PASTOR EMILY'S LINK>

When we start reading all the psalms instead of just our favorites, it's hard not to wonder what to do with all the vengeance psalms. Why all the violence? Am I really supposed to feel this way toward people who threaten me? Shouldn't we be ashamed of the psalmist or at least morally critical?

While we have evidence in scripture that people have taken vengeance on their enemies, it's important to remember that those stories are not the psalms themselves. In fact, if we keep in perspective that the psalms are poetry, that they're words on a page rather than actions in the world, we have the opportunity to dig into some healthy emotional practices with help from these vengeance psalms. Let me offer a few.

1. Claim it and let it go

It's tempting, especially since Mennonites are nonviolent folks, to tell ourselves that we never want vengeance on our enemies. The psalms allow us to be honest about our human emotions, no matter how uncouth they are. We know the psalmists used this art form to communicate with God so we know that God can handle whatever emotions we throw God's way. One of the best ways to interact with a vengeance psalm is to ask ourselves who we feel this way about, to read it with them in mind, letting ourselves feel our anger, and then to end it the way many psalmists do by giving it back to God. Basically we say, I m angry, and I feel like I want vengeance, but I'm letting you handle it, God. When we are honest about our anger, we can let it go faster than if we pretend it's not there.

2. Use them to pray for people who feel vengeful

Maybe you're not feeling vengeful on a day you read a vengeance psalm. In that case, perhaps it can be helpful to think about others in your world whether they're people you know or people acting in the world in larger, systemic ways. As you read the psalm, ask God to bring people to your mind you can pray for. Ask God to help them express their anger in a healthy way. Pray for justice for them and for the world.

3. Connect emotionally to biblical characters

When reading vengeance psalms, we can remember that these psalms are the emotional context of many characters in scripture. With this context in mind, it makes David's sparing of Saul's life or the story of Elijah feeding enemies struck blind instead of slaughtering them that much more powerful. Vengeance psalms can also remind us that seeking reconciliation is hard work in our own lives as well and that's okay. If we're able to admit how easy it is to feel vengeful, we can give ourselves the grace and the space we need to truly forgive others instead of shallowly saying the right words at the right time.

What other ways can we healthily interact with vengeance psalms?

Continue the conversation with each other. I look forward to hearing even more ideas! Emily Hedrick, Pastor

<BIBLE CHALLENGE LINK>

Who was the mother of six of Jacob's sons?

Answer: Leah (Genesis 35:33)

<FEATURE LINK>

GOD'S WINGS

An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's wings. After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree.

Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise.

She could have flown to safety but refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast.

Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." - Psalm 91:4 (From <http://varietyreading.carlsguides.com/christian-stories/>)

<CONCLUSION>

Thank you for the time you spent with LINK. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

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< LIMA MENNONITE LINK > is a publication of the Lima Mennonite Church. Editor: Larry L. Oatman, Assistant Editor: Karen Jantzi.

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Lima Mennonite Church is an inclusive Anabaptist congregation.

We gladly welcome all those who choose to walk with us in our journey with Christ.