

# AssemblyLine

December 8, 2019

Volume XXXVIII, Number 49

## Welcome to Assembly Mennonite Church

727 New York St, Goshen, Indiana 46526

574-534-4190 / [office@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:office@assemblymennonite.org)

Worship at 9:30am, Sunday school at 10:45am

### WORSHIP

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 8</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship leader: <i>Lora Nafziger</i> Preacher: <i>Anna Yoder Schlabach</i> Welcome &amp; Take Down: <i>Ad Lib &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> St+</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 15</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship leader: <i>Becky Snider</i> Preacher: <i>Lisa Koop</i> Welcome &amp; Take Down: <i>Tumbleweeds &amp; Well Seasoned</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11</p>
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### CALENDAR

TODAY	Dec 8	Messiah Sing during 2 <sup>nd</sup> hour & Fellowship meal following Messiah Sing 1-3pm JYF December Activity: Gym Time at Bethany Christian Schools
Wed	Dec 11	6pm (K-2) and 7pm (3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> ) Candle Dipping for K-5 at Steve Shantz's home
Fri	Dec 13	11:30am Women's Lunch Bunch Christmas Tea at meetinghouse
Sat	Dec 14	Advent Spiral 5:30 & 7pm for families with children
Sun	Dec 15	NO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN DECEMBER
Wed	Dec 18	Small Group Welcome at meetinghouse, 6:30 PM
Sat	Dec 21	7pm Longest Night Service
Tue	Dec 24	6pm Christmas Eve soup and bread supper at meetinghouse

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### assembly life and people

**Thomas Baldanzi Schlabach** (4th Bethany) turns 10 on Dec 10! Thomas enjoys building with Lego, collecting state quarters and playing Super Mario Odyssey. Thomas likes his awesome teacher at school, creative projects and class reading rewards. He enjoys swimming and plays saxophone and violin and would like to learn to whittle.

**TODAY** is the second Sunday of Advent. Our theme this year is "A way where there is no way." Our Advent worship seeks to create a space to slow down and rest; space to reflect on our longings; space to watch for their signs as we wait for Christ to be born in our lives and in our world. Read the introduction to this series [here](#).

**TODAY, Dec 8**, we will hold our annual Messiah sing along. We will have some vocal scores, but please bring your own if you have one. There will be an orchestra rehearsal at 8am. We have instrumental music to distribute, but copies are available to be downloaded for free [here](#).

[Click the "Arrangements and Transcriptions" tab and select the Prout edition (which is at the top of the list).]

Questions: please email [mateers@aol.com](mailto:mateers@aol.com)

**We will feast together** in a fellowship meal following the Messiah sing TODAY! We are requesting that households with names beginning with A through L bring a main dish, and M through Z bring a salad or side dish. Everyone should feel free to bring a dessert in addition. If you prefer to bring something different than requested that's fine; what is important is to have plenty of all types of food! Please also bring plates and utensils for your household.

**In order to meet our budget** this year we need just a little more than \$88,000 in giving during December. Our giving is up significantly this year, though our budget is bigger too. Our December giving is often strong, so we are hopeful about meeting our budget. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

**Christmas Eve Play Rehearsal TODAY** If you have already contacted Anna Yoder Schlabach about your child being in the Christmas Eve play, there is a script in your mailbox. We will gather in the worship space and do a run through TODAY at 12:30 or whenever kids have finished eating. If your child will be there on Christmas Eve and you haven't contacted Anna yet, they are still welcome. We can always use more sheep, shepherds and forest animals. This year the play is "The Christmas Bird."

**For many of us**, this season before Christmas is a season of ramped-up activity. During Advent, Lora Nafziger has put together simple reflections and activities to help create an alternative space in your home. They are emailed to families with children, and the most recent email for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Advent [can be viewed here](#). Children have advent countdown candles in their mailboxes and there are candles for households without children on the literature table.

**Assembly volunteers** will be serving supper and hosting guests at [Interfaith Hospitality Network](#) (IHN) here in Goshen on Dec 9, 10 and 12. Please keep the guests in your prayers. If you would like to volunteer at IHN in the future, email Susan at [SusanMarkLandis@gmail.com](mailto:SusanMarkLandis@gmail.com)

**Small Group Welcome** is a new type of Assembly small group which is open to anyone who wants to show up for: worship (a lectionary reading), quiet reflection, brief discussion, sharing the highs and lows from our lives, and prayer. Come occasionally or come regularly. We will meet 1st & 3rd Wed at the meetinghouse from 6:30-7:45pm.

**Christmas Eve Candle Dance-** We are looking for a firm commitment from at least 8 people to participate in our annual Candle Dance (it's a simple circle dance with candles that we do every year on Christmas Eve). Please let Linda Schlabach Miller ([lschlabachm@gmail.com](mailto:lschlabachm@gmail.com)) know if you are planning to participate. Four feet tall or more please, all dance abilities welcome. We will practice just before the 6pm Christmas Eve service.

**Ana Yoder Coulter** will present a piano concert of Christmas music Tue, Dec 17 at 3pm in the Greencroft Community Center. The public is welcome.

**Row One Ensemble**, under direction of Jeremiah Chico, will be performing excerpts from Bach's Christmas Oratorio on Dec 18, here in the worship space, at 7:30pm. All proceeds will be donated to [St. Jude's](#).

**Christmas Eve Soup & bread** supper and service is at 6pm Tue, Dec 24. Please sign up on the rolling cart in the gathering space if you plan to attend. On that same cart you'll find a 2<sup>nd</sup> sheet where you can indicate if you are able to help set up, clean up, or bring food. You are welcome to bring out-of-town guests! Email [office@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:office@assemblymennonite.org) with questions.

**At last week's Leadership Group** meeting, the 2020 spending plan was discussed along with Assembly's Annual Retreat and AMC's current financial report. To view all approved meeting minutes, [click here](#).

**If you ordered fruit** from a Goshen High School student this year, it should be delivered this week - look out for a phone call from whoever you bought it from. Thanks again for your support!

**Roxy Gehring**, a recent Goshen College graduate who attended Assembly and was our Administrative Assistant last summer while Naomi traveled, is currently serving as a volunteer through Mennonite Voluntary Service at the Center for Restorative Programs in Almosa, CO. [View this newsletter](#) to read more about the work Roxy is doing!

(repeat) **Candle dipping** on Wed Dec 11 – this is an annual tradition for children at Assembly that takes place in Steve Shantz's garage (60728 CR 27, Goshen). Wear old and warm clothes. Children in grades K-2 are invited at 6pm; grades 3-5 at 7pm. (If it is easier for your family to have children come outside of their age group that is ok!) Parents may drop off their children, or stay as they wish. Questions? call Steve at: 574-534-5315.

(repeat) **The Advent spiral**, a contemplative, candlelight labyrinth walk is an Assembly tradition for children and adults. This year children ages 3 and up are invited to participate on Saturday Dec 14 at 5:30 and 7pm. Older children (especially junior high age) are encouraged to attend at 7pm. Please sign up to attend by emailing [Loracn@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:Loracn@assemblymennonite.org). Adults will be invited into the Advent spiral during 2nd hour on Sun Dec 15.

(repeat) **This is the time of year** when non-profits and charities seek donations. Donations made prior to Dec 31 may be tax deductible. IRA distributions, gifts of commodities or large gifts to donor advised funds are worth exploring! Contact your Everence financial advisor for guidance or talk with Assembly's Everence advocate Barb Hassan.

## community connections

**Bethany Christian High School** will hold its annual Christmas concert at 7:30pm Fri, Dec 13, in Goshen College's Sauder Concert Hall. Come hear choral and

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### Assembly Mennonite Church

#### Pastoral Team

Lora Nafziger [loracn@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:loracn@assemblymennonite.org) 574-312-0732  
 Karl Shelly [karlss@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:karlss@assemblymennonite.org) 574-621-1037  
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 Scott Coulter [scottc@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:scottc@assemblymennonite.org) 419-535-2918

**Pastor Emeritae:** Lois Johns Kaufmann, Mary Lehman Yoder

**Administrator:** Naomi Roots (M/W 9-3:30, F 9-12) [office@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:office@assemblymennonite.org) 574-534-4190

**Elders:** Dennis Landis (chair), Wilma Harder, Regina Shands Stoltzfus, Jonathon Schramm, Anne Horst Hanby, Jamie Lake, Hannah Friesen  
**Youth Coordinators:** Sarah Sutter Kaufmann, Aaron Kaufmann, Ally Mast, Hannah Friesen

**Assembly Mennonite Church** seeks to be a dynamic Christian community by together meeting God who draws us beyond ourselves into nurturing, sharing, and living the good news of God's love as known in Jesus Christ. ~ Mission Statement, adopted June 1997

As a reconciling faith community, Assembly Mennonite Church seeks to follow Jesus' example by welcoming all who come our way, regardless of age, economic or social circumstances, ethnic background, gender, marital status, physical ability, race, or sexual orientation. ~ Welcome statement, adopted Dec. 1999

instrumental groups as they celebrate the birth of Christ in music and join them on stage for their concluding song “The Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s Messiah.

**Sat, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> - Join the Maple City Community Orchestra** for a Sing-a-Long of Handel's Messiah favorite choruses. Supported by voices from St. Joseph Valley Camerata, we need YOU to contribute your voice to the performance! Goshen College, Sauder Hall will open at 7pm, and the show begins at 7:30pm. If you have your own copy of the music, please bring it along! As always, the concert is free and open to the public.

**Join the Journey program!** Nurture your leadership abilities. Tend to your spiritual formation. Deepen your theological perspectives. AMBS’s Journey Missional Leadership Development Program offers mentor-mentee partnerships, distance-learning opportunities and community support. Open to all who are exploring what ministry looks like in their life. Save \$100 if you sign up by Dec. 16! [ambs.edu/journey](http://ambs.edu/journey)

**AMBS online short course:** Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: April 15 – May 26. Join Betty Pries, Ph.D., to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging differences within congregational life in this six-week online course. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Early registration discount of \$50 ends March 25. [ambs.edu/shortcourses](http://ambs.edu/shortcourses)

**JoinMen is a program of Mennonite Men** for engaging men to grow and serve. With JoinMen, we provide retreats and resources for men from an Anabaptist perspective, such as our [new book](#), *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity*. See other offerings for individuals and groups [here](#).

**Give a kit for Christmas!** From hurricanes and flooding to conflict and drought, MCC is responding to many disasters around the world. This Christmas, why not gather your family and pack a school kit as a gift to other families whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster? For more information about school kit contents and how you can get involved, visit [mcc.org/kits/school](http://mcc.org/kits/school).

**Pathways Retreat’s** December edition of their monthly newsletter, Rhythms, [can be viewed here](#).

**Mennonite Health Services (MHS)** is actively seeking a qualified candidate to serve as Administrative Coordinator for the office. This job is a full-time position working out of our Goshen office 109 E Clinton St Ste 5, and provides administrative support to the leadership staff of MHS. If interested in more info or you would like to apply, please contact Clare Krabill at [clare@mhsonline.org](mailto:clare@mhsonline.org)

(repeat) **Bethany Christian Schools** will hold Christmas concerts for grades 4-8 this week in the school’s chapel. On Tues, Dec 10, beginning and intermediate instrumental groups will perform at 6:30pm; the middle school band and orchestra will perform at 7:30. The concert is open to the public; no admission charge.

(repeat) **Support Bethany Christian Schools: Shop Ten Thousand Villages** in Goshen (206 S. Main St.) Dec 9-14. Tell the cashier that you are shopping for Bethany and 20 percent of sales will be donated to Bethany. Your loved ones will enjoy the creative handcrafted gifts you purchase and artisans will receive vital, fair income as you support Bethany.

(repeat) **Bethany Christian Schools Alumni Night.** Bethany alumni will receive free admission and be eligible for prizes at the boys and girls evening Holiday tourney basketball games on Sat, Dec 21. Boys game begins at 6 and girls at 7:30. Note, alumni night does not include the morning games of the Holiday Tourney.

(repeat) **Register now at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS)** for *Shaping Faith in a Digital Culture: March 2–5*. Join fellow faith leaders at a joint conference of *Pastors and Leaders 2020* and *Deep Faith* on the AMBS campus in Elkhart, Indiana. You’ll think and reflect theologically together about living, worshiping and playing in digital spaces. First-time attenders get 25% off! [ambs.edu/pastorsandleaders](http://ambs.edu/pastorsandleaders)

(repeat) **Consider recycling more of your waste!** Here are two little-known recycling opportunities: 1. [Recycle your Styrofoam](#) at Tri-Power Recycling, (1240 Anderson St. in Elkhart), a family-owned and operated recycling company that accepts and recycles Styrofoam (EPS-expanded Polystyrene)! Learn more [tri-powerrecycling.com](http://tri-powerrecycling.com)  
2. [Terracycling!](#) Hively Avenue Preschool (at Hively

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Avenue Mennonite Church, 800 E. Hively Avenue in Elkhart) collects hard-to-recycle waste items to divert them from landfills and earn money. TerraCycle reuses, upcycles and recycles these materials into eco-friendly products and contributes an average of \$0.02 per item to the preschool. The preschool began recycling through TerraCycle in 2010 and has helped to collect and recycle more than 600,000 units of waste, raising over \$6,000 for the preschool and \$3,000 for other charities. You can help by bringing in any of the items on the collection list found at [preschool.hivelymennonite.org/terracycle](http://preschool.hivelymennonite.org/terracycle), such as inner cereal and cracker bags, drink pouches, foil-lined snack bar wrappers, chip and pretzel bags, Brita filters, toothbrushes, plastic markers, dry-erase markers and more.

(repeat) **As you determine your year-end giving**, The Depot MCC Resource Center welcomes contributions to defray the cost of their solar project that was installed earlier this year. Checks should be made out to The Depot and mailed to 1013 Division Street, Goshen, IN 46528 or given to a cashier at the thrift shop. Please designate your contribution to “Solar Project.” Questions should be directed to Dan Williams at [TheDepot1013@gmail.com](mailto:TheDepot1013@gmail.com).

(repeat) **Urgent need!** Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) is seeking contracted or volunteer services, about 1-2 hrs/wk with regular access to the Goshen Post Office. Work involves collecting mail, scanning and electronically sending checks and documents, and depositing funds at Everence FCU. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Paul Leichthy at MHF, [pdleichthy@mennohealth.org](mailto:pdleichthy@mennohealth.org). See [www.mennohealth.org](http://www.mennohealth.org) for more details.

(repeat) **Mennonite Mission Network** is seeking a full-time finance assistant and a half time recruiter. You can see the positions descriptions at [www.mennonitemission.net](http://www.mennonitemission.net) under “employment opportunities”. To begin the application process for either of these positions, send your resumé to [StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net) or call Linda Krueger, HR Coordinator (574-523-3009) for more info.

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