



# buzz

## Sunday School Elective: Class on Loss

Many of us have already experienced significant loss in our life. “Loss is as much a part of normal life as birth, for as surely as we are born into this world we suffer loss before we leave it.”

This class will explore loss using the book, “A Grace Disguised” by Jerry Sittser. Loss came suddenly for Jerry. In an instant, a tragic accident claimed three generations of his family; his mother, his wife, and his young daughter. While most of us will not experience loss in such a catastrophic form, all of us will taste it. And we can, if we choose, know as well the grace that transforms it.

“A Grace Disguised” plumbs the depths of our sorrows, whether due to a move, illness, divorce, or the loss of someone we love. The circumstances are not important; what we do with those circumstances is. “In coming to the end of ourselves, we can come to the beginning of a new life -- one marked by spiritual depth, joy, compassion, and a deeper appreciation of simple blessings.” The goal of the class is to learn how it is possible to live in and be enlarged by loss, even as we continue to experience it.

The class will be held in Winter Quarter -- December, January and February. It will focus on discussion rather than lecture. We are all teachers and can learn from each other’s experiences. The class will be led by Mel and Lorna Claassen, who will share from their experience of their daughter’s diagnosis of Leukemia and subsequent death in 2003.

It has been four years since this class was offered at Waterford. New attenders are welcome as well as those who participated in this class previously. It is meaningful to share updates of our journeys. Sign up at the Participation Station in the foyer. The class will be limited to the first 20 who sign up.

–Mel and Lorna Claassen

## Landscaping Project

After the recent installation of solar panels, the area near the Memorial Garden needed some landscaping in order to create a lovely sight while providing a natural sound barrier to the road noise.

On a beautiful October Saturday morning, a small, industrious group of about 10 Waterford attenders and a community service worker gathered to beautify this area of the church property.

After several hours of work, the group had the landscaping mostly completed by noon. Although a majority of the project is done, there will be several more plants to be added yet next spring.

Thanks to all those who contributed time in the planning and planting. –Conrad Brenneman



Mauricio Robles and Len Harms



Deb Brenneman and Irma Perez



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#### Staff Team

##### Administrative Ministry

- Greg Hire  
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- Michelle Lehman  
*Secretary*
- Elvina Schmidt  
*Bookkeeper*
- Janet Shoemaker  
*Coordinator of Administrative Ministries*
- Mel Claassen  
*Interim Business Manager*

##### Facilities Ministry

- Jan Oostland  
*Facilities Manager*
- Courtney Shetler  
*Custodian*
- Irma Perez  
*Custodian*

##### Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz  
*Pastoral Team Leader*
- Katie Misz  
*Pastor of Family Life*
- Velma Swartz  
*Pastor of Senior Ministries*
- Cindy Voth  
*Pastor of Community Life*

The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

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## Endowment Fund Applications

The Endowment Fund Committee again welcomes applications for projects that would benefit from assistance from Waterford's Endowment Fund. Through an oversight over the summer, Waterford's Endowment Fund Committee did not meet and is preparing to regroup again this fall to review applications. Although still subject to confirmation by the Committee, at least \$5,000 will likely be available in this cycle of grants. The deadline to prepare applications for this cycle is December 1, with distributions expected to be made by February 1, 2017.

Waterford's Endowment Fund was established to serve as a way to support the ongoing work of Jesus at Waterford. Ministry teams, recognized groups within the congregation, and individuals representing outside agencies are all invited to apply for grants. Past distributions have supported continuing education for ministry teams, special events, housing projects, mission organizations and more. We welcome being inundated with requests, as these applications represent creative approaches to ministry. Applications are available in the literature racks located near the mailboxes.

Endowment Fund Committee: Jon. Wieand, Jeff Miller, Kathy Myers, Vyron Schmidt, Mark DeVito, Neil Amstutz

## Receiving Members on Nov. 13

Pastors and Ministry Leadership Council are happy to recommend Rod and Waneda Miller as church members to be received in the 8:00 worship service on November 13. Rod and Waneda live near New Paris and have been attending Waterford for almost a year. Rod will be received by membership transfer from Fairview Mennonite Church of Etna Green, the congregation where he grew up and was baptized. Waneda has requested baptism here, as she was not baptized in the Millersburg area church where she grew up. Rod works as a small engine technician at Wakarusa Ag Services and Waneda is a creative assistant at Heartfelt Creations in Goshen. Please join in welcoming them as new members at Waterford.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz

## Thank You Note

Following is a thank you note written by Kay Miller's first grade class. The ear phones were bought with money Waterford donated.

Dear waterford  
mennonite church  
Thank you for the  
headphones

Joining in a dance of praise with Pierre and Arlette at Monday evening's farewell time.



Photo Credit: Cindy Voth

from mfs miller c class  
grad