



# *buzz*

---

## “Upside Down and Inside Out”

### *Lent/Easter 2016 worship series*

With Easter Sunday about as early as it comes (March 27), the season of Lent also comes to us earlier this year. Our worship theme draws from lectionary Scripture texts for Year B, when the focus is on the faithful, rather than on those who are new believers or on those who have wandered from Christ. Lent is always about spiritual renewal, but it's fair to ask, “What does renewal look like for those who are already committed?” In this series, we will be faced with the gospel that turns us upside down and inside out. For our setting at Waterford, I find helpful what some worship planners wrote regarding these Year B texts:

*“... being turned upside down and inside out may be precisely what faithful believers need most of all. Believers may not so much need a 'reset' as an invitation not to settle, a call to grow up rather than simply to grow. Growing up asks us to take a second look at what we thought we knew, what we thought was decided, what we thought we were done with, and to discover that there is more than we saw at first glance.”* (Leader, Winter 2014-15, p. 24, MennoMedia)

Lent has the added uniqueness of two additional worship services we observe outside of Sunday morning:

- Ash Wednesday service on February 10 will be at 6:30 p.m., preceded by a Soul Food Wednesday meal at 5:30. This family-friendly service of humbly recalling our own created mortality before God, will be the featured activity for Venture Club, JYF and MYF, as well as adults.
- Maundy Thursday service will function as our fourth Soul Food Wednesday activity of the season, at 6:00 p.m. on March 24. The format will not be identical to what we've done in recent years, but the most basic elements will continue: a simple shared meal around tables, communion, and footwashing. More details coming later.

—Neil Amstutz, Pastoral Team Leader

*Turn the page for a chart showing the schedule.*

## Giving update through nine months

With the end of January having passed, we have reached the nine-month mark in our congregation's fiscal year. Throughout the first months of the year, we have been tracking behind last year's giving. Giving in December and January was solid, but we remain five percent behind last year's total for the year to date.

This is also the time of year when we actively begin using projected year-end expenses as a reference point, rather than comparing to budget. Though this is never an exact science, we currently estimate that expenses for the year will be about three percent more than last year's total.

Last year, we experienced strong contributions during the final three months of the year as we came close to meeting our expenses. To meet our expenditures this year would require a significant increase from our patterns of the first nine months. Recognizing the challenge we are facing, we are choosing to delay our third quarter giving to external agencies. We will continue to monitor our giving and expenses closely to determine how much of our final two quarters of contributions we will be able to make.

In January, congregational chair Vyron Schmidt encouraged us to move from stewardship, the faithful management of our resources, to generosity, a joyful response to a generous God. We invite you to join us in this generosity journey and prayerfully consider how you might increase your gifts.

—Lyle Miller, pastoral team,  
Tom Yoder, treasurer

*Lent/Easter 2016 worship series*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Key Scriptures</b>	<b>Special elements</b>
<b>Feb. 10</b>	Ash Wednesday	(none)	Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Imposition of ashes
<b>Feb. 14</b>	Lent 1: "One more time"	Neil Amstutz	Genesis 9:8-17	Bethany Christian High School concert choir singing
<b>Feb. 21</b>	Lent 2: "Beyond imagination"	Cindy Voth	Mark 8:31-38	
<b>Feb. 28</b>	Lent 3: "God's foolishness"	Neil Amstutz	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	
<b>Mar. 6</b>	Lent 4: "God amidst the shadows"	Neil Amstutz	John 3:14-21	Service of anointing; WMC choir sings
<b>Mar. 13</b>	Lent 5: "Letting the seed coats decay"	Lyle Miller	Jeremiah 31:31-34	
<b>Mar. 20</b>	Palm Sunday: "A second look"	Neil Amstutz	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 14:14 – 15:47	Lyle Miller farewell in nurture hour
<b>Mar. 24</b>	Maundy Thursday	(none)	John 13:1-17	Shared meal, communion, footwashing
<b>Mar. 27</b>	Easter: "We have waited for this"	Neil Amstutz	Isaiah 25:6-9; John 20:1-18	7:40 Songs in the garden, WMC choir sings in worship services, Easter brunch during nurture hour



*SALTER Jesse Amstutz distributing MCC school kits to 6th grade public school students in Tocoa, Honduras, as part of his service at Proyecto Paz y Justicia.*

## MYF auction set for February 21

Mark your calendars to join the MYF on February 21 for its annual supper and auction, which serve as a major fundraiser for faith formation activities. The evening will begin with supper by donation at 5:30 p.m., followed by the auction around 6:30.

This year's auction will particularly support our Service and Learning Trip (SaLTrip) to Tucson, Ariz., in July. While there, we will have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in many of the issues surrounding immigration and to consider our faithful response as Christians.

Previous auctions have included a broad range of items, including meals in homes, food brought to the auction, services offered by the MYF and others, and much more. We invite you to join us for a fun evening.

—Lyle Miller, pastor of family life and financial stewardship



*Each year, the MYF Auction supports faith formation activities such as Service and Learning Trips. Pictured is the 2014 group at DOOR in Chicago*

---

## Apply for reimbursement for will preparation

More than 80 people took part in a will planning seminar led by Vyron Schmidt and Galen Kauffmann during the nurture hour on January 31.

The seminar was sponsored by the Facilities & Finance Ministry Team with support from the pastoral team. As an act of pastoral care, we as pastors have a desire for everyone in our congregation to have a current will in place. It is also an act of stewardship, helping families to manage the assets that they have accumulated and have been entrusted with.

In the seminar, attorney Galen Kauffmann presented information about the legal issues regarding will preparation. A will serves as a tool to express one's preferences regarding the distribution of assets and the care of children.

Vyron Schmidt, a representative of Everence, encouraged people to consider including charities such as Waterford in their will. While many people are accustomed to being generous with regular income, they often do not include charitable organizations in their planning when considering their accumulated assets. Vyron reported that only five percent of Americans have included charities in their will, with only some of them including the local congregation.

Thanks to a grant from Waterford's Endowment Fund, persons who took part in the seminar may receive \$50 towards the cost of establishing or updating a will. To receive reimbursement, provide a copy of your invoice to bookkeeper Elvina Schmidt. This grant program will be available through July 1.

Thanks to the quick-thinking Shawn Stutzman, the seminar was recorded. If you were not able to attend the seminar, but would like to have the information or be eligible for the congregational grant, contact me and I will make a copy of the DVD for you.

In addition, those who own an Everence product or use an Everence service are eligible to receive a \$50 grant from Everence. To apply, visit <http://www.everence.com/benefits/>. If you have questions on either grant, contact Lyle Miller ([lyle@waterfordchurch.org](mailto:lyle@waterfordchurch.org)).

In addition to preparing a will, there are many end-of-life decisions a person should consider. Many of these are discussed in our Remembering LIFE folder, available in the church office. Included in this folder are a number of forms that would be beneficial to complete. These include a funeral planning document that allows individuals to express preferences regarding funeral planning and other issues. This form also collects biographical information that funeral homes find helpful in preparing obituary notices. The folder also includes information about congregation resources such as the Remembering LIFE Garden, columbarium, and reusable casket.

—Lyle Miller, Pastor of Family Life & Financial Stewardship



## Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15  
Goshen, IN 46526  
p: 574 533-5642  
f: 574 533-0879  
office@waterfordchurch.org  
www.waterfordchurch.org

### Staff Team

#### Administrative Ministry

- Greg Hire  
*Coordinator of  
Ministry Gifts*
- Michelle Lehman  
*Secretary*
- Elvina Schmidt  
*Bookkeeper*
- Janet Shoemaker  
*Coordinator of  
Administrative Ministries*
- JD Smucker  
*Worship Coordinator*

#### Facilities Ministry

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

#### Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz  
*Pastoral Team Leader*
- Lyle Miller  
*Pastor of Family Life and  
Financial Stewardship*
- 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. Tuesday preceding publication.

Katie Hurst,  
editor; 574 312-0125  
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

## It's all in what you see (and hear)

When worshipping with 150 or 200 people in a large sanctuary, we all rely heavily on audiovisual equipment, and people to operate it, in order to actually hear and see what God is doing in our midst. We are very grateful for the faithful adults and youth who operate our AV booth every Sunday, usually for two consecutive services, so that we can see and hear. For more than eight years now, Len Emery has been our go-to person back in the booth, not only familiar with the technical side of it but also coordinating the Sunday schedules and finding people for AV services during special events such as funerals and weddings. As Len is stepping back now from these scheduling responsibilities for AV services at Waterford, we express our deep thanks for his years of dedication so that the rest of us could see and hear what's going on. Often behind the scenes (and the computer monitor) has been his wife Kathy, helping out when two people were needed. Len will continue to take regular Sundays behind the booth and will continue to be our contact for the AV equipment and supplies.

This means we need someone to help assure that the lights and sound keep going at Waterford functions. We are looking for someone to assist with two specific scheduling roles: Coordinating AV booth operators for both weekly Sunday worship services; and arranging for AV operators for all special events outside of Sunday mornings, which happen less frequently. These are administrative tasks that do not require experience in the AV booth, nor familiarity with the AV equipment, but we do need to hear from you soon. Do you have organizational skills that you could offer the church to help us keep the lights and sound running? A scheduling person is our most important AV need at this time, but if you would like to try your hand learning what these folks do in that booth, having a few more AV operators would also be welcome.

If you're interested, please contact either Janet Shoemaker in the church office, Coordinator of Ministry Gifts Greg Hire, or myself.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz

## Senior Adult Ministry Team

You are needed! We, as Senior Adult Ministry team, are looking for several more people to join us as we minister to our seniors. Even if you are a young senior and would like to join us we would welcome you. This ministry is an excellent way to get to know our seniors here in church. Many of them love to tell their stories and if you listen you will receive the gift of understanding of what has formed them, what is important to them now and their desires for us in today's world. We do things like visit people at Greencroft and other facilities in the community, visit in their homes, take communion to groups or individuals, send birthday greetings, etc. Male or female, young and older we would welcome you to our team. If you have any interest in joining or learning more about this ministry, please check in with one of the team members.

—Lila Gascho, Sharon Burkholder,  
Carolyn Kauffman, Ursula Hess,  
Fancheon Ressler and Velma Swartz

## Prayer hour for Ross Richers

All are invited to a monthly prayer hour for Jerrell, Jane, Sierra, Naomi, Teresa, and Jordan Ross Richer on the second Sunday of each month. The next gathering will be Sunday, Feb 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the prayer room at the church.

## Everence Sharing Fund update

The Everence Sharing Funds provided \$2,944.95 in matching funds to support special needs in our church last year. Miriam Stauffer serves as the Everence advocate for our congregation. Please contact her for more information.

## What a turn off!

New light bulbs in the sanctuary require a double negative. If you are the last one in the sanctuary, please press the off switch two times to make sure all lights are turned off. Some will not go off with one press. So go for a full court double press. Otherwise the lights won't not stay on (double negative).

## Mennonite Women

Mennonite Women meets Thursday, February 11, at 8:30 a.m. All women are welcome to come to quilt, knot comforters, knit prayer shawls, share in a devotional time and eat lunch together. Soup will be furnished, so bring a side dish or dessert to go with soup.