



# buzz

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## Update From Service Adventure Unit

Dear Waterford Mennonite,

Happy holidays! As an update, I'd like to share a bit more about my experience as a participant in the Service Adventure Anchorage Unit.

I've had an amazing time working as a recreational intern at the Bureau of Land Management for the past four months. Every day is full of new challenges and experiences. Managing signage, maintaining trailheads, and recording the visitor count have been a few of the main jobs that I perform. In addition, I've been assisting with preparation for the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Dogsled Race which will occur later next year.

As our unit has progressed throughout the year we've shared our unique life experiences with one another. Weekly "Learning Components" have been great opportunities to learn about new topics. Crash courses on the Netherlands, German, and Morse code are just a few examples of what participants have directed.

These past few months have also given me time to focus on faith. Every week our unit holds a worship night where we plan and organize an activity centered around investigating what it means to be a Christian. In addition, the adult Sunday school class gathers for bi-weekly Bible studies. This has been especially helpful for gaining different perspectives from church members that are in various stages of their faith journeys.

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve in Anchorage Alaska! *—Jackson King*

## Straight from the Hip

While getting a hip replaced is a bit of an ordeal, it is certainly made better by the love, care and support of so many wonderful people. Thanks for all your prayers, notes, visits, meals and the timely gift of the poinsettia since my surgery on December 19, 2017. Each one in the congregation has had a part in ministering Christ's love to me/us in this time of healing.

*—Tim (and Sharon) Burkholder*

## Giving Thanks Again

Our Fall Mission Sunday (with guest speaker Sarah Thompson) occurred the Sunday before Thanksgiving. That special mission offering brought in \$8545 given above budget, which has already been distributed as follows:

- Christian Peacemaker Teams – \$2848
- Elkhart County HOPE Network (through Center for Healing and Hope) – \$2848
- Emergency Fund of Goshen Ministerial Association – \$2549
- Waterford's Jubilee Fund – \$300

Thanks to everyone at Waterford for your generosity in supporting the ministries of risky peacemaking around the world, as well as giving practical help locally to vulnerable immigrants and people needing assistance with food, fuel, rent and other basic necessities.

## Thank You

Waterford Church Family,

Thank you for being there for our Mom over the years and for facilitating her memorial service. A special thank you to Velma and Neil.

*—The Family of Charlene Christophel*



Singing the Hallelujah Chorus at Bethany's Christmas concert Dec. 15: Katie Misz surrounded by Kassy Miller, Beth Smucker, Shirley Yoder, and Cynthia Bontrager. In lower left, Emma Bontrager, and Erin Bontrager.

## Children's Christmas Program

Thank you to all who participated in the Christmas program on December 10. A special thanks to Mikki Bowman for her leadership and coordination of the night. Her hours of work and love for the children are such a wonderful gift. The night began with the ever-so-adorable toddlers jingling their happy bells loud and proud. The evening continued with a playful and profound skit from a group of talented youth, under the direction of Angela Stoltzfus. The skit introduced the theme of light illuminating the darkness. Next, the children read the story of Jesus' light entering the world. Their readings were interspersed between the children's choir and congregational hymns. Lorraine Reinford's piano playing and Amanda Stoltzfus' assistance guided the children, who read and sang beautifully. The children lit candles which passed throughout the congregation, as they led us in singing Silent Night to conclude the evening. To add an extra special ending, the 9th and 10th grade class played tone chimes to Silent Night. It was a great night. Thanks again for all the teachers and volunteers who serve on an ongoing basis with children and youth. Merry Christmas!

*-Katie Misz*





## Advent at WMC

Top: JD Smucker leads the Christmas Orchestra on Dec. 10. Middle: Luke Voth with the children at children's time. Bottom: Luke creates the pieces of the wooden picture in the church foyer for the children's time series.



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- Elvina Schmidt  
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- Janet Shoemaker  
*Coordinator of  
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- Mel Claassen  
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*Custodian*

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- Katie Misz  
*Pastor of Family Life*
- Velma Swartz  
*Pastor of Senior Ministries*
- Cindy Voth  
*Pastor of Community Life*

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