

Welcome To Locust Grove

December 3, 2017

Senior Pastor.....Max Zook 717.348.4488
Associate Pastor.....Ivan Yoder 717.363.0857
Youth & Women's Ministry Coordinator.....Pam Yoder 717.363.6547
Children's Ministry Coordinator.....
Secretary..... Kara Kauffman 717.437.1473
Church Office..... 717.935.2164

9:00 & 10:30 Morning Worship Service

Prelude: Meagan Byler
Worship Leader: Drew Derstein
Song Leader: Jay Yoder
New members: Jack & Susan VanSciver, 9:00 Service
Sermon: Good News: The King is Coming, Isa. 9 - Max Zook

11:15: Children's Breakout session (Pre-K-Grade 2) in the MYF Room.

Nursery: Infants through 3 year olds-

9:00 – Lauren Reed & Ashley Newman
10:30 – Karen Yoder, Chisomo VanSciver, Lexi Melanson
*Next Week: 9:00- Justin & Amanda Byler, Sydney Jerman
10:30- Clint & Heather Yoder, Chesney Delozier

Prayer List:

At Home: Irvin & Sara Hartzler
Brent Sausman

At Valley View: Orpha Zook, A205 Valley View Terrace

Away: Tyler & Annie Yoder, Gator Wilderness Camp
44930 Farabee Rd, Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Mission Spot: Please pray for Marilla & Erdem and their two children. They are a mission family who are going through a very difficult time. Recently, spies came into their home disguised as Christians and exposed them as missionaries. Where they live, it is illegal to conduct Missions in the home. Please pray for their courage, strength, & safety.

Reaching Out: Charlie Stump Preaching at Mt. Union Presbyterian.

Address Change: John & Cora Byler, 4702 E. Main St., Room 506, Belleville, PA 17004. Telephone number 717-935-3808.

November 26, 2017

9:00 Worship Attendance 181
S.S. Attendance 362
10:30 Worship Attendance 179
S.S. Offering \$36.50
Morning Worship Offering \$14,849.10
Thanksgiving Offering..... \$1,548.25

Week 46

Budgeted Morning Worship Offerings - \$534,920
YTD Morning Worship Offerings - \$524,264

This Week's Events:

Monday 5:30 p.m. – Leadership Team meeting
Monday, 7:00 p.m. – “The Case for the Bible” – Allensville Menno. Church
Tuesday – Ladies’ Sewing (Lunch will be provided)
Tuesday, 7 a.m. – Men’s Pursuit of God Bible Study
Tuesday, 10 a.m.-Women's Bible Study, “Minor Prophets”
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. - Bob Plank’s Bible study on Matthew, Rm. 103
Tuesday, 7 p.m. – Grief Share, Room #102

Upcoming Events:

December 16, 9 -11 a.m. - Practice for Children’s Christmas Program
December 17, 7:00 p.m. - Locust Grove Children’s Christmas Program
December 24, 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service

Group, Grades 7-9: Meet at the church from 6-8 for Bible Study today. 7th grade bring a drink, 8th & 9th grade bring a snack.

Young Adults: Meet today at Pam & Ivan’s for lunch & discussion.

MYF: Grades 10-12: Meet at the church at 6:15 p.m. and at Ferguson Valley Rd at 6:30 p.m. for Shirleysburg. Bring money for McDonalds.

Tuesday morning-10 am- Mom's Bible study on Minor Prophets led by Jenny Goss. We meet in the nursery for moms with young children.

Church Calendar & Sunday School Pictures: Starting this Sunday and in the next few weeks, Kara Kauffman will be coming around to the different adult and children Sunday School classrooms to take pictures for our new church calendar. Also, if you have any changes or your birthday and/or anniversary is not included in our church calendar, please email kara@locustgrovemc.org or call her at 717-935-2164 as soon as possible to get this in there.

Children's Christmas Program Practice: The 1st - 4th graders will be dismissed at 9:55 to practice from 10 - 10:45 each Sunday. PreK/K students will practice during the usual assembly time of 10:15 - 10:30.

Join us after the Christmas Program on December 17th for a live nativity, crafts, cookies and hot chocolate! This is a fun, family event to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Also, if you would like to **volunteer to bring cookies**, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the gymnasium.

2017 is the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Starting Dec. 10th, the *Soli Deo Gloria* Sunday school class will begin a study of the five solas of the Reformation: Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone); Sola Gratia (grace alone); Sola Fide (faith alone); Solus Christus (Christ alone); Soli Deo Gloria (for the glory of God alone). In sum, the solas mean: Scripture alone is our guide. It teaches us that our salvation comes by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone to the glory of God alone. To kick-off our study, on December 10th Randy Yoder will speak on the reasons for the Reformation. If you are interested in learning more about the Protestant Reformation, we invite you to join us for our study on the five solas of the Reformation beginning December 10th. We meet during the second Sunday school period. –John Baker

Apple Butter: The young adults still have apple butter available. If you are interested in purchasing, please see Ivan & Pam.

Hosts Needed: The annual CMC Pastor's Conference will be held February 19-22, 2018 here at Locust Grove, and is being hosted by the Allensville, Barrville, Locust Grove, and Mt. View congregations. We need persons who would be willing to provide lodging in your homes for pastors who will be attending. If you would be willing to help in this way, please contact Marian Hartzler at 717.935.2728. Thank you!

Israel Trip 2018! A group of 24 persons, mostly from our church, plans to tour Israel March 19 – 29. Included in the group are Alin & Gabi Ciorogar, our missionaries in Romania. Max and Brenda are receiving donations to assist them to make this trip for their encouragement and education. Also, some space is still available if you would like to join them. Contact Max or Brenda Zook if you are interested.

The Barrville Mennonite Church is hosting **the Sky Family** for a Celtic Christmas Program. The concert will be on Wednesday evening, Dec. 13 at 6:30 PM and the church is located at 48 Barrville Mountain Road, Reedsville PA. There is no cost to attend and a free will offering will be taken to assist in the music and ministry of the Sky family.

Hope Alive Group Treatment Program for men and women will begin a new group in the beginning of the new year. This group may be for you if you are ready to dig in and resolve those issues that cause you pain, or nightmares, or difficult relationships. Are you asking yourself: "Why do I think and act as I do?" "How does my childhood abuse and neglect cause me pain today?" "What affect does my pregnancy losses have in my current family life?" Discover and know yourself better. Now is a good time to schedule an evaluation and question/answer session with me. Call for an appointment: Karen Yoder at 935-2685.

News from Gator Camp: Welcome to the Advent Season Locust Grove Church family from a bunch of boys who are excited about making Christmas crafts, decorating for Christmas, baking cookies with our good cooks, hitching the horses and wagon and caroling for the neighbors. However, the most significant gift we desire our boys to receive this time of year is a clear understanding for the perfect plan our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ has planned for each one of them. In this time between Thanksgiving and Christmas Dall all of Gator Camp would like to say "Thank You" to our church family for the way you have prayed, sent capable volunteers with great attitudes, sent chiefs, cooks, and family workers, and financially supported us over the years. I often think of the Sunday 10 years ago when we recognized the church planting work of Mar and Gloria Zook in Papua New Guinea. Each church planted was represented by a candle burning on the platform. One candle was left unlit to represent the next church plant by Locust Grove. Little did any of us know that several years later that outreach would be Gator Camp. Please keep the boys, families, and staff in daily prayer for God's protection, provision, safety, and that God's hand at work would be evident for all to see when they come on to this property.

Missionary Moments: Ethnos 360 (New Tribes Missions) with the Lolo people group in Mozambique: Matt, Debi, Melody, William, Nicholas, and Nathanael Zook: We hope to move early next year. We have a few more permissions to get for the government (people in America don't realize how much time missionaries spend doing government paperwork). Second the guys are digging a hand dug well and I would like to hit water before we build. Third we've got to build a house. I hope things are done in 3 months. We are also building an office/visiting area/living quarters building for the Lolo believers who are going with us. We are paying for them to study law at a Mozambican university for a year. Law will do nothing for them practically. But the idea is that the rigors of studying and thinking will expand their ability to think which is supposed to help them later in life. One of them is interested in being a missionary and being a translation assistant which is the same role that I do in translation work here. He is just now getting married and we are planning to work with him for 4 years doing literacy and Bible teaching along with the law degree thing and see what God might have for him after that.

Wycliffe in Orlando, Florida: Keith, Christina, Luke, and Nicole Bitikofer:

Keith enjoys finishing one project and immediately moving on to another. Currently he is working on a Finance System and another system to monitor the translation projects. Christine is transitioning to a new financial role that will monitor the money aspects of projects in East Africa. Luke started ice skating and hopes to play on a hockey team soon. Nicole enjoys being homeschooled and working at their co-op. She also volunteers at an equine therapy organization that works with children with disabilities. Please pray with us as our income varies each month, based on the amount of donations received. December is a 'catch up' month and we trust the year will end well. Thank you for your prayers and financial partnership.

SEND in Teslin, Yukon, Canada: Sheldon, Cindy, Jedidiah, Annali, Caleb,

and Malachi Sharp: Dear praying friends: Our friend Dougie is asking you to pray for his father, Doug, who is still weak from cancer treatments and now his kidneys are not functioning properly. And for his Mother, Jane, in her supporting role through this difficult time. We are thankful that both father and son are believers, and pray that God will be glorified in the strengthening of their faith and the healing of Doug's body. Thank you!

Medical Missions in Philippines: Kendra Fultz: I just realized today that I have been back in for one month! It has been a fast month, but it's been great. When I landed in Manila we went directly to Baguio for the Medical Ambassador of the Philippines (MAP) conference. It was a fantastic opportunity for me to meet with all the volunteers and some of the indigenous people that they serve. It was 3 days of all Tagalog speakers, so I didn't know what was going on, but I did make a lot of new friends. I also signed up to be a volunteer with them. One friend I met there is putting together a group to take Christmas to the children of Umbang, Pugturian and Sepit villages. Umbang is the tribe that Wilson and Daliah are from. This trip will be on December 15-17. I am so excited to do this!! Continue to pray for volunteers and finances. I am in charge of putting games together, so I've been brainstorming ... there will be a total of 210 kids in the 3 villages. We will be doing one village per day. also pray that God gives me the physical strength for the hike. I started teaching at the school again. I'm also praying about starting a Bible study group for the kids in my class who want to join in after school. We had a birth at the clinic yesterday morning. We could feel God in the room. The mom came in at 7 and she was only 1 cm dilated. This was her first child so we were prepared for the birth to take a while. Her heart rate was really low... it was dipping into the 40s. we decided to transport her to the hospital but just as the ambulance pulled up she was fully dilated. We all started praying. We aren't sure if the mom had heart issues or what but it could have gone very badly. The mom delivered a very healthy and beautiful baby boy! That's most of the updates for now... Daliah is having another check up at the hospital tomorrow so once we know more I will keep you updated. As of right now her and Samuel are doing well. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Prayer Guide for December 3 – December 9

3 Sunday – *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. Isaiah 9:2*

4 Monday – **Pray for Glenn I. Yoder** recovering at home from pneumonia and pray for **Mike Goss**, son of Bill & Carol Goss, who has been in the hospital this past week. Pray for the **Leadership Team** in their monthly meeting this evening and pray for discernment in the process of selecting someone to serve as our Children's Ministry Coordinator.

5 Tuesday – Pray for the **women's sewing group** that meets today at the church to prepare clothing and blankets for people in need around the world. Pray for an encouraging time for the women even as they give their time to serve others.

6 Wednesday – Pray for **Melissa Yoder and Carmen Groff** in Nepal at the leprosy hospital learning how to care for leprosy patients. Pray for them as they go to a village in India to practice what they have just learned with several people with leprosy.

7 Thursday – Pray for **moments of stillness** this week to think about the wonder of the love of God demonstrated in the coming of Jesus Christ to earth. Praise God for His love and light that penetrates this dark and sinful world.

8 Friday – Pray for **someone to fill needs in our ministry to children:** Children's Ministry Coordinator; Nursery director, teacher for the 3-year olds in the 1st session, and 2 teachers for the PreK/K class in the 2nd session. Contact Joyce Staley (717-483-0080) if you are the answer to those prayers.

9 Saturday – Pray for **Ivan Yoder** as he prepares a sermon for tomorrow morning and pray for **Andrea Kauffman** as she prepares to lead our Christmas carol singing and worship time.