

Welcome To Locust Grove

December 31, 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: Dan Fry
Worship Leader: Mike Hartzler
Song Leader: J.D. Yoder
Sermon: Be Still, Ps 46:10 - Max Zook

Nursery: Infants through 3 year olds-

9:00 – Jeff & Carrie Zook
10:30 – Trevor & Lauren Weaver, Sarah Kanagy
*Next Week: 9:00- Nate & Meagan Byler
10:30- Julie and Lily Yoder

Prayer List:

At Home: Rod & Shelby Hartzler
Neil, Luann, Ethan, & Katelyn Renno

At Valley View: Twila Peachey, A128 Valley View Terrace

Away: Nathan Martin, 304 Augusta Dr., Missoula, MT 59801

Reaching Out: Mayard Beitzel preaching at Allensville Lutheran. Charlie Stump preaching at Mt. Union Presbyterian.

December 24, 2017

9:00 Worship Attendance 232
S.S. Attendance..... 367
10:30 Worship Attendance 231
S.S. Offering \$74.20
Morning Worship Offering..... \$11,683

Week 50

Budgeted Morning Worship Offerings - \$579,580
YTD Morning Worship Offerings - \$579,972

This Week's Events:

Tonight, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. - MYF Pork & Sauerkraut Fundraiser meal
Tonight, 7:00 p.m. – Evening of Prayer
Tuesday, 7 a.m.-Men's Pursuit of God Bible Study
Tuesday, 7 p.m. – Grief Share, Room #102
Wednesday, 6:45 p.m.-Hymn Sing at Valley View Terrace Act. Rm.
Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-The Real Heaven Bible Study, rm. 103
Thursday, 1:00 p.m.-Ladies' Bible Study, "Quest" will meet in room 103.

Upcoming Events:

January 7, 7:00 p.m.- Carmen Groff & Melissa Yoder will share about their recent trip to Nepal and India
January 9, 10:00 a.m.-Mom's Bible Study

Bob Plank's Bible study will not meet until Tuesday, January 9th. We will be studying Ephesians. All are welcome!

Ladies' sewing will not meet in January 2018.

Parents & Children: Breakout session is temporarily concluded and the sand bucket with candy has been discontinued. Activity pages will still be provided at both entrances.

MYF: Grades 10-12: Meet at the church at 3:00 pm this afternoon to prepare for the Pork & Sauerkraut fundraiser. This evening, New Year's Eve @ 7pm - 12am Amazing Race.

MYF Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:15 p.m. Bring a snack or drink.

MYF PORK AND SAUERKRAUT FUNDRAISER MEAL-Come and join us from 5:00 to 6:30 this evening, tonight, for our annual pork and sauerkraut meal. All proceeds will go towards summer mission experiences for our high school youth. Thank you for supporting our youth.

Attention Ladies: You are invited to a weekend getaway at Tranquil Lodge January 5th-7th. Join us for all or part of the weekend for rest and refreshment! Bring your favorite hobby or come just to fellowship and relax! Contact Gwen Renno (717-935-2209) for more information.

End of Year Reports: If you are responsible for an End of Year report, please have those to me by January 7, 2018. I have placed reminder letters in people's mailboxes who will need to turn one in. Thank you, Kara Kauffman

Kids: Time for your best artwork for the next issue of our church news magazine, The Connection which will have the theme: ***Looking at creation, finding the Creator!*** Since our winter world is mostly black and white, I'm calling for lots of vivid colors for these projects focused on something in creation! If you'd rather write, go for it! I'm looking for poetry, stories about an experience in God's great world, or your thoughts about a favorite creature!

Father / Son canoe trip: This coming summer we are planning a several day canoe/camping trip for father and son pairs. This trip will be designed for father's and a son between the ages of 13-18. During this age the relationship between a father and son is at one of the most critical times in a young man's development. This trip will be an opportunity to strengthen and develop those bonds. If you have questions, or have an interest and would like more information please contact Ivan.

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're 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 do 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: Karen Yoder at 935-2685.

Coming soon to a library near you...New looks, new books, and a reading contest for all ages with some great prizes! (Stay tuned for details...we need to get through December first!!!) In the meantime, check under the sofa for books and videos you might have forgotten to return to the library or for leftover material from the elective classes that aren't in use. Also, we are hoping to expand the library's selection of books for tweens and teens. We need great books for kids between picture books and adult fiction. If you have gently used, quality reading material that you would be willing to pass along, contact Carmen Groff or Brenda Zook. And, if you've read books that you would like to recommend for us to purchase for the library, let us know – put a list in our mailbox, send a message, or just tell us the title/author and we'll see what we can do! ***We read to know that we are not alone. C.S. Lewis***

Calling all quilters from beginner to expert! Quilting for the annual BMS Auction will be held January 22-26 & January 29-February 2, 8 am - 3 pm, at Oakwood Centre at Valley View. If you have a quilt top to be donated for quilting please contact Juli Sunderland (814-667-2511), Jewel Peachey (717-667-9308) or Michelle Byler (717-935-5485).

It's time to start thinking about the next issue of our church news magazine, **The Connection**, which will be published later this winter. Theme? ***Looking at creation, finding the Creator!*** How do you connect with God through our amazing world? Share a story about a time you heard "heaven and nature sing..." while sitting in a tree stand or on a blanket in the sand or when looking through binoculars, a telescope or a microscope. How does creation connect you with your Creator? Sure we'll be reading these stories wrapped in a cover, holding a hot mug in the deep chill of February, but it's always a good time to remember the wonder of God's year-round creativity! Pass along your thoughts, poetry, or story to Brenda Zook through her mailbox or email brendaebzook@gmail.com.

Broken and Blessed Discipleship Course Schedule: You are invited to participate in a discipleship course titled, *Broken and Blessed*, scheduled to be held at the Allensville Mennonite Church building for six Monday evenings starting January 8, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. See the schedule below:
January 8 *Our Source of Brokenness* (Sherman Stoltzfus)
January 15 *How God Uses Pain for Good* (Roger Kauffman)
January 22 *Value in Embracing our Brokenness* (Bob & Ethel Zook)
January 29 *Stories of Brokenness and Blessing* (Sherman Stoltzfus)
February 5 *God at Work: Restoration in Process* (Nelson Roth)
February 12 *What will Heaven be like?* (Gerald Peachey)

Karen Spicher and Jae Young Lee, who live in intentional community and do peacebuilding work in South Korea, are looking for several families in the Big Valley area who would like to host and share life with Korean learning tour participants, from the evening of Saturday, January 20, to the morning of Monday, January 22. The learning tour they are a part of is organized by Korea Peacebuilding Institute (KOPI). Before visiting Big Valley, the group will visit Zehr Institute for Restorative Justice in Harrisonburg, Mennonite Central Committee in Akron, and the Nickel Mines Amish community. If you are interested in this opportunity for hospitality, service, and international friendship, please speak with your pastor or email spicherkaren@gmail.com for more information.

Today in your mail boxes, are copies of the **Ethnos 360** (formerly New Tribes Mission) December magazine. It has an article on the Mouk and Lusi people and tells how the Mouk church and the next generation of Mouk believers are now sending Mouk missionaries cross-culturally to their neighboring language groups so that they can present the Gospel to them just as it was presented by us to them years ago -- in their own language. Please enjoy reading about the fruits of your support through the years. Also, continue to pray for me and for Rick and Anji as they continue to translate and teach. They recently had a translation check of Romans and Ephesians and are now able to print those Scriptures into Lusi Bible Lessons. Thanking Locust Grove for all you've done for us and the Mouk Church, Gloria Zook

New Children's Ministry Coordinator



The search committee and the elders have unanimously approved the appointment of **Kara Kauffman** to the role of Children's Ministry Coordinator for a three-year term, beginning January 1, 2018.

Tyler and Kara have been a part of our church family for eleven years and have been members for eight years. Tyler and Kara were married in 2005 and are parents of two children, Camden age 7, and Bria age 5.

Kara graduated from St. Francis University in 2008 with a B.S. in Organizational Leadership. She worked in various capacities at Penn State University for seven years and at BMS for three years as secretary before serving our church family as secretary for nearly four years. She assisted our previous Children's Ministry Coordinator, Judith Saldubehere in planning events, and served as a volunteer in many of our children's ministries. Kara has greatly enjoyed getting to know many of our families through her work both at BMS and within our church.

In accepting this position, Kara said, "The children of Locust Grove and their families are very dear to my heart. I look forward to watching them grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus as their Lord and Savior and assisting them in building a deeper relationship with Him. I have felt the Lord calling me to this position and am very excited to see the direction He leads me and the children of this church." As she begins her new position she asks for your prayers.

Kara will begin serving our church full time in January, both as our secretary and transitioning into the Children's Ministry Coordinator role. During this time, we will search for someone to replace her as our church secretary. Interested persons may contact Ivan or Pam or may submit a resume to our Pastor, Max Zook at max@locustgrovemc.org.

Prayer Guide for December 31 – January 6

31 Sunday – *"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" Ps. 46:10*

Jan. 1 Monday – **Commit your life to God again** at the beginning of this year. Ask for His presence and guidance through each day, and seek his face for clarity and direction on how He would lead you to serve Him. Be still in his presence this morning.

2 Tuesday – Pray for **Joe Diehl** at Hershey hospital after his farm accident this past Thursday. Pray for his recovery in the hospital. Pray also for his wife, **Kristin and their children, Hannah, Naomi, Sarah, and Zachary.**

3 Wednesday – Pray for **Glen Peachey** as he meets with the worship team this evening to prepare for Sunday morning. Pray for **Ivan Yoder** as he prepares to preach. Pray for **Kara Kauffman** as she begins to transition to her new role as the Children's Ministry Coordinator.

4 Thursday – Pray for **Karen Yoder** as she leads a Hope Alive group each week in our church. Pray for the participants in the current group and pray for God's guidance as Karen organizes another group soon. Pray for participants and observers to come together to form a healthy, supportive group.

5 Friday – Pray for **James Zook** who is at the Bald Eagle Boy's Camp, working on his goals and relationships. Pray for the chiefs and entire staff at Bald Eagle as well as Gator Camp and several other boy's camps. Pray for God's Spirit to guide the chiefs in the unscheduled teachable moments each day. You may encourage James with a letter at 1077 Wilderness Road, Mill Hall, PA 17751.

6 Saturday – Pray for God to guide us to the person he is calling to serve our church family as **secretary**. Thank God for Kara's faithful service over the past nearly four years and pray for a smooth transition as she helps a new secretary to move into this role over the next few months.

"We are thrilled that you have chosen to worship with us today! There is nothing quite like joining with people in a sense of unity and the single purpose of bringing praise and honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that you will be encouraged, refreshed and challenged in your walk with Jesus."