

AMONG OUR FRIENDS

Our church family has been a special blessing to us at this difficult time. Thank you for your visits, prayers, cards and food. A special thanks to Pastor Susan for walking with Merle and us through these days.
Marvin and Elfrieda Funk

A poinsettia has been given to Marvin and Elfrieda from our congregation, in memory of their son, Merle.

Willis Penner is now residing at his daughter, Tammy and husband Tom's home in the country, Willis' childhood home. If you'd like to pay him a visit, the address is 1809 Eagle, Hillsboro, Ks 67063 or you can call them at 620-947-3352.

Clarice Warkentin underwent a procedure to test the status of past medical issues. We thank God for the good test results she and Ron received.

CAMP MENNOSCAH:

Just a short bath house break--We're taking this opportunity to let you know that work on the bath houses at Camp Mennoscah continues. This warm weather has been great for keeping the work going. The plan/hope/expectation is that the bath houses will be finished before the next camping season. Thank you to all the many people who have supported this project with prayers, gifts, and hard work!

MENNONITE CHURCH USA:

Syrian Refugee Crisis: Over 4 million refugees have fled Syria over the course of the nation's civil war. Mennonite Church USA encourages three ways to help extend the love of Jesus to these sisters and brothers:

- 1.** Pray for an end to the violence that creates refugees. Until that time, pray for refugees to be welcomed into places of safety, where they can live in peace.
- 2.** Urge Congress and state officials to support and welcome Syrian refugees. MCC Washington has compiled contact information for national and state officials. See <http://mcc.org/get-involved/advocacy/alert/support-syrian-iraqi-refugees> and <http://washingtonmemo.org/portfolio/support-syrian-and-iraqi-refugees/> for more information.
- 3.** Support organizations that assist with refugee resettlement, and consider how your congregation or community can participate. Church World Service (<http://cwsglobal.org/get-involved/welcome-a-refugee/>) and World Relief (<http://refugeecrisis.worldrelief.org/usa>) are two such organizations.

Scripture Reading

Leader: There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said:

Angel: Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.

Leader: At once, the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's Praises:

***Congregation: Glory to God in the heavenly heights.
Peace to all men and women on earth who
please him.***

Leader: As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherders talked it over.

Shepherds: Let's go over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.

Leader: They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child.

***Congregation: All who heard the shepherders were
impressed.***

Leader: Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherders returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen.

Congregation: It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!