

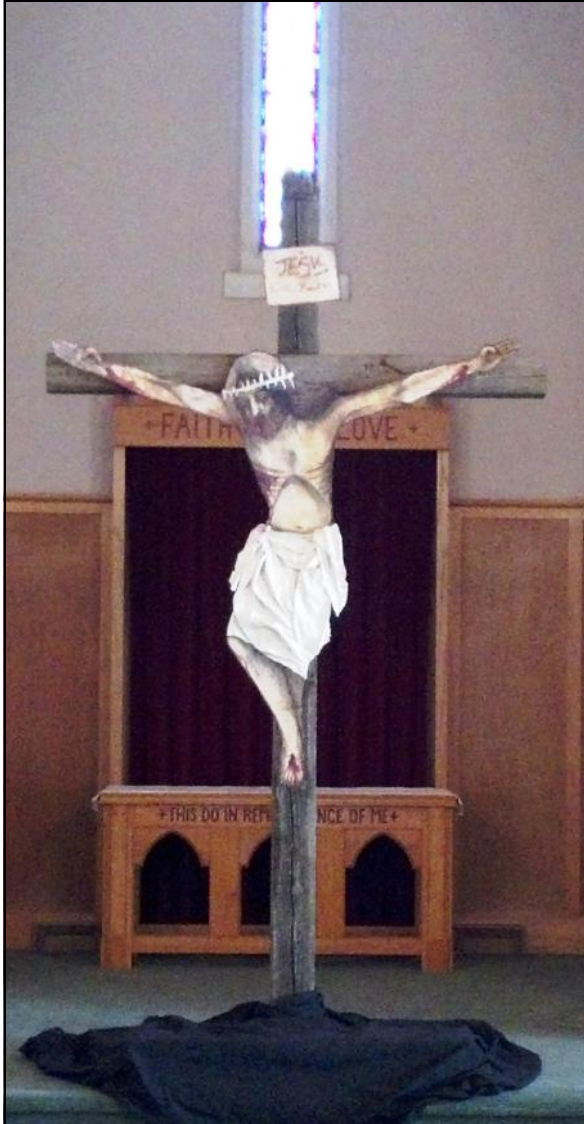
CONNECTION!

MAKING A CONNECTION WITH ONE ANOTHER

April 2013

Hutterthal Mennonite Church, Freeman, South Dakota

Photos by Pastor Todd





Straight Up

"The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them.

And you are My friends, if you obey Me." ~ John 15: 13-14, NKJV

On the 8th of March, the Governor of the State of South Dakota signed into law House Bill 1087. For those unfamiliar with House Bill 1087, it provides for the creation of school sentinel programs as well as the training of such sentinels. In layman's terms, the bill allows for the arming of school teachers/staff.

As a parent with three elementary-aged children, I have followed closely the national coverage of school shootings as well as the propaganda on both sides of the debate over House Bill 1087. Obviously, the concern is that our children (and school teachers/staff) would be safe and would have the opportunity to explore and learn in an environment that is conducive to growth and maturity. The question, of course, is how best to develop and maintain such an environment. Do we propagate a culture of fear, retribution, distrust, violence and hate? Or, do we seek to lay down our lives – "to show love for [our neighbor by dying] for them?"

As a Mennonite pastor, it is probably apparent what I will begin to argue in the following paragraphs, but it is important to understand that I am *not* arguing against school sentinels *because* I am Mennonite. I am arguing against school sentinels because I believe in Jesus Christ, the *full* Word of God, who calls us to trust in Him and to live peaceably with one another – a belief that is consistent with Mennonite faith and practice, which I have come to appreciate, respect, and embrace.

Looking critically at the Scriptures, the only guide for truth and life, as our faith calls us to do, one must immediately recognize the often violent nature of the Biblical narrative ... but we must be careful not to allow the historical record of violence to overshadow the Christological record that we are called to engage, live, and proclaim. Yes, there are murders and wars and rumors of wars in the pages of the Bible, but how do we understand these truths in the light of *the Truth*? If Christ is the *full* Word of God, how do we begin to understand the revelation that He came as the Prince of Peace who calls us to love God and one another? To answer those questions, it is necessary to return to the beginning, understanding that the Bible is one Christ-o-centric story. Thus, all of Scripture must be seen and understood in the light of Jesus Christ "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1: 8b, NKJV), even as the 12 apostles, Paul, and the early church came to understand Scripture and, ultimately, history itself.

Thus, at the very beginning of the Bible, God, who was and is the Word (see John 1: 3), brought peace to the chaos of the pre-Creation, establishing not only order, but the Way of Christ, which is marked by living and sharing in the Creation with God and one another in such a way that all are cared for, known, and valued, having been named. The "fruit of the tree," however, which follows quickly on the heels of the creation narrative, brought with it fear and distrust – the desire to hide; to cover ourselves – and, within a generation, violence. But, the Way of Christ that God inaugurated and calls us to – the Biblical mandates of peace and nonviolent resistance that marked the early church and has marked the best of Mennonite faith and practice – did not change. We simply began to follow our own way.

We began to do things in our own strength – to place ourselves before God; to trust in our own wisdom rather than the wisdom that comes from above – and self-preservation, self-protection, self-care ... the SELF became the lens through which we view the world rather than the God who created and sustains us. Suddenly, we became masters at inflicting pain, building walls, fortifying our hearts, our homes, our cities, and our nations. Suddenly, we looked not to the Way of Christ, not to our common humanity, but to what separated us – our borders, colors, languages, beliefs – and we began to be defined by those things that divide rather than unite us ... and swords gave way to guns and bombs and drones. But, more and better weapons have yet to lead us back to peace. They have only generated more fear and more distrust: more violence.

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Jesus, however, spoke of another way – a way of love that demands that we look past the self, and, in fact, that we die to it: “The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them” (John 15: 13, CEV). Jesus calls us to self-denial; He calls us to die to ourselves and to live for Him – to “obey” Him. For, only then, compelled by the love of Jesus, can we begin to see past ourselves and behold Christ in others. And only then can we see the signposts along the Way of Christ.

So, will school sentinels solve the problem of violence in our schools? No, but they may just (in fact, they will inevitably) lead to more. Violence (and/or the threat of it) only perpetuates more violence. In light of that, it would seem to be more advantageous to lay down our weapons and do the more difficult work of modeling and teaching self-denial as opposed to narcissism. For that is a lesson that has the potential not only to save us from ourselves, but to transform the culture of violence that we have built and willfully maintain into a culture of peace in which all are cared for, known, and valued not in spite of our differences, but in the midst of our differences. I only pray that we may learn that lesson before more children are killed in the crossfire.

In Christ,
Pastor Todd

Prayer & Scripture Initiative

The Prayer & Scripture Initiative is an attempt both to re-engage these spiritual disciplines and to re-engage a portion of our Anabaptist heritage. Consisting of a 1-hour gathering every Wednesday evening beginning at 7:00pm, the “initiative” consists of 10 minutes of Scripture reading focused on the chosen text for our upcoming worship, followed by 20 minutes of dedicated prayer over the mission and ministry of Hutterthal Mennonite Church, and ending with 20-30 minutes of prayerfully “sitting” in the Word together – asking questions of the text, seeking insight, and learning from one another with the understanding that Scripture is not (primarily) meant to be engaged in isolation, but within the context of community.

The “initiative” is open to all who wish to participate as people are free to “come and go” as they have opportunity on Wednesday evenings. Children are welcome to accompany parents and participate (and/or be present with us) or to gather in the “playroom/nursery” during our time together.

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Brandon & Jaime (Wittnebel) Barta on the birth of their son Caden Lee who was born on March 13. HMC Grandmother is Jonetta Hofer.



AND...

...to Luke & Emily (Ramerth) Rensink on the birth of their daughter Mila Mae who was also born on March 13. HMC grandparents are Les & Mary Rensink.



The Pastor's Bookshelf

("The Pastor's Bookshelf" is designed for edification and inspiration. Each month, "The Pastor's Bookshelf" will highlight a book that I am currently [or have very recently] read. The members and friends of Hutterthal are encouraged to read along with me, engaging the book together, asking questions, sharing dialogue, and being challenged together in our mutual [and, I hope] maturing faith.... May we all be blessed through the power and enjoyment of the written word! – Pastor Todd)

Neither Wolf Nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder

by **Kent Nerburn** Copyright 1994, New World Library (ISBN: 1-880032-37-6)

I purchased Neither Wolf Nor Dog a number of years ago and have looked for an excuse to read it ever sense. However, it was not until my trip to Montana in January and this year's lead-up to the CPMC Annual Meeting, that the time felt right to crack the cover and enter into the story. And, what I found within was a rich, turbulent, poignant, expression of our common humanity in all of its misunderstood and often confounding complexity.

Written with a novelist's love of story and a documentarian's sensibility, Neither Wolf Nor Dog tells the story of a Native American elder whose heart is burning to give testimony of his people and a white author who is trying to discover how to place that testimony not only on the page but within the context of both worlds. And, what the reader is left with is more than a testimony – more than philosophy; more than history. The reader is left with a portrait of humanity.

Tracing across the landscape of South Dakota, to places known to many of us and yet foreign, we are invited to look beyond the myths and stereotypes that we have long carried regarding Native America and see something far more profound: a person's heart and a people's humanity. Beautiful and engaging, Neither Wolf Nor Dog will sink deep into your spirit and inhabit your heart well-beyond your first reading. In fact, it may just change the way you look at the beautiful landscape of home. Enjoy!

An excerpt from Neither Wolf nor Dog:

"'We were making Jesus our own. We were bringing Him into our hearts. What was so wrong with that? The only thing you ever gave us was Jesus, and then when we took Him and made Him one of us you said we couldn't have Him.'

"He lapsed into silence. This time it was not a quiet peaceful silence, but a dark, slow-running silence like the turgid Missouri flowing by outside. The whole care seemed bleak. Fatback looked up with guilty eyes. Grover stared willfully at the road ahead of him.

"'You won't even let us have hope,' he said finally. 'There are no armies to free us. No governments to help us. We cry out and nobody hears us. We starve and nobody cares. All we have left is hope. But if you see hope you kill that, too.'" (p. 184-185)

Next Month's Selection: <u>Shrewd: Daring to Live the Startling Command of Jesus</u> , by Rick Lawrence, Copyright 2012, David C Cook (eISBN: 978-0-7814-0875-2)



We send a warm “thank you” to the Hutterthal congregation for your many expressions of condolence following the death of our mother, Martha M. Friesen of Henderson, Nebraska. Your sympathy means a great deal to us. We thank you for your care and concern.

Mother enjoyed her visits to Hutterthal Mennonite and to Freeman, and often asked about people there whom she had met.

*Love in Christ,
Ivan and Rachel Friesen
Bluffton, Ohio*

Dear Friends at Hutterthal Mennonite Church,

Thank you so much for your gift to MCC's WASH program and for helping to provide water to those who need it most. We deeply value HMC's generosity and the support you've given over the years. Thank you for being a blessing to MCC and to people around the world.

*Anna Yoder
Donor Relations Coordinator
MCC Central States*

Pilamaya - thank you!

St. Joseph Indian School of Chamberlain, SD says a big thank you for the gift of \$138.19 they received from our Children's Sunday School department from the 2nd quarter offering.

Does the Church need a Defibrillator?

By Colin Hofer

No, this isn't a new book on shocking a church back to life. Hutterthal has an opportunity from the Avera Heart Hospital to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AEDs).

According to the American Heart Association, CPR rescue attempts using electric defibrillation improve survival rates by as much as 49%. It is estimated that 20,000 to 100,000 sudden cardiac deaths could be prevented each year if defibrillation was readily available. The unit automatically detects if defibrillation is necessary or not and shocks only if necessary.

This unit is being made available to us by the Avera Heart Hospital at cost. The Church's cost for the automated external defibrillator and cabinet to store it is under \$1500. Because it is over \$1000 it would come to the congregation for approval before being purchased. No motion to bring it to a congregational vote has been made at this point. We would like feedback from all of you! Is this a good idea or not for the Church to purchase? Please talk to anyone on the Church board about your opinion on having an AED on site at Church. We value your input!



BOOK REVIEWS

By Monica Clem

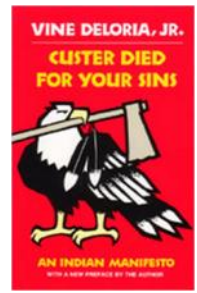
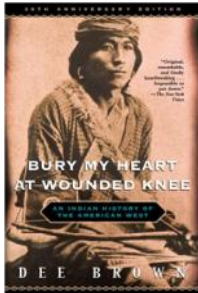
Central Plains Mennonite Conference will be holding its Annual Meetings in Ashland, MT on June 20-23, 2013. A recommended reading list has been compiled to help delegates and guests prepare for this event.

A History of the Cheyenne People by Tom West tells the story of the Cheyenne group of Native Americans from the earliest "legend stories" through the early 1970's. Interestingly, both the St. Labre school in Ashland and the Mennonite Church in Busby are referenced in this book. A generous number of photographs and maps add interest to this book.

Forgive and Remember: Ted Risingsun's Story of Fort Robinson is a 22 minute video that is narrated by Ted Risingsun, grandson of one of the individuals who, in the 1870's, fled Oklahoma in an attempt to return to their traditional homeland on the northern plains. They were pursued by thousands of US army troops with tragic results for the Cheyenne at Fort Robinson.

Custer Died for your Sins by Vine Deloria, Jr. is subtitled "An Indian Manifesto". It contains sharp criticism tempered by witty, cutting humor. It destroys the "Hollywood" version of what an Indian looks like and details the interaction of Native Americans with the US government.

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown is a heartbreaking account of the systematic destruction of the Native American way of life during the second half of the 19th century. The stories are difficult to read. "War comes to the Cheyenne", "Powder River Invasion", "Red Clouds War", and "Cheyenne Exodus" are probably the most relevant chapters to our meeting in Ashland this summer. This book also contains numerous photographs.



If you only have time for one book, read A History of the Cheyenne People. The video is also highly recommended. All items are available for check out in our church library. While none of this is "easy" reading, each item offers a different perspective than many of us were taught in school

history class and sheds insight on the Native American situation today.

Books for the Mobile Library in Nicaragua!

By Monica Hofer

The Children's Sunday School offering for March, April and May will be books for a Mobile Library in Managua to encourage children to read and reach their full potential.



Currently Matt Tschetter, son of Larry and Edie, is serving in Nicaragua and suggested this project for the children. In April there will be a Moment In Mission presentation to further inform us about this offering project.





HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW by Michelle Hofer

A good sized crowd came out on Sunday afternoon, February 24th, to hear John Clem speak about his bird photography. Since January, Hutterthal has been enjoying John's beautiful images both in its sanctuary and fellowship hall where 20 framed prints have been on display. In his talk, John shared how he became interested in photographing birds, how his pastime has grown, some of the challenges he has faced, and the many destinations to which he has traveled here in North America to photograph birds. Those who gathered also joined in singing Civilla Martin's wonderful hymn, "His Eye Is On the Sparrow", were led in prayer by Pastor Todd, and enjoyed refreshments including Twyla Hofer's delicious cream puffs and a "birdseed mix" of seeds, nuts and dried fruits prepared by Colin Hofer. The event and photography display are a part of Hutterthal's Visual Arts Ministry, which seeks to

An owl, sitting on speaker in the sanctuary, was looking down at congregants throughout the bird photo display. Other birds were also placed in various locations in the sanctuary.

incorporate the visual arts into the life and ministry of the church.



WELLSPRING MOMENT IN MISSION...

by Amanda Mettler

...was presented by Amanda Mettler on Feb. 24. She shared about the vision of Wellspring and the services provided. Wellspring provides counseling and mental health services to the larger Freeman community through the services of a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Kathy Sazama. Wellspring also provides for community presentations and education regarding emotional and mental health services. Amanda shared with the congregation that just as we take a vehicle to a mechanic for repairs or see a physician for a broken bone, there are times when the counseling services Wellspring provides may be helpful through the difficult times we all experience in our lives. Hutterthal supports Wellspring through monetary donations as well as service on the board which includes Amanda, along with Shane Vetch and Larry Tschetter. Shirley Hofer is the Hutterthal Representative to the Board.

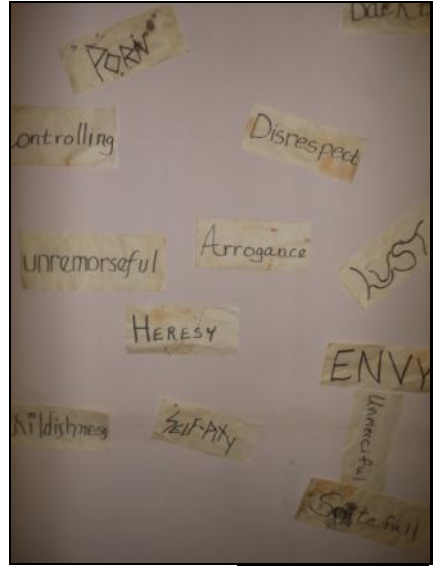


LENT & HOLY WEEK

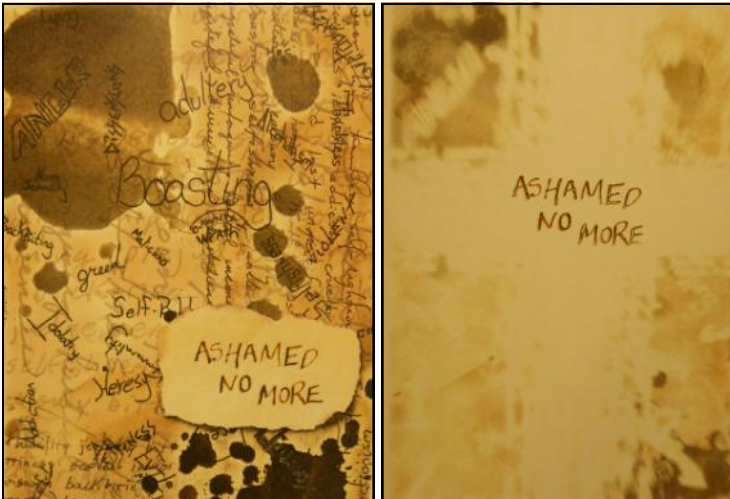
As we entered the Lenten season, the sanctuary walls and pews were filled with the words depicting what each of us as humans struggle with on a daily basis. Words such as anger, envy, boasting, backbiting, greed.....

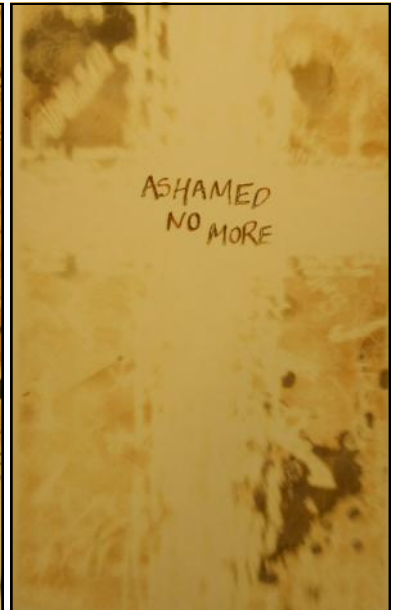
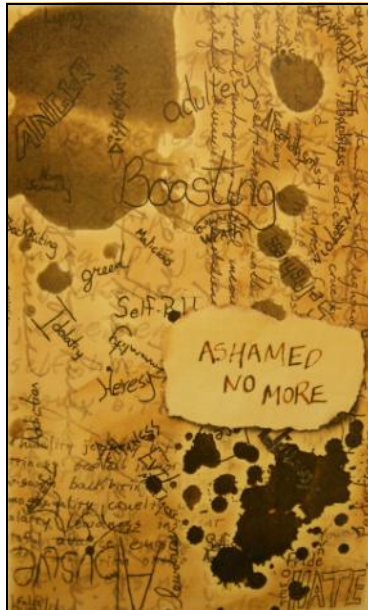
“Ashamed No More” appeared boldly on the bulletin covers which also listed the above mentioned sins. Each Sunday, during “Shedding our Sin” time, there was opportunity for people to go to the wall, remove one or more of the sins posted, and lay it at the foot of the cross. These were then attached to the cross during the week. (See pictures on front page.) As the sins were shed each week, the sins listed on the bulletin cover became lighter and lighter so that by Easter Sunday, they were all gone and only the words “Ashamed No More” were in print (see below).

Joint Holy Week services were held at Salem Mennonite March 24-27 with Brian Gumm from Toledo, Iowa, as speaker. Brian and Pastor Nick from Salem Mennonite shared the pulpit by presenting together the preaching and teaching aspect of worship. Hutterthal was responsible for Wed. evening with Pastor Todd leading worship/ children's time and Clara Koerner providing music. The theme of worship was studying the Bible, in Our History, in Our Community, in Our Country, in Our Story, in Our Culture, in Our Churches and in Our Whole Lives. Some points made:



Sanctuary wall

- ◆ Humans are liturgical (worshipful) animals-we all need to worship whether that is sacred or secular worship
 - ◆ Worship engages our entire body
 - ◆ Worship is shaped by stories
 - ◆ Practices of worship:
 1. **Withdrawal**-go off by ourselves as Jesus often did
 2. **Prayer**-practice of communication
 3. **Submission**-submit to the Father which is practice of attitude
 4. **Keep watch**-decipher which is sacred and which is secular worship
- 



SHOWER

By Charlene Friesen

Sunday afternoon on March 10, HMC ladies gathered for a shower of



celebration and blessing and to welcome Rina Hofer, bride of Cameron Hofer. Honored guests were Cameron's mother, Monica; and Cameron's grandmothers, Sarah Hofer and Gertie Graber. Special guests included Cameron's aunts Cindy Graber and Jill Hofer and great-aunt Martha Walters. Decorations of burlap



table runners, decorated jars with candles and craft flowers from Rina and Cameron's January wedding were graciously shared with us. Ladies introduced themselves with memories of preparing first meals for our husbands or special meal memories and advice. Shirley Hofer gave us definite food for thought with her devotions entitled 'Life is Too Short.' In Psalm 90:12 David says "You are my God. My times are in Your hand" and also "Remember how short the time is." Doris Janzen Longacre's poem "Things life is too short for" was shared. Shirley challenged us all to treasure the time God gives us and use it wisely. Take time to pray, to think, to read, for friends, to laugh, and above all, to worship. Amanda Mettler encouraged us to get to know Rina by playing a game titled 'Getting to Know Rina'. Rina, of course, provided the correct answers to questions about herself and Cameron. Rina opened many lovely gifts. The group gift was a gift certificate to Home Depot. As her culture encourages, Rina generously offered each person attending a gift of individually wrapped home made cookies to take home .



Women each read a sentence during a special prayer of blessing for Rina and Cameron. The ladies enjoyed Chocolate Trifle (prepared by Boni Hofer, Marj Hofer and Monica Clem –see recipe on next page) with Angie Mendel providing napkins, nuts and oranges and a time of fellowship.





MOMENT IN MISSION

on Mar. 10 was presented by Elizabeth Janssen of the MCC Northern Tier Office in Freeman. She brought greetings from MCC, thanked for HMC support and presented MCC updates.

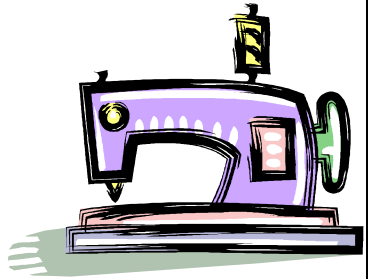
MDS MTG. AT HMC

The South Dakota Mennonite Disaster Service unit will hold its annual meeting at the Hutterthal Mennonite Church on Sunday, April 7 at 2:00 p.m. There will be a presentation of the Salem Mennonite youth project at Minot, ND. The business meeting will follow the program. All are invited to attend.



LADIES - WORKNIGHT IS COMING UP!

The new hours for Mennonite Women Work Night, which included a soup supper, were a big hit last year so we are planning the same schedule for this year. Work starts at 4 pm and goes until 8 pm. You are invited to join us for what ever time you have available. **We**



really need sewing machines. Also, bring scissors, cutting boards/wheels, thimbles and the desire to enjoy good fellowship while doing something to help others. We'll be working with drawstring bags, comforters, Campbell's labels and maybe a couple of other surprise activities. Children are welcome. If you have questions, contact Sherryl, Barbie or Edie.

Chocolate Trifle - printed by popular demand

Ingredients

- 1 package (18-1/4 ounces) chocolate fudge cake mix
- 2 packages instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1/2 cup strong coffee
- 1 carton (12 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 6 Heath candy bars (1.4 ounces each), crushed

Directions

- Bake cake according to package directions in 9x13" pan. Cool. Prepare pudding according to package directions; set aside.
- Cut cake into 1/2 - 1" pieces; reserve 1/2 cup. Place half of the remaining cake crumbs in the bottom of a 9 x 13" pan.
- Layer with half of the coffee, half of the pudding, half of the whipped topping and half of the crushed candy bars. Repeat the layers of cake, coffee, pudding and whipped topping. Combine remaining crushed candy bars with reserved cake crumbs; sprinkle over top. Refrigerate 4-5 hours before serving.

Yield: 12 - 15 servings.

K I D S P A G E

AN EASTER THANK YOU

Thank You for taking my place

On Calvary's hill that day,

Thank You for all your suffering

For my sins You have taken away.

Thank You for your promises

To open Heaven's door,

And allow ME to enter someday

Where I may live forever more.

Thank You for this Easter season,

For the forgiveness of sinful ways,

On this EASTER may each of us

Sing your eternal praise.

By
Phyllis
Hofer

SCHMECKFEST 2013

It would be hard to find someone from Hutterthal who did not work or attend Schmeckfest activities on Mar. 15-16 and Mar. 22-23. From working in the demonstration area to the meal preparation/serving to the musical, you could see Hutterthal people in great numbers. Others, who were not able to work, participated by their attendance of the different activities.

Five years ago, Michelle Hofer and Eric Neuharth were working in the sausage booth but they had not met before. Under the watchful eye of Les Rensink and Larry Hofer, the romance began. Seems like there is still a watchful eye on this couple as Gordon Hofer takes his turn in that role!

Thank you to everyone who was in any way involved with this event!



It all started here for Eric & Michelle Neuharth



WEDDING REGISTRIES

Et Cetera Shoppe & Global Gifts wishes to congratulate the following couples who have wedding gift registries at our store: Erin Wollmann & Curt Hobson (April 27), Erica Graber & Andy Miller (June 1), Alyssa Graber & Austin McCabe-Juhnke (June 8), Susan Schmeichel & Ben Harder (July 20) and Lindsey Ortman & Austin Unruh (August 3). We pray for God's richest blessings on all of you as you begin your new lives together, and we encourage your family, friends and congregations to purchase fair trade gifts that promote justice for God's people around the world. Thank you for your continued support of our mission!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- 1) Dennis Schrock
- 2) Steven Hofer
- 2) Michelle Hofer
- 5) Ann Marie Reiling
- 6) Clara Koerner
- 8) Edie Tschetter
- 8) Chris Waltner
- 9) Don Olson
- 12) Larry Hofer
- 12) Deb Dockter
- 13) Kaliyah Hofer
- 14) Ashton Dockendorf
- 18) Carrol Langeland
- 18) Larry Timmerman

- 19) Cameron Hofer
- 22) Jenni Garner
- 22) Richard Friesen
- 23) Jonathan Mendel
- 24) Doug McCune
- 27) Twyla Hofer
- 27) Easton Tschetter
- 29) Mavis Craig
- 30) Joyce Schnabel
- 30) Jessica Mills

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 17) Melvin & Rosella Glanzer
- 22) Daryl & Deb Dockter
- 28) Lance & Lacey Friesen

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

Spring Quarter: MCC Nicaragua project - books for Mobile Library

MENNONITE WOMEN

Feb. Project: \$220 Cash for Swan Lake Christian Camp

Mar. Project: \$150 as of March 24

April Project: Work Night



Attendance and Offering Report

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
February 24	108	\$2,884.00
March 3	107	\$4,022.00
March 10	93	\$2,037.00
March 17	129	\$2,708.00
March 24	105	\$2,143.00

DID YOU KNOW?

By Phyllis Hofer

*There is only one ladder to heaven--
the CROSS!*





By Twyla Hofer

Amos & Kathryn Kleinsasser are happy to welcome their fifth great grandchild, Lorelei Elizabeth born to Don & Kristi Kleinsasser of St. Paul, NE. The little one tipped the scale at

8 lbs. 7 oz. Her middle name Elizabeth is named after her great grandma Kleinsasser's middle name. She is welcomed by sisters Kaitlynn and Julia. Grateful grandparents are **Bob & Deb Kleinsasser**, Hot Springs and Dennis' & Kathy Platt, Murdock, NE.

Martha Friesen of Henderson, NE passed away in mid Feb. She was the mother of our former Pastor Ivan and had visited Hutterthal on numerous occasions.

Darlene Hofer was hospitalized in Freeman Mar. 8 for several days. About a week later she and Norman went to Mayo Clinic for more tests. There they confirmed that the staph is completely gone. Her pain is caused by 3 compressed vertebrae. A pain patch is keeping her relatively comfortable for now.

Stan and Jill have a Freeman Academy student staying with them in their home. He is from China and goes by the name "Ken".

Kenton Hofer (**Lorraine Hofer's** son) is scheduled to have a stem cell transplant in Mayo starting April 1. He will have 11 days of "preliminaries" and the family will spend 100 days there on an outpatient basis. Wife, Autumn, will be the primary care giver in their apartment and daughter Skyler will finish her school term there close to the apart-

ment in a Christian school. Prayers are requested.

Joline Thomas requested prayer for her father who will be having an angiogram and possibly other procedures at the Heart Hospital on Mar. 29.

Congratulations to Clara **Koerner** who was selected by audition to be part of the SD All State Band. She was third chair bass clarinet. This year's event was in Rapid City. Her parents, **Todd & Suzanne**, went out for the concert on Mar. 23. Todd's mother, Donna Koerner, brought **Jada** to church Sun the 24th since Jada's older siblings were busy with chores & college.

Couples celebrating over 50 years of marriage in March are:

Melvin & Emma Hofer, Mar. 23 66 years

Delmer & Shirley Hofer, Mar. 25 57 years

Gordon & Alvina Hofer, Mar. 26 56 years

TOTAL 179 years

Melvin & Emma are the longest married couple at HMC at this time.

SIGNING THE GUESTBOOK:

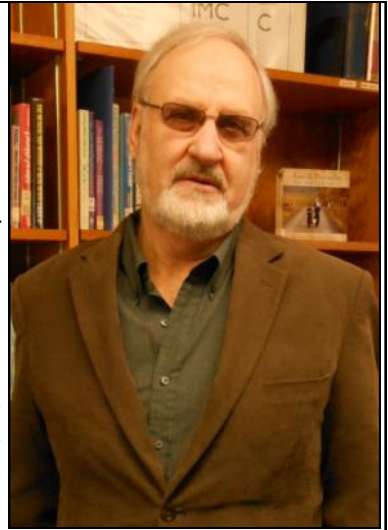
Feb. 24: Jorge Sanchez, Freeman; Darin Vetch, Onaka, SD; Larry & Joyce Vetch, Onaka, SD

Mar. 17: Kevin Gross, Goshen, IN; Natasha Van Dyke, Kansas City, KS

Mar. 24: Judy Bittner, Sioux Falls; Karen Bartling, Black Hawk, SD; Donna Urhovee, Rapid City, SD; Wes & Cara Glanzer, Harlan, IN; Ivan & Romana Byler, IN; Donna Koerner, Freeman

SERVICE FEATURE

By LeRoy Pullman



The year was 1971. I knew in my heart that I was not capable to go into a war situation and since I have not been away from the family farm, I wanted to experience other places. But first of all I needed to get my 1-W classification (1-W is a conscientious objector to draft that was in place at that time, to perform alternative service, usually involves some kind of labor). To get this classification, I was required to go in front of the draft board to be interviewed. My first interview with the draft board was a very eye opening experience, they were very stern and they did not grant me my 1-W classification. I repealed their decision and had to re-apply for my classification. With the help of the Pastor and other members of our Church who wrote letters to the draft board on my behalf, which I appreciate to this day, I went to my second visit with the draft board and then I got approved for my 1-W classification.

On April 1, 1971 I started working at Lincoln General Hospital in Lincoln, NE. While working their my job included several different duties; cleaning surgery rooms, stripping and waxing floors, running supplies and many more.

The two years that I worked there I would not trade it for the world. For the experience that I had, with the relationships that I got with people, some of which I still am in contact with. But most of all, I thank God that I met my wife, Kathy.

SPECIAL OFFERING: On April 14, during morning worship, we will be gathering a special offering for the **Ba Vi Orphanage outside of Hanoi, Vietnam**. The Ba Vi Orphanage cares for 320 individuals from newborns to age 70, many of whom are mentally and/or physically disabled.

Currently, the facility does not have running water or an adequate sanitation facility where the residents can wash and address basic hygiene needs. As such, we are partnering with **Lance and Lacey Friesen** (who are "on the ground" in Vietnam) to build a brand new sanitation facility for the orphanage. The total cost for the building project is \$1,500 - \$2,000 and construction is expected to commence within days of the funds becoming available to the orphanage. Can you assist with this ministry? If we are blessed to receive funds over and above the benchmark, the orphanage will be able to use those funds to purchase much needed mosquito nets, diapers, bed padding, and blankets.



Connection! Editor: Edie Tschetter

Advisory Board: Amanda Mettler, chp., Boni Hofer and Kim Jones

Proof Reader: Ardella Gross

Calendar for APRIL

By Pastor Todd

April 2: Mission & Outreach Committee, 7:00pm @ HMC
April 3: The Initiative, 7:00pm @ HMC
April 4: Freeman Ministerial, 10:00am @ Parsonage
April 5: Men's Group, 8:45am @ Parsonage
April 7: Worship, 9:45am @ HMC
Sunday School (All Ages), 11:00am @ HMC
MDS Gathering, 2:00pm @ HMC
April 8: Mennonite Women Work Night, 4:00pm @ HMC
April 9: Hiller Lectureship, 9:00am @ Sioux Falls Seminary
Deacons Meeting, 7:30pm @ Koerner Residence
April 10: The Initiative, 7:00pm @ HMC
April 12: Men's Group, 8: 45am @ Parsonage
April 14-16: Annual Leaders Retreat @ Schuyler, NE
April 14: Worship, 9:45am @ HMC
Sunday School (All Ages), 11:00am @ HMC
April 15: Prayer Shawl, 7:00pm @ HMC
April 17: The Initiative, 7:00pm @ HMC
April 18: Church Board, 7:30pm @ HMC
April 19: Men's Group, 8:45am @ Parsonage
Afternoon Program, 2:30pm @ Oakview Terrace
April 21: Worship, 9:45am @ HMC
Sunday School (All Ages), 11:00am @ HMC
April 23: Worship Committee, 7:00pm @ HMC
April 24: May *Connection!* Newsletter Deadline, 12:00pm
The Initiative, 7:00pm @ HMC
April 25: Worship, 7:00pm @ Salem Mennonite Home
April 26: Men's Group, 8:45am @ Parsonage
April 28: PALM SUNDAY
Worship, 9:45am @ HMC
Sunday School (All Ages), 11:00am @ HMC
Freeman Network for Justice & Peace, 4:00pm @ South Church

