

July 2021

Hutterthal  
Mennonite  
Church

*Connection!*

Making a CONNECTION with one another



HMC Vacation Bible School 2021

**Left to Right Back Row:** Isabel Waltner, Kylea Waltner, Joyce Hofer, McKoen Dockendorf, Jessica Rose Scheetz, Addison Waltner, Noelle Friesen, Ethan Waltner, Lane McCune, Alyssa Hofer, Aprille Birkey, Rebecca Hofer, and Pastor Randall Koehler

**Left to Right Front Row:** Leighton Dockendorf, Avery Waltner, Camilla Hofer, Bridget Neuharth, Callum Friesen, AnaBella Lima, and Brynlee Hofer

**Not Pictured:** Finley McCune, Guss Timmerman, Rylea Timmerman, Libby Ammann, and Megan Mendal



# Rural Insights

Reflections from Pastor Randall

## VBS Reflections

I had not been a part of VBS since my Sophomore year in university, so I was a little nervous when I volunteered for whatever role was needed for our week together at the beginning of June. I ended up leading our bible adventure time each day, exploring the passages in Acts that exemplified each day's theme.

Jesus' power helps us do hard things stuck with me from our time together. Sometimes God calls us to the uncomfortable or unknown spaces, to which we are afraid to go like Freeman, SD from Illinois or being involved in VBS even when it seems like a stretch. Sometimes God leads us to talking to a neighbor or inviting a friend over for dinner or calling someone. God gives us the power through the Holy Spirit to do these difficult and stretching actions. I contend that God gives new life or breath or Spirit each and every day to do the bold things that Jesus inspires in us but that we are too afraid or busy to attempt.

On the fourth day, two particular moments in VBS were quite moving for me during bible adventure time. I told the students about how God created each one of us just as God created the first human beings in the garden of Eden. God created us to be together with other people and with God's creation as well as together with God walking through the garden. God loves each of us so much and wants to be our friend, so I took a moment and walked around each group of students, calling each student by name and saying, "God made you and loves you very much." We, even as adults, could use some encouragement like this when we're not sure of the way forward or sure if anyone cares for us. We can depend on God's steadfast love.

(Continued on next page)

However, humans decided in the garden that their way was better than God's, that they knew better than God did in this created world, which led them to hurt each other, hurt God, hurt creation, and hurt themselves. How often we think and tell children that adults' ways of doing things are better than children's ways, and by extension, we get a little too comfortable in our ways of doing things, leading us to say implicitly that our ways are better than Jesus' way even sometimes. How often then do we hurt each other in our assurance that our way is the best. Dear God, through the Spirit's power, inspire your way in us each and every moment.

Some other highlights of VBS week that brought me joy and encouragement included playing duck-duck-goose with the younger group of children, getting to know most of the children in our church by more than their name, and having the chance for them to know me better. In the same ways that I got to know each of the kids better, I was able to connect in different moments throughout the week with the leaders and volunteers of our time together. Even in the shadow of COVID, our time together, at least for me, was fruitful and life-giving.





# BIBLE QUIZ

From Brigitta Hofer

## QUICKIE QUIZZES FROM THE BIBLE

### ALPHABET QUIZ – LETTER E

1. Who fell from a window while listening to Paul preach? Acts 20:9
2. What was the name of Naomi's husband? Ruth 1:2
3. Who walked with God and died not, for God took him? Genesis 5:24
4. Who was the mother of Timothy? II Timothy 1:5

### ALPHABET QUIZ – LETTER F

1. Who, as a governor, trembled at Paul's preaching? Acts:24,25
2. Who told Paul he was beside himself from much learning? Acts 26:24
3. What did Jesus call King Herod on one occasion? Luke 13:32
4. Where will the mark of the beast be seen? Revelation 14:9

## Ellie's People

By Mary Christner Borntrager

Review by Joline Thomas

## BOOK REVIEWS



A new addition to the church library is the complete set of Ellie's People. This easy read set of books is based on the fictional stories of ten young teens growing up Amish. It features the joys, trials, learning experiences and faith walk of each youth in their own titled story. You will meet and follow Ellie, Rebecca, Rachel, Daniel, Rueben, Andy, Polly, Sarah, Mandy and Annie on their journey of young discovery. This series is written for teens, but has an appeal for adults as well.

### VIVIENNE KOEHLER

As you can see, Vivienne Koehler is the center of attraction in this photo.

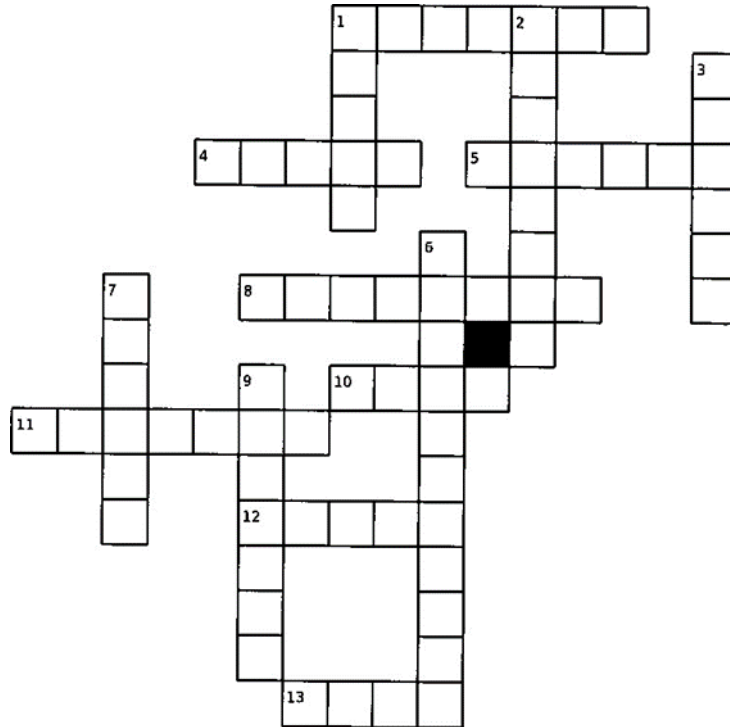


Vivienne is always delighted to see her daddy in front of the sanctuary as he begins services on Sunday mornings. On occasion, she tries to let him know she is getting impatient with the length of the service. Can you blame her, knowing she has this group of smiling youngsters (Ethan, Isabel, Avery, Addison, Alyssa, Brynlee) to surround and entertain her after the service?

# HUTTERTHAL TRIVIA

submitted by Brigitta Hofer

Answer's may be first or last names, or may include an initial. If you would like a printed copy of the crossword puzzle and do not have a printer, let me know and I will be happy to get a copy to you. Brigitta



**Down:**

1. Oldest member in a care facility
2. Christ-Centered, Living, \_\_\_\_\_ Serving
3. Historically, our Church organized in \_\_\_\_\_
6. First Pastor
7. Greeter Schedule organized by \_\_\_\_\_
9. Second oldest attending member \_\_\_\_\_

**Across:**

1. Oldest attending member, by 17 days
4. Term of office for Deacons, \_\_\_\_\_ years
5. Main MCC office is located in \_\_\_\_\_
8. Head Accompanist
10. Church Chair
11. Served as Co-Pastors
12. Person who distributes the Choice books
13. Communion offered \_\_\_\_\_ times a year



## HYMN OF THE MONTH

submitted by Suzanne Koerner

This month's hymn, Paul Hofer has chosen "One Day at a Time" as his favorite hymn. Paul said, "Every day when you get up you just praise your Lord and take the day as it comes. Today is today. Tomorrow is its own time."

"One Day at a Time" is a gospel hymn that was born out of heartache and misery. In 1974, a 53-year old song writer and music publisher, Marijohn Wilkin, went to a minister to unload her burdens. Both she and her husband suffered from alcoholism and her marriage was on the rocks. A business partner, a close friend, and her mother had all recently passed away, and money owed to her was not being paid. Things seemed as bad as they could be. The minister gave her unusual advice. He told her to thank God for her problems. While driving home. She followed his advice and soon tears led to laughter. When she got home, she sat down at the piano, and on the back of an envelope wrote the first verse and chorus of "One Day at a Time." Later, she reflected that the song was a cry for help—a prayer.

Marijohn called her friend, Kris Kristofferson, and they finished the song together. "One Day at a Time" became a gospel standard. It has been recorded over 200 times and recognized as one of the "Fifty All Time Most Important Southern Gospel Songs."

### **One Day at a Time**

I'm only human I'm just a woman (or man)  
Help me to believe in what I could be  
and all that I am  
Show me the stairway that I have to climb  
Lord for my sake teach me to take one day at a time.

(Chorus)  
One day at a time sweet Jesus that's all I'm asking from you  
Give me the strength to do everyday what I have to do  
Yesterday's gone sweet Jesus and tomorrow may never be mine

So for my sake teach me to take one day at a time.

Do you remember when you walked among men  
Well Jesus you know if you're looking below it's worse now than then  
Pushing and shoving crowding my mind  
So for my sake teach me to take one day at a time.

(Chorus)

Yes, just for my sake teach me to take one day at a time...



**Jerome Kleinsasser**

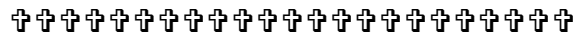
Sept. 20, 1936 - May 25 2021

Jerome E. Kleinsasser was born to Joe D. and Anna Hofer Kleinsasser on September 20, 1936 in Marion, South Dakota.

Jerome was baptized on May 27, 1951 and became a member of Hutterthal Mennonite Church.

Jerome remained faithful to taking care of the farm and his mother Anna. As Anna's health became poor, Jerome never missed making a meal for his mother or making sure to attend church with her. His strong faith in the Lord and grateful demeanor were steadfast even after Anna's passing in 2005

Thankful today for sharing in his life are sister-in-law Alberta Kleinsasser of Marion; nephew Tim Kleinsasser & Renee of Tyndall; and many cousins & friends



**Merlin L. Hofer**

June 10, 1933 - May 16, 2021



Merlin L. Hofer was born June 10, 1933 to Jacob L. Hofer, Jr and Annie S. (Hofer) at the family farm north of Silver Lake near Dolton, S.D. He died at his home in Freeman, S.D. on May 16, 2021 at the age of 87.

Merlin was the youngest of six children. He attended country school and then Freeman Academy for High School. After farming for two years he was drafted and chose to join the Navy. After serving two years he returned to S.D. to resume farming.

Merlin married Sylvia Hofer on June 27th. They attended Hutterthal and he was baptized on May 27, 1954

Left to morn are his wife, Sylvia; their children: Todd (Marnette), Paige, Chris (Melissa), Laura and Aprille (Kenneth) Birkey; 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Vernon J. (Norma), and a host of friends and relatives.



Our theme for VBS this year was **Rocky Railway Jesus Pulls Us Through**. We had VBS on May 31st through June 4th with 20 children attending. We also had 5 helpers in charge of the activities. The children spent their time at the following activities: Imagination Station Crafts, Loco Motion Games, Bible Adventures, Chew Chew Snacks, Sing and Play Express, and KidVid. We all had a wonderful week, and it was so fun watching the children learn about God.



**The crew is singing!**



**The younger crew is on a boat during Bible Adventures.**



**The group is listening to a letter from the Captain during Bible Adventures.**

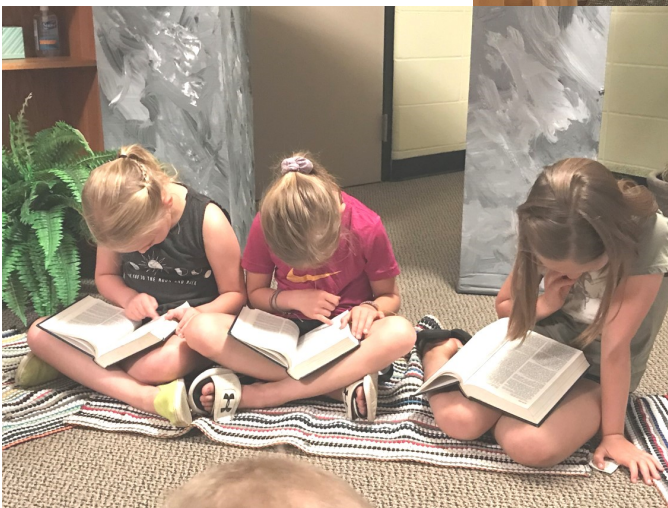


**The crew is playing games at Loco Motion Games.**



← Bridget is writing in her prayer journal during Imagination Station Crafts.

The older group is saying → the memory verse for the day.



← McKoen, Finley, and Noelle are reading the Bible story out of their Bibles.



←Guss and Rylea are putting their hearts on the cross.



→ Ananias (aka Pastor Randall)

Throughout Memorial Day week the children hopped onboard the Rocky Railway steam engine for a fun and exciting ride. As we steamed through the Rocky Mountains, we learned 5 main ways that “Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through.” We met 5 new animal buddies who helped us remember the daily Bible verses and Bible points. We had several daily stops along the line. We started with Sing and Play Express. Then moved on to Loco Motion Games and Imagination Station Crafts. Next came Bible Adventure and Chew Chew Snacks. We came to the end of our line at Rocky Wrap Up. In the end it was always good to remember that “Jesus Power Helps Us Do Hard Things.” (TRUST JESUS!)

June 6th at 10:30 a.m.

### Hutterthal Mennonite Daily Vacation Bible School Program



A delicious lunch was prepared and served by the Deacons. Thank You!!



## **HMC Library Committee**

from left to right: Rebecca Hofer,  
Norman Hofer, Joline Thomas,  
Charlene Friesen and  
Kylea Waltner

While the Library Committee works, at least for the most part, 'behind the scenes', they are a part of Hutterthal that works to serve you, our church family. Our efforts provide you with reading material, both for study and inspiration as well as for leisure enjoyment.

The 2021 library committee consists of Joline Thomas (representing Congregational Ministries), Rebecca Hofer and Kylea Waltner (representing the Children's Sunday School Department), Norman Hofer (our elected at-large member) and Charlene Friesen (librarian).

Our library is organized by genre and subject. The shelves are labeled for easy searching but you are welcome to ask our librarian any time for help finding a particular book or item. She takes great delight in successfully finding just what you are looking for. Section topics are Biography, Christian Life, Family Life, Fiction, Issues, Local History, Mennonite History, Missions, and Theology. We also have a wide selection of dvd/study books, dvds (both children and adult) and some cds for your listening pleasure. To purchase these items, we get a designated amount of funding each year from the general church treasury. But we also accept donations with the committee's approval.

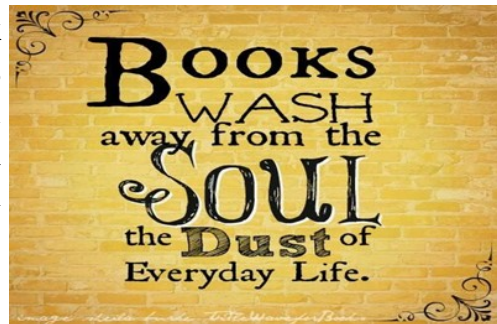
Next to children's books, the most checked out books are biographies and fiction books. If you have a suggestion for any book, particularly a good biography, let one of the committee know. People enjoy reading stories of the true experiences of real people, as well as just escaping in a good fiction book.

Continued on next page

We do have the complete set of Believers Church Bible Commentaries. We acquire the new titles as they are printed, generally every year. I and II Kings by Lynn Jost will be printed in 2021. Our library also contains many other individual books for study, often shelved by theme or issue. Bible encyclopedias, a variety of Bible versions and multiple copies of the Bible can be found on our shelves.

The children’s section contains many excellent books, both fiction and non-fiction. The National Geographic Face to Face animal books are a big hit with some boys from Hutterthal!

Our church has encouraged our children to participate in the CPMC Shalom Book Reading Program. This program encourages children to read specific books on a Shalom list. The children are then rewarded with a free book. Our library has a special shelf with books on the Shalom reading list for easy access. These books are a wonderful mission, teaching our children principles of Shalom.



Visit the Hutterthal library to find a ‘friend.’



### HUTTERTHAL CROSSWORD TRIVIA ANSWERS

- DOWN:
1. Moses
  2. Relating
  3. Russia
  6. Kleinsasser
  7. Monica
  8. Vernon J

- ACROSS:
1. Mildred
  2. Three
  5. Kansas
  8. Charlene
  10. Edie
  11. Friesen
  12. Norma
  13. Four

June 13, Joline Thomas presented a children's story time on "We need to prepare for God,"

by sharing her knowledge of a favorite pastime of hers – FISHING!



June 13th

HMC Sunday School has resumed for all ages!!



## Congregational Ministries July Project:



**Cash** – MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) Project

MEDA - Mennonite Economic Development Associates - is an international economic development organization whose mission is to create business solutions to poverty. MEDA helps alleviate poverty by creating sustainable livelihoods for women and men..



**May project:** \$770.00

Cash - Swan Lake Christian Camp (SLCC)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Income</u>
May 30	58	\$2,777.00
June 6	78	\$1,945.00
June 13	49	\$1,303.00
June 20	52	\$1,686.00

### Wednesday- Saturday 7-11 am



My two days off will be Monday and Tuesday. People are welcome to call, email, or text me, to set up an alternate appointment or just drop in to my office any-time during my office hours.

Thank you *Pastor Randall*



### **Birthdays**

- 1) Brynlee Hofer
- 2) Nancy Fischer
- 3) Sara Fideler
- 9) Kim Hofer
- 16) Briana Bolin
- 16) Jacqueline Skibine
- 17) Noelle Friesen
- 17) June Libby
- 18) Greg Kleinsasser

- 18) Vincent Hofer
- 23) Jeani Nold
- 24) Paul Hofer, Jr
- 25) Melissa Deckert
- 27) Brent Hofer
- 28) Paige Zachariasen
- 28) Petrea Hofer
- 29) Priscilla Hofer
- 30) Darren Deckert

### **Anniversaries**

- 4) David & Brandy Friesen
- 8) Vernon P. & Twyla Hofer
- 8) John & Monica Clem
- 14) Dennie & Lauri Hofer
- 23) Shane & Amy Hofer Vetch
- 31) Jeanie & Carter Nold

## **WHY CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**



Birthdays are not mentioned by name in the Bible. But we can know that they were at least occasionally recognized in the Bible, as we are told the ages of numerous individuals. People had to know how old they were –how else would we know how old Methuselah was? The date had to be significant enough, and plausibly, a celebration would help one to remember.

Genesis 5: 25-27 When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the Father of Lamech. And after he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died.

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### **HMC Links**

Website - <http://hmcfreeman.org> "Like" Us on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch](http://www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch)

**\*\*Submissions are due by the last Wednesday of the month.\*\* Thank you.**