

The Messenger

Volume 17, Issue 12 December 2022

Carlock Mennonite Church
Worship 10:15 am
Sunday School 9:00

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www.carlockmennonitechurch.org

Carlock Mennonite Church on Facebook

Wifi available: connect to 217Washington password is carlockmc

Doane Brubaker - Pastor

Bob Waller -Board Chair

Susan Waller -Treasurer

Sharon Brubaker - Musician

Emma Brandt - Musician

Annie Schwoerer - Sunday School Supt

Kathy Schwoerer – Bulletin/Messenger co-editor

For December 2022

Hospitality Committee

Kayla Myers

Danielle Otto

Karen Otto

Kathy Schwoerer

Food Pantry Item

Meals

Sunday School Nursery

December 4 – Carol Hoffman

December 11 – Emma Brandt

December 18 – Barb Karr

December 25 – none

Sunday School Teachers

Kindergarten – Melinda Hartter

Elementary – Lori Amberg

Jr. High – Carrie Schwoerer

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday, December 4

Wednesday, December 7

Sunday, December 11

Tuesday, December 13

Sunday, December 18

Sunday, December 25

Morning Worship, Hospitality Time, Children's Presentation

Church Board, 7:00

Morning Worship

Choir Practice, 7:00

Evening Service, 6:00

Christmas Day! Morning Worship, No Sunday School classes

Board News

*MW made Halloween favors and birthday corsages for nursing homes, also cut yarn for the Magic Yarn Project

*A generous memorial donation was received from the Bob Copeland family

*Boiler leak has been fixed

*To be addressed in 2023 - Church electrical upgrading, bench for the elevator, sealing/closing in the attic

*Kitchen remodel is complete

*FEC Elder board and general board has approved our congregation fully joining FEC

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

3 Mike Pyne

4 Ron Schieber

7 Ken & Annie Schwoerer (A)

10 Blake & Danielle Otto (A)

13 Orrin Hartter

13 Barb Karr

13 Kathy Schwoerer

13 Stephanie Staulcup

15 Mike Hartter

19 Emma Brandt

21 Olivia Brandt

21 Danielle Otto

21 Greg & Karen Otto (A)

22 Caleb Mohr

22 Avery Myers

23 Nick Moran

27 Kathy Moran

30 Jim & Roberta Bortell (A)

Library Corner

To help us celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior...

From the downstairs library...

You will find a variety of Christmas books: some for family time ideas and activities, also story books. Look to lowest shelf, middle section. (No age limit on these books. Truly, you never outgrow an "easy to read" book.)

Upstairs...

Great books to help us learn the stories of our hymns. Also, booklets about our worship traditions. Located in the glass cabinet, left side, middle shelf.

From Pastor Doane...

A Grinch-like Heart

Theodor Seuss Geisel began his career in 1927 (age 23) as an illustrator and cartoonist for *Vanity Fair*, *Life* and other publications. But you know him for his children's books written under the pen name "Dr. Seuss" – which he adopted as a student at Dartmouth College. He wrote more than 60 such books which have sold over 600 million copies. And, it comes as no surprise, are regarded as the most popular children's books of all time.

Of those you may be familiar with, you might have noticed that while his books are fun and entertaining, they often carry a moral lesson as well. This may stem from two early influences in his life. Growing up in Springfield, Massachusetts but of German descent, his family suffered anti-German prejudice during WWI. Also, a member of the [Missouri Synod Lutheran](#) Church all his life, Dr. Seuss held biblical values.

That does not mean we should read deep theological intentions into his writings. But in his imaginative stories, we do recognize parallels that can illustrate spiritual truths.

His 1957 classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, can come across as a Christian parable. The Grinch's problem; he has a very small heart that is cold and hard. He seems to find joy only in causing misery for others.

In the end, when the Grinch finally gets it – that joy doesn't come from all the stuff of Christmas – but from the heart, his own heart grows three sizes. He is changed, much like another fictional character at Christmas, Ebenezer Scrooge.

But where this transformed heart comes from, and where the stories point, is not another fictional character. It's all about the Lord Jesus Christ – Immanuel, Prince of Peace – born to; "...*save his people from their sins.*" (Matthew 1:21)

And anyone redeemed is "*in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!*" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

God said of his people; "*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*" ([Ezekiel 36:26](#))

Christ transplants new, warm and soft hearts to replace old, cold and hard hearts.

Something worth noticing. In the Grinch and Scrooge parables, a changed heart inspires intentional activity and generosity for blessing others. This too is the message of Christ's gospel of new hearts.

Lord, may my heart please grow; warmer, larger, softer.

Doane