

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 17, 2019

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

### Last Sunday, January 13:

Emily preached from Psalm 119, a love letter to God's law. We were reminded that rules and restrictions can bring us freedom instead of dragging us down. God does not expect us to follow all of the rules on our own but will help us follow God's way.

### This Sunday, January 20:

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1-3 and Luke 4:14-30, with references to Lev 25

This will be the first sermon in a series on "Proclaiming Jubilee" and will introduce the meaning of the Jubilee Year ("the year of the Lord's favor"). In the gospel of Luke, Jesus begins his public ministry by teaching that what he had just read from the prophet Isaiah to the congregation at the Nazareth synagogue has been fulfilled in their hearing. We will begin to explore the meaning of his "gracious words" – how they were received by those who heard them and what they mean for God's people today. Sabrina will preach.

### Next Sunday, January 27:

Pastor Brian will continue the series on "Proclaiming Jubilee" by considering the healing ministry of Jesus, especially as it is presented in Luke 4 & 5. The type of healing that Jesus offers was a holistic healing that included spiritual and physical relief from suffering for individuals, as well as an effort to re-integrate them into the community and create a more just society.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

### Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

Jan 6 – Fellowship potluck after SS

Jan 23 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am

Feb 3 – Pizzas for Peace lunch after SS

Feb 7 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

Feb 13 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am

Feb 21 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

### Pizza's for Peace:

Pizza's for Peace is Sunday, February 3rd.

After the Sunday School hour the congregation is invited to enjoy delicious hand-crafted pizzas by some of the finest bakers in the Midwest! Salad and drinks will be provided. Your donations will be given to the Peace and Justice Support Network.

The Peace and Justice Support Network (PJSN) is the peace and justice office of Mennonite Church USA. The goal of PJSN is to strengthen Mennonite Church USA's commitment to peace and justice by equipping persons across the church called to this ministry and by encouraging the church to embody and communicate Christ's reconciling way. PJSN produces resources for congregations and individuals, promotes nonviolence and peace, and is involved with several advocacy issues.

### Update from Linda & Jim Showalter:

Greetings, Shalom Family! We are already halfway through our Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) assignment! We have been working on finishing a house built for a gentleman who lost his home to Hurricane Harvey in 2017. It's not been very heavy work - mostly things like hanging doors, painting those doors, installing kitchen cabinets, etc. We will have a dedication on Monday, finish up final details, then move on to another new build. Our client is onsite most of the time, so we've had lots of opportunities to get to know him and his story. I think he will miss having

people around as he is single and doesn't seem to have too many other people to relate to. We pray our interaction with him will point him to Jesus, since he doesn't claim a personal relationship with him. That's part of our assignment, too, to relate to people, not just paint doors!  
We miss our church family, but have once again made new friends in our MDS family!  
Linda and Jim

## **DISCIPLING**

Growing in our relationships

### Adult Sunday School Class:

This Sunday, Jan. 20, regular adult classes will be cancelled so that as many as possible can attend a training on sexual assault awareness.

### CORRECTION: Shalom Orientation Class Starts NEXT week:

Brian will be offering a "Shalom Orientation class" (formerly called the "Membership Exploration class") from January 27 to March 3 for anyone who is new to Shalom, newish, or just wants to learn more about Shalom, Mennonites, and the faith we share. (We will NOT be starting the class on January 20, because we want to encourage participation in the Sexual Assault Awareness Seminar.)

## **OUTREACH**

Relationships beyond Shalom

### Mennonite Men:

"Mennonite Men" is a bi-national organization of the Mennonite Church with a mission of Engaging men to grow, give, and serve as followers of Jesus. With a rich history of service dating back to 1950, Mennonite Men has long been known for helping new churches acquire their first building through JoinHands. While continuing this program, today they are doing more men's work by providing retreats and resources. Steve Thomas, who recently served as Transitional Pastor at First Mennonite Church in Indy, is Coordinator for the USA branch of Mennonite

Men. For more information visit the website at [www.mennonitemen.org](http://www.mennonitemen.org).

### Giving Corner:

In January and February we are collecting new and gently used blankets. If you are interested in knotting a comforter (Super Bowl party activity?), contact Carol Bixler. If you are able to bind the knotted comforters, contact Carol for that as well.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Congregational support systems

### Upright Freezer:

Kitchen Committee no longer needs the upright freezer in the back room. If someone would like it, please let Sam Bixler know in the next couple of weeks. Otherwise, it will be donated.

### Office Hours for Brian:

On Mondays, Brian usually puts in office hours at the church while doing administrative work. For this month, he is experimenting with a "roving office hour" model, where he will be traveling to different parts of the city in Indianapolis in case those of us who live far away from the church would be interested in coming by to chat. This Monday (1/21), Brian will be at the Starbucks in Fishers (by I-69 and 116th Street) from 10:30am to 3:30pm. Feel free to come by if you'd like to talk.

### Minutes available:

The website has been updated and minutes have been posted from the most recent [Administration Commission](#) meeting (as well as some older ones). Click on the link to review the minutes.

## **Milepost #653**

### **Luke Series: Proclaiming Jubilee**

Shortly after Brittany and I started dating, I watched an inspiring movie with her family, and when it was over, we were all eager to talk about it. But to my surprise, the first thing that Brittany's father said was, "Wasn't the music that they played in the opening scene

brilliant?" *The music?* Honestly, I couldn't even recall the music. That is not to say that I wasn't paying attention. On the contrary, I too was very impressed by the opening scene but I was planning to discuss the way that it brilliantly alluded to a famous scene in ancient literature. It never occurred to me to analyze the music. However, I ended up appreciating that scene even more after hearing his insights on how the music slowly built up and then moved in an unfamiliar direction – in coordination with the plot. And I remembered that there are many dimensions of moviemaking, and that we are more likely to appreciate the whole art if we consider it from different perspectives.

For this reason, I am deeply appreciative that we have four different accounts of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in our Bible. Even though all four gospels discuss the same person and they tell the same basic story, each of them noticed certain aspects of Jesus' ministry that the others overlooked, and if you read them closely, you can find these different emphases in the gospels. For example, Matthew tends to focus on Jesus' role as a teacher and spends a lot of time relaying Jesus' ethical instructions, while John tends to focus on Jesus' identity as the Incarnate Word of God, and he reflects more on the eternal implications of putting one's faith in Jesus. We are preparing to study the gospel of Luke, and Luke was especially conscious of the public and political aspects of Jesus' ministry. For Luke, Jesus came save to show us God's way (as Matthew affirms) and offer eternal life (as John affirms), *and also* to transform society as a whole, by proclaiming and inaugurating God's reign on earth. This will be our focus during the next several months.

Luke brings this emphasis to his version of the gospel early on, when he tells a story about Jesus that the other three gospels don't mention: his sermon in his hometown of Nazareth. In Luke 4, he reads a passage in Isaiah about "the year of the Lord's favor" (Jubilee), which represented an era in which those the poor would experience healing and the oppressed would experience liberation. Jesus then proclaimed that he himself would inaugurate Jubilee, and for the rest of the gospel of Luke, he does just that –

heals, liberates, and establishes a new kind of society! Please join us as we study the gospel of Luke together as a church to see how this promise of Jubilee manifests itself in Jesus' ministry and in our world today.

- Brian Bither, Pastor

*Do you have some thoughts to share about this month's spiritual discipline? The Pastoral Team invites you to share your thoughts as one of the weekly milepost entries. Please email Sabrina, Frank, or Brian to explore this further.*

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Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 [shalommennonite.com](mailto:shalommennonite.com)

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