

communion. This year we will have a vegan soup, and one of the tables will have gluten-free bread. To help us prepare, please sign on the bulletin board if you are planning to attend.

**PLEASE** turn in your auction donation forms today if you have not already done so.

**YOU ARE INVITED** to participate in further conversations about the play, *"This Evil Thing,"* at the church on Tuesday, March 20, beginning at 7:30 p.m. What does contemporary conscientious objection to war look like? How do we creatively express our faith in a country where taxpayer dollars are conscripted to support the world's largest military?—H.A. Penner and John Stoner

**AMC WOMEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH** is scheduled for this Tuesday, March 20th. We plan to meet at the home of Helena Dueck (Directions to her place were put in mailboxes). We meet between 11 am and 1 pm. Helena will provide water and hot beverages and hospitality. Come and join in the conversations!

**THE LANCASTER AREA UNIT** of Mennonite Disaster Service is having their annual meeting Monday, March 19 (tomorrow) at 7:00 pm at the MDS office. If you are interested in how MDS works and its organizational structure, you are invited to attend. If you have any questions about the meeting, call Don Brubaker.

**MY COINS COUNT:** Every coin counts! The containers are in the foyer for your generous donations until April 1.

**THE ANNUAL AMC DIRECTORY UPDATE** is in process. Please send information changes and photo updates to Rebecca ASAP.

**TAX ASSISTANCE:** Both the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program and United Way VITA provide free tax filing service for most households with 2017 income of \$62,000 or less, regardless of age. They both have numerous locations in Lancaster County. Contact either Ken Langeman (717-859-3840; [kmlangeman@hotmail.com](mailto:kmlangeman@hotmail.com)) or Don Hertzler (717-721-1882; [rsdhertzler6@hotmail.com](mailto:rsdhertzler6@hotmail.com)) for more information.

**HERITAGE CHORALE SPRING CONCERTS:** The Heritage Chorale will present "Lux Aeterna" (Eternal Light in song) during their spring concert series: April 29 at James Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster; May 6 at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Lititz; May 20 at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Lancaster; and June 3 at Cathedral of St. Patrick in Harrisburg. All concert times are at 4:00 pm.

**GIVING & BUDGET**

Giving for General Fund	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
	\$ 10,945	\$ 77,095
2018 Budget Goals	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
	\$ 9,800	\$ 98,100
2018 Income Budget:	\$ 510,000	
Attendance Last Sunday:	140	

Church office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

Church Office: (717) 859-1488 || 1311 Diamond Street || Akron, PA 17501

**AKRON MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**March 18, 2018**  
**Covenant: God's Story of Love**  
**Lent 5 - Between Me & You & Covenant New**

**Chapter One - God initiates covenant with us**

Prelude music Deb Sprunger

Chime & lighting the peace lamp  
 Welcome & call to worship screen

STJ 3 (green) *Jesus calls us here to meet him (st. 1-3)*  
 HWB 486 (blue) *God of our life*

**Chapter Two - God woos us with covenant**

Scripture Jeremiah 31:31-34 Amy Herr

(screen) *God's love is for everybody*  
 Children's time Rachel Nolt  
 Children ages 2-4 are dismissed for preschool church in Room 16 with Jim Shenk, Marilyn Langeman, and Lydia Nolt

Psalm 51 from *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness* Hibist Siyoum & Esther Nolt  
 STS 62 (purple) *Create in me a clean heart*  
 Sermon *The stories we tell* Rachel Nolt

(screen) *Between me & you*

**Chapter Three - We respond to God's covenantal love**

Confession  
**God of new covenant,**  
**We struggle to comprehend the expansiveness of your covenant.**  
**Nothing is left out -**  
**Not us,**  
**Not our weaknesses and shortcomings,**  
**Not even the stories we tell of our past or present.**  
**We struggle to comprehend that kind of love,**  
**never mind joining it and living it.**  
**To make it more manageable,**  
**We create stories to explain the unexplainable.**  
**We explain rather than experience.**  
**We limit love.**  
**Have mercy on us, O God. Have mercy on us. Amen.**

Words of assurance

**Chapter Four – We join God’s covenant sharing God’s story**

Offering and offertory Gavin Shenk  
Offertory prayer

Call to prayer *Herr, full mich neu (God fill me now)* Men’s Choir  
Prayers of the people Hibist Siyoum & Esther Nolt

Introduction of guests & Announcements

HWB 483 (blue) *O God, who gives us life*  
Benediction

**We are covenant people.  
We go in God’s love  
to extend God’s love  
and live in God’s love.**

+++++

Musicians Diane Gehman, Deb Sprunger & Leon Myers  
Song Leader Jon Clemens  
Worship Leader Hibist Siyoum & Esther Nolt

**Scripture next week:** Mark 11:1-11; Dennis Ernest, preacher

**PLEASE JOIN US (10:15 – 10:40)**

Everyone is welcome to participate in coffee/tea fellowship following the worship service. Guests, please sign the guest book in the foyer next to the Welcome Desk.

**SECOND HOUR FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (10:40 – 11:40)**

Adults

Terry Wible is facilitating a class based on the book The Sin of Certainty by Peter Enns. This class explores the difference between right believing, certainty and a lived out faith. Bring your questions, fears, and thoughts as participants discuss with each other the contrast between head knowledge and a lived out experience of God. Class meets in the Assembly Room.

At 11:00, Rev. Matt Lenahan, Zion Lutheran Church in Akron, and Rachel Nolt will lead a forum regarding racial discrimination in state education funding. We will be joined by members of Zion Lutheran Church. Meets in the sanctuary.

Children and Youth

Taught by members of the church who graciously volunteer their time. See below for locations.

Nursery age - - - - - Nursery  
Ages 2 -4 - - - - - Rooms 16/18  
Kindergarten-5th Grade - - - - - Rooms 131, 132, 133 (lower level)  
Jr. MYF (6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth) - - - - - Room 122/124 (lower level)  
MYF (High School Youth) - - - - - MYF Room

**AMONG THOSE SERVING TODAY**

**Greeters:** Don & Elaine Brubaker, Anne Weaver **Sound/AV Operator:** Delmar Zimmerman  
**Nursery Worship:** as needed **Nursery DH:** as needed  
**Coffee Servers:** Linda & Gerry Horst **Mug Washers:** John & Janet Stoner  
**Ushers:** Daryl Mack (Head usher), Sarah Eby, Bernice Valverde, Norm Wood

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 18 **Today** Campus Chorale from LMHS @ 4:00 pm @ AMC  
March 18 **Today** FLIP event: Laser Dome (1:30-2:30) & walking the rail trail (3:00-4:00)  
March 20 Women’s brown bag luncheon 11 am to 1 pm @ Helena Dueck’s  
March 21 Landis Homes residents gathering; 10- 11:30; Hybrid #1 Community Room  
March 24 MYF Auction; meal at 4:30, auction at 5:45 pm  
March 25 Congregational discernment meeting during second hour  
March 29 Maundy Thursday meal and service  
April 1 Easter Breakfast @ AMC @ 7:45 am

**Save these Dates:**

April 5 Spring mulching @ AMC 5:00 – 7:00 pm; pizza provided  
April 14 AMC Women’s Retreat  
May 5 Final Safe Church training for those who work with youth  
8:15 am – 12:30 pm @ AMC  
October 26-27 ACC Fall Assembly @ AMC; details to be announced

Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF - Grades 9-12):

- March 23 Set-up for auction, 6:00 – 9:00 pm
- March 24 MYF Auction
- June 17-23 DOOR service project in Denver, CO

**PRAYERS**

Nelson & Susan Blessing are grateful for our prayers as they prepare for Nelson’s newly-arranged chemo and radiation treatments at LGH.

Grace Brubaker is recuperating at Maple Farm and appreciates cards, visitors, and prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LECTIO DIVINO** will not be held this coming Tuesday, March 20. Congregational Prayer will be held Thursday, March 22 at 12:30 pm.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will continue their listening opportunities during coffee hour. Council members will be available today after the church service in the coffee area.

**OUR MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE** is March 29 at 6:30 pm. On this evening we eat a simple meal together, wash hands or feet, contribute to the Agape fund of the congregation, and share