

August 2026, Volume 49, Number 9

LOOKING FORWARD: MICHIANA RELIEF SALE

Mark your calendars *now* for **September 25-26, 2026**, to support Mennonite Central Committee by attending, eating, bidding, buying, running or playing! A full schedule of events can be found at mennonitesale.org as well as a map of the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, plus other information such as how to register for the Run for Relief 5K Run/Walk or 2K Fun Walk, or how to participate in the newly added Pickleball Tournament (mixed doubles 60+ and <60).

Many completed craft projects are made by members of our fellowship for sale at the event. They may be observed along the chapel wall during the middle of September. Any craft items you wish to yet donate should be brought to the Women's Ministries room by September 16th.

If crafting isn't your thing, you may still get in on the fun by contributing various food items. Look for a list in the church foyer of what to make and how to package the items. Acceptable items include pies, sweet rolls, crisp peppernuts, homemade cookies, bread, dinner rolls, cakes, noodles, jellies, dried fruit, homemade soup, and fresh produce.

Besides the Quilt Auction on Saturday at 8AM, attendees can also purchase a variety of donated items in the other auctions on Friday & Saturday; craft, dried flower, plant and Ten Thousand Villages booths, as well as all of the many food booths. There will be lots of music showcased and plenty of children's activities, too.

Please note they try to make the Relief Sale as low-waste as possible by encouraging attendees to bring a water bottle. There is a bottle-filling station at the fairgrounds. Why not make a day of it and drive up either Friday or Saturday to support this *worldwide* ministry of Anabaptist churches?

Total proceeds from the 2025 Sale were approximately \$445,000. Funds raised are applied to MCC's initiatives all over the world contributing to the cause of peace and relief. The motto of MCC is "In the Name of Christ."



update

FURTHER STUDY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

One year ago, we embarked on a journey together, as hearers of the Word, challenged by Pastor Jeff and the Spiritual Guidance Cabinet to indeed discover ways to deploy and grow in using our individual spiritual gifts.

Falling into the category of *continuationist*, Mennonites believe that the gifts of the ministry of the Holy Spirit did not end with the early church apostles, but continue to operate and remain available to believers today.

You might recall the chapel wall displaying a wide variety of suggestions for ways to develop/use the gift of hospitality or the Wednesday evening opportunities to develop evangelism. A Sunday school class was offered to further discuss the gift of prophecy.

2026 began with a look at the gift of encouragement, followed by discernment, then faith. There remain on the chapel wall numerous written accounts people have shared highlighting the gift of faith.

The first Sunday of September will continue with the spiritual gift of **wisdom** – the distinctive ability to discern the mind of Christ and apply scriptural truth to a specific situation in order to make the right choices and help others move in the right direction.

October's focus will be the gift of **healing** – the distinctive ability to be used as a human intermediary through whom God's supernatural power is applied to a person's physical or emotional need.

"There are different kinds of gifts. But it is the same Holy Spirit Who gives them. There are different kinds of work to be done for Him. But the work is for the same Lord. There are different ways of doing His work. But it is the same God who uses all these ways in all people. The Holy Spirit works in each person in one way or another for the good of all." I Corinthians 12:4-7.

FALL KICK-OFF: AUGUST 26

The entire church family is invited to gather for a time of fellowship on Wednesday, Aug. 26th. Pizza will be served beginning at 5:45 P.M. Some extra special FUN for the kids is scheduled to follow. Most importantly, this is an opportunity to make connections with families and individuals in our congregation as regular programming starts again. All ages are encouraged to come.

FROM THE EDITOR

One thing I've taken note of in our morning worship times is very often there is a song that strikes me as the perfect "prayer" to carry with me into the coming week. It just seems to tie together the message God has given throughout that particular morning. Sometimes it's a hymn and sometimes not; it may come at the beginning or end of the service. I enjoy finding these songs again on my music streaming service and making them a part of my personal worship.

This month has seen record amounts of rainfall across Indiana, especially the week prior to this publication's printing. There have been places just a short drive from Berne that have experienced a 500-1,000 years flood! Flood waters bring destruction (and we do pray for those who've lost so much), but praying for God's Spirit to fall like rain brings beauty, strength, and a renewed perspective to one's life. I wish to be flooded with these.

Fall Like Rain

God, I live to worship You
All my life I offer You
Simple melodies of sacrifice
Open hands and open arms
You're the only one I want
Your presence is my treasure
My delight
Fall like rain
Holy Spirit, fall like rain
Holy Spirit, have Your way
Let Your glory fall down
Let Your glory fall down
One thing I ask
One thing I seek
So much more than anything
To dwell within Your house
For all my days
Knowing You is Everything
I let go of lesser things
You alone are worthy of my praise
So stir in me
A passion for Your Name

WEDNESDAY CHAPEL CLASS THIS FALL

Dr. Ben Sprunger will be speaking in the chapel on Wednesday evenings in the month of September. He will be presenting an interactive series exploring how the life and teaching of Jesus sparked the Anabaptist movement that changed history.

Discover how these historical turning points around the birth of Anabaptism helped shape our country's founding documents, modern religious freedom, separation of church and state, human rights, and Mennonite practices. *See you there!*

CHURCH FAMILY D.T.S./MISSION TRIP

Beginning this fall, then culminating with a mission trip to Freedom International in the Dominican Republic June 21-26, 2027, the "church family" DTS class will focus on nine core components of a disciple. Both the class and the mission trip are open to singles, married couples, families (with kids 10 or older), empty nesters, retirees – everyone is welcome!

Regular DTS class attendance on the third Sunday of each month, family homework, local service projects, and some reading assignments are required. If all requirements are met, the cost of the trip will be covered! PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE if you are still interested... it's NOT too late, and more information will be made available.

CHILD DEDICATIONS

Joyfully, five children were dedicated to the Lord on Sunday morning, July 26, 2026. It's an exciting time in the life of the church and we celebrate together with these families!

- * Conrad Lee, Kennedy Marie, and Liam Travis, sons and daughter of Kolton & Sydney Dailey
- * Duke Owen, son of Corbin & Ava Hirschy
- * Miriam Esther Florence, daughter of John & Renelle Stauffer.

"I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." 1 Samuel 1:27-28.

May we as a church pray for these parents and children, pointing them to Jesus, that they will grow up to know the Spirit and the love God has for each one of them.



NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The Loyal Workers Sunday School Class recently provided new seat cushions for the chapel. The class would like to thank the people who helped make this possible: To Floyd Liechty who helped with the cushion and fabric selection from Smith Brothers; to Tom and Sharon Ninde, and Nicki Lehman, who faithfully gave of their time to mark, cut, and sew the seat cushion covers. The class is grateful to have these new seat cushions!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace."

-Jerry Bridges

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Louise Lehman had hip surgery at Lutheran.

Jim Buckingham had hip replacement surgery.

Jayne Mann was hospitalized for treatment of a broken arm.

Cheryl Walker was hospitalized due to several physical issues.

Floyd Liechty had back surgery Monday at Lutheran.

Norman Sprunger had cataract surgery in Fort Wayne.

Gyneth Sutton had a TAVR heart valve repair.

Alvin Lehman was hospitalized following a fall.

Kenlyn Sprunger was hospitalized for treatment following a fall.

Jean Lehman was hospitalized for IV treatment.

Ryan Sprunger is serving with MDS in Spencer, Iowa, through the month of August.

HOMEGOING

Doyle Wayne Lehman, 93, of Berne, Indiana, passed away Wednesday morning, July 22, 2026, at Swiss Village in Berne. He was born on August 23, 1932 in Berne, Indiana, to Albert and Edna (Habegger) Lehman. Doyle was united in marriage to Anna Schwartz on August 30, 1952, in Berne, Indiana. Together they shared 73 wonderful years of marriage, building a life centered on faith and family. In June 1955, He was drafted into the United States Army during the Korean War. He served his country as a Specialist Third Class (SP3) before receiving an honorable discharge.

Doyle was a faithful member of First Mennonite Church in Berne. For 44 years, he faithfully taught Sunday School, touching the lives of countless children and families. He also served three terms as a deacon, providing leadership and compassionate service to his church. He was an active member of the Berne Rotary Club and was highly respected throughout Indiana's educational community. He served as chairman of the Indiana High School Athletic Association from 1973–1978 and again from 1980–1983, and as President of the Indiana Association of Public Schools Superintendents from 1986–1987. Throughout his distinguished career, he received numerous honors, including recognition from the American Association of School Administrators, the Sagamore of the Wabash, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Berne Chamber of Commerce, and the Distinguished Service Award. Above all, Doyle would want to be remembered as a man of strong Christian faith who loved his family.

Doyle graduated from Berne French High School with the Class of 1950 before continuing his studies at Purdue University. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Agriculture with a minor in General Science and Biology in 1954. He later completed a Master's Degree in Secondary Science Education in 1961, a Master's Degree in Secondary Administration and Supervision in 1964, a Master's Degree in Superintendent Administration and Supervision in 1969, and earned his Life License in 1989.

He devoted 37 years to public education, inspiring students, supporting teachers, and leading schools with integrity and vision. He began his career teaching Vocational Agriculture and Biology at Sardinia High School from 1956 to 1957, Pleasant Mills High School from 1957 to 1958, and Geneva High School from 1958 to 1959. He later returned to his old stomping grounds, Berne French High School, which became South Adams High School, where he served as High School Principal from 1964 to 1978. In 1978, he became Superintendent of Adams Central Community Schools, serving until 1988, before returning to South Adams Schools as Superintendent from 1988 until his retirement from public education in 1993.

Doyle then joined his family at Hitzer, Inc., where he continued working until his final retirement in 2017. He was actively involved in the community through 4-H and farming over many years.

Doyle is survived by his wife, Anna Lehman of Berne, Indiana; son, Kevin (Gyneth) Lehman of Union City, Indiana; son, Brent (Joni) Lehman of Berne, Indiana; daughter, Cheryl (Rex) Lautzenheiser of Brandon, Florida; and brother, Claren "Clez" Lehman of Berne, Indiana; nine grandchildren; and 27 great-grandchildren. Doyle was preceded in death by brothers, Adrian (Berneta) & Maynard "Miz" (Pauline) Lehman; and two sisters, Romaine (John) Sprunger and Kaye (Lloyd) Miller; and sister-in-law, Darleen Lehman.

BOOKMARKS

Newly available titles in the church library for your reading enjoyment::

Anna of Bethsaida by Susanne Blumer. Anna believed choosing Andrew meant gaining a home. Instead, she finds herself on the dusty roads of Galilee, under the watchful eyes of hostile Pharisees, walking ever closer to miracles that both heal and unsettle. As a healer traveling with Jesus's ministry alongside Andrew, Anna takes her place among the women who follow, forming bonds that offer strength as the journey grows harder. While crowds press closer to hear the Teacher's words, a different kind of attention gathers. In Jerusalem, her father Joseph of Arimathea, walks an impossible line within the Sanhedrin, and with each miracle Jesus performs, the net draws tighter around them all.

F BLU

Beautifully scarred: conquering clefts, receiving adoption, and embracing scars by Camey Joy. "May my scars point to His scars." We all have scars, some external, some internal. But it's lessons we learn from the scars that transform us. Dive into the inspiring pages of Beautifully Scarred and embark on a journey of courage, faith, and redemption with Camey Joy, who was born in the mountains of Guatemala with a bilateral cleft lip and palate and was adopted by Americans to save her life.

B JOY

Update is the publication of the First Mennonite Church, Berne, Indiana. It is published once a month to keep our people informed about the news and events in the church.

Senior Pastor.....Jeff Linthicum
Editor.....Debby Neuenschwander
Among Our People.....Jim Schwartz

Address Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER 2026 						
		1 6:30PM Sunshine Hour	2 7PM Anabaptism: Past Through the Future Dr. Ben Sprunger			
6 10AM: "Spiritual Gift: Wisdom" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum NO EVENING SERVICE (Labor Day Weekend) Offering	7  Labor Day	8 6:30PM Sunshine Hour	9 7PM Anabaptism: Past Through the Future Dr. Ben Sprunger			
13 10AM: "Careful How You Build" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum (Matthew 7:24-27) 6:30PM: Hymn Festival Offering		15 6:30PM Sunshine Hour	16 7PM Anabaptism: Past Through the Future Dr. Ben Sprunger			
20 10AM: "Feast of Trumpets" - Pastor Jim Schwartz (Leviticus 23:23-35, Matthew 24:31, 1 Corinthians 15:50-56) 6:30PM: Revelation 20 - Dr. Kent Lehman Offering for LMC		22 6:30PM Sunshine Hour  First Day of Autumn	23 7PM Anabaptism: Past Through the Future Dr. Ben Sprunger			
27 10AM: "Feast of Atonement" - Pastor Jeff Linthicum (Leviticus 16:10, Romans 5:9-11) 5:00PM: Chili Cook-Off at Fellowship Point Offering		29 6:30PM Sunshine Hour	30 7PM Anabaptism: Past Through the Future Dr. Ben Sprunger	 september		