



SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXV, Issue 7 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church April 5, 2026

SENIOR SAINTS April 2026 Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy celebrating to our senior saints who have birthdays/anniversaries in April, 2026!

- Jim/Donna Johnston (50) Friday, April 3*
- Henry Beun (71), Sunday, April 5*
- Margaret Wenger (86), Saturday, April 11*
- Bernice Franks (97), Thursday, April 16*
- Linda Horn (79) Friday, April 17*

BIBLE QUIZZING 2026

What a great year of Bible Quizzing in the 2026 season!

During January through March quizzing focused on Acts 10-26, covering lots of amazing stories, people and places of the early church. Our team consisted of 7 quizzers - 5 from Sonnenberg (Lucas Miller, Lukas Zuercher, Isaac Zuercher, Mattea Nofziger and Luke Nofziger) and 2 from Salem Mennonite (Quinn Steiner and Thea Steiner). Glenn and I were the coaches for the season. We met 3 times/week for practice, and quiz meets were on Sunday afternoons at Fairlawn Mennonite.



There were 6 teams in the Wayne County league this year - one each from Sonnenberg, Orrville and Smithville, and 3 teams from Mennonite



Christian Assembly (MCA), and we had good competition at our weekly meets. We were neck and neck all season with one of the MCA teams for total number of points, and only narrowly passed them in our last match of the regular season when our rookie quizzer, Lucas Miller, came through in a clutch situation to put us on top. This was definitely one of the highlights of the season for us! So for the regular season, Sonnenberg came in first place and received a trophy as a team, and Mattea was the top quizzer in the league (1210 points, 34 quiz outs). Isaac Zuercher received the award for top quizzer on our team (920 points, 20 quiz outs).

This year was Wayne County's turn to host the annual Bible Quizzing Invitational, and with the support of our local church communities, we were able to host 61 teams (plus staff) from Lancaster, PA, Northwest OH and West Liberty, OH, in addition to the 5 teams we entered into the tournament. It was a very fun and full day of quizzing at Smithville High School. Our team competed well in both round robin and main tournament play, losing in the end to two good teams that advanced to Sunday morning. Both Mattea and Isaac competed in the all-star match, which was one big match this year with 5

teams (one from each area) competing against each other using an elaborate buzzer system - it was quite entertaining! Our Wayne County team did not win the all-star match, but they had fun trying to buzz in faster than 16 other amazing quizzers after hearing only one word!

Our team would like to thank our amazing fans for your support this year! We were blessed in many ways this season by your prayers, meals, and presence at our meets. We loved having the MYF come during their retreat to cheer us on, and to our loyal fans who came every Sunday - we noticed you and are so grateful for your interest and support. We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Sonnenberg congregation for the many ways you supported the Invitational - opening your homes to host teams, providing breakfast and transportation, baking cookies for the meals served at Smithville, etc. Our Wayne County area, which only makes up 6 teams (3 churches) of the tournament, relied heavily on our community to pull off this big event, and you all rose to the challenge and helped us host a fun and successful Invitational - so thank you very much. We couldn't have done it without you!

Next year we are excited to study the life of David in 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 Kings. May God continue to grow and shape the hearts of our youth as they spend time in his life-changing Word!

- Erin Nofziger

- Speed: 1st: Josh Zuercher
2nd: Miles Treish (from Salem)
- Most like a car: 1st: Hensen Myers (Salem)
2nd: Rowan Myers (Salem)
- Most Original: 1st: Isaac Zuercher
2nd: Karis Nofziger
- Best Paint Job: 1st: Evan Petite
2nd: Maddy Kempf (Salem)



2026 PINWOOD DERBY

This year we celebrated the 50th running of the Pinewood Derby at Sonnenberg. It was a fun night that included Salem Mennonite Church youth.

There were a number of categories besides the race itself that were up for grabs...



NEWS & NOTES



OrrVilla Retirement

Community: Is continuing its Speaker Series each month.

OrrVilla's Speaker Series events are a 1-hour presentation (2:00 – 3:00 PM) on a variety of topics. These talks are free to the public, with an RSVP (330-462-1038), and are intended to be informative and educational.

April 7th | 2:00–3:00 pm. “Creating a Better Visit” Learn helpful and practical tips to make visits with loved ones even better! Carole Klingler, founder and CEO of “LIFE, a Dementia Friendly Foundation” a not-for-profit grassroots program that has been supporting people living with dementia and their care partners since 2016.

LIFE operates 7 weekly Memory Cafés, offering 4 hours of engaging, supportive programming—all at no cost to families or participants.

Currently both the Wooster and Orrville areas provide these Memory Cafés, weekly. Come to learn more.



Camp Luz: is hiring for staff for summer camp. High school students who are 16 years old or older are eligible and this is a wonderful way to serve in a local

ministry. **Summer Staff Team** - Most summer staff have a primary role for the summer but are occasionally asked to fill other roles based on staffing needs.

Requirements For ALL Summer Staff

Cabin Leader- Directly responsible for the safety, supervision, and spiritual nurture of 8-12 campers assigned to him/her. (with a co-counselor)

Cook- Responsible to assist in preparation, serving, and clean up of the meals and snacks.

Housekeeping- Responsibilities include cleaning the camp facilities, refilling supplies and assisting the cooks during meal times and clean up.

Maintenance Staff - Assist with camp upkeep including yard work and general maintenance.

Program Coordinator- Works alongside the Program Director to plan and lead various tasks. Expected to provide leadership to the staff through encouragement, example and direction. Also expected to do any tasks the Program Director asks them to do. This could be a weekly or summer commitment.

Photographer/Social Media Specialist- Take and upload high quality photos. Prepare flash drives of weekly highlights that can be bought by camper families.

Lifeguard- Responsible for keeping guests safe at the Camp Luz pool. (certification required) *fill outlifeguard application if you plan on only being a lifeguard, otherwise complete the summer staff application*

Nurse- Responsible for the health forms and medications of campers and staff and on-call for treatment of injuries and illness. (licensed RN or LPN)

Internship- because of the nature of camp work, there are a variety of internship possibilities we can help you meet. If you are looking to fill internship requirements in Guest Services, Food Service, Ministry, or Programming, talk to us about how we can help.

All summer staff are expected to attend Staff Training (June 1-5, 2026) and are expected to be able to agree

with the Camp Luz Statement of Faith and be willing to sign the Summer Staff Covenant.



MDS: listed below are some service opportunities over the next few months:

Location: Middlefield, Ohio to Georgia

Disaster: Hurricane Helene

Type of Work: Drivers for Amish Volunteers

Contact: Red Byler at 440-487-6371 or redbyler@outlook.com

Location: Berlin, Ohio to Georgia

Disaster: Hurricane Helene

Type of Work: Drivers for Amish Volunteers

Contact: Merle Stutzman at 330-893-3010 or merles57@gmail.com

Location: TBD-Looking for persons interested in the work of MDS. Type of Work: Future leadership roles



within the unit Contact: Bruce Kindy at 330-464-2380 or bdkindy51@zoominternet.net

Weekly Volunteer scheduling for April-August

projects (including the Summer Youth Program) begins in February. Weekly Volunteers can see Opportunities on the website if interested in serving in the spring or summer or join the Waitlist for the fall projects! Contact Kaelan Swartley (kswartley@mds.org or 800-241-8111) with any questions or to schedule a week of service!

Leadership Volunteers - MDS will soon be scheduling our spring and summer projects once locations are finalized. We need leadership to support these projects as cooks and crew leaders specifically for the summer. We will have youth groups serving and would welcome skilled volunteers investing in the future of possible MDS volunteers! Please reach out to your volunteer coordinator if you can go for 2-4 weeks in the summer! Learn specific dates at each location by visiting mds.org/leadership-rv/. Contact: Karla Friesen (717-735-3536 or karla.friesen@mds.org).



Please join us on Thursday, April 23 at 6:30pm at the Hartville Kitchen for our Annual Fundraising

Banquet, an evening centered on the students of Southeast Canton and the inspiring work unfolding through Lighthouse Ministries! Thanks to generous sponsors, there is no cost to attend, but there will be an opportunity to give at the conclusion of the program as we work toward our \$75,000 goal before our fiscal year ends on May 31. Consider arriving a little early or staying a bit afterward, as our student-run businesses will be open both before and after the program!

This Week in Anabaptist History ... Jan Luiken, famous engraver and poet, especially of devotional poems, was born on April 16, 1649, at Amsterdam, and died there on April 5, 1712. He became an apprentice in the atelier of Martinus Saeghmolen, and moved in a frivolous anti-church society. Four of his five children died young. The oldest son, Caspar Luiken (1672-1708), was also trained as an

engraver by his father, and supported his father during his last years.

In 1673 Jan Luiken was baptized in the Lamist Mennonite Church at Amsterdam, and shortly after joined the Mennonite congregation at Beverwijk, about 16 miles northwest of Amsterdam, though he was probably attracted by the Collegiate views of Paulus Bastiaensz of Beverwijk, where he stayed for a time. But the great change in his life came at a later period. In the twenty-sixth year of his life the Lord appeared in his heart in a powerful manner and afire with the love of God, he forsook his old bad company.

After his conversion Luiken withdrew from the church. In solitude he continued his etching and his contemplation; closely attached to a few kindred spirits, he wrote mystical poems tinged with pantheism. In the course of time these poems were considered orthodox and were held in high esteem in pietistic circles in the first half of the 19th century.

For the second edition (1685) of van Braght's *Martyrs' Mirror* he furnished 104 copper etchings, illustrating the martyrdom of Anabaptists and Mennonites of the 16th century. These plates were published in a Dutch edition in 1738 by Marten Schagen at Alkmaar. They also appeared in the 1780 edition of the *Martyrs' Mirror* printed at Pirmasens, and in 20th century North American editions. After the printing of the Pirmasens edition the plates were supposedly lost; in 1925 they reappeared in South Germany in private possession.

Ten years after Luiken's death the widow of Barend Visscher published a collection of ninety-two Luiken engravings illustrating events from early church history. Jan Luiken was a very important, versatile, and creative Dutch engraver and etcher in the period after Rembrandt; 3,275 works are known to be his. His favorite field was the illustration of books. In addition to travel literature and historical works he used many Biblical subjects. He made his own preliminary sketches; many of them can be seen in Amsterdam (Prentenkabinet and Museum Fodor); Haarlem (Teyler Museum), and Rotterdam, as well as in London (British Museum) and Vienna.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Luiken,_Jan_\(1649-1712\)&oldid=141506](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Luiken,_Jan_(1649-1712)&oldid=141506).

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday April 19, 2026. Submit items to the church office by Thursday April 16, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.