



# Schweitzer Salt

Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association



www.swissmennonite.org

August 2024

## Annual Banquet to be Held at 6 pm on October 10

Mark your calendars for the annual SMCHA Banquet. This year we will celebrate it Thursday, October 10 at 6:00 pm at Faith Mennonite church in Newton. We will be featuring an ethnic German buffet style meal catered by the Breadbasket. A return of our 'bohne beroggi' made by authentic Schweitzer cooks will occur again.

At this event we will focus on thanking those that coordinated the 150th anniversary of Schweitzers coming to the United States. A panel discussing our future will also occur during the evening.

We invite you to come to the banquet on the 10th, enjoy good food, learn who we are and were, learn what SMCHA is doing and planning, have a great time fellowshiping with friends old and new, and continue our celebratory mood from the 150th. The cost of the annual banquet is \$25 to be paid at the door. **RSVP to Nancy Stucky by October 7 with a text or phone call to 620-532-5693.** Come and enjoy!

## A Note from our Celebration Chairperson

Little did I know what I was getting into in March of 2022 when I agreed to chair the celebration of the arrival of our ancestors in 1874. What a joy this journey has been. It has caused me to talk with lots of Schweitzers and get acquainted with lots of Friends. It has caused me to reflect on why it is important to remember and why it is good to recognize the accomplishments of ancestors. All through the Bible, God directs his people to create monuments, to practice rituals, to remember." And so we too gather, create and practice. We have listened to lectures and watched historical movies and plays. We've watched plowing with horses and beating wheat with flails. We've appreciated the beauty of quilts and we've hunted through genealogy records. The weekend of August 23-25 we will once again be watching, listening, visiting, and remembering. Will you be joining us? - Danielle Goering



## Monument Gets Cleaned

The Swiss Mennonite Monument near Hopefield Church has recently been sandblasted and sealed by The Hidden Pearl Company. Your donations to SMCHA helped make this possible. Be sure to check out the monument, cemetery, and marker on Saturday, August 24 during the lunch break. People will be located at the monument and cemetery to answer questions you may have. These points of interest are always available for viewing.

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Items of Interest insert

Danielle Goering has spent countless hours planning for the 150th celebration. We thank her for her work!

Saturday children activities are being planned 9-11:30 and 1:30-3:00 that will not only entertain but also educate youngsters about the lives their great, greats might have experienced. Parents are encouraged to accompany their young children.

Please share Schweitzer news and events with others to expand our readership and inform about our upcoming 150th celebration held on August 23-25, 2024.

Thank you for donating to the expenses incurred in celebrating the 150th Anniversary.

### 150th Celebration Activities at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge: Friday, August 23, 2025 at 7 pm



The 150th Celebration of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites Coming to U.S. in 1874 will open on Friday night, August 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Eden Mennonite Church, rural Moundridge, with the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Wynn Goering, speaking on “The Use of Memory.” Wynn grew up on a farm that was literally in Moundridge. He graduated from Moundridge High School and Bethel College and earned masters and doctoral degrees at the University of Chicago. Wynn farmed with his father and taught at Chicago, McPherson, and Bethel before becoming Bethel’s academic dean in 1991. Wynn and his wife Ardie moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico. They manage a Christmas tree farm near Goessel.



Dr. Austin McCabe Juhnke, Assistant Professor of Musicology at Ohio State University, will lead attendees through a music-historical journey on “Singing 150 Years of Schweitzer Mennonite Heritage” as Dr. William Eash, Professor Emeritus of Music at Bethel College, will lead a hymn sing.



### Saturday, August 24, 2024 Events at Eden Mennonite Church

**Saturday morning, August 24, 8:00 a.m.** (and also repeated at 12:30 p.m.) will begin with “Schweitzers Talking” Readers Theater, a cross-generational dialogue based on (probably) true and (mostly) entertaining stories told by Schweitzers. Conceived and directed by John McCabe-Juhnke and featuring the dramatic talents of Jerod Kaufman, John McCabe-Juhnke, Leann Toews, Julianna Schrag Kaufman, Aaron Tschetter, Karin Kaufman Wall.



*A full day of seminars to choose from is in store for Saturday. Children’s activities are planned (9-11:30 and 1:30-3); Children under 5 will need to be accompanied by an adult.*



**Seminars: 9:00-10:00** Anabaptist Beginnings: Committed to Jesus—We must never forget that without the 16th-century Anabaptists there would be no Swiss Volhynian Mennonites. This seminar will focus on the Swiss Anabaptist leaders, their beliefs, their actions, and their persecution. —**Dale Schrag 10:30-11:30**—The European Experience: United or Divided? This seminar will focus less on specifics and more on broad themes. It will be highly interpretive, and will solicit audience response and participation.—**Dale Schrag 1:30-2:30** Fractured Community in America. This seminar will examine and interpret what may well have been the single most defining event in the Swiss Volhynian community in Kansas, the Hopefield/Edensplit. Were the seeds of division sown in Europe or in America or both? - **Dale Schrag**

**9:00-10:00**—Travels to Ancestral Lands—Panelists will share their experiences traveling to places where our ancestors lived—maps and photos in Switzerland, Palatinate along the Rhine River, Montbeliard, Poland, Ukraine. **Patricia Goering Smith** and panel



**9:00-10:00**—The Land We Came To. What could we learn if we studied the land and the peoples on the land we came TO? How were Indigenous homelands stewarded for centuries before our people’s arrival? What might their land management teach us about their values and lifestyles that might be useful to us today? - **Rayleen Hinz-Penner**



**10:30-11:30** From Anabaptist to Alleles: Tracing Mennonite Genetic Heritage. Unlock the remarkable tapestry of your Mennonite ancestry! This presentation takes you on a journey, utilizing genetic research to trace your family’s lineage and uncover the unique genetic threads with an emphasis on benign and malignant conditions that have shaped the Mennonite heritage over generations. —**Jeremy Schrag**





**Saturday, August 24, 2024 Events at Eden Mennonite Church Continued**

**10:30-11:30** Schweitzer influence on the world. A look at the many ways Schweitzers have influenced organizations, communities, and people. There will be stories describing how people can affect change in denominational missions/ministries, education, health care and the US military. — **Jeff Koller**



**1:30-2:30 The Lone Tree Story**—A legacy of faith through disappointment, despair, disease, death, and determination. —**Shawn Giesel**



**1:30-2:30** Looking to the Future. Perspectives shared by those who like to look ahead, young people, and Bethel College students and you. —**Josue Coy Dick, Peter Buller, Kaytlen Keough**



11:30-1:30 Food will be available to purchase at the food trucks located at Eden. Tours of the cemetery and monument are also available at Hopefield.

Hopefield Church will be open to visitors from 9:30-2:00 with treats to share. Bonita Howard will have rehearsal at 3:00 for those who will sing in the Sunday morning Community service.

**3:00** August 23-25, 2024, is the celebration of 150 years since the Mennonite mass migration from the steppes of Asia to the plains of North America, bringing with them the seed stock of Turkey Red Hard Winter Wheat. Of the 5 landraces (adapted varieties) of wheat at the time, they found that Turkey Red was best suited to the sometimes-harsh climate conditions of the steppes and was an excellent wheat for milling into bread flour. The climate conditions of the plains in North America were similar to the steppes of Russia and so Turkey Red thrived where other crops often failed. This turned the plains into the Breadbasket of America, as it had for the steppes in Asia, as the Breadbasket for Europe. Virtually, all of the Hard Red Winter Wheat variations grown in the plains of North America have Turkey Red as their genetic origins.



Saturday, August 24, we will be demonstrating our final 150th Anniversary Pioneer Event with the threshing and milling of Turkey Red Hard Winter Wheat we raised using horse-drawn and vintage equipment, just west of the Moundridge Museum complex. We will be using a McCormick-Deering threshing machine powered by an antique tractor to thresh the bundles of Turkey Red we bound and shocked back on June first. There will also be an 1874 grist mill, milling demonstration providing us a unique opportunity to have Turkey Red wheat flour available for purchase.



To complement the threshing and milling events, Vintage Farm Equipment with some of the great machines of the past will be on display all day.

These events will start with the farm equipment display beginning at 9:00 a.m. just west of the Moundridge Museum Complex and continue through the day. We will be setting up the threshing and milling demonstration all morning with our official start at 3:00 p.m. Limited bleacher seating and concessions will be available; bringing a water bottle and a hat might be advisable. We know you will enjoy these unique pioneer events and celebrating the 150th Schweitzers & Friends anniversary. -- Glen Goering

To top off the day, Saturday at 7:00 p.m. will be **Menno Night Live: Schweitzers and Friends Edition**: Six Swiss Sisters, Christopher Shaw, Flannelbacks, and September River at Eden Mennonite Church. Come enjoy an evening of music.

**A Place To Stay**

If you are coming from out of town to the August 23-25 150th Celebration and wondering where you might stay, Peter Preheim is developing a list of area hotel/motels that could accommodate you that we will make available later. Text him of your interest at 214-533-9329. Also, if you have space in your home for several visitors that weekend, E. Fred Goering is gathering that information and helping match host and visitors. Text him at 620-345-9890 if you could help in this way.



Send articles, ideas for articles, or requests to be added to the mailing or email list to Kathy Preheim at [kathypreheim@gmail.com](mailto:kathypreheim@gmail.com)

We will come together **Sunday morning, August 25, at 9:30 a.m. at Eden Mennonite Church for the Community Worship Service.** Singing together and then hearing the singing of the Mass Choir directed by Bonita Howard will be a joy. A brass ensemble of Aaron Ratzlaff and Kyle Unruh on trumpets, Fred Bohnenblust and Eric Goering on trombones and directed by Jerry Toews will add to the service. Dr. Nathan Stucky will bring the message. He is Director of the Farminary Project at Princeton Theological Seminary. He grew up on a farm in Kansas where his love for Christian faith and agriculture first took root. A graduate of Bethel College (KS), Stucky worked in ecumenical youth ministry, and farmed in Kansas. He earned an MDiv and a PhD (Practical Theology, Christian Education and Formation) from Princeton Theological Seminary. Stucky's scholarship explores questions of land, ecology, theology, agriculture, justice, joy, and Sabbath as they relate to theological education. He is the author of [Wrestling with Rest: Inviting Youth to Discover the Gift of Sabbath](#). Stucky was ordained in the Mennonite Church (USA). He lives in Princeton, New Jersey, with his spouse Janel and three children. Worship is open to all. After the church service, attendees are welcome to stay for a Q & A session with Nathan Stucky and Eden Pastor Derek King. Children will have their regular Sunday School.

**Thank You to the 150th Steering Committee!!!!**

Chairperson Danielle Goering

Treasurer Rick Krehbiel

Agriculture Glen Goering

SMCHA Board liaison Eugene Goering

Publicity Kathy Goering

**Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association**

**P.O. Box 93**

**Moundridge, KS 67107**