

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

January 15, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Musician: Linda Harms

Chorister: Pastor Katherine

Worship Leader: Pastor Peter

Gospel Stories and Parables: The Wedding Banquet

Gathering our Praise

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

During this time we spend a few moments introducing our guests. We're glad you have come to worship with us. May you sense God's peace and direction as we meet together with our Creator and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Call to Worship taken from Psalm 34, 36 and 63

One: Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Many: I will bless the Lord at all times;

God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

One: Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Many: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

One: Your people feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

**Many: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.**

One: Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

All: Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Song STJ No. 4** *You've got a place*

Offering Our Gifts Mennonite Relief Sale

Hearing God's Story

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 25:1-9

Kaye Penner

Creative Retelling of Luke 14:15-24 Members of the Youth Group

* **Song** *The Wedding Banquet* - see insert

Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for child care

Gospel Reading Matthew 22:1-14

Pastor Peter

Sermon *Banquet Guests*

Pastor Peter

Responding to the Story

* **Hymn of Response No. 545** *Be thou my vision*

Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sending

* **Sending Hymn No. 472** *I am the Bread of life* verses 1, 2, 3 & 5

* **Benediction**

Postlude

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

At the conclusion of the worship service we invite the adults to be seated and take a few moments to greet one another while the children are dismissed to their Sunday school classes.

**The Adult Sunday School classes will begin
10 minutes after the service is over.
Everyone is welcome!**

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: Pray for God's presence and wisdom for the Executive Board of WDC as they meet for retreat and goal setting on Saturday, January 21.

Mennonite Mission Network: As food and fuel prices continue to soar throughout Europe, Mary Raber of MMN requests prayer for her neighbors and students in Ukraine as they struggle to provide for their families. Pray that churches would show Jesus' love by caring for those in need.

Church Events

Today at 4:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service. Pursuers Sunday School class is in charge. Also this week at Wheat State: Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. – mending; Friday at 3:00 p.m. – Bingo. **Sunday School classes** – please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for vesper services for 2012.

Wednesday 6:15 p.m. All Church Meal – everyone is invited!
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Junior Dept. Programming
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Youth Programming
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir
7:00 p.m. Adult Book Study with Pastor Peter
Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

Wednesday at 7:20 p.m. Business Council meets at church.

Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Whitewater Café.

Friday 11 p.m. – Saturday 6:00 a.m. Youth Lock-in at church.

January 29 at 12:45 p.m. Annual Church Business Meeting. The youth group will serve a fund-raiser meal prior to the meeting.

February 12 Mentor/Mentee Lunch: All mentor/mentee pairs are invited to stay after church for a pizza lunch and afternoon of games on Sunday, February 12.

Announcements

Surveys were distributed last Sunday for everyone high school age and older to evaluate the Grace Hill congregation, Pastor Peter and Pastor Katherine. All who attend are invited to complete a review, membership is not required. Remember to sign the cover sheet and place the review in a sealed envelope. Please return your review to the box on the table in the foyer marked “Reviews” by next Sunday, January 22.

Hosting Bluffton University Students: On Sunday, March 4, our congregation will be blessed with a worship service planned by Bluffton University students. If you would be interested in hosting 2 or more students on Saturday evening (March 3), please speak with Pastor Katherine. Their group includes 17 students and 3 faculty (11 women and 9 men). Thank you!

Reports for the church yearbook – If you are responsible for a report, please get it to Debbie Claassen by January 29. E-mailed reports are preferred, if possible. Thank you!

You’re invited to join “Prayers of the Church” each Sunday morning from 9:00 – 9:10 a.m. in the classroom next to the kitchen. Please feel free to place prayer requests in the prayer box in the foyer.

Nursery This Sunday: Ashley Enns and Emma Hilgenfeld

Nursery Next Sunday: Catina Wiebe and Rachelle Claassen

Ushers Next Sunday: Josh Patterson and Rob Schunn

Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$7,397.00

Offering Next Sunday: Western District Conference

The Wedding Banquet

Chorus

I cannot come. I cannot come to the banquet, don't trouble me now
I have married a wife, I have bought me a cow
I have fields and commitments that cost a pretty sum
Pray, hold me excused, I cannot come

Verse 1

A certain man held a feast on his fine estate in town
He laid a festive table and wore a wedding gown
He sent invitations to his neighbors far and wide
But when the meal was ready, each of them replied:

Chorus

Verse 2

The master rose up in anger, called his servants by name
Said, “Go into the town, fetch the blind and the lame
Fetch the peasant and the pauper, for this I have willed
My banquet must be crowded and my table must be filled.”

Chorus

Verse 3

When all the poor had assembled, there was still room to spare
So the master demanded: “Go search everywhere
To the highways and the byways and force them to come in
My table must be filled before the banquet can begin”

Chorus

Verse 4

Now God has written a lesson for the rest of mankind
If we're slow in responding, he may leave us behind
He's preparing a banquet for that great and glorious day
When the Lord and Master calls us, be certain not to say:

Chorus

Et Cetera

Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service will be having their annual meeting this afternoon at 2:30 p.m. at First Mennonite Church in Halstead. Alvin Kroeker, Region III Director, will be the speaker.

Bethel College Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, with featured speaker Caleb Lazaro, pastor of El Centro Church, Colorado Springs, Colo., along with music, art and poetry reading will take place January 16 at 7:00 p.m. in Krehbiel Auditorium at Bethel College; free with freewill offering taken; call 316-284-5356 for more information.

The Western District Conference Immigration Task Force is hosting Caleb Lazaro on Tuesday, January 17 at 7 p.m. at New Creation Fellowship in Newton. All are welcome! Caleb Lázaro was born in Trujillo, Peru and immigrated with his family to the United States at age six. He is currently working alongside grassroots movements in the United States and Peru, advocating for economic justice, non-violence and the restoration of human dignity. Caleb is also a founder and co-pastor of the vibrant community El Centro in Colorado Springs, Colorado—a Christian church deeply involved in advocating for a redefinition of citizenship within the United States. He travels on a regular basis, creatively educating faith communities and activist groups on themes such as social justice, contemplative Christianity, interfaith dialogue and the Anabaptist tradition. Caleb is currently a student in the Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program at Benet Hill Monastery in Colorado.

January 19, 7:30 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium - A cabaret featuring Bethel students Julia Miller, Jordan Ortman, Renee Reimer, Aaron Tschetter, Austin Unruh, Michelle Unruh, Cameron Voth and Allison Yoder, playing and singing Pasek & Paul, Jason Robert Brown, Kooman & Dimond, Jonathan Reid Gealt; free with donations accepted.

Christopher Shaw will lead a Hymn Festival entitled *Arise, Your Light Has Come* at the Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, on January 22 at 7:00 p.m. (note change in time). The recital is the final one in a series celebrating the 50th anniversary of its 22 rank Moeller pipe organ. The Festival is an epiphany celebration of word and song, featuring the Bethel College Mennonite Church Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells and instrumentalists. A free-will offering will be received to cover expenses and to ensure the future of the organ. A reception will follow.

The Western District Conference Ski Retreat is just around the corner! The trip leaves on Friday evening, January 27, and returns Tuesday morning, January 30. We will again be skiing at Copper Mountain ski area in Colorado. The cost of the trip includes sleeper bus transportation from North Newton, two nights lodging, ski rental, and lift tickets for three days of skiing. Costs have actually gone down a little, and we are working hard to make this more family friendly. Adult package costs \$480, 13-17 year-olds cost \$440, and 12 and under cost \$330. We offer discounts if you prefer to drive in on your own and if you own your own equipment. This is a first come/first served event, so please respond promptly by calling or emailing your reservation to the WDC office (316-283-6300 or wdc@mennowdc.org).

A Damascus Road Training event will be hosted at Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, February 16-18 with a registration deadline of January 23. Damascus Road Training is an initiative of Mennonite Central Committee U.S. It lays the groundwork for dismantling systemic racism in congregations, conferences, and communities. For the full registration brochure go to: www.mennowdc.org - Upcoming Events.

Basketball and volleyball tournaments have been a spring tradition among Western District and South Central Conference churches for many years. Should the tradition continue? Does your church have a basketball or volleyball team that would participate in a WDC-organized tournament this spring? Is there interest in continuing these tournaments? Please e-mail us soon (by Jan. 20) at: wdc@mennowdc.org to tell us if you have a team and if you have interest in helping to organize a tournament.

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastors' Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen Home:
Secretary's E-mail: secretary@gracehillmc.org