

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

July 27, 2014

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Worship Leader: Pastor Katherine

Song Leader: Gladys Reimer

Musician: Ellen Mosiman

Corinthian Correspondence: We who are many are one body

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.

Musical Call to Worship

Valerie Klaassen

Be Thou My Vision/My Shepherd Will Supply

Call to Worship 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Song No. 6** *Here in this place*

Offering Our Gifts Western District Conference

Offertory *The Water is Wide*

Hearing God's Story

Worship Music

Samantha Claassen and Ellen Mosiman

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place/The Solid Rock

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

Scripture Readings 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 11: 17-26, 33-34

Bethany Regehr

Sermon

Pastors Katherine and Peter

Responding to God's Story

* **Song of Response No. 307** *Will you let me be your servant*

Worship Music

Carine Claassen and Pastor Katherine

Love the Lord your God

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Picture Presentation

Time for sharing memories

Congregational gift

Farewell for Pastors Katherine and Peter

Litany of Blessing and Release - see insert

Marlene Bogard, WDC Minister of Christian Formation

Sent with the Good News

* **Sending Hymn No. 118** *Praise God from whom*

Benediction 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14, 23-24

Postlude

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

All are welcome to the carry-in meal in honor of Pastors Peter and Katherine in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

There will be no Sunday School classes today or during the month of August.

For Sharing and Prayer

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It has been an honor to minister with you for these past seven years. Thank you for who you are. Thank you for calling us to serve among you. Thank you for your love, your support, your prayers, your encouragement. Thank you for your warmth and generosity. Thank you for everything. It has been such a joy to serve along side you for the sake of God's kingdom and we thank God for you every day. We wish you God's richest blessings for the future that God has for you. We love you all very much. God's grace and peace be with you all.

Love, Pastors Katherine and Peter, Sophia and Nathan

In honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Allen & Elaine Patterson, their children and grandchildren invite the church to an open house celebration August 10th, 2014 from 2-4 p.m. in the Grace Hill fellowship hall.

Western District Conference: Pray for Richard Gehring, moderator, and Anita Kehr, moderator elect, as they assume their new responsibilities in WDC.

Mennonite Mission Network: This is a month of transitions for Mennonite Voluntary Service participants with some finishing their terms and others beginning. Pray that God would bless their coming out and their going in. Pray especially for Matthew Cordella, serving in Elkhart, Indiana, as he recovers from back surgery.

For pastoral care needs, please contact a member of the Spiritual Council: Carl Goossen, Judy Janzen, Russ Janzen, Rita Patterson, Alma Schmidt, Jeff Toews.

Filling the pulpit for the month of August:

August 3 – Karen Andres

August 10 & 17 – Weldon Schloneger

August 24 – Eric Massarani

August 31 – Randy Smith

Church Events

We will be assembling MCC School Kits during the Sunday School hour on August 17. A reminder to collect school supplies for the MCC School Kits: (NEW items only): 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (70 sheets), 8 unsharpened pencils, 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic, indicating both 30 cm and 12 inches), 12 colored pencils (in packaging), 1 large pencil eraser. Gladys Reimer will be coordinating the sewing of the bags, please contact her if you would like to help with the sewing.

August 17 All Church Ice Cream Social and Game Night – time to be announced.

Announcements

Grace Hill participated in the Whitewater area summer food backpack program this past Monday, July 21. Food was purchased for 40 children food bags and 12 family food bags.

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: Debbie Claassen and Carine Claassen

Nursery Next Sunday: Kris Goossen and Renata Goossen

Ushers Next Sunday: Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Men of the Plains \$716.00

Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA

CHURCH OFFICES

Church Secretary: *Debbie Claassen* Home: 620-752-3270

Secretary's E-mail: secretary@gracehillmc.org

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org

Et Cetera

You should have received a survey request from the Western District Conference (WDC) Discernment Task Force via email this week. The Task Force will be guiding our conference-wide conversation in response to the resolution from Rainbow Mennonite Church introduced at Assembly 2014. Your participation is vital in providing counsel to the leadership of WDC. Please respond to the online survey immediately. For those who do not have access to the internet, paper copies are available in the foyer - please fill them out and return them to Debbie Claassen or Diana Schunn.

Camp Sing is coming in two weeks! Join your friends for a rousing good time singing one more round of camp songs before school starts! Michael Unruh, Greg Shelly, summer staffers, and all year staff, will be present and hope to see YOU at Shalom Mennonite Church at 6 pm August 10. We invite you to chip in some cash as we gear up for bathhouse construction this fall! We'll also have some souvenirs available. We'll end our evening with generic pop and popcorn! Don't miss it!

Open Weekends - Camp Mennoscah has a few open weekends this fall for almost any size group. Think of the cooler weather and the wonderful creation you can enjoy! Contact us at 620-297-3290 for more information. Reservations are on a first request basis. We'll see you this fall!

**LITANY OF BLESSING AND RELEASE
PASTOR PETER AND PASTOR KATHERINE GOERZEN**

**Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, Kansas
July 27, 2014**

Congregational Chair: Today we give thanks for the pastoral ministry of Pastor Katherine and Pastor Peter. We say farewell to you and your family, and we bless the journey ahead - for you and for this congregation.

Congregation: All praise be to our God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit. There is one Body, one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

Congregational Chair: This is a time of many feelings: sadness, joy, anticipation, loss, satisfaction. Farewells are difficult, but we have accomplished much during these years together, and we give God thanks for both of you and your ministry.

Pastors: It has been a great privilege to serve Grace Hill Mennonite Church as God's co-workers. By the grace God has given us, we trust we laid a foundation as wise builders, and now someone else will continue the construction. Each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Congregation: God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people.

Pastors: As we leave, we exhort you to continue as a loving community of mission which joyfully shares the good news of Jesus Christ. We pray that those touched by your ministry would be drawn to a fuller life in Christ and deeper relationships in community. We pray that you will continue to grow in love for each other and in love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Congregation: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. We will love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength. We will love our neighbors as ourselves. We will bear with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Conference Minister: God has provided for you through the ministry of Pastors Peter and Katherine. The time has come to bid farewell. Do you as Grace Hill Mennonite Church release Pastor Katherine and Pastor Peter from their pastoral responsibilities and relationships?

Congregation: With the help of God, we do. We give thanks for faithful and fruitful ministry. We have shared in joys and sorrows, mistakes and successes, in challenges and victories. God has been good.

Conference Minister: Peter and Katherine, do you release the congregation from its loyalty to you as a pastors? Do you release the members from turning to you and depending on you to provide the pastoral ministries they seek?

Pastors: With the help of God, we do. When we meet in the future, it will be as brother and sister in Christ and not as pastor. We will pray that the ministries of your future pastors will flourish to equip you for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up until you attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Congregational Chair: We bless you, Katherine and Peter, and pray that God will give you fruitful ministry for the sake of the kingdom.

Congregation: Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Scriptures used: I Corinthians 3:9-11; Hebrews 6:10; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18; Ephesians 4:2-3, 12-13; Hebrews 13:20.