

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

September 2, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Donna Balzer

Musicians: Valerie Klaassen, Pastor Katherine

Seek Shalom and Pursue It: Seek Shalom with God

Gathering

Prelude *He shall feed his flock like a shepherd* Handel
Every valley shall be exalted Handel

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.

Psalm Reading Psalm 34: 1-3, 8-14

Call to Worship

One: We come with praise on our lips, and with songs in our hearts

Many: For God is good

One: We come seeking a glimpse of Christ's kingdom, a taste of God's grace

Many: For God is good, and in Christ we lack no good thing

One: So hear, O people of God, the Lord our God, the Lord is One

Many: We seek to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength

One: The Lord our God, the Lord is love

Many: We seek to love our neighbors as ourselves

One: May this time of worship be a step,

Many: a step we take together

All: As we pursue God's shalom

Prayer for Shalom and Lighting the Peace Lamp

* **Gathering Hymn No. 76** *Praise, I will praise you, Lord*

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Emily Burch Sharing

Bibles for First Graders: Lexi Enns and Eva Hilgenfeld

Congregational Prayer

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

Listening

Gospel Reading Mark 12: 28-34 Debbie Claassen

Worship Music *He Hideth My Soul* arr. Heffler Valerie Klaassen

New Testament Reading Romans 5: 1-11 Pastor Peter

Sermon Pastor Peter

Responding

* **Hymn of Response No. 167** *For God so loved us*

Prayer of Confession

One: Jesus says: Love God with all of your heart

Many: Our hearts, O God, are broken and scattered

One: Jesus says: Love God with all of your soul

Many: Our souls, O God, are restless and hesitant to settle

One: Jesus says: Love God with all of your mind

Many: Our minds, O God, are filled up and easily distracted

One: Jesus says: Love God with all of your strength

Many: Our strength, O God, is not as strong as we wish it was

One: Jesus says, Love your neighbor as yourself

Many: Our love, O God, is not as strong as we wish it was

Assurance of Pardon 2 Corinthians 12:9

Offering Our Gifts Mennonite Church USA

Offertory *O Rest in the Lord* Mendelssohn

* **Sending Hymn Sing the Journey No. 44** *The love of God*

* **Blessing** Romans 8: 38-39

Postlude *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* Bach

*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

The rosebud this morning is in honor Gracie Mae who was born to Emily Klassen on August 29. We celebrate Gracie's life and pray that she may know that she is a precious child of God. We pray also for Emily, Terry and Cheryl that they may know God's strength, joy, and peace at this time of many new and exciting changes.

You are invited to a "Come & Go Celebration" of Merrill and Gladys Harms' 65th wedding anniversary on Sunday afternoon, September 23. Stop by any time from 3-5 p.m. at the City of North Newton Community Room (2601 N. Main St) for refreshments and fellowship.

The Youth Group is still in need of sponsors for this coming year. If you feel called to be a sponsor for this wonderful group of young people, please speak with Pastor Katherine. Thank you for prayerfully considering this.

Western District Conference: Pray for First Mennonite Church, Halstead, as they launch a new initiative in outreach today by commissioning Peter Wintermote as Minister of Congregational Outreach.

Mennonite Mission Network: Lane Stopher with MMN is organizing a video-making competition at the War Trauma Center in Serbia. Pray for healing for youth who are making videos that raise awareness of the psychological consequences of war.

Church Events

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir practice

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Youth Group will meet. We will begin by helping to plan for the church-wide Camp Mennoscah Retreat. We look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Council meets at church.

Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Education Council meets at church.

Next Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Youth Group Progressive Supper – meet at the church at 4:00 p.m.

Monday, September 10 at 1:30 p.m. Hands of Friendship will meet at the Mennonite Central Committee Center in North Newton. Program: Work day at the MCC Center; Hostess & Devotions: Gladys Reimer and Judy Janzen; Financial Project: MCC. **Note:** You will find the new Hands of Friendship program guide in your mailboxes. A variety of programs have been planned from service projects to a Christmas luncheon and a special program in February where all men and women are invited. We hope to see many of you at our meetings that are held the second Monday of the month.

Tuesday, September 11 Community Creativity Workshop Want to be free to develop your creative expression? (Painting, drawing, crafts, scrapbooking, etc.) Join us every second and third Tuesday of the month. Virgil Penner, artist, will be coordinating the workshop. All beginners and advanced persons are welcome. Please bring your own supplies for whatever you wish to create. No cost for coming...bring a friend..... invite a neighbor. Time: 1:30-5:00 (Break time at 3:00 p.m.) Location: Grace Hill Church Fellowship Hall. For more information call Virgil Penner at 316-842-6738 or email pennerv@cox.net. *Schedule for workshop:* September 11 and 18, October 9 and 16, November 13 and 20, December 11, January 8 and 15. List of future dates will be made in January.

September 16 at noon College Lunch: James and Deb Regier will host a meal for all college-age young adults on Sunday, September 16. We look forward to seeing you there! Please feel free to invite your friends! If anyone would like to help with this college lunch, please speak with James or Deb Regier. Thanks!

September 23 at 12:45 p.m. Semi-annual church business meeting. A carry-in meal will be held at noon.

October 20-21 Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscah.

Upcoming Youth Events:

Sept. 9: Progressive Supper (meet at the church building at 4)
September 14: 5th Quarter at Doug and Katherine's
October 6: Bake Communion Bread and Breadbasket Supper
October 20-21: Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscah
October 25: 5th Quarter at Doug and Katherine's

Announcements

Harvey County Food Pantry suggested items to donate this month: condiments. A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

Change in Vesper Services at Wheat State Manor: Beginning on September 2, Vesper Services will be held in the Family Dining Room/Quiet Room at 5:00 p.m. (instead of 4:00 p.m.).

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: Joyce Wedel and Katrina Regehr

Nursery Next Sunday: Marge Harms and Rita Patterson

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Russell Janzen

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,263.25

Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

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

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

Et Cetera

This afternoon at 3:30 p.m. Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum program in the Kauffman Museum auditorium, with Caleb Lázaro: “From Pioneers to Space Invaders: The Changing Face of Immigration in Pop Culture”; in conjunction with the special exhibit “Americans by Choice: Immigration and Citizenship in Kansas.” Program is free.

Liberty, a Southern Gospel Quartet, will be in concert on Saturday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Bethel Mennonite Church, 1½ miles south of Inman. Whether or not you are a fan of Southern Gospel music, you will certainly enjoy the enthusiasm these men exhibit while serving and singing to the Lord. Their ministry bridges all generations, bringing enjoyment to traditional venues as well as contemporary. No admission fees are requested but a love offering will be taken in support of their ministry. For more information, visit www.libertyquartet.com.

Work & Play! Camp Mennoscah's annual Work & Play Camp for all ages is September 16-20. We've got some great projects to work on and some preparation for the Mennonite Camping Association regional gathering to do. Work activities for various skill levels and abilities will be available. Schedule your own day and take breaks as needed. Haven't sent in your registration form? No problem! Give us a call at 620-297-3290 and let us know that you're coming.

Attention all preschoolers! Story Time at the Western District Conference Resource Library will begin on Wednesday, September 19. It's time to open your ears and eyes to the wonderful world of books in our colorful and inspiring children's library. Our storyteller, Pat, will invite you to look inside our special story time mailbox each Wednesday, 10:00 - 10:40, to discover our weekly theme. If you're between the ages of 3-5, come take a peek! To enroll, call 316-283-6300.

Hesston College will host A Hesston College Homecoming 2012: A View From Everywhere September 28 - 30. Hesston College alumni, friends and others are invited to take part in the weekend events, which will feature alumni, students and faculty in a Performing Arts showcase, class reunions, athletic events, a family festival and barbecue picnic and more. Go to www.hesston.edu for schedule and registration information.

Top-down servant leadership? Wait—that...that doesn't make sense. How so? You are either going to use top-down leadership or you're going to be a door mat. Join us for *Top-Down Servant Leadership*, the 2012 Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series event. Hesston College - October 26-28, 2012. Learn more at www.hesston.edu/avds.

2012 – 2013 SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR

Early Childhood: Pre-kindergarten

Teachers: Carol Claassen, Theresa Toews

Students: Rowan Dove, Caleb Enns, Jacob Enns, Hadleigh Harms

Middler: Grades 1st – 4th

Teachers: Kathy Balzer, Curt Regehr

Students: Lexi Enns, Lizzi Enns, Sara Enns, Eva Hilgenfeld, Lily Hilgenfeld, Bryanna Smith

Junior Youth: Grades 5th - 8th

Teachers: Katherine Claassen, Jo Frye

Students: Alston Cunningham, Carson Dove, Quinn Dove, Alia Enns, Brandi Enns, Renata Goossen, Jacob Hilgenfeld, Bethany Regehr

High School: Grades 9th – 12th

Students: Alexander Carr, Carine Claassen, Cole Claassen, Grant Claassen, Rachele Claassen, Lucas Goossen, Paul Goossen, Sara Harms, Emma Hilgenfeld, Hunter Hill, Madison Janzen, Paul Janzen, Katrina Regehr, Kyle Regier, Eli Schmidt, Kylee Schunn

2012-13 College Students

Bethel College – Cody Claassen, Tara Harms-Becker, Amanda Regehr, Melinda Regehr, Katie Regier, Casey Schunn

Butler Community College – Curtis Toews

Hesston College – Matthew Hiebert

Hutchinson Community College – Mikayla Hiebert

Kansas State University - Emily Burch, Brittany Claassen, Camille Claassen, Courtney Claassen, Samantha Claassen, Grant Hill, David Janzen, Adrian Nethercot, Josh Toews

Kansas University – Philip Harms, Steven Harms

Newman University, Wichita – Ashley Guhr

Wichita State University – Brett Harms, Laura Harms, Cory Hiebert, Emily Toews, Kristen Toews