

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 4, 2005

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Keyboard: Chelsea Vaught

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

Second Sunday of Advent God's Unstoppable Purpose Is Faithful

God is faithful when we cry out!

Flower of the week: The cactus flower, which symbolizes endurance, reminds us that God's faithfulness springs up from the ground even in seemingly desolate places.

Prelude

We Gather

Choral Call to Worship Cradle Song

Adult Choir

Candle lighting

Grant Claassen

Readers: Darrel and Kristen Lanzrath

Silence

**Call to Worship*

Pastor Jim

Left: Prepare the way of the Lord

Right: Make straight in the desert a highway.

Left: Lift up your voice,

Right: Do not fear,

Left: for love and faithfulness will meet.

Right: Righteousness and peace will kiss.

Left: God is faithful and can be trusted.

ALL: O Lord, our God how majestic is your name in all the earth.

**Opening Prayer*

Pastor Jim

We Praise God

**Hymns of Praise*

O come, O come, Immanuel Hymnal No. 172

vs. 1 – All; vs. 2 – Men; vs. 3 – Women; vs. 6 – All

Oh, how joyfully Hymnal No. 209 vs. 1 in German

Scripture Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Matt Regier

We Hear the Word

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Brett

Be patient with us, O God,

for we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

We have been afraid to be honest with ourselves

lest we find something that is hurtful, dark, or sordid.

We have not loved you as we ought.

We have not cared for your creation as we can.

We have not respected your people as we might.

Without you our lives are like dry grass and fading flowers.

But your word is sure,

and so we come to you in confidence,

making our confession.

Time of silent reflection

Words of Assurance

Pastor Brett

** Hymn No. 318 Joy to the world*

Scripture Reading Mark 1:1-8

Jana Harms

Children's time

Valerie Klaassen

Choral Anthem Still, Still, Still

Adult Choir

Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the nursery in the library

Sermon

Desolate places come to life when God is there.

What do you see out the window in your journey of faith?

We Respond

**Hymn of Response No. 183 On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry*

Sharing of joys and concerns

Congregational Prayer

Offering and Prayer Mennonite Church USA

We are sent

Welcome and Announcements

A special welcome to each of 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.

*** *Benediction***

*** *Benediction Hymn No. 213 Let all together praise our God*** vs. 1 & 4

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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN AT 10:45 A.M.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

For Sharing and Prayer

Thank you, congregation, for all the food and money donations for 5th Quarter. What a wonderful testament to your desire to reach out to youth in the community!

Gary and Jean Isaac invite you to a come-and-go wedding reception honoring Mitch and Rebecca on Friday, December 30, 2005, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Kaufman House at Bethel College, 2515 College Avenue, North Newton. They request no gifts.

Harvest of Love 2005-2006 Thank you for your generous Thanksgiving offering of \$362.76 and 100 pounds of food! **Next Sunday December 11 is Harvest of Love Dollar Days.** You will find a Harvest of Love envelope in your mailbox. You are invited to donate \$1.00 for each family member and place the envelope in the offering plate Sunday December 11 during worship. Canned and dry goods also make for a helpful contribution to the goal of \$30,000.00 and 40,000 pounds of food.

Western District Conference: Pray for WDC congregations that are in pastoral transition: Beatrice/Nebraska, Eden/Moundridge, Faith/Newton, First/McPherson, Fort Collins/Colorado, Herold/Cordell, Oklahoma.

Mennonite Mission Network: Six Anabaptist churches in Spain have a long-term vision for growth and church planting. MMN worker Dennis Byler asks prayer for empowering and grace to accomplish these goals.

Nursery This Sunday: Nancy Harms and Jana Harms

Nursery Next Sunday: Carol Claassen (Olin) and Brittany Claassen

Special Music Next Sunday: Celebration Singers

Keyboard Next Sunday: Julia Washburn

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Terry Klassen

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,640.00

Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

Announcements

The Poinsettias are here! Please pick them up in the fellowship hall. Thank you for supporting our youth.

If interested in playing a Christmas piece for prelude on December 18, please talk to Valerie Klaassen.

Mittens/Gloves: It's time to purchase mittens and gloves for the Salvation Army in Newton. Please put them on the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. - Hands of Friendship Committee

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.

Latest Additions To The Church Library

Jack's Life by Douglas Gresham (The Life Story of C. S. Lewis).

Glimpses Of My Life Journey by Doreen Harms.

The Christmas Angel by Thomas Kinkadee.

Light From Heaven by Jan Karon (Final volume of the Mitford Years Series).

Reunion by Karen Kingsbury with Gary Smalley (Fifth book in the Redemption Series).

The Preacher's Daughter by Beverly Lewis (First in the new series: Annie's People).

Battlefield Of The Mind by Joyce Meyer (devotionals: 100 insights that will change the way you think).

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor: James Voth Pastor's Study: 283-2644 E-mail: jvoth@cox.net

Pastor's Cell Phone (in case of emergency) 1-316-655-2811

Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg Office Phone: 799-2238

Cell phone: 316-772-6267

E-mail: brett_210@hotmail.com

Student Pastor: Daniel Schroeder

E-mail: dlschroeder@dtmspeed.net

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen 1-888-516-8474

Secretary's E-mail: kimdebc@wheatstate.com

Church Website: <http://gracehill.ks.us.mennonite.net/>

Church Events

This afternoon at 2:15 p.m. Spiritual Council Christmas Caroling with the high school and junior youth groups. Supper will follow.

This afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service. Explorers S.S. Class is in charge. Also this week at Wheat State: Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. – mending, Friday at 3:00 p.m. – Bingo.

Monday Attention Quilters: Every Monday afternoon you are invited to come to the church and quilt on the MCC quilt.

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. Kid's Meal at the church*
7:00 p.m. Pre-school programming
7:00 p.m. Christmas Program Practice

*To make or cancel reservations for the meal please contact Tammy Regehr (799-2911) or Barb Voth (283-2644).

Cost of the meal: Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

Next Sunday at noon – 2:00 p.m. Mentors and Mentees Christmas dinner and activities at church.

Monday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship meet at church. Program: Decorate Tree, Address Christmas Cards, and Carol Singing; Devotions/Music: Sue Ann and Maria Jantz; Hostess: Everyone bring a plate of goodies; Financial Project: Adopt a local family & Mitten Tree.

December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program

December 31 All College Students are invited to the 2005 Grace Hill College Student Brunch Saturday, December 31 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the home of Pastor Jim and Barb Voth, 1400 Westborough Drive, Newton. Please RSVP by calling 283-2644 by December 29.

High School Youth Group

Today is Christmas Caroling! Be at the church by 2:15 p.m. There will be a chili supper afterwards.

Angel Tree: Next Sunday we will be traveling to Wichita to do our annual Angel Tree Shopping Trip right after the mentor Christmas Party (about 2:00 p.m.). Please remember to bring \$5-10 for the shopping and about \$8 for food.

Et Cetera

Bethel College Christmas Events:

- ◆ Sunday, December 4, will be the 21st annual Deutsche Weihnachten (German Christmas) at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Bethel College

Mennonite Church. This will include Christmas hymns, musical numbers and Scripture reading, all in German, followed by refreshments, featuring German goodies, in the church fellowship hall.

- ◆ Wednesday, December 7, will be the annual “Messiah” sing (Christmas sections) at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary of Bethel College Mennonite Church.
- ◆ Sunday, December 11, The Bethel College Student Organ Guild is presenting the annual Christmas Organ Vespers, Sunday, December 11, at 4:00 p.m. in the Administration Building chapel. Organists performing will be **Chelsea Vaught**, Sara Adrian, and Greta Hiebert. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy a variety of Christmas organ music!!
- ◆ Sunday, December 11, the Bethel College Concert Choir will present their annual Home Concert at 7 p.m. in Memorial Hall. The concert comes ahead of the choir’s European tour, January 3-25.
- ◆ Sunday, December 11, the 20th annual Lighting of the Green will take place at Bethel College beginning at 9:30 p.m. on the college Green. Refreshments follow in the cafeteria.

Holiday Shopping Nights at Ten Thousand Villages, 625 Main, Newton! A resource for unique holiday decorations and gifts! This time your purchases will give *thrice!* - to the gift recipient, the artisan who crafted the gift and - by purchasing on Thursday evening between 5:30-8:30 p.m. you will also be contributing 10 - 15% of that evening’s sales to the following local organization: Domestic Violence Safehouse.

Is your family, Sunday School class, or small group looking for a Christmas project? We at Camp are thankful for all who have donated time and resources to Camp Mennoscah! But, we have continuing needs to help us run camp smoothly. A Camp Mennoscah Wish List is posted on the bulletin board. Your prayers and donations are essential to the ongoing success of camp. Please contact camp for further information at phone (620) 297-3290 or e-mail campmno@mennowdc.org

Et Cetera

Would you like to find out first hand how Community Playschool children celebrate Christmas? We are inviting you (particularly retired folks) to come decorate cookies with Playschool children on either Tuesday or Wednesday morning, December 13 or 14, at 9:30 a.m. in the

Bethel College Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall. After decorating cookies and eating them together, you may stay to hear the children do some singing and have a story time. Please contact Jeanette or Bonnie in the mornings by calling 283-3667 if you are interested in coming.

Take a new look at the Bible, peace, and theology with a winter class at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary – Great Plains Extension. Classes are: *Communion* (Don Steelberg), Jan. 7-21, Tues., Thurs. nights, Sat., North Newton; *Reading the Bible* (Jerry Truex), beginning Feb. 2, Thurs. nights, Newton; *Job and Wisdom* (Perry Yoder), beginning Feb. 10, 4 weekends, North Newton; *Torah and Ethics* (Perry Yoder), beginning Feb. 3, 4 weekends, Wichita; *Historical Theology I* (Lois Barrett), beginning Jan. 29, Mon. nights, North Newton; *Christian Attitudes Toward War, Peace and Revolution* (Duane Friesen), beginning Jan. 30, Tues. nights, North Newton. New lower audit rate of \$65 per credit hour. Deadline: December 14, 2005 for interterm and January 11, 2006 for spring semester. For more information, contact Lois Barrett, director, AMBS-Great Plains, 316-283-6300 or lbarrett@ambs.edu. Or see our web site: www.ambs.edu/GreatPlains.

The 30th Anniversary 2006-2008 Mennonite Your Way (MYW) Directory is receiving hosts through December 31, 2005. Our current edition lists over 1,600 Mennonites, Brethren or Christians of like spirit who host travelers on a donation basis in 45 countries. See the flyer on the bulletin board or check the web site at www.mennoniteyourway.com.

A Women's Victorian High Tea on January 17, 2006, at the Faith Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall, Newton, will be an evening to remember. The gathering time will be 6:30 p.m. and the tea/meal will be served at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy being pampered with a taste-tempting menu, hot tea, and musical entertainment by Full Circle. The \$10 tickets go on sale December 1, 2005 through January 9, 2006 at the Bethel College Bookstore, North Newton. Early reservations are encouraged because seating is limited. This is a Bethel College Women's Association

fundraising event. Please see the poster on the bulletin board for additional details.

Western District Ski Retreat for Adults and Families will be January 27-31, 2006 at Winter Park, Colorado. This trip leaves from North Newton, and the cost includes chartered sleeper bus, two nights lodging, ski rental, and lift tickets for three days of skiing. (Adults \$345, 18-14 yr olds \$335, and children 13 and under \$275). A limited number of drive-in lodging spaces are available. Register early! For registration forms and/or additional information call the WDC office at (316) 283-6300.

The Relief Sale Fellowship Meals will be on Sunday, February 26, 2006 and Sunday, March 5, 2006. Please pick up a form (available in the foyer), fill it out, and return to Kim & Debbie Claassen or Brad & Suzy Burch by January 29, 2006, or you can mail them directly to Marvin & Marjorie Stucky – address is on the brochure. The adult meals are \$15 each and children (6-12) are \$6. Children under 6 are free. Checks should be made payable to Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale and handed in or sent in with the form. Gift certificates are available.

Wheat State Manor is requesting some special recliners, each at a cost of \$470, for the Quiet Room so that residents don't have to spend all their time in bed or in wheelchairs. Grace Hill and other sponsoring churches have been asked to participate in this project. Checks may be written to Wheat State Manor and given to Dean Patterson. Thank you for your support.

MENTOR PROGRAM

Our third group of mentors and mentees have begun to meet together and to learn to know more about each other. Those in this group are:

Samantha Claassen – Sara Burch
Cody Claassen – Tim Schmidt
Maria Jantz – Bonita Schroeder
Melinda Regehr – Carol Claassen
Tara Harms-Becker – Lisa Harms
Grant Hill – Doug Claassen

Ashley Newingham – Cassie Friesen

Our second group of mentors and mentees are:

Brittany Claassen – Jo Frye
Courtney Claassen – Barb Voth
Laura Harms – Marie Wiebe
Philip Harms – Curt Regehr
Emily Klassen – Mary Ann Wiebe
Katie Regier – Kristen Lanzrath
Casey Schunn – Allen Patterson

Those who were in our first group are:

Emily Burch – Lisa Schmidt
Camille Claassen – Kathy Balzer
Jana Harms – Marie Wiebe
Amanda Regehr – Marianne Eichelberger
Cory Hiebert – Cal Frye
Daniel Klaassen – Virgil Penner
Justin Klassen – Royce Schmidt
Caleb Regehr- Merrill Harms
Matt Regier – Rob Schunn

We strive to make the program fun for the young people, a good relationship tool, a learning experience, and above all, a spiritual growth experience. Please remember all of these people in your prayers as the adults and young people learn to walk the Christian walk together. And please affirm all of them in whatever ways that you can.

This group will meet together for a Christmas Lunch and Program on Sunday, December 11 in the Church Fellowship Hall. Pastor Brett and Pastor Jim are also included. Special guest speaker will be Doug Krehbiel, WDC Youth Minister.

Coordinator – Kaye Penner