

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 12, 2010

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Julia Dodson

Chorister: Andrew Voth

Worship Leader: Samantha Claassen

3rd Sunday of Advent: Jesus and the Continued Experience
Gathering in Immanuel's Presence

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.

Choral Introit *The Angel Gabriel*

Adult Choir

Lighting the Advent Candle

Jacob Hilgenfeld

Call to Worship Simeon's Song Luke 2:29-32

Throughout Advent, we will be hearing the four Lukan Canticles read as our calls to worship. This Sunday we hear Simeon's Song (Nunc Dimittis)

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Hymn No. 208** *Love came down at Christmas*

Offering our Gifts Local Church Missions

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story

Valerie Klaassen

Choral Anthem *Come, walk with us*

Adult Choir

Soloist: Josh Powell

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

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

Tara Harms-Becker

* **Hymn No. 210** *Good Christian friends, rejoice*

New Testament Reading Taken from Hebrews 11 and 12

Pastor Katherine

Reader's Theater on Encountering the Risen Christ

Samantha Claassen, Tara Harms-Becker, Pastor Peter

Sermon *The Continuing Story, the Embodied Story*

Pastor Katherine

Responding to God-With-Us

* **Hymn of Response No. 195** *It came upon a midnight clear*

Affirming Our Faith Hymn No. 849

Sharing our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sent by God-With-Us

* **Sending Hymn No. 222** *How brightly beams the morning star*
Pastor Katherine will sing the first verse to introduce the song.
Everyone is invited to join in on the remaining verses.

* **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

Thank you for your prayers, concerns, visits, cards and plants during my hospital stay and at home.
Elfrieda Schmidt

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who provided and served for the college-age meal last Sunday! A BIG THANK YOU also to everyone who provided for the college care packages! Thank you for participating in this Young Adult ministry!

Thank you to all who provided salads, zwiebacks, and pies for the Harvest Thanks meal last month, to the Youth who served and helped with cleanup, and to all who helped in any way. It was so appreciated.
The Social Council

Western District Conference: Pray for God's inspiration as WDC Staff and Executive Committee meet for an all day "Missional Church Immersion" on December 17. Jeff Wintermote, pastor of Trinity Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, will attend the Hmong Mennonite Consultation December 17-19 in Fresno, CA where MMN, Hmong Mennonite Mission, and pastors from Hmong Churches in Thailand will discuss their future relationship. Praise God for the Schowalter grants received to help build a new church building for a Hmong village in Thailand and for translating the Mennonite Confession of Faith into the Hmong language.

Mennonite Mission Network: Tomorrow is St. Lucia Day in Sweden, a holiday that celebrates light in the darkness of winter. Pray for Disa and Tom Rutschman of MMN and their congregation in Jokkmokk as they share the light of Jesus with their community on the Arctic Circle.

An addition to the church calendar:

Chris & Catina Wiebe – 1st anniversary on December 19

Church Events

Today at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to Christmas carol with the Junior and Senior High Youth and Spiritual Council this afternoon. Be at the church by 1:30 p.m. The caroling groups will be assigned and leave to carol at 1:45 p.m. returning to the church at 5 p.m.

This evening Spiritual Council will meet following Christmas caroling at the home of Merrill and Gladys Harms (approximately 5:30 p.m.).

This evening at 5:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party at Pastor Peter and Katherine's home.

Tuesday afternoon Quilters: You are welcome to come to the church and quilt on the MCC quilt anytime from 1-5 p.m.

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program practice for preschool through 8th grade

7:00 p.m. Join Pastor Peter to view a 15-minute DVD from Third Way Media called "Who are the Mennonites?"

7:00 p.m. Youth group will meet.

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

Friday and Saturday Pictures for pictorial directory.

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

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

Announcements

The volunteer schedule for the Homeless Shelter is posted on the bulletin board. Our week is January 5-11, 2011.

The Education Council is encouraging the individual Sunday School classes to meet for the winter quarter. Christmas and the holidays are a great time for fellowship and catching up. Pastor Peter will also be continuing an elective class on a Study of the Gospel of John.

Preaching Next Sunday: Pastor Peter

Keyboard Next Sunday: Pastor Katherine

Nursery This Sunday: Penny Hiebert and Mikayla Hiebert

Nursery Next Sunday: Deb Regier and Katie Regier

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,771.00

Offering Next Sunday: Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

Et Cetera

News from Camp Mennoscah: Ken and Carolee Neufeld's daughters have donated a picnic table to Camp Mennoscah in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. It's made from recycled tires—how cool! The picnic table has been placed by the Retreat Center—check it out the next time you're at Camp. Thanks to Vi and Merrill Stutzman of Milford, NE and Clarice and Harold Troyer of Manson, IA who were at Camp this past week as SOOP volunteers. Service Opportunities for Older People is a program of Mennonite Mission Network. They cleaned buildings, fixed leaky faucets and urinals, fixed window screens, painted and did any number of other projects. Dear Camp Mennoscah families and groups—have you gotten your reservation forms for your 2011 gathering at Camp Mennoscah? We've sent out the forms for groups coming January to September by mail or email. If you haven't gotten your form, call us! We're happy to send you one. Haven't made your reservation yet? Contact us at campmno@mennowdc.org or 620-297-3290.

Open positions—Curriculum writers The Gather 'Round curriculum, a project of Mennonite Publishing Network and Brethren Press, is accepting applications to write for the 2012–13 year. Writers are hired for one or two quarters for a particular age unit: Preschool, Primary, Middler, Multiage, Junior Youth, or Youth. Writers produce well-written, age-appropriate, and engaging material for teacher's guides, student books, and resource packs. All writers will attend an orientation conference March 6–10, 2011, in Chicago, Illinois. For more information, visit the Job Opportunities page at www.gatherround.org. Deadline for applications: January 1, 2011.