

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 17, 2006

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Keyboard: Teresa Martin

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg

Music by Praise Team

## Third Sunday of Advent

*Love frees from fear*

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

A special welcome to each of our guests! During this time we introduce our guests who have signed the guest book. We're glad you have come to worship with us. May you sense God's peace and direction as we celebrate the Lord Jesus Christ's coming.

### \* Gathering Song *Come let us worship and bow down*

Come let us worship and bow down,  
Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker.  
Come, let us worship and bow down,  
Let us kneel before the Lord our God, our Maker.  
For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture,  
And the sheep of His hand, just the sheep of His hand.

### \* Opening Words

1: From the darkness we seek freedom.

2: From the darkness we seek love.

**All: From the darkness we seek God.**

1: When will we come out of the dark?

2: When will we find freedom and love?

**All: When will we find God?**

1: The Lord, your God, is in your midst;  
You shall fear disaster no more.

2: The Lord, your God, is in your midst;  
Do not let your hands grow weak.

**All: The Lord, our living God, is in our midst!**

**God will renew us in His love! Praise the Lord!**

### \* Invocation

**Songs of Christmas** *Love came down at Christmas* No. 208

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus* No. 178

*What child is this* No. 215

**Old Testament Reading** Zephaniah 3:14-20

Laura Harms

**Children's Moments**

Bonita Schroeder

**Worship in Giving** Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

**Gospel Reading** Luke 1:67-79

Daniel Klaassen

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

**Advent Sermon**

*Do Not Be Afraid!*

*I Bring You Good News of Great Joy!*

**Dramatic Reading and Lighting of Third Advent Candle**

Carl, Kris and Lucas Goossen

Advent Candle Lighter: Eli Schmidt

### \* Hymn No. *Go tell it on the mountain*

*Chorus*

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!

And, lo! When they had seen it, They all bowed down and prayed;  
Then traveled on together To where the Babe was laid.

Chorus

Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born,  
And brought us God's salvation, that blessed Christmas morn.

Chorus

**Sharing Joys, Thanksgivings and Prayers**

### \* Benediction

\* **Sending Hymn** *There is more love somewhere*

There is more love somewhere. There is more love somewhere.  
I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it. There is more love somewhere.

Additional verses: hope, peace, joy.

**Postlude**

\* Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

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

**For Sharing and Prayer**

**Last Sunday's Harvest of Love Dollar Day offering** was \$266.00 plus 75 pounds of food for the church's total to date of \$1138.25 and 160 pounds of food. The Harvest of Love food drive goals this year are \$35,000 and 50,000 pounds of food.

**Western District Conference:** Pray for David Stevens as he is installed today as lead pastor of Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** MMN workers Aaron and Laura Kauffman request prayer for the La Mesa Mennonite Church in Colombia as it looks for a new Colombian pastoral couple to begin ministry in February 2007.

## Church Events

**Today at noon – 2:30 p.m.** Mentoring Christmas Dinner at church

**Wednesday 6:45 p.m.** Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Program

\*\* Note earlier time \*\*

**7:00 p.m.** Youth Programming

**Thursday at 7:00 p.m.** Administrative Council meets at church.



**Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.** Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program – *A Christmas Carol* will be presented by our junior department. Prelude music will begin at 6:30 p.m. Our special Christmas Eve offering will be divided between Health Ministries Clinic and Community Playschool. A time of refreshments will follow the program. Invite your family, neighbors and friends to this very special evening in the life of our church. All are welcome!

**January 21** A service of baptism is being planned for Sunday, January 21, 2007.

**Sunday, January 28, 2007 at 12:45 p.m.** Church Annual Business meeting

## Announcements

**Christmas music** will begin at 9:00 a.m. next Sunday, December 24.

**The Rosewood Winds** Christmas CD, *Winds of Christmas*, is available in the lobby for \$15.

**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.

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

The High School Lock-in is coming up on January 19. Please bring a snack item and a friend. The Zion youth group has been invited again this year.

The Annual fundraiser is also rapidly approaching on January 28. We will serve the meal that Sunday at noon.

Remember we are helping at Ken and Marie Wiebe's 50th wedding anniversary. Talk to one of the sponsors or Brett if you won't be there on December 30th.

**SNOW CAMP.** Want to spend a weekend in the Rockies? Want to tube, play on the ice, and spend time in God's creation? If you would like to go to Snow Camp at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp this year, we will help you arrange transportation and the like. However, since this will not be a youth group function, you will have to pay everything to go. Snow Camp dates are February 16-18, and March 16-18. Talk to Brett if interested.

**Nursery This Sunday:** Nancy Harms and Jana Harms

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Joyce Wedel and Brittany Claassen

**Keyboard Next Sunday:** Linda Harms

**Special Music Next Sunday:** Maria Jantz

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Rob Schunn and Becky Voth

**Offering Last Sunday:** Local Church \$5,704.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Western District Conference

## Et Cetera

**The annual "Night in the Barn" live nativity event** will be held this evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen between Goessel and Hillsboro. This come-and-go event is put on by the youth of the Tabor and Goessel Mennonite churches, and features a large assortment of animals, a short program, and singing around a bonfire. Call 620-367-8432 or email Carol for more information at [carold@mennoniteusa.org](mailto:carold@mennoniteusa.org).

**Harvey County Homeless Shelter Volunteer Training and information session.** Monday, December 18, 6:30 p.m. in the shelter staff room. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer at the shelter or learning more about the shelter is invited to attend. Please enter through the shelter entrance at the southeast corner of the building at 209 E. Broadway, Newton. Questions, call Christa at 316-284-4205. ALSO: Thank you to each of you that volunteered or attended the "Where the Heart is" dinner or dessert theater event last weekend! What an amazing response we had to the program and musical. We truly thank each of you that helped make the event a success. The HCHS Board and Missionaries.

**Offender / Victim Ministries** invites you to join us at our annual *Holiday Shopping Night at Ten Thousand Villages*, on Tuesday, December 19 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Twenty percent of all purchases will be donated to our ministry. Refreshments and live music will be provided. Please stop by!

**The Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church presents the annual "Harder Family Christmas Concert"** on Friday, December 22, at 7:00 p.m. at the church, 655 S. Lorraine, Wichita. This family of five sings and plays a variety of instruments, featuring classical, traditional, folk - guaranteed to get you into the true spirit of Christmas. Refreshments will follow the concert. A free-will offering will benefit Youth Development Services, a 30 year-old program promoting social justice and education for at-risk urban youth. You may call the church at 316-682-4555 for more information.

**As churches prepare to celebrate Christ's birth**, Goshen College again offers an online spiritual resource to help believers make time and space in their hearts and minds to welcome Advent. Through December 29, Goshen College students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on lectionary Scripture passages and the theme "Love's revelations," available online or by daily e-mail. To access the devotions or sign-up to receive them in your inbox, go to: [www.goshen.edu/devotions](http://www.goshen.edu/devotions).

**Come enjoy an afternoon with Arthur Marks** on Sunday, January 7, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at the Mary Jane Teall Theater, Century II, Wichita. This is presented as a gift to the community from Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church in celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are planning a series of concerts and lectures for 2007 as part of their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. There is no admission charge. For more information, call 316-682-4555.

**Western District Ski Retreat for Adults and Families** will be January 26-30, 2007 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 \$375, 18-14 yr olds \$365, and children 13 and under \$300). 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.

**Damascus Road Anti-Racism Analysis Training** will be held February 8 (6-9 p.m.) through February 10, (6 p.m.), 2007 at Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton. Early registration of \$200 is due January 5; after that date is \$250 and deadline is January 15. Brochures are on the bulletin board and on Western District Conference web site ([www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org)). Space is limited yet we encourage teams (or at least two people) from a congregation attend.

## CHURCH OFFICES

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

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

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