

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 18, 2011

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: Penny Hiebert

Worship Leader: Donna Balzer

Musicians: Sara Unruh and David Janzen

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Reordering Our World Gathering

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.

Call to Worship

One: Our souls magnify you, Lord.

Many: Our spirits rejoice in you, our Savior.

One: You have looked with favor on your servants.

Many: You have chosen us in our lowliness rather than our strength.

One: All generations can see that we are blessed.

All: For you have done great things, and holy is your name!

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Hymn No. 211** *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

Lighting the Advent Candle

Offering our Gifts Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

Hearing God's Word

Gospel Reading Luke 1:46-55

Sara Harms

* **Song STJ No. 13** *My soul is filled with joy*

Children's Story

Bonita Schroeder

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

Special Music *Still, Still, Still*

Mixed Ensemble

Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38

Pastor Katherine

Sermon *Mary's Song*

Pastor Katherine

Responding to God's Word

* **Hymn No. 215** *What child is this*

Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sending

* **Sending Hymn No. 202** *The virgin Mary had a baby boy*

* **Benediction**

One: To God whose ways are unexpected,
who casts down the powerful and lifts up the lowly
who fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away
empty, be the glory forever and ever!

**Many: May my soul magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoice in
God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his servant.
The Mighty One has done great things for me and holy is his
name!**

One: God fulfills his promises to his people,
God's mercy is for those who fear him from generation to
generation.

**All: May we go from this place proclaiming the glory of our God.
May we go rejoicing in our Savior for the Mighty One has
done great things for us and holy is his name!**

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

Western District Conference: Pray for the Immigration Task Force as they seek to help congregations grow in understanding of the immigration dilemma and develop resources and initiatives for a Christlike response.

Mennonite Mission Network: Some members of the Macau Mennonite Church – led by Pastor Treasure Chow and Grace Au – share the joy of the Lord each morning through praise dancing in a park near the church. Pray that those participating may be drawn to the abundant life that Jesus gives. Macau Mennonite Church partners with MMN.

Add to the calendar: Jeannine McLain's birthday is December 31.

Church Events

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Worship Council meets at church.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve program practice.



Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program – “Light of the World Candlelight Service” will be presented by children through grade 8. Offering will be for Community Playschool and Harvey County Health Ministries. There will be a time of fellowship following the program. Everyone is welcome to bring family and friends!

Next Sunday, Christmas Day The worship service will begin at 9:30 a.m. No Sunday School classes will be held.

Harvey County Homeless Shelter volunteer schedule for December 28 – January 3 is on the bulletin board. Please sign up to staff the shelter during Grace Hill's shifts and to provide the meals. If any college students would like to volunteer during their Christmas vacations, contact Donna Balzer.

January 29 at 12:45 p.m. Annual Church Business Meeting

High School Youth Group

Homeless Shelter Meal: The Youth Group will serve the meal at the Homeless Shelter on Wednesday, December 28.

Out of the Pew: We will plan to meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. on January 7 for this WDC Youth Event in Yoder, KS. Lunch is provided and Pastor Katherine will take you out for supper afterwards in Hutchinson. (The event itself is from 9:30-5; for more information please see WDC's website)

Lock-In with Zion Youth Group: January 20 from 11 p.m. – 6 a.m.

Youth Serve Lunch for Church Business Meeting: January 29, following Sunday School

Announcements

Christmas Cheer When you are sending your Christmas cards this year or sending your letters by e-mail, we are suggesting that you include our brothers and sisters in Dallas, Texas. They would like to know that you are thinking of them and praying for their congregation and community. Randy and Ana Rodriguez were the members that visited this summer. The addresses are as follows: Pastor Damian Rodriguez, Comunidad Esperanza, 1721 N. Garrett Ave., Dallas, TX 75206, randy-ana@hotmail.com.

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: Deb Regier and Katie Regier

Nursery Next Sunday: Kaye Penner and Camille Claassen

Ushers Next Sunday: Josh Patterson and Rob Schunn

Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$6,021.00

Offering Next Sunday: Western District Conference

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

Note: The toll-free number for the church secretary has been discontinued.

Et Cetera

Night In The Barn, the annual living nativity event by the youth of Tabor Mennonite Church, is December 18, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen. This year's program will feature the story of Joseph and will include original music by Doug Krehbiel and script by Carol Duerksen. The menagerie of animals will be hanging out in the barn, and hot drinks will be available to enjoy around the bonfire. This event is by donation and a fundraiser for the youth group. Directions from Goessel: 3 miles north on hiway 15, 4 miles east on 150th, ¾ mile north on Falcon. Call 620-367-8432 or 620-386-0709 if you have questions.

Lisa Weaver, co-author of "On the Zwieback Trail," a new Russian Mennonite history, written in alphabet book format for all ages, will be signing the book and talking about the book project Thursday, December 29, 6:30-8 p.m. at Kauffman Museum (talk at 7 p.m.). This event is free; call the museum at 316-283-1612 for more information.

Kits for Christmas *A gift of joy with some assembly required.* Share the joy of Christmas with others around the world. Mennonite Central Committee urgently needs 10,000 school kits and 10,000 hygiene kits to replenish its supply. Shipments to places like drought-affected East Africa have largely drained MCC's warehouses. Please consider donating a kit this Christmas (details about MCC kits can be found at www.mcc.org/kits). Explore all the MCC gift options and discover more ways to share the joy at www.mcc.org/christmas or make checks payable to MCC and send them to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117.

Winter Homeless Shelter Help The Harvey County Homeless Shelter needs daytime help during the winter. Saturday and Sundays 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. and noon - 5 p.m. During the weekday when the weather is cold, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. and noon - 5 p.m. On these days a noon meal will be served. Food for this is also needed. The shelter is compiling a list of volunteers that can be on call for these times. If you would like to help, email mary@hchs-ks.com or call @ 283-7711.