

Sermon

"Joseph as Disciple"

* *"Oh, How Joyfully"*

HWB 209

* Benediction

Come! Walk in the way of God's heart. The dawn is breaking! Christ is coming to free us from pain. He will show us the way. Amen.

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

- After the Children's story children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for childcare.
- 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!

Serving in Worship

Pastor	Weldon Martens
Scripture Reader	K. John Klaassen
Advent Readers	David Janzen & Josh Patterson
Keyboard	Ellen Mosiman
Music	Praise Team
Greeters	Doug & Katherine Claassen
Ushers	Mike Balzer & Kendall Claassen
Nursery	Marge Harms & Quinn Dove

For Sharing and Prayer

We wish to thank our Grace Hill Church Family for all the ways you have been a friend to dad over the years and for the many ways you have shown us you are thinking of us in our time of loss. It is all greatly appreciated.
Nancy Harms for the Wilmer Wedel Family

Thank you Grace Hill Family for your generous giving for MCC relief and hygiene kits for Haiti and other locations. You have given 40 hygiene kits (a special thank you to Elfrieda Schmidt who sewed the bags for these kits) which include: 70 toothbrushes, 77 bars hand soap, 12 bars laundry soap, 7 pads, 29 bath towels, 7 hand towels, 4 shampoo, 10 combs, 5 boxes bandaids, 15 nail clippers. - Ed and Marge Harms

Western District Conference: Pray for WDC pastors and chaplains as they lead worship and offer pastoral care during the holiday season.

Mennonite Mission Network: Tom and Disa Rutschman, serving with Mennonite Mission Network, have shared Jesus as the Light of the World through many long winters on the Arctic Circle in Sweden. Pray that this year they may again create sparks of life through teaching in schools and the leadership they provide at Jokkmokk Free Church.

Pastor Weldon will be on vacation December 21-28. He will preach on December 25, but will not preach on January 1. If there are care needs, please contact a member of the Care Council: Kaye Penner, Rita Patterson, Alma Schmidt or Doug Claassen.

Church Events

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program Practice



December 24 at 7:00 p.m. The Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program will be on Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m., followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite neighbors and friends to be our guests to celebrate the Christmas Story! The offering will be for Community Playschool and Harvey County Health Ministries.

January 1 - Congregational Meeting: We will have a short meeting immediately after Sunday School on Sunday, January 1st for a congregational vote to affirm the members of the Leadership Council for 2017. This is consistent with our new organizational structure process. All members of Grace Hill are encouraged to attend. If you have questions please contact Tim Harms, Leadership Council Chairperson.

Announcements

Needed! New Mittens, Gloves, Scarfs and Hats- Please hang on the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. Bring by Christmas Day after which they will be donated to The Salvation Army in Newton.

Ushers Next Sunday: Josh Patterson and Rob Schunn

Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$6,054.55

Offering Next Sunday: Western District Conference

Et Cetera

The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship, Newton, will share their annual living nativity, Night in the Barn, on December 18 from 6-8 pm. The come-and-go event includes Christmas carols around a bonfire, hot drinks and snacks. Admission is free and donations to the youth group will be accepted. Directions to Night in the Barn: From Goessel: 3 miles north on Hwy 15, 4 miles east on 150th, ¾ north on Falcon. (Follow these directions and not GPS.) For more information, call 620-386-0709.

The Newton First Mennonite Church and area community members will present selections from Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 18, at 7 pm (429 East 1st Street). Soloists are Soyoun Lim Chun, Bethany Amstutz Schrag, Matthew Schloneger, Chris Kliewer. Karen Schlabaugh is harpsichordist; Amanda Rempel, organist; Nancy Johnson, concertmaster; Kay Schroeder, conductor. An offering will be taken for the Harvey County Homeless Shelter and to cover expenses. All are invited to come celebrate the Christ Child, the Savior of the world and the Redeemer through this worshipful presentation.

Demolition scheduled! Camp Mennoscah will be taking down the old boys bath house and the whale on December 20. Never fear, friends! The bath house has already been replaced and plans are in the works for a new play structure. Contact us at office@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290 to help.

Know someone who's hard to shop for? Celebrate Christmas by donating a book in their honor to the Resource Library. A registry list of Resource Library wishes can be found on Amazon at <http://a.co/jasaOal> (or call the library). Order straight from Amazon and have it shipped to the library, or buy local and mark the book on the Amazon site as "buying this gift elsewhere." Also welcome are any Spanish language or bi-lingual resources. We would love new, or like new/excellent condition books. All Christmas gifts will be acknowledged with a special bookplate inside the book, just let us know who to honor.

The Mennonite magazine welcomes your original submissions of feature articles, poems, original artwork and photos for our February 2017 print magazine issue and corresponding online content focusing on the Mennonites, race, identity and faith. You can read the full details online at <https://themennonite.org/december-call-submissions-mennonites-race-identity/>. Submissions are due to Editor@TheMennonite.org by January 5.

Support for refugees in San Antonio: San Antonio Mennonite Church (SAMC), a member congregation of Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA, requests support and prayers as they help to host hundreds of refugee women and children being released from immigration detention facilities in Texas. WDC is providing financial assistance to SAMC from conference funds, and also encourages congregations and individuals to support SAMC directly. See the SAMC website at <http://www.sanantoniomennonite.org> for more information, and to make online financial contributions for needed supplies and facilities. SAMC Pastor John Garland notes that scripture gives clear commands to care for foreigners, widows and orphans, and that whatever we do for "the least of these," we do for Christ. "Our church building is not our own but a gift of which we are stewards, in order to welcome and love," says Garland. "Our resources and networks of people and energies are not our own, but vessels of God's love."

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday - Mornings, Wednesday - Afternoon, Friday - day off

Pastor: Weldon Martens

Email: weldon.martens@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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