

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 24, 2006

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Keyboard: Linda Harms

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg

Chorister: Suzy Burch

## Fourth Sunday of Advent – Christmas Eve

*Love promises the kingdom*

### 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.

\* **Call to Worship** Hymn No. 206 *Infant holy, infant lowly*

### \* Opening Words

1: We have found the kingdom.

2: We have found love.

**All: We have found God.**

1: When do we find the kingdom?

2: When do we find love's promise?

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

1: When we stand and feed God's flock in the strength of the Lord;

2: When we stand in the majesty of the name of the Lord our God;

**All: When we, with the Lord, are one in Christ.**

1: Now seek first the kingdom.

2: Now seek first God's righteousness.

**All: And all things will be added unto us as well!**

### \* Invocation

\* **Caroling** *Oh, how joyfully* No. 209

*Hark! The herald angels sing* No. 201

**Old Testament Reading** Micah 5:2-5a Reader: Kristen Toews

**Hymn of Response** *O little town of Bethlehem* No. 191

### Children's Moments

Sara Burch

**Worship in Giving** Western District Conference

**Offertory**

Maria Jantz

**Special Music**

Maria Jantz

**Gospel Reading** Luke 1:39-55

Reader: Tara Harms-Becker

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

**Advent Sermon** *Using the Least to Accomplish the Most*

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

Carl, Kris and Lucas Goossen

Advent Candle Lighter: Emma Hilgenfeld

\* **Hymn No. 318** *Joy to the world*

### Sharing Joys, Thanksgivings and Prayers

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father who are in heaven, hallowed be thine name

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

\* **Benediction**

\* **Sending Hymn No. 210** *Good Christians friends, rejoice*

**Postlude**

Maria Jantz

\* 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!**



Barb and I wish to extend to each of you our most joyous Christmas greetings. We thank you for the many expressions of love shown to us throughout the year. As we celebrate Christ's birth may God give us a spirit of expectancy, repentance, joy and a growing desire to magnify God in all we do and say as we follow the One who is Emmanuel, God with us.

*A joyous Christmas to you and yours! Pastor Jim Voth*

### **For Sharing and Prayer**

On Sunday, December 17, 2006 Raymond Balzer went to be with the Lord at the age of 86. The committal and memorial services were Wednesday, December 20 in the church. Let us prayerfully remember Pauline and the family during these days.

We would like to send out our thanks to everyone for all of their support, prayers, and love during our time of grieving. We appreciate all of the cards and flowers we've received and for all of the memorials that have been sent in Ray's memory. The Balzer Family

James Kelly Harms has requested a transfer of membership to the Salem United Methodist Church, Newton. We give thanks for his life and service in this congregation and pray God's blessing on Kelly and Cindy in their life at Salem United Methodist.

**Western District Conference:** Pray for open hearts to receive the gift of Jesus, the Light of the world.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** On this Christmas Sunday, pray for MMN workers around the globe as they share the good news of Jesus' coming into the world to bring hope to all people.



**This evening 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!

**Wednesday** – No Wednesday night programming this week.

**Thursday, December 28 ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS!** Pastor Jim and Pastor Brett invite you to the north Pizza Hut in Newton for lunch Thursday noon, December 28<sup>th</sup>. Please let Pastor Jim or Barb Voth know if you plan to attend. Email Pastor Jim at [jvoth@cox.net](mailto:jvoth@cox.net).

**January 7** Communion. College students are invited to help serve.

**January 21** Baptism during morning worship.

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

**JUNIOR YOUTH** - Know Jesus! 2007. January 20-21 at Hesston College. A weekend with speaker Marty Troyer, Live Band, Anabaptist game, worship, discipleship, and a whole lot of fun. We are making plans to go and are asking each youth to pay half or \$25 per person. Youth stay with responsible Hesston College students, and it's a great experience!

High School Youth Group

Wiebe 50th - remember to mark down Saturday December 30 to help out.

Lock In - January 19th. Bring a snack item, Drubers money, and a friend.

**Announcements**

**Reports for the church yearbook** – If you are responsible for a report, please get it to Debbie Claassen by January 15. E-mailed reports are preferred, if possible. Thanks!

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

**Keyboard Next Sunday:** Teresa Martin  
**Special Music Next Sunday:** Jeff Toews

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

**Offering Last Sunday:** Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre \$1,188.00  
**Offering Next Sunday:** Grace Hill Mission Workers

#### **CHURCH OFFICES**

**Pastor: James Voth** Pastor's Study: 283-2644 E-mail: [jvoth@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto:brett_210@hotmail.com)  
**Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen** 1-888-516-8474  
Secretary's E-mail: [kimdebc@wheatstate.com](mailto:kimdebc@wheatstate.com)  
**Church Website:** <http://gracehill.ks.us.mennonite.net/>

**Et Cetera**

**Elementary and middle school children** are invited to be part of the Bethel College-Hesston College joint celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday at Bethel College's Krehbiel Auditorium on Monday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m. To participate, come to a rehearsal on Sunday, January 14, at 4:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall on the Bethel campus in North Newton. More information: Jen Chappell-Deckert, 316-283-2333, [jcd@bethelks.edu](mailto:jcd@bethelks.edu)

**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.

**Western District Conference** is growing in vision, church planting, camping, and resourcing congregations. Thank you for your continued prayer support and financial contributions. The annual 2006 budget closes January 31, 2007 and we invite individuals and congregations to complete their commitments - or make a new one! The annual budget is the foundation for our ministry in WDC. We are also happy to announce that the above-budget Vision 2012 funding campaign has \$450,000 (of \$1.5 million) already committed over the next three years. Praise God!

**Shalom Mennonite Church**, Newton, is looking for an Administrative Assistant to work in the church office 20 hours per week. The position will be open mid-January 2007. If interested see details posted on bulletin board or call Jeannie Zehr at 316-283-8308.