

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

Worship 10:00 a.m.

December 25, 2005

Whitewater, Kansas

Pastor: James Voth

Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg

Keyboard: Mary Ann Wiebe

Chorister: Suzy Burch

## **Christmas God's Unstoppable Purpose is Unimaginable!**

*God's coming to live with us is unimaginable!*

Flower of the week: Brilliant cheer, symbolized by the poinsettia,  
is a natural response to God's perfect and incomprehensible gift.

*Prelude*

Jana, Laura and Brett Harms

### **We Gather**

*Candle lighting*

Katrina Regehr

Readers: Hannah, Megan and Sarah Klaassen

*Silence*

\* *Call to Worship*

Emily Toews

**Leader:** Behold, I bring you good news of great joy;

**People:** **The Lord is King! Let the earth rejoice and be glad.**

**Leader:** Go out of the gates and build the road for the people;

Prepare a highway; clear it of stones;

Lift high a banner for all people.

**People:** **The Lord is exalted over all the earth.**

**Leader:** Your Savior comes; ready to do as he said he would,

Prepared to complete what He promised.

**All:** **Glory to God in the highest heaven,**

**And on earth, peace among those He favors!**

\* *Opening Prayer*

### **We Praise God**

*Hymns of Christmas Praise*

\* *O come, all ye faithful* Hymn No. 212

*Hark! the herald angels sing* Hymn No. 201

*Scripture Reading* Matthew 1:18-25

Camille Claassen

### **We Hear the Word**

*Prayer of Confession*

Pastor Brett

Gracious God, we confess that we are foolish and disobedient.

We confess that we are easily led astray,

slaves to various passions and pleasures.

We live in malice and envy, being hated and hating others.

We know that we don't deserve your favor.

We ask your forgiveness.

*Silence*

*Words of Assurance*

Pastor Brett

*Scripture Reading* Luke 2:1-20

Amanda Regehr

*Children's time*

Kristine Goossen

*A Christmas Story or two*

Pastor Brett

\* *Hymn No. 199* *The first Noel, the angel did say*

*A Christmas Story or two*

Pastor Jim

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

### **We Respond**

*Sharing of joys and concerns*

Pastor Jim

*Congregational Prayer*

Pastor Jim

*Offering and Prayer* Western District Conference

Pastor Jim

*Offertory*

Laura and Jana Harms

### **We are sent**

**Welcome and Announcements**

*A special welcome to each of 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.*

\* **Benediction** Pastor Jim and Brett

\* **Benediction Hymn No. 193** *Silent night, holy night*  
Verse 1 in German, Verses 2, 3 & 4 in English

**Postlude** Jana Harms

\* Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

There will not be any Sunday School classes today.

During this Advent season God has again called us  
to  
WATCH for His movement in our lives  
PONDER the events of the birth of our Savior and  
Lord  
and SING out to the world the Jesus songs in our  
hearts.  
Today as you celebrate with family and friends  
and RETELL THE STORY of Christ's birth  
may the wondrous news of this story empower each  
of us  
to live life to the fullest.  
A joyous Christmas to each of you and a wish for  
a blessed New Year.  
Pastor Jim and Barb Voth

**For Sharing and Prayer**

Brett Klingenberg and Cassie Friesen were engaged last Sunday after church. The couple is planning to get married sometime in late May or early June. "It's pretty sweet," says Brett. Cassie could not be reached for comments, but Brett says that she was pretty shocked.

Gary and Jean Isaac invite you to a come-and-go wedding reception honoring Mitch and Rebecca on Friday, December 30, 2005, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Kaufman House at Bethel College, 2515 College Avenue, North Newton. They request no gifts.

The family of Edwin Andres invites you to a surprise 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party for him on Friday, December 30 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at the Elbing City Building. It will be a come-and-go event. Please do not say anything to him; it is to be a surprise.

Hesston Pastoral Ministries Program wishes to thank Pastor Jim and the church for offering supervised ministry experiences for Daniel Schroeder during 2005. We see the training of pastors as a joint ministry between the college and congregations and have enjoyed this special partnership with you. Dan has expressed many words of appreciation for the church and the guidance that you have offered. Thank you!

**Western District Conference:** Give thanks for the gift of Immanuel – God with us.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** On this Christmas Day, praise God that the good news of Christ's birth is for all people. Pray that MMN workers around the world will have opportunities to reach those who never before have heard of God's redeeming love through Jesus.

**Reports for the church yearbook** – If you are responsible for a report, please get it to Debbie Claassen by January 15, 2006. 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 Next Sunday:** Katherine Claassen and Sharon Schmidt

**Keyboard Next Sunday:** Linda Harms

**Special Music Next Sunday:** Praise Team

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Dean Patterson and Lon Hiebert

**Offering Last Sunday:** Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre \$605.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Mennonite Church USA

## 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)

**Student Pastor: Daniel Schroeder**

E-mail: [dlschroeder@dtnspeed.net](mailto:dlschroeder@dtnspeed.net)

**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/>

**Announcements**

**Church Events**

**Saturday 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** All College Students are invited to the 2005 Grace Hill College Student Brunch Saturday, December 31 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the home of Pastor Jim and Barb Voth, 1400 Westborough Drive, Newton. Please RSVP by calling 283-2644 by December 29.

**Next Sunday, New Years' Day**, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper during worship. All college students are invited to help serve. Please plan to meet with Pastor Jim at 9:10 a.m. in the fellowship hall for serving instructions.

**January 4 at 7:00 p.m.** Book Discussion Group to meet on Wednesday January 4, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the classroom next to the kitchen. Marie Wiebe has agreed to lead the group. The book: *The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. All are welcome even if you have not read the book. The Library Committee

**January 22 at 12:30 p.m.** Church Annual Business Meeting

**In Home Church Fellowship Meals to begin January 29<sup>th</sup>**

*"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts," Acts 2:46* The Spiritual Council invites everyone in the congregation to participate in fellowship meals to be shared in our homes. You are invited to register as either a host or a guest for one of the following Sundays: January 29 at noon; February 5 at noon or February 12 at 6:00 p.m. Hosts are asked to provide a meal for 6-10 persons. Registration forms are available in the foyer. You are encouraged to complete the form and return it to the designated box in the foyer by January 8, 2006.

**On December 26, 2005, the anniversary** of the Asian earthquake/tsunami that left more than 275,000 dead and millions homeless, Elizabeth Raid will report on her visit to see Mennonite Central Committee's response in Aceh province, Indonesia, the area hardest hit. Come for information, remembering and reflection at 7 p.m., Monday, December 26 at the MCC office and material resource center, 121 East 30th Street, North Newton, Kansas; 316-283-2720.

**Western District Conference (WDC)** exists to resource your congregation. It is your connection to other WDC congregations and to the greater Mennonite Church. It seeks to play a vital role in your spiritual life and growth. WDC needs your financial support in ending the 2005 fiscal year. Please consider financially supporting WDC in light of the many ways it resources you, your family, and your congregation. Mail your contribution to: Western District Conference, PO Box 306, North Newton KS 67117.

**Peace Connections** will be open only 1:00-5:00 p.m. between Christmas and New Years. Please stop by and check out our new resources and activities for children and young people. We will be closed Mon. Fri. & Sat.; Dec. 26, 30 & 31.

**Everyone interested in Agri-Urban**, and it's programs is invited to an appreciation dinner on January 14, 2006, at 6:00 p.m., in the Eden Church Fellowship Hall, 4 miles west and 2 miles north of Moundridge. Please make reservations with Russell Entz, 316-799-1217 by January 2, 2006. An interesting program is planned.

**The Music and Worship Committee of the Western District Conference** will offer a Lent and Easter music reading session for adult and youth choir directors and others who are interested on Sunday, January 29, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Western District Conference Library at 2517 North Main, North Newton. Ken Rodgers of Hesston will lead the session. Music to be presented will include anthems from the Conference Music Lending Library. Choir directors are encouraged to bring their own favorite anthems, in multiple copies if possible, and also to bring other singers to help provide good four-part representation. For more information, contact Berneil Rupp Mueller at 2808 Acacia Avenue, North Newton; 316-283-1663; or [tabco@cox.net](mailto:tabco@cox.net).

**Et Cetera**