

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 25, 2011

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Musicians: Tara Harms-Becker, Pastor Katherine,  
Samantha Claassen, Courtney Claassen, Pastor Peter

Worship Leader: Pastor Katherine

*Christmas Day*  
*The Word Became Flesh*  
*Welcoming the Light*

## 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.*

## Lighting the Christ Candle

## Call to Worship

One: Behold, I give you good tidings of great joy which shall be for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**Many: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them the light has shined.**

One: God's promises are made flesh before the eyes of all the nations; all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God!

**All: Glory to God in the highest! On earth peace, good will to all!**

## Gathering Prayer

- \* **Gathering Hymns No. 212** *O come, all ye faithful* vs. 1, 2 & 4
- No. 210** *Good Christian friends, rejoice* vs. 1 & 3

**Offering our Gifts** Western District Conference

**Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer**

## *Receiving the Light*

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2: 1-7

- \* **Hymn No. 191** *O little town of Bethlehem* vs. 1, 2 & 4

**Song** *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* Mixed Ensemble

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2: 8-20

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

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

**Gospel Reading** John 1: 1-18

- \* **Hymn No. 208** *Love came down at Christmas*

**Gospel Story**

**Song** *Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella* Women's Ensemble

**Gospel Story**

**Song** *Carol of the Drum* Mixed Ensemble

**Gospel Story**

**Special Music** *And Your Love* Mylin Brimm

**Gospel Story**

**Song** *O Holy Night* Women's Ensemble

**Sending**

- \* **Sending Hymns** *Nun Ist Sie Erschienen*
- No. 318** *Joy to the world*

**Postlude**

\*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

**Sunday School classes will not meet today.**

## **For Sharing and Prayer**

Thank you to everyone who had a role in the Christmas Eve service this year. The wonderful program and beautiful music made for a special evening of celebrating Christ's birth. Explorers Sunday School Class

**Western District Conference:** Praise God for the gift of his Son our Savior, Jesus. Pray for boldness in joining the shepherds in spreading the word of God's salvation mercy and kingdom peace.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** MMN personnel have committed their lives to continuing the work of Jesus' incarnational love in more than 100 locations in the United States and around the world. Pray for the Holy Spirit's power to enliven these ministries.

## **Church Events**

**Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. College Brunch at Peter and Katherine's -** All college students are invited to Pastor Peter and Katherine's house for a brunch on Wednesday, December 28 at 11 a.m. We look forward to seeing you and catching up with you!

**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.

**Wednesday Homeless Shelter Meal:** The Youth Group will serve the meal at the Homeless Shelter on Wednesday, December 28. We would like everyone to bring either a main dish or a salad/vegetable (a number have already signed up to bring dessert). There are 24 residents at the Homeless Shelter; we will also need enough for the Youth Group members and sponsors. Please plan to meet at the Homeless Shelter with your food at 5:45 p.m. Please talk with Pastor Katherine if you have questions. Thank you!

## Announcements

**Church offices will be closed this week.** Pastors Peter and Katherine will be available at home.

**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:** Kaye Penner and Camille Claassen

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Marge Harms and Rita Patterson

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

**Offering Last Sunday:** Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre \$1,352.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Mennonite Church USA

### **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](mailto:pastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen**

*E-mail:* [youthpastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:youthpastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen**

*Secretary's E-mail:* [secretary@gracehillmc.org](mailto:secretary@gracehillmc.org)

## Et Cetera

**Lisa Weaver, author of "On the Zwieback Trail,"** a new Russian Mennonite history book written for all ages, will be signing the book and talking about the process of creating it, Thursday, December 29, at Kauffman Museum, 6:30-8 p.m. (talk at 7 p.m.). The event is free and the books will be for sale in the museum shop (with all other cookbooks 20 percent off that night only).

**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](mailto:mary@hchs-ks.com) or call @ 283-7711.

**Grace Hill's volunteer weeks at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter for 2012 are:** March 28 - April 3, June 27 - July 3, September 26 - October 2, December 19 - 25 (we are scheduled for Christmas Day).

**Save the date! Our Western District Conference Annual Assembly** will be held July 6-8, 2012 at the Magnuson Hotel & Meridian Convention Center in Oklahoma City, OK.

**Camp Mennoscah** It's time to think about summer! Camp Mennoscah still has a few weekends and many weekdays that are available for groups and families. Ask about our new rental facility - Bluestem! It's just the right size for a smaller group. Contact Camp Mennoscah with any reservation questions at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) or [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290). We can't wait to see you! **Bluestem needs you!** Our Camp Mennoscah Bluestem house is just about ready for use, but we are still searching for various household items. There is a wish list at [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) in the Camp section. Questions? Just give us a call at [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290). We'll work with you to find ways to get in-kind donations to Camp Mennoscah.

