

GRACE HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 27, 2009

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Pastor Katherine

Chorister: Pastor Peter

Worship Leaders: Kris and Russell Janzen

A Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols

Prelude

Welcoming Guests 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 God Candle

* **Call to Worship**

One: Behold, I give you good tidings of great joy which shall be for all people. Christ the Lord is born today! Let your hearts be joyful! Let your spirits rejoice!

Many: The newborn child is the Savior of the world, the incarnation of the holy God, come among us.

One: Those who walk in darkness will see the shining light.

Many: Those who suffer the yoke of oppression will be set free.

All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He will establish his kingdom and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forever. Our hearts are joyful, our spirits rejoice, for the Christ-child who has come, lives and reigns with God above, now and eternally!

* **Gathering Prayer**

* **Gathering Hymn No. 212** *O come, all ye faithful* verses 1, 3, 4

Offering Western District Conference

Candle Lighting

Beloved of God, Praise God! Join the cosmic worship! Let your heart rejoice. Let the peace of Christ dwell in you. The world is turning and God has delivered us! Burst forth in praise and break out in song! Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king!

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Beloved in Christ, let us prepare ourselves to hear again the good news of the angels, to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and to see the loving-kindness of our God, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us therefore open the Holy Scriptures and read the story of God's salvation for God's people starting with creation and reaching its fulfillment in the life of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Carol Hymn No. 178 *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

FIRST LESSON from Genesis 1 & 2 [1:1-5, 9, 11, 14-15, 20-21, 24, 26-28, 31, 2:1-4]
God creates the world and everything in it and declares it good.
Humankind is created in the image of God.

Carol Hymn No. 104 verses 1, 2, 4 *Of the Father's love begotten*

SECOND LESSON Exodus 15:1-5, 11-13, 17-21

Miriam and Moses sing praise to God for the salvation of God's people in the Exodus from Egypt.

Carol Hymn No. 174 verse 1 *Bless'd be the God of Israel*

THIRD LESSON 2 Samuel 7:5-14a, 16

God promises David that his throne shall be established forever.

Carol Hymn No. 172 verses 1, 2, 4, 6 *O come, O come, Immanuel*

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

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9

The Messiah's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

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

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and proclaims the greatness of the child she will bear.

Carol Hymn No. 180 *The angel Gabriel*

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 1:18-21

The gospel of Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus as foretold to Joseph.

Carol Hymn No. 189 *To us a Child of hope is born*

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

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-20

The angels appear to the shepherds proclaiming the good news of Jesus' birth.

Special Music

The First Noel
What Child is This?

Mylin Brimm

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Carol Hymn No. 218 verses 1, 2, 3 *As with gladness men of old*

Carol Hymn No. 193 verses 1, 2, 4 *Silent night, holy night*

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

The author of John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

Carol Hymn No. 192 verses 1, 4 *On this day earth shall ring*

RESPONDING AND SENDING

Litany of Response

All: Glory!

North: Glory!

South: Glory!

One: We can live fully in this day! God is here! God has come! What a surprise! Impossible to imagine!

North: Glory!

South: Glory!

All: Glory!

One: We have been restored; our weeping has been turned to shouts of joy! What restoration! Impossible to imagine!

South: Glory!

North: Glory!

All: Glory!

One: We have been invited to be heirs of God's kingdom through rebirth. What an invitation! Impossible to imagine!

All: Glory, glory glory!

One: God most high, ordinary baby boy, Rod of Jesse, Rose of Sharon! Salvation for all of God's creation! What an extraordinary beginning!

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayers of the People

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

* **Benediction**

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN AT 10:45 A.M.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: Praise God for the gift of 2009 – its blessings and its challenges.

Mennonite Mission Network: The end of the year is a time of spiritual combat between the forces of life and death in many parts of the world. Pray that MMN personnel and our partners in more than 50 countries may work in life-giving ways.

Church Events

Wednesday No programming this week.

Saturday at 2:00 p.m. High School Youth: We will meet at the church at 2 p.m. to bake communion bread for Sunday. Following that, we will head to the Breadbasket to enjoy their German Buffet.

High School Parents' Meeting: During the month of January, the High School will be discussing the topic of Sexuality. We would like to meet with all parents on **Sunday, January 10, at 7** in the evening, before we start this series. Please let Pastor Katherine know if you have any questions. Thanks!

January 22-24 Junior High Snow Camp

February 7 at 12:45 p.m. Grace Hill Annual Business Meeting

Please get bulletin announcements for next Sunday's bulletin to Debbie Claassen by Tuesday, December 29. Thank you!

High School Youth: Snow Camp Forms are Due SUNDAY JANUARY 3. Please see Pastor Katherine if you need a form or if you have any questions. Thank you.

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.

Mennonite Education Agency has a website at www.MennoniteEducation.org/PRAYERS where monthly "Prayers for Faith and Learning" can be accessed. Individuals who are interested in a free subscription to *Prayers for Faith and Learning* (or other MEA publications) may subscribe online at www.MennoniteEducation.org/Subscribe.

Nursery This Sunday: Kaye Penner and Camille Claassen

Nursery Next Sunday: Marge Harms and Rita Patterson

Ushers Next Sunday: Lon Hiebert and Dean Patterson

Preaching Next Sunday: Pastor Peter

Offering Last Sunday: Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre \$1,732.00

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

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Announcements