



**Hutterthal  
Mennonite  
Church**

**Christ-centered—Living, Relating, Serving**

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**FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT**  
**December 1, 2013**

**Prelude:** HWB no. 172, *O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

**Silence**

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Worship**

L: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord;

**P: let us learn God’s ways.**

L: God’s instruction goes out from Zion;

**P: God’s Word from Jerusalem.**

L: Let us awake to hope:

**P: the salvation of our God is near.**

**ALL: O, the mystery of God’s dwelling in our present!**

**Thematic Opening Hymn:** HWB no. 233,

*Joyful Is the Dark*

**Dramatic Reading**

**Confession & Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**Scripture Reading:**

Isaiah 2: 1-5

(Pew Bible p. 359)**Litany of the Candle of Hope**

L: As we look with hope to the coming of Christ, we pause to remember God, who came into our darkness with marvelous light.

**Silence**

L: Let us expose the weapons of our sinful pride, releasing them to God to fashion into tools that sustain us.

**Silent Confession**

(The Candle of Hope is lit)

L: The first Advent Candle is the candle of hope.

**P: In this light, we receive forgiveness, knowing that God dwells with us in the present.**

**Children’s Time**

Walk in Peace

**Scripture Reading:**

Matthew 24: 36-44

(Pew Bible p. 524)

**Silent Meditation**

**Sharing Time**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer** (debts and debtors)

**Hymn:** HWB no. 184,

*The Glad Sound!*

*Hark!*

**Message:**

In Our Present

**Time of Offering**

**Offertory Invitation**

**Sharing Our Gifts**

carol) ~ Wilbur Held

**Offertory Prayer**

*Shepherds* ( a Bohemian

**Thematic Closing Hymn:** Bulletin Insert,  
*in the Light*

*Come! Walk*

**Benediction**

L: Waken now to the establishment of God’s dwelling!  
**P: For the sake of the house of the Lord, we will seek the good!**  
**ALL: In the mystery of God’s dwelling in the present, there is hope!**

**Postlude** (*Please depart in silence*)

**Response Action:**

Hand/Foot Washing

L: I was glad when they said to me,  
**P: “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”**  
L: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
**WOMEN:** Jerusalem – built as a city that is bound firmly together  
**MEN:** *To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel,*  
**ALL: to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**  
L: For there the thrones of judgment were set up,  
**P: the thrones of the house of David.**  
L: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem;  
**ALL: “May they prosper who love you.**  
**WOMEN:** Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”  
**MEN:** *For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”*  
L: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,  
**P: I will see your good.**

**PRAYER**

L: Now, I invite you to come. Come to the cleansing waters as a sign of your desire to be washed and to know the peace that can only be found in Christ. Receive these waters as a sign of Jesus’ presence with You, as an acknowledgment that you are a child of His peace, and as a commitment to live peaceably with all.

***The Washing***

L: For the sake of our families and friends, say it again:  
**P: live in peace!**  
L: For the sake of the house of our God,  
**P: God, we’ll do our very best for you.**

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**Worship Participants:** Shirley Hofer (organ), Amy Hofer Vetch (song leader), Todd Jones (worship leader & message), John Clem, Monica Clem, Stan Hofer, & Brandon Waltner (dramatic reading), Ardella Gross (reader: Isaiah 2: 1-5), Xavier Ward (Advent candle lighter), Jill Hofer (children’s time), & Paul K. Hofer, Jr. (reader: Matthew 24: 36-44)

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The Deacons invite you to come to the front of the sanctuary during or immediately following the postlude to participate in today’s “response action: Hand/Foot Washing.” If you will not be participating in this response action, we encourage you to enjoy the coffee fellowship in the basement. Thank you!

**PRAYER CONCERNS/PRAISES**

- **Byron Thomas**
- **Ashton (Hofer) & Lee Dockendorf** (birth of daughter McKoen Lynn 11-24)
- **From CPMC:** Pray for the annual gathering of the conference ministers of MC USA happening Wednesday through Saturday of this week. Pray that our conference ministers will gain much from the gathering and have safe travel.
- **From MMN:** Barbara and Tad Wulliman of Mennonite Mission Network, who live in Manila, request prayer for the people of the Philippines. Many were still living in tents after an earthquake devastated their homes in October, when super-typhoon Haiyan pounded the islands. Pray that Christians will find tangible ways to share Jesus’ love.

We respectfully request that the ***designated pews*** remain open for families with young children and those with physical needs. We also request that the ***crying room*** remain available for infants and nursing mothers.

A ***Handicap Accessible Bathroom*** is located in the basement.

**TODAY**

**Greeters:** Aaron & Marcella Glanzer  
**Nursery:** Clara Koerner  
**Coffee Time:** Jarrod & Joani Kramer  
**MW project:** Bryan Thomas family  
**Jr. S.S. project:** Sole Hope  
**7pm:** Advent Retreat

**NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of Advent**

**Greeters:** Todd & Suzanne Koerner  
**Nursery:** Open  
**Organ:** Edie Tschetter/Dave Friesen (Guitar)  
**Coffee Time:** Lavonne Tschetter  
**2:30pm:** Worship @ Oakview Terrace  
**7:00pm:** Family Christmas @ HMC

**THIS WEEK**

**Monday:** Freeman Network for Justice & Peace, 12pm @ Freeman Library  
Annual Congregational Meeting, 7pm @ HMC  
**Thursday:** Freeman Ministerial, 10am @ CPMC Office  
**Friday & Saturday:** Youth Preparing Cheese Logs

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**December 9:** Prayer Shawl, 7pm  
**December 10:** Deacons Meeting, 7pm @ Koerner Residence  
**December 13:** Cookie Walk @ Senior Citizen  
**December 21:** Longest Night Retreat, 10pm  
**December 25:** Christmas Day Worship, 10am  
**January 8:** Soup & Fellowship, 6:30pm  
Kid's Club, 7pm  
Midweek Bible Study, 7pm

The **Leadership Selection Committee** will present the following ballot at the **annual mtg. on Mon., Dec. 2, 7:00 pm.**

<b><u>Church Secretary</u></b> (3 yr. term)	Jill Hofer
<b><u>Deacon</u></b> (3 yr. term)	Monica Hofer
<b><u>Trustee</u></b> (3 yr. term)	Darnell Tschetter
<b><u>Music Committee</u></b> (1yr. term)	Joline Thomas
<b><u>Leadership Selection Comm.</u></b> (3 yr. term)	Alvina Hofer
<b><u>Connection! Advisory Board</u></b> (3 yr. term)	Rebecca Hofer
<b><u>Assistant Head Usher</u></b> (becomes head usher next year)	Eric Neuharth
<b><u>Ushers</u></b> (1 yr. terms) (vote for 6)	
John Clem	Stan Hofer
Cameron Hofer	Rodney Mettler
	Phil Thomas
	Brandon Waltner

Also, please note the **Constitution & By-Law revision documents** in your mailbox today. These, too, will be acted upon at the mtg.

**Please bring a plate of Christmas Goodies** the morning of the Dec. 8th to be shared around the tables with fruit and peanuts provided for our Family Christmas/S.S. Christmas program. We hope everyone can attend!

**Christmas Program:** The Children’s Sunday School department will present “The Little Star: A Christmas Fantasy” on Sunday, December 8, 7pm.

**THE MENNONITE-** Anyone wishing to get into the Group Plan for another year of *The Mennonite*, give a check, made out to *The Mennonite*, for \$37. to me by Dec. 8th. Ardella Gross

The **Christmas Cookie Walk**, sponsored by Mennonite Women, will be Friday, Dec. 13 (snow date-Monday, Dec. 16). Please bring your cookies to the Sr. Citizen Center by 9 am. Proceeds will assist the Byron Thomas family of Marion. Thank you - Sherryl, Barbie, Edie.

**Sole Hope update:** We are still accepting donations of: cotton balls, Band-aids, large safety pins, fun stickers for kids, medical gloves, Emla numbing cream, and gauze wrap to be shipped over to Uganda for the foot clinics.

All are welcome to the annual **Minn-Kota General Board Mtg. Sat. Dec. 7, 1:00 p.m.** at the Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church, 1512 East Mulberry Street, Sioux Falls, SD. Bring your ideas for 2014! The Mountain Lake sale will be April 12, 2014 and the new Freeman sale July 26, 2014. Thanks to your continued generous support, we were able to send \$75,700 to Mennonite Central Committee for the 2012-2013 fiscal year!

Do you have a heart for “middler’s?” Do you have a desire to walk beside others in the faith and build in them the wonder, beauty, and truth of Jesus Christ? We are currently seeking a 1/3 time teacher for the **Middler Sunday School Class**. Those interested in participating in this ministry are asked to speak with Brandy Friesen.

**Rural Revival** will meet on Monday, December 2 @ 8pm in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome. ([www.ruralrevival.org](http://www.ruralrevival.org))

Give Hope on **Giving Tuesday**, December 3! Not sure what Giving Tuesday is? It's a day dedicated to kicking off the Christmas giving season, a reminder that Christmas is about more than buying gifts. Give a gift of hope by supporting the work of MCC this Christmas season. Want to double your money? All gifts from first time donors will be matched dollar for dollar on Giving Tuesday. Donate online at [mcc.org/giving-tuesday](http://mcc.org/giving-tuesday) or send checks to MCC PO Box 500 Akron, PA 17501 with Giving Tuesday on the memo line.

Message Notes:

Living Expectantly

Theme:

“In Our Present”

December 1, 2013

**SCRIPTURE READING #1:** Isaiah 2: 1-5 (Pew Bible p. 359)  
**SCRIPTURE READING #2:** Matthew 24: 36-44 (Pew Bible p. 524)  
**Additional Texts:**  
**Matthew 2: 18** – “... lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more” (NKJV)  
**Hebrews 11: 1** – “... faith is the substance of things hoped for, the conviction of things *not* seen.” (NKJV)  
**Matthew 6: 34** – “Give [our] entire attention to what God is doing right now, and [not] get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow.  
[Knowing that] God will help [us] deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.” (MSG)  
**2 Corinthians 5: 7** – “... walk by faith, not by sight.” (NKJV)