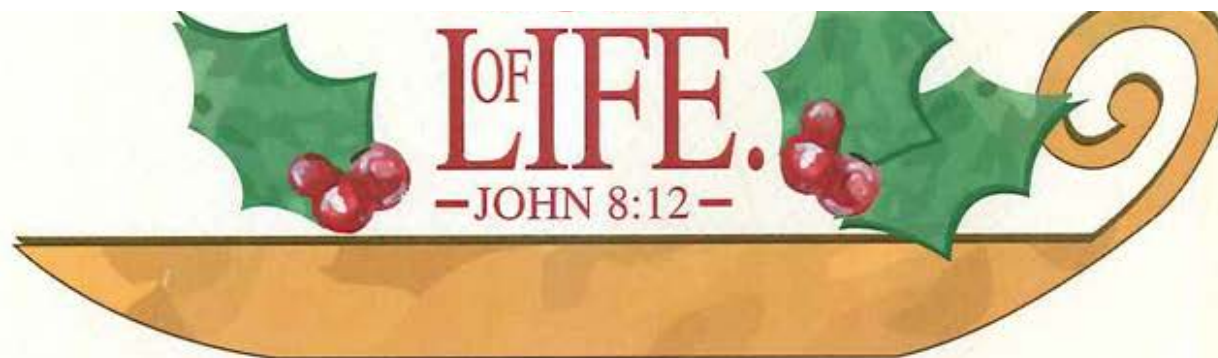


I AM
THE
LIGHT
OF THE
WORLD
WHOEVER
FOLLOWS
ME ^{WILL} _{NEVER}
WALK IN
DARKNESS
BUT WILL
HAVE THE
LIGHT



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ-centered - Living, Relating, Serving

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT **December 20, 2015**

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

The Candle of Love

L: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we are drawing ever nearer to God's coming in Jesus.

P: A new age is dawning.

ALL: Behold, a new age has come!

L: In the light of the Candle of Love, we celebrate the Good News, which breaks the powers of oppression and lifts us up to love and be loved.

P: We pray for freedom from the grip of privilege, power, control, and status that imprison us to hate and fear and close us off from the love of

God and neighbor.

ALL: Help us, Lord, to love as an expression of Your love.

L: In the light of the Candle of Love, we are humbled

P: We pray that, like Mary, we may be open to birth hope, peace, and joy, not for some, but for all, proclaiming:

ALL: "With God, who is love, nothing will be impossible!"

L: Come, Christ child, come! Allow Your love to be born in us today!

Hymn: HWB no. 181,

My Soul Proclaims with Wonder

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

L: Our souls magnify You, our God. Our spirits rejoice in You, our Savior.

ALL: You have looked with favor on Your lowly servants; because of You we are called "blessed."

L: You have scattered the proud and brought down the mighty.

P: You have raised up the lowly and filled the hungry.

L: You have remembered Your mercy, helping those in need and their descendants forever.

ALL: Praise! Praise God's holy name.

L: His love endures forever!

Prayer

Hymn: HWB no. 178,

HWB no. 197,

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Angels We Have Heard On High*

Time of Offering

The Invitation

Sharing Our Gifts

Prayer

Children's Time:

Outshining the Darkness

Moment-in-Mission:

HMC Photo Directory

**Scripture Reading:
Silent Meditation**

Micah 5: 2-5a (Pew Bible p. 490)

Message:

And We Shall Abide

Hymn: HWB no. 211,

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming

Sharing Time

Congregational Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Benediction

L: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God;

P: and everyone who loves is born of God and know God.

L: We go forth then not merely to speak of love, but to genuinely love one another.

ALL: Lord, may Your love be born in us each day! Amen.

Musical Response: HWB no. 215,

What Child is This

Postlude

Worship Participants: Charlene Friesen (accompanist), David Friesen (guitar & worship leader), Monica Clem (moment-in-mission) and Todd Jones (children's time & message)

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Frank Wiebe** (diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer; awaiting chemo)
- **Pastor Tim Detweiler** (recovering from surgery)
- **Central Plains Mennonite Conference (CPMC):** Pray for Max Villatoro as well as for Gloria and the children as they spend their first Christmas separated from each other. Pray that God will make a way for Max to return to his family soon.
- **Mennonite Mission Network (MMN):** Pray for safe travels for MMN's Christian Service participants going home for Christmas. Remember in a special way those who are not able to travel home and who will celebrate far from their families. May they experience the love and support of the communities they serve.
- **Additional Prayers:**

TODAY

Greeters: Monica Hofer & Clara Koerner

9:45am: Worship Service

Coffee Time: Phil & Joline Thomas

11:05am: Sunday School for all ages

6:30pm: Children's Christmas Program/Family Christmas

MW December Project: Cash - MCC Syria refugee assistance

Children's S.S. Fall Project: CPMC Ecuador Partnership

NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: John & Monica Clem

Accompanist: Elvera Deckert

Coffee Time:

THIS WEEK

Wed.: 12:00pm January *Connection!* Deadline

Fri.: 10:00am Christmas Day Worship

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 3: 8:30am Youth Bible Study

Jan. 5: 7:00pm Deacons Meeting (Clem Residence)

Jan. 6: 11:30am FNJP (Freeman Library)

6:30pm Midweek Bible Study: "Why Is Israel/Palestine Holy Land?" (1)

Jan. 7: 10:00am Freeman Ministerial

Jan. 10: 9:00am Gathering 58: 6

Communion and Benevolent Fund

2:00pm Baby Shower for Camilla Hofer

Jan. 11: 7:00pm Prayer Shawl

Jan. 13: 6:30pm Midweek Bible Study: "Why Is Israel/Palestine Holy Land?" (2)

Jan. 15-16: Conflict Transformation Workshop (North Church)

Please pick up your cheese log today in the basement. Thank you for supporting the youth group! We hope you enjoy your cheese logs!

Join us this evening for the children's Christmas Program at 6:30pm followed by

Family Christmas downstairs with Christmas goodies and fellowship around the tables.

LAST DAY FOR YEARBOOK UPDATES & SCHEDULES: please get all information (schedules - coffee, ushers, PA, etc.) as well as up-dates for the contact information directory in by **TODAY**. You may make changes to the directory by e-mailing Edie or by updating the 2016 directory available during coffee time on the table by the historical wall display.

An **offering basket** will be available in the foyer on **Christmas Day** to support the work of the S. D. Mennonite Disaster Service Unit. This unit was active in 2015 in storm clean up locally and also traveled to Pilger, NE on a regular basis. If you will be unable to attend that day and would like to contribute, you may put your gift in an envelope and place it in the offering plate the Sunday before or after Christmas Day.

Midweek Bible Study: "Holy Land" — Our Midweek Bible study featuring guest presenter Pastor. S. Roy Kaufman will kick-off on January 6, 2016. We will begin each Wednesday session with a soup supper fellowship beginning at 6:30pm with the study starting promptly at 7pm. A study syllabus has been placed in your mailboxes and includes a list of relevant Scripture readings for each week. Childcare will be available. Please contact Pastor Todd if you will require childcare so appropriate arrangements can be made.

On Sunday, January 10, 2016, we will celebrate **Communion** together at HMC. All are welcome and encouraged to participate with us in knowing and receiving the blessing of table fellowship with Christ and one another. A **Benevolent Fund Offering** will also be received. An offering basket will be available in the foyer. All gifts will be used to confidentially assist members who are experiencing acute financial need. If you are aware of such need please contact an HMC Deacon (Monica Hofer, Monica Clem, or Todd Koerner). Thank you!

Please join us in fellowship for a **baby shower** honoring Rina and Camilla Hofer on **January 10th at 2:00 pm** in HMC Fellowship Hall. Rina is registered at Target and Walmart. We will also be collecting contributions for a group gift for Rina and Camilla. Please give your contributions to Brigitta or Michelle by Sunday, January 2nd. A card will be given to acknowledge all who contributed to the shower and group gift. (See more details in the January *Connection!*)

CPMC has approached Hutterthal Mennonite Church about entering into a **partnership** with the congregation of Ashland Christian Fellowship. The Church in Ashland is seeking partnering congregations for mutual support and development. The hope is that this partnership will develop into a robust relationship that will foster growth and renew the missional imagination of all parties involved. Our Harvest Mission Fest speaker, James Krabill, challenged us to think about what it means and looks like to be a missional people, not just in our local church and community, but beyond. I would ask that we prayerfully consider what it would mean to enter into this partnership. If you have questions or comments please feel free to contact Todd Koerner.

Apply for 2016 college scholarships: If your family uses Everence faith-based services, you are eligible to apply for college scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year. Submit your application by Feb. 29, 2016. Contact Hutterthal's Everence representative John Clem, or learn more at everence.com/scholarships.

Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church invites you to join in celebrating a special **liturgy of lament and remembrance for refugees and victims of oppression** on Monday, December 28 at 7pm in their chapel in Sioux Falls. This is the date in the Christian calendar known as the Feast of the Holy Innocents which remembers the infants killed by Herod in an attempt to rid the threat of Christ. They are considered to be the first martyrs of the Church. We will remember their witness, and pray for all victims of state-supported oppression and violence in song, story, and the sharing of bread and cup.

The Conflict Management Support Team of Central Plains Mennonite Conference will be leading a **Conflict in the Church: Entrusted with the Message of Reconciliation workshop** on **January 15-16**, at Salem-Zion Mennonite in Freeman, SD. This workshop will begin on Friday evening at 7:00pm and will continue on Saturday from 9:00-4:00pm. This workshop will look at the Nature and Role of Conflict and teach Interpersonal Skills for Managing Conflict. Participants will come away with a better understanding of their own style of response to conflict and will learn skills that will be useful in the church, home and other settings. The workshop is open to all who want to improve their interpersonal peacemaking skills for managing conflict more effectively. There is a small registration fee. To register online for this workshop go to the Central Plains Mennonite Conference website, <http://www.centralplainsmc.org/conflict-skills-workshop.html> . You can access it by also going to www.centralplainsmc.org , then putting your cursor on CPMC at Work, Events, then on Conflict Skills Workshop, scroll to the bottom of the webpage for registration.

Stay in Touch through Social Media

HMC Website: www.hmcfreeman.org

HMC Facebook: www.Facebook.com/HutterthalMennoniteChurch

Pastor's Facebook: www.Facebook.com/MennPastor

Pastor's Twitter Feed: @MennPastor

Pastor's Sermon Blog: www.MennPastor.blogspot.com