



LIGHTS OF THE WORLD

— JOHN 8:12 —



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ-centered - Living, Relating, Serving

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FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
December 27, 2015

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: Advent, the season of waiting, has passed,

P: a new time has come — a time of celebration!

ALL: Behold, the Child has been born!

L: The Savior promised long has come, light — wondrous light — dispelling all our darkness.

P: All the candles are now lit —

ALL: hope, peace, joy, and love abide;

L: In the light of the Christ candle, we celebrate that Jesus abides with us.

P: Praise the Lord, our Immanuel!

ALL: Let us praise our newborn King!

L: His radiance exceeds anything in earth and sky.

P: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward all!

Hymn: HWB no. 206,

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

L: Blessed be the Lord who has come to set His people free.

ALL: The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Savior.

L: In tender compassion, God's light has dawned,

P: even now His grace is breaking over us.

L: In Christ, the newborn King, God is shining on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

ALL: Yes, He is guiding our feet into the way of peace.

L: Praise God, for on us His light is shining!

P: As the church we gather in the presence of the Lord.

Prayer

Hymn: HWB no. 213,
HWB no. 210,

*Let All Together Praise Our God
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Time of Offering

The Invitation

Sharing Our Gifts

Prayer

Children's Time:

Immanuel

**Scripture Reading:
Silent Meditation**

Luke 2: 22-35 (Pew Bible p. 541)

Message:

A Light to Bring Revelation

Hymn: HWB no. 195,

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Sharing Time

Congregational Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Benediction

L: In the full light of God's revelation in Christ, be compassionate and kind, humble and meek, patient and discerning.

P: In the name of Jesus, we go forth bearing His hope, sharing His peace, resounding with His joy, and abounding with His love.

L: Praise the Lord, our Immanuel!

ALL: All we are is a song of praise to our newborn King!

Musical Response: HWB no. 193,

Silent Night, Holy Night

Postlude

Worship Participants: Elvera Deckert (accompanist), Dennis Schrock (worship leader), and Todd Jones (children's time & message)

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Frank Wiebe** (diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer; awaiting chemo)
- **Central Plains Mennonite Conference (CPMC):** Central Plains leaders join you in giving thanks to God for the gift of Emmanuel, God with us. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among people!
- **Mennonite Mission Network (MMN):** Alisha and Joshua Garber of MMN request prayers for wisdom for LCC International University in Lithuania and for all Mission Network personnel in Europe as they try to find appropriate and Christ-

centered responses to the massive influx of refugees.

· **Additional Prayers:**

TODAY

Greeters: John & Monica Clem

9:45am: Worship Service

Coffee Time: Eric & Michelle Neuharth

11:05am: Sunday School for all ages

MW December Project: Cash - MCC Syria refugee assistance

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

NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Phil & Joline Thomas

Accompanist: Edie Tschetter/David Friesen

Coffee Time: Alvina Hofer

THIS WEEK

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve

Jan. 1: Happy New Year!!!

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

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)

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!

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.

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. *Child-care* will be available. Please contact Pastor Todd if you will require childcare so appropriate arrangements can be made.

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 3rd. A card will be given to acknowledge all who contributed to the shower and group gift. (See more details in the January *Connection!*)

Edie Tschetter has submitted her resignation as **Church Office Administrative Assistant** as of March 1. If you are interested in, or have suggestions for this position, please contact one of the Trustees - LeRoy Pullman, Stan Hofer or Paul Hofer.

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.

You are invited to participate in a workshop sponsored by Salem-Zion (North) Church and presented by the Conflict Resolution Team of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. The **workshop** will be held at North Church on **Friday, January 15, 2016 from 7:00-9:30pm and Saturday, January 16, 2016 from 9:00am—4:00pm**. The workshop will address such topics as “The Nature and Role of Conflict,” “Conflict in the New Testament,” “Interpersonal Peacemaking Skills,” and “Congregational Conflict” as well as providing a “Self-Assessment Exercise.” The **HMC Church Board has agreed to pay the registration fee for any Hutterthal members interested** in attending. If you are interested or planning to attend, please contact Pastor Todd to assist you with registration. (Registration deadline is January 8, 2016)

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.

Share with the ministries close to your heart. Support your congregation or church missions with planned giving such as bequests, gift annuities, gifts of assets and more. At faith-based Everence, a trusted team of professionals can offer you ease, confidence and flexibility in your generosity. Contact Everence rep John Clem, or learn more at everence.com/charitable-services.

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