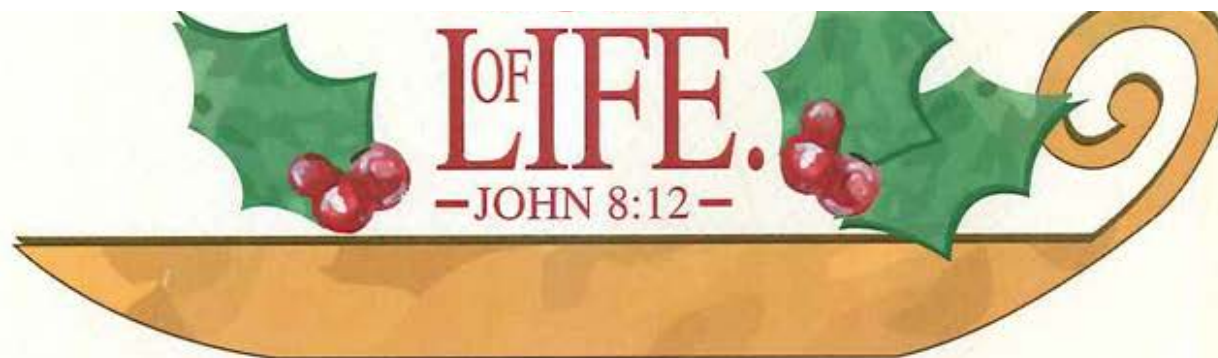


I AM
THE
LIGHT
OF THE
WORLD
WHOEVER
FOLLOWS
ME ^{WILL} _{NEVER}
WALK IN
DARKNESS
BUT WILL
HAVE THE
LIGHT



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ-centered - Living, Relating, Serving

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 6, 2015

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ~ arr. Doran

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

The Candle of Peace

L: Together we light the second candle of Advent to symbolize our need for God's mercy. God bursts into our world to help us break out of cycles of despair and brokenness, hate and fear, and experience the fullness of His love.

P: We can come out of the shadows and live in the light. With this candle, we offer our hearts and minds to God.

L: We light this candle as a reminder to take heart. God is coming and has come to make things right.

P: The path God reveals is peace — the light of His mercy dawning over us —

ALL: setting us free to love and be loved,

L: to bless rather than curse, to do good to all,
P: to be and to bear His light to the world.
L: In the Christ child, we find peace!

Hymn: HWB no.184 ,

Hark! The Glad Sound!

Welcome
Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

L: We wait for God's light to burst into our dark world.

ALL: Lord, open our eyes. Unstop our ears.

P: As we prepare for Your coming, we recognize that we're in need of change.

L: Like the valleys and hills, the crooked paths and rough places, we need Your mercy to transform us.

P: We confess that we still live in the shadows of apathy, greed, and prejudice.

L: Burn away in Your refining fire all that keeps us from You.

ALL: Kindle in us Your abounding peace, so that we may be freed to serve and worship You in spirit and in truth.

Prayer

Hymn: HWB no. 186,
HWB no. 213,

Fling Wide the Door, Unbar the Gate!
Let All Together Praise Our God

Time of Offering
The Invitation
Sharing Our Gifts
Prayer

Away in a Manger ~ Murray

Children's Time:

Deeper Into Advent

Scripture Reading:
Silent Meditation

Malachi 3: 1-4 (Pew Bible p. 504)

Message: Prepare the Way

Hymn: HWB no. 191,

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Sharing Time

Congregational Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Benediction

L: Now may our love overflow more and more with full knowledge and insight to help us determine what is best.

P: We are confident of this: the One who began a good work among us will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen.

Musical Response: HWB no. 208,

Love Came Down at Christmas

Postlude

Worship Participants: Edie Tschetter (accompanist), John Clem (worship leader), and Todd Jones (children's time & message)

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Central Plains Mennonite Conference (CPMC):** Pray for Tim Detweiler who will be having surgery on Tuesday, December 8, to remove the cancerous nodule in his right lung. Recuperating time at home is expected to be between two to four weeks following surgery.
- **Mennonite Mission Network (MMN):** Join MMN in thanking God for the safety of five international workers based in Paris, France, during the November bombings. Pray for wisdom as French Mennonites and others discern how to respond to these tragedies and to the violence that occurs in other countries on a daily basis.
- **Additional Prayers:**

TODAY

Greeters: Shane & Amy Hofer Vetch

9:45am: Worship Service

Coffee Time: LaVonne Tschetter

11:05am: Sunday School for all ages

MW December Project: Cash - MCC Syria refugee assistance
& Cookie Walk for Brian & Deb Koster

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

NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Brandon Waltner & Xavier Ward

Accompanist: Norma Hofer

Coffee Time: John & Monica Clem

THIS WEEK

Mon.: 7:00pm Annual Meeting

Wed.: 11:30 Freeman Network for Justice & Peace (city library)

6:00-7:00pm K-6th Grade Christmas Program Practice

Fri.: Christmas Cookie Walk (sr. Citizen's Center)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 16: 6:00-7:00pm K-6th Grade Christmas Program Practice

6:30pm - Church Board meeting

Dec. 20: 6:30pm Family Christmas feat. K-6th Grade Christmas Program

Order your Christmas cheese logs homemade by the Hutterthal Mennonite Church Youth Group. We have four varieties of cheese logs to choose from: Feta Red Pepper (feta cheese, red peppers, and rolled in walnuts), Parmesean/Asiago (parmesan and asiago cheese and rolled in walnuts), Jalapeno (cheddar cheese, jalapenos, and rolled in spicy cheddar crackers), and Honey Dijon (honey, dijon mustard, and rolled in pretzels). Each cheese log is \$9.00. Place your order with any youth member (Xavier, Ian, Tristan, Jaden, Hannah, & Madeline) or youth sponsors (Brandon & Kylea) starting **November 22nd and ending December 16th**. You can pick up your cheese log at church on December 20th. Thank you for supporting your youth group.

The **MW Christmas Cookie Walk** will be **Fri., Dec. 11** (snow date-Mon., Dec. 14). Please bring your cookies to **the Sr. Citizen Center by 9 am**. Proceeds will assist Brian & Deb Koster with expenses since Brian suffered health problems earlier this year and is unable to be employed. We want this to be an encouragement that shows them our love & support.

Please bring a **plate of Christmas goodies the morning of December 20th** to be shared around the tables with fruit and peanuts provided for our Family Christmas/SS Christmas Program. We hope everyone can attend!

The HMC 2016 Yearbook needs your help: please get all information (schedules - coffee, ushers, PA, etc.) as well as updates for the contact information directory **by Dec. 20**. 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.

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.

Freeman Network for Justice & Peace will meet on **Wed. Dec. 9, at 11:30 am** at the city library. You are welcome to join the group.

The Freeman Academy 1-4th grade students are preparing to share **Christmas Tea** with you, **Thursday, December 10 at 4:00 pm** in Pioneer Hall. Students in grades 3-4 have been working on their recorder and mallet skills. They will be sharing Christmas songs that incorporate recorders, Orff instruments and some auxiliary percussion. The 1-2nd grade have been working on several songs celebrating the shepherds, the joy of Christmas and Jesus as the light of the world. In addition, each class will present a Reader's Theatre and poetry readings. Come join us for Tea and cookies!

The **Freeman Academy music department** features "A Jazzy Yuletide", **December 17-18, 6:30 pm** in Pioneer Hall. Reservations are needed for this event and are requested **by December 10**. Ticket prices: Adult (grade 5+): \$13 and Students K-4: \$6 (younger than Kindergarten is free.) Please check the Courier for the order form or the Freeman Academy website www.freemanacademy.org. Mail the **order form with your payment by Thursday, December 10th**. You may also stop in the Freeman Academy office and pick up your tickets. For additional information please call Freeman Academy

at 925-4237.

Freeman Academy is grateful for the very positive response during our annual fall church drive. A **total of \$8350 was given by Hutterthal Church members** as of November 30, presently at \$33,785 total from North, South and Hutterthal combined. If you missed this opportunity, we would welcome any additional gifts since we have not met our budget goal for church drives this year - \$40,000. Wishing all a blessed Christmas! Thank you! Katie Minster, administrator and Vernetta Waltner, development director.

Notice: In cases of inclement weather, when Freeman schools do not open for the day, the **Et Cetera Shoppe** will not open either. This is for the safety of older volunteers and those who drive in from the country. We do try to maintain regular store hours in cases of late starts and early dismissals. Thank you for your understanding!

The Hutterthal Christmas Tree: You are invited to bring a favorite Christmas ornament to worship and place it upon the Hutterthal Christmas Tree in the sanctuary this season. You can place your ornament anywhere on the tree you like either before or after our time of worship together. (Ornaments will be available for pick-up in January)

Agenda for the **Church annual meeting on Dec. 7 at 7 pm** will include: review of the minutes, statistical report, financials, voting on offering distribution, elections, discussion on the future of the Hutterthal Mennonite Men organization and any other business that comes before the meeting. The Leadership Selection Committee is bringing the following ballot:

Chair (3 year term)	Dennis Schrock
Deacon (3 year term)	Todd Koerner
Trustee (3 year term) .	Paul Hofer, Jr
Music Committee (2 year term)	Steve Friesen
Leadership Selection Committee (3 year term)	Kathy Pullman
Connection! Advisory Board (one 3 year term)	Twyla Hofer
Assistant Head Usher (becomes head usher next year)	Brandon Waltner
Ushers:	John Clem Cole Hofer Eric Neuharth
	Dave Friesen Kim Jones Joline Thomas

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