



# Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered – Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, February 26, 2023

First Sunday of Lent

9:45 a.m.

Prelude *“When the Saints Go Marching In”* (trad.)

Call to Worship and Prayer

Welcoming One Another

\*Gathering and Praising

*Praise Him, Praise Him* VT #100

*Gott ist gegenwärtig (God is Here Among Us)* VT #62

Scripture Reading Romans 5:12-19 Pew Bible p. 596

Sharing Time and Prayer

Children’s Time

Words of Confession and Assurance

Special Music

Scripture Reading Matthew 4:1-11 Pew Bible p. 510

Message Shaped by Testing

Offering Prayer

\*Responding and Sending

*Lead Me, Guide Me* VT #601

*Open My Eyes (Abre mis ojos)* VT #732

\*Benediction

Postlude *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

Louis Bourgeois

\*please stand if you are able

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

[www.HMCFreeman.org](http://www.HMCFreeman.org)

**TODAY February 26, 2023 9:45 am *First Sunday of Lent***

**Worship Leader:** Les Rensink

**Accompanist:** Amy Hofer Vetch

**Prelude & Postlude:** Isaac Mettler

**Song Leader:** Les Rensink

**Special Music:** Men's Quartet

**Children's Time:** Jada Koerner

**Message:** Pastor Randall Koehler

**Coffee Time:** Rodney & Amanda Mettler

**Children's Sunday School following the service.**

**Adult Sunday School in the South Room and the fellowship hall following coffee time.**

**NEXT SUNDAY March 5, 2023 9:45 am *Second Sunday of Lent***

**Worship Leader:** Barbie Hofer

**Accompanist:** Charlene Friesen

**Song Leader:** Morgan Koehler

**Special Music:** Paul & Priscilla Hofer

**Children's Time:** Jada Koerner

**Message:** Pastor Randall Koehler

**Coffee Time:** Les & Mary Rensink

**Children's Sunday School following the service.**

**Adult Sunday School in the South Room and the fellowship hall following coffee time.**

**Calendar:**

March 1: Winter Bible Study on Zoom at 7 PM

March 5: Baby Dedication/Consecration for Matt and Violetta Tschetter

March 24 & 25: Schmeckfest

April 2-5: Holy Week Services at 7 PM at Bethany Mennonite Church

April 6: Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7 PM in HMC Fellowship Hall

April 9: Easter Sunday

**Congregational Ministries Project for February:  
Infant Care Kits (MCC)**

**Call to Worship:**

Leader: Sing together! Celebrate God!

**People: God protects us from all our trouble.**

Leader: God forgives us and covers our sins.

**People: God surrounds us with songs of deliverance.**

*All: Therefore, let all God's people pray with thanksgiving and worship God.*

**Confession and Assurance:**

Leader: Lord, our desire for control has separated us from you. In our stubborn independence, we have turned from your love. We hide our failure and guilt, yet we feel their weight both day and night. Here and now, we acknowledge our sins before you and reveal our transgressions. We confess to the Lord...

*(Silence)*

Leader: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven. Our slate is wiped clean. We are free to follow Jesus in obedience and experience love in every test. Amen.

**Benediction:**

Leader: Many are the woes of the wicked.

**People: But the Lord's unfailing love surrounds those who trust in God.**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous.

**People: Sing, all you who have been forgiven!**

*All: The Lord's unfailing love surrounds those who trust in God.*

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Please join us April 2-5 for our **Holy Week Services** at Bethany Mennonite Church. The speaker this year is Dr. David Hatch, a retired professor of Historical Theology from Sioux Falls Seminary.

**Prayer Requests and Praises:**

- Birthdays/Anniversaries: Amanda Mettler on February 27, Vernon P. Hofer & Shirley Hofer on March 4.
- From CPMC: Pray for the good and peace-filled work of the Agape Peace Center and the Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute, both in Minnesota.
- Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Iglesia Cristiana Menonita del Perú (Mennonite Christian Church of Peru) as they offer witness to the Prince of Peace during a time of national unrest.
- Pray for victims, victims' families, and emergency responders in Syria and Turkey who are mourning the loss of loved ones (almost 47,000) to the recent earthquakes.
- Thank you to all those who prayed for us on our recent trip to Elkhart and Central Illinois. - Pastor Randall
- I greatly appreciate all of your prayers, visits, and phone calls during this past time in the hospital. — Paul Hofer

**Pastor contact information:**

***Office Hours: Wed, Fri, Sat 9AM-12PM***

Phone - 309-208-6032

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Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey

***OAA Hours: Thursdays 9:30 AM - 12 PM***

Church Office phone: 605.925.7186

Church Email: [hutterthal@goldenwest.net](mailto:hutterthal@goldenwest.net)

Church Website: [www.hmcfreeman.org](http://www.hmcfreeman.org)

This Wednesday, March 1, at 7 PM is our next session of our annual **Winter Bible Study** meetings on Zoom. "Making Home Again" is our theme, and we will be studying the entire book of Ezra over our time together, which will include discussion questions, brief background comments, and our normal time of sharing and prayer to begin each evening. Each session will be independent of the others, so you can join in on whichever evenings work best for you.

The information for you to join via zoom is below:

Meeting ID: 846 3851 0761

Passcode: 868144

Phone call to join: 1-312-626-6799

Our **season of Lent** began this past week on Ash Wednesday, a day set aside in the church calendar as a reminder of our finite, dependent, and broken existence. We are dust, filled with God's breath. We then embark from Ash Wednesday into the Lenten Journey, 40 days of testing and fasting and re-focusing and repenting and going without in order to create space for God. Our Lenten theme is "Created in the Image of God, Shaped by Jesus" from the Leader magazine. "We are surrounded by a host of pressures that squeeze and contort us into less-than-human, even inhuman, shapes and disfigurements. Lent is a season to release that pressure, to repent of (turn from) all that would distort and reduce our humanity. It is a season of fasting where we choose to abstain from food, television, social media, or whatever may be holding our lives too tightly in its grip. Likewise, in this season, we pay special attention to Christian disciplines: prayer, solitude, Bible Study, simplicity, and service. Yet we also remember that we cannot reshape ourselves. In themselves, these disciplines do not reshape us; they do not restore our authentic humanity. They simply open space in our lives for God to work. Our Creator will recreate us. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection call us and transform us into a new way of being human. We become human, indeed we are reborn, as the Spirit breathes life into us, a life that bursts forth from deep within like a stream of living water.

Please think about young people in your congregation who have demonstrated Jesus's way of love and peacemaking. This year the Central Plains Peace and Justice Task Group is doing the **Peace Mug Award** a little differently. We are seeking young nominations for the Conference's Peace Mug. We are looking for an emerging peacemaker. This can be anyone in their teens and twenties that you have seen doing small acts of peacemaking and kindness or who has spoken out in the face of injustice. Whom do you see as an emerging peacemaker in your congregation? Send names and a brief description of why you are nominating them to Jane Y-S (wilmajane17@gmail.com). We need them by Wednesday, March 22!

The **Dordt University Wind Symphony** from Sioux Center, Iowa, invites you to a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 10, at the Trinity Reformed Church in Sioux Falls. This free concert is part of a spring tour with performances scheduled in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Under the baton of Associate Professor and Director of Instrumental Activities Dr. Onsby C. Rose, the Wind Symphony will perform a wide variety of repertoire. Highlights of this concert is a new work commissioned by the Dordt Wind Symphony from Kansas composer Grace Baugher-Dunlap titled Consider the Heavens. Other program highlights include the music of Gustav Holst, Dimitri Shostakovich, Timothy Mahr, Kevin Day, Edwin Franko Goldman, Chris Pilsner, Onsby Rose, and Jack Stamp. During March 2023 the ensemble will also be recording their 2nd full-length, worldwide-released CD titled Patchwork. The concert is free, and a freewill offering will be received to help defray tour expenses.