



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered – Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:45 a.m.

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer

Welcoming One Another

*Gathering and Praising

See Whose Glory Fills the Skies VT #274

The Lord's My Shepherd VT #660

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14 Pew Bible p. 619

Sharing Time and Prayer

Children's Time

Words of Confession and Assurance

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-41 Pew Bible p. 566

Message

Called to the Light

Offering Prayer

*Responding and Sending

Open My Eyes (Abre mis ojos) VT #732

Come and Be Light for Our Eyes STJ #5

*Benediction

Postlude

*please stand if you are able

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

www.HMCFreeman.org

TODAY March 19, 2023 9:45 am *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Worship Leader: John Clem

Accompanist: Paige Hofer

Song Leader: Amanda Mettler

Children's Time: Jada Koerner

Message: Pastor Randall Koehler

Coffee Time: Donovan & Sherryl Friesen

Children's Sunday School following the service.

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

NEXT SUNDAY March 26, 2023 9:45 am *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Worship Leader: Suzanne Koerner

Accompanist: Charlene Friesen

Song Leader: Amy Hofer Vetch

Children's Time: Jada Koerner

Special Music: Vernon J. & Norma Lee Hofer

Message: Pastor Randall Koehler

Coffee Time: John & Monica Clem

Children's Sunday School following the service.

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

Calendar:

March 24 & 25: Schmeckfest

April 2: Baby Shower for Samuel Tschetter-Castro at 2 PM

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

April 2: Bethany leading

April 3: North Church and House Church leading

April 4: Hutterthal leading

April 5: South Church leading

April 6: Maundy Thursday Communion Service—7 PM

April 9: Easter Sunday

HMC Congregational Ministry Project for March:

Hygiene Kits for MCC.

Place items in the receptacle in S.S. room #1.

Call to Worship:

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd.

People: We shall not want.

Leader: God makes us lie down in green pastures.

People: We shall not want.

Leader: God leads us beside quiet waters.

People: We shall not want.

*All: Restore us through your Holy Spirit,
the love of Jesus Christ,
and the comfort of your presence.*

Words of Confession and Assurance:

Leader: Lord, we long for light, but all is darkness, and we walk
in deep shadows.

We have driven back justice.

Truth has stumbled in the streets,
and thick darkness is over the people.

We confess our sinful deeds.

We confess to the Lord...

(silent prayer)

Leader: As everything exposed to the light becomes visible,
we walk from darkness into light.

*All: Open our eyes, Jesus, that our lives may radiate your glory.
Amen.*

Benediction:

Leader: Go forth and shine, for the Light has come,

People: and the glory of the Lord rises upon us.

Leader: Surely goodness and love will follow us all the days of
our lives,

All: and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Prayer Requests and Praises:

- Birthdays/Anniversaries: Cole Hofer on March 20, Morgan Koehler on March 22, and Isabel Waltner and Bonita Hofer on March 24; Delmer & Shirley Hofer on March 25.
- Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Elena and Freddy Satalaya and their toddler, Matías, as they transition, after five years of ministry in Peru, to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where they are serving with Bolivia Mennonite Church. Pray for them as they engage in discipleship training and leadership training.
- Pray for CPMC's Partners in Mission, Philip Friesen and the Agape Peace Center.
- Pray with Mennonite Mission Network for the Movement of Anabaptist Women Doing Theology from Latin America as they study a new Anabaptist biblical curriculum on healthy boundaries.
- Pray for those in the midst of trials and hardship, for those facing death or dying, and for those who have experienced loss and continue to grieve or mourn. Pray for strength, comfort, hope, and resilience in the midst of life's difficult moments or seasons.

Pastor contact information:

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

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

This fourth Sunday in Lent, a **yellow ribbon** signifies that we are called to the Light. Believe in the Light of the World, who will open your eyes with the mud of new creation, no matter how dark the valley through which you pass.

Please join us April 2-5 for our **Holy Week Services** at Bethany Mennonite Church. The message series for this year is Be Angry, which is about discipleship and drawing nearer to God. The speaker for this year is Dr. Nathan Hitchcock, owner of Sevensided Consulting, where he works with seminaries, denominations, and mission agencies to implement competency-based theological education. In a day when many educational organizations are struggling just to hang on, Dr. Hitchcock is helping them to thrive. Previously, he taught church history and theology at Sioux Falls Seminary. He received his PhD from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Dr. Hitchcock lives in Brandon, SD with his wife, two children, and an array of snoring Boston terriers. Come and join your Mennonite brothers and sisters from our local congregations as we gather together for these annual services.

We are planning a **baby shower for Samuel Tschetter-Castro** on Sunday, April 2, at 2 pm. Matt and Violeta have indicated that, because they have already experienced generosity in the gifts that they have received, Samuel is not in need of anything. They suggest that, if you wish to give something to honor his birth, you would give a cash donation for the purchase of MCC newborn kits. There will be a basket or a gift box at the shower for your donation. This shower will be an opportunity to share with the Hutterthal family the joy of his arrival as well as help other families who do not have what they need for their babies. We hope you will come and enjoy this happy occasion. If any questions please contact Kathy Pullman.

Heritage Hall Museum & Archives will be buzzing during Schmeckfest 2023. It will be open 10a.m.—7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 24 and 25. Craft demonstrations in the museum and programming at the Bethel Church begin at 1. The popular Heritage Pickers are returning with 10-minute presentations scattered throughout the museum both afternoons that offer quick history lessons about specific artifacts. Visits with local experts about exhibits and areas of interest in the museum, archives, and Deckert house are planned. The model train, a 20-question exercise, and the hands-on rope-making demonstration are among highlights planned for children. The museum is extending its regular admission to two days during Schmeckfest, which enables people to come and go both Friday and Saturday. Museum wristbands, which will serve as admission tickets, are available for sale now. A complete schedule of events can be found online at: <https://heritagehallmuseum.com/news-%26-events>.

The **Schmeckfest Country Kitchen** is asking for donations of food items for March 24 & 25. Poppy seed rolls, fruit pockets, pumpkin rolls, caramel rolls, jams, horseradish and summer savory sell especially well. Donated food items for the Schmeckfest Country Kitchen may be brought to Sterling Hall and should be labeled. Thank you!

Rural Revival will meet on Monday, March 27 at 7:30 P.M. in the Freeman Public Library All are welcome.

We continue on the **Lenten Journey**, 40 days of re-focusing and going without in order to create space for God. Our Lenten theme is "Created in the Image of God, Shaped by Jesus." Lent is a season to repent of (or turn from) all that would distort and reduce our humanity. It is a season of fasting where we choose to abstain from whatever may be holding our lives too tightly in its grip. We open space in our lives for God to work. Our Creator will recreate us as the Spirit breathes life into us, a life that bursts forth from deep within.