



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered –

Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, March 17, 2024

9:45 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer

***Welcoming One Another**

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:1-56 Pew Bible p. 325

***Gathering and Praising**

Gott ist die Liebe (I Know God Loves Me) VT #158

I Sought the Lord VT #161

Sharing Time and Prayer

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:57-112 Pew Bible p. 326

Children's Time

Prayer of Confession

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:113-176 Pew Bible p. 327

Message Jeremiah 31:31-34, Christ Among Us: New Covenant

Offering Prayer

***Responding and Sending**

Wonderful Grace of Jesus VT #170

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me VT #429

***Benediction**

Postlude

***please stand if you are able**

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

www.HMCFreeman.org

TODAY March 17, 2024 9:45 a.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent

Worship Leader: Lyndon Hofer

Accompanist: Amy Hofer Vetch

Song Leader: Aprille Birkey

Children's Time: Joline Thomas

Scripture Readers: Aprille Birkey, Kenneth Birkey, John Clem, Donovan Friesen, Barbie Hofer, Brigitta Hofer, Cameron Hofer, Delmer Hofer, Lyndon Hofer, Shirley Hofer, Steve Mendel, Amanda Mettler, Egan Mettler, Isaac Mettler, Kathy Pullman, Mary Rensink, Marcia Schrock, Jaden Thomas, Larry Tschetter, Matthew Tschetter, Amy Hofer Vetch, and Kylea Waltner

Message: Pastor Randall Koehler

Coffee Time: Priscilla Hofer

Children's Sunday School following the worship service. Adult Sunday School following coffee time in the Education Wing.

NEXT SUNDAY March 24, 2024 9:45 a.m. Palm Sunday

Worship Leader: Matthew Tschetter

Accompanist: Charlene Friesen

Song Leader: Amy Hofer Vetch

Children's Time: Matthew Tschetter

Worship Music: Sunday School Children's Choir

Message: Christ Among Us:

The Way of a Servant - Pastor Randall

Scripture: Psalm 118; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-19;

Philippians 2:1-11

Coffee Time: Donovan & Sherryl Friesen

Children's Sunday School following the worship service. Adult Sunday School following coffee time in the Education Wing.

Calendar:

March 24 - 27: Holy Week Services at HMC at 7 PM

March 28: HMC Annual Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall

July 20: SD MCC Relief Sale in Freeman

Call to Worship:

One: "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. No longer will they teach their neighbors, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord!' because they will all know me, from the least to the greatest."

Many: This new covenant is being offered to us.

One: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

Many: Death must come before resurrection. A seed fallen to the soil and broken open can become life for many.

All: This new covenant is being offered to us: to lay down our life and follow.

One: The life-giving ways of God placed within our minds and written on our hearts, where we are forgiven and our sins remembered no more, where we are God's people, and God is our God.

Prayer of Confession:

One: O God, we gather before you, seeking your mercy.
Hear us, we pray.

Many: We confess that we sin against you.

One: O God, wash us, make us clean, create in us a new spirit.

Many: Stay close to us, restore us to your truth.

All: So that we can cry out with joy, cleansed in your abundant mercy.

Litany of Response to Psalm 119:

Many: Write your word and your way on our hearts, Lord God, that we would all know you.

HMC Congregational Ministry Project for March:

MCC Hygiene Kits: Assemble your own kit **OR** Barbie is willing to purchase and assemble. Contact her directly, and pay her \$10 per kit. Kit contents are listed on your 2024 project list.

Prayer Requests and Praises:

- **Birthdays:** Cole Hofer on March 20 and Morgan Koehler and Norah Johnson on March 22.
- Pray for the Congregation-Pastor Evaluation team as they compile all of the completed surveys into a report for the pastor and congregation. Pray for strength, energy, and diligence as they review evaluations, discuss together, and begin sharing the information that has been contributed. Pray for our congregation that those who completed a survey feel heard and valued, that the results will strengthen the bonds of our community, and that confidence will bloom in the journey ahead as we all walk together in the name of Christ and follow faithfully the Holy Spirit's inspiration and leading.
- Pray for the faculty, staff and students at Freeman Academy and Hillcrest Academy.
- Today, youth from northern Indiana are gathering to hear about service options that Mennonite Mission Network is offering them to grow in their spiritual lives and test career directions. Pray for the youth as they plan for their next steps. Pray also for Eric Frey Martin, as he leads the event and as he makes connections in Mennonite high schools and colleges.

Pastor Randall's contact information:

Office Hours: Wed—Sat 9am-12pm; f=

Phone - 309-208-6032

Email - pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com

Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey

OAA Hours: Thursday mornings

Church Email: hutterthal@goldenwest.net

Church Website: www.hmcfreeman.org

A plant has been added to today's **Lenten visual**; it reminds us that in order to have Christ within us, we must die to self. We must throw off all the external things that get in our way and look within. For a seed to produce anything, it has to die. Then, and only then, will it bear much fruit (John 12:24). We are like that seed. Patiently and lovingly, God waits for us to surrender.

In preparation of the Easter season and our hosting of the pre-Easter services it has been decided that our church will have a **spring cleaning**. This event has not taken place since pre-Covid, so it is time. Areas that will be of primary focus prior to Easter is the sanctuary, bathrooms, nursery, the two childcare rooms and the foyers. Other areas will need to be done also, but can wait until after Easter. Your help will be much appreciated. Dates will be announced soon and assignments will be in your mailboxes. Thank you. - Joline

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall, Thursday, March 28th at 7:00 pm for a **Journey: Seder Supper to the Lord's Supper**. This interactive service will include an explanation and participation of the Seder meal, or the ceremonial meal to the start of Passover. Each table will sample food items such as lamb, matzo (unleavened bread), herbs and charoset (a sweet mixture made from fruits, nuts and spices). After the Seder meal, we will share the Lord's Supper together. The deacons and Pastor Randall look forward to a meaningful evening as we prepare for Good Friday and Resurrection morning.

Hope Harbor is a non-profit ministry founded in 2005 that offers family-style care for teens as they heal from a variety of issues that are unfortunately commonplace for youth today. The **Parker location** is in need of volunteers and is requesting that the local churches come alongside them in this venture. If you have any questions, you can call the facility at (605)297-2611. To fill out an application, you can go to hopeharbormn.org/volunteer. Thank you!

Mark your calendars for the **SD MCC Relief Sale** to be held on Saturday, July 20, 2024 in Freeman, SD.

Join us at Hutterthal Mennonite Church for **annual Holy Week services** on March 24, 25, 26, and 27. Each year, local Mennonite churches in and around Freeman join together to worship as one community during this sacred time just before Easter Sunday. Each service will begin at 7 PM and will include familiar hymns, musical performances from our church members, a children's story for the young ones among us, and challenging and inspiring sermons from our guest speaker. Everyone is welcome.

This year's guest speaker is Michele Hershberger, professor of Bible and Ministry at Hesston College. She has joyously served the church as a professor, author, pastor, conference youth minister, and speaker. This spring, she will finish her 24th year at Hesston College, where she teaches Bible and serves as one of the campus pastors. She has authored four books, including *Why Did Jesus Die* and *What Difference Does it Make?* and the official baptismal preparation book for Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada, *God's Story, Our Story*. Michele is married to Del Hershberger, and they have three grown children.

The Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church of Sioux Falls is organizing a visit to Congressional offices in Sioux Falls on Wednesday, March 27. We will be presenting MCC Health kits to the office staff to give to their Congressman. This is an alternative to spending U.S. money on weapons that Israel uses to fight in Gaza. We are inviting you to join us. More detailed information will be in next Sunday's bulletin.

Mennonite Action, which was formed soon after the Palestine/Israel war began, is calling for these visits during March 25-29.