



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered –

Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, December 8, 2024

9:45 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Call to Worship & Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candles

*Welcoming One Another

*Gathering and Praising

Comfort, Comfort, O My People VT #212

Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee VT #215

Scripture Reading Joel 2:12-13 Pew Bible p. 481

Sharing Time and Prayer

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Worship Music *Here I Am, Lord* VT #545

Scripture Reading Luke 11:9-13 Pew Bible p. 549

Message Opening Hearts

Offering Prayer

*Responding and Sending

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear VT #248

He Came Down VT #239

*Benediction

Postlude

*please stand if you are able

View today's service here: www.HMCFreeman.org

TODAY Dec. 8, 2024 9:45 a.m. 2nd Sun. Advent

Worship Leader: Todd Koerner

Candlelighters: Isabel Waltner; Alyssa Hofer

Accompanist: Paige Hofer

Song Leader: Morgan Koehler

Time for the Young & Young at Heart: Suzanne Koerner

Worship Music: arr. by Darnell and Lori Tschetter

Message: Pastor Randall Koehler

Coffee Time: Kenneth & Aprille Birkey

Children are practicing for annual Christmas program;

Adult SS following coffee time in the Education Wing.

NEXT SUN: Dec. 15, 2024 9:45 a.m. 3rd Sun. Advent

Worship Leader: Brigitta Hofer

Candlelighters: Isabel Waltner;

Accompanist: Charlene Friesen

Song Leader: Randall Koehler

Time for the Young & Young at Heart: Suzanne Koerner

Worship Music: Mixed Ensemble

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 4:16-21

Message: "Anointing for Justice" - Pastor Randall

Coffee Time: John & Monica Clem

Children are practicing for annual Christmas program;

Adult SS following coffee time in the Education Wing.

Calendar:

Dec. 18: Church Board Meeting at 7 PM

Dec. 22: Worship at 9:45 AM, followed by Children's
Christmas Program and a fellowship meal

Dec. 25: Christmas Day Service at HMC at 10 AM

Dec. 29: Time of Remembrance during worship

Jan. 8: Winter Midweek Bible Study begins at 7 PM

Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us return to the Lord with all our hearts.

People: With our whole heart?

Leader: The hurting and hurtful part? The bleeding
and empty part?

People: The sewn-up-tight-don't-come-in heart part?

***All: With our whole heart, with all our hearts we
come to worship the Lord God,***

Leader: whose merciful compassion, abundant
patience, and faithful, forgiving love meet us in
our need.

Lighting the Advent Candles:

Reader 1: We know God to be merciful and
compassionate,

Reader 2: patient and full of faithful love,

Reader 1: ready to forgive

Reader 2: Created in God's image, we yearn to reflect
these same attributes in our hearts and lives.

(Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope and Peace)

***All: We open our hearts to receive the Spirit, to
become more like our loving God.***

The **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet
Wednesday, December 11 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public
Library. All are welcome.

Prayer Requests and Praises:

- **Birthdays:** Joann Stahl on December 8 (today); Barbie Hofer and Gordon Waltner on December 9; and Otto Mettler on December 10.
- We pray for our sister and brother congregations across MC USA, each in their unique ministry contexts. Help each of us to be faithful followers of Jesus, wherever we are.
- Join Mennonite Mission Network in praying for Odesa Theological Seminary in Ukraine. Professors are adapting curricula to the changing needs of a society traumatized by prolonged war. Pray for the students, who are immediately putting into practice what they learn in their courses about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, crisis counseling, and sharing the healing love of Christ with all.
- Additional Requests during sharing time: _____

HMC Congregational Ministry Project for December:

Cash for MCC for Israel/Palestine Conflict Victims

Please give donations to Joyce Hofer, C.M. Treasurer, or place in the C.M. mailbox.

Pastor Randall's contact information:

Pastor Office Hours: Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 8:30 AM -12 PM

Phone - 309-208-6032

Email - pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com

Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey

Church Email: hutterthal@goldenwest.net

Church Website: www.hmcfreeman.org

All are invited to join the deacons and pastor for **winter midweek bible study**, starting Wednesday, January 8. We will be studying Meghan Larissa Good's book, The Bible Unwrapped. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book through a group order for our congregation, please email, text, or call the HMC Administrative Assistant, Aprille, by December 18. You can also order your own copy of the book from wherever might be most convenient for you.

Everyone is invited to stay for **brunch following the children's Christmas program** on December 22. If you are able to provide an egg bake (9 x 13" pan), a dozen muffins, or a quick bread, that would be appreciated! Sign up on the sheet on the ushers table in the foyer. Christian Education Committee

Everyone enjoys **coffee time** at HMC. It's a great chance to meet visitors and connect with regulars. In December, you can contribute to the cost by making a donation in the designated "gift box" located in the Fellowship Hall during coffee time. Thank you! - Coffee Time Committee

The **draft of the 2025 Annual Yearbook** is sitting on the table in the upper foyer. Please check your information, along with any family members, and initial by it if correct or make necessary changes by December 31. Also, all **committee chairpersons** need to have their submissions for the Yearbook to Aprille by Dec. 31. Please reach out with any questions that you may have. Thank you!

"Christmas at the Bethel Church" continues through December. The historical church features 14 decorated trees sponsored by community businesses, families and organizations. The church will be open to museum guests, as well as those making a \$10 purchase at the HHM&A Mercantile or by donation. Passes are available at the museum. The museum is also extending its regular hours – noon to 4 weekdays – to include Saturdays, Dec. 14 and 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have questions or want to schedule an event of your own at the historic Bethel church – a Sunday school class, youth group, family, etc. – please call 605-925-7545.

In need of a last-minute Christmas gift? How about giving someone you love the gift of purchasing bees, chickens or ducks from MCC, for families in need around the world? These animals are an invaluable source of both food and income. Stop in to Et Cetera Shoppe, and for a \$15 donation, you can choose an animal and receive a small gift card telling your special someone which animal was purchased for them. When you participate in this Christmas Giving Project, we'll place an animal ornament on our Christmas tree – hopefully, by Christmas, we'll have a tree covered with ornaments!

Swan Lake Christian Camp Announcements:

Just a reminder to encourage your kids to get signed up for **winter retreat** this year. The Swan Lake Winter Retreat Schedule is right after the holidays. Signing up now helps us prepare for all who are able to join us in January.

The **November issue of the camp newsletter** is available online at: myslcc.com/about-us/newsletter/. There is information in the newsletter about the building project. This week, windows and doors are going in. That will button up the building so that we can continue to work indoors over the winter months. We