

Advent 4: Yes! Let it be now

Sunday, December 24, 2017

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Gathering

Prelude Nora Miller, pianist
Watchman, Tell Us of the Night by Mark Hayes
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring arr. Rob Roy Peery
(with Amanda Entz, organist)

Song of gathering: *Oh, how joyfully*.....*H 209

The work of the people (announcements)
(Please pass the welcome pads)

Call to worship Wendy Funk Schrag, worship leader

Leader: Yes!
The invitation to carry light comes to each of us, no matter
who we are.

**All: O God, you choose to dwell within us. You promise to move
about with us until we find our rest in you.**

Lighting the Advent candle Evelyn Gaertner

Leader: Your call seems risky; saying yes takes away our breath.

**All: Yet we know your faithfulness and steadfast love endure
forever.**

Leader: You are our strength.

All: Yes! Let it be now.

Opening prayer

Praising

Songs of faith: *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming* H 211
My soul is filled with joy

Greet one another; children come forward

Children's focus.....Clint Litsey

Special music.....Men's Group, directed by Greg Bontrager
When the Song of the Angels is Stilled by Alexander
Brightest and Best arr. Kirschner

Offering: Local Mission

Offertory Kenna Graber

Hearing God's Word

Scripture: Luke 1:26-56

Meditation: *Canticles* Pastor Anita Kehr

Responding to God's Word

Confession
(pause for silence)
Words of assurance

Special music: *Light of the Stable* arr. Emmylou Harris
Matt and Erin Graber; Austin, Addie, and Eli Regier

Congregational prayer
Sean Claassen, Caregiving and Membership Commission

Sending

Song of benediction: *Joy to the world*.....H 318

Sending blessing

Postlude

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 24—Advent 4—*Yes! Let it be now*—Luke 1:26-56

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 AM Christmas Eve Breakfast Potluck—Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM Worship Service

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25—Merry Christmas

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

7:00 PM Youth Group

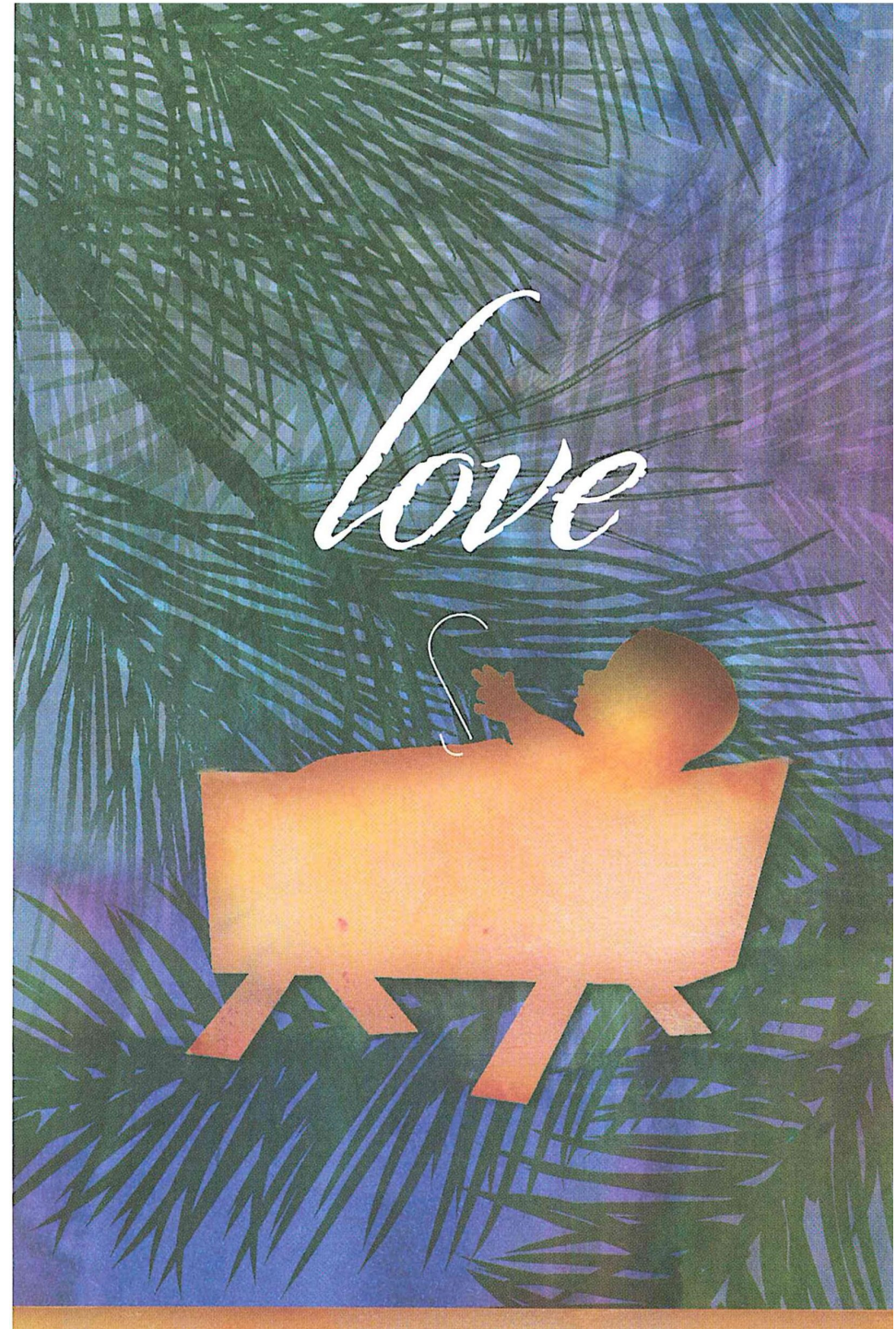
Sunday, December 31—*Yes! Let it be new*

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service

Upcoming Worship Services

January 7—Epiphany: *Yes! Let it be declared*—Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12. Celebration of Communion.



In Sympathy—Tillie Jantzen (99) passed away on Friday, December 15. Tillie's funeral will be here at FMC on Saturday, January 6, at 11:00 AM. We extend our condolences to Tillie's family.

The Worship Commission would like to express our deep gratitude to the Marvin and Alma Ewert family for the generous gift that will enable us to purchase a new piano for the sanctuary. This is something that our commission and pianists have hoped for and discussed for many years. At this time, our Baldwin needs extensive work or it needs to be replaced. The piano is used a lot in our congregational worship. It will be a blessing to have one that is both a joy to play and listen to for years come. ~Cora Voran, Worship Commission

Looking For a Messiah? The children's Christmas Eve program is tonight at 7:00 PM! Bring your families and friends to enjoy the story of Jesus' birth told by the children. Several children have prepared prelude music which will begin at 6:50 PM. For children in grades K-5 participating in the program, please arrive at 6:20 PM in the church basement to put on costumes.

The Salvation Army and FMC thank you for the 11 volunteers that rang the bell at South Dillons on Friday, December 15. With the shortage of volunteers, the decision has been made to discontinue the mission service. Please continue to donate your money by mail to the Salvation Army. Thanks for all the years of volunteering. ~Bob Schmidt

Donations for the Salvation Army—Again this year, we are taking donations of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarfs for the Salvation Army. There will be boxes under the Nativity Set in the Court Area for the month of December. Thank you for your donations.

Yearbook update forms have been put in your mailbox. Please fill out the form if there are any changes and return the form to the box in the Court Area by Sunday, December 24. If you have family members listed in the Yearbook who do not regularly attend or live out of the area, please fill out a form for them if their information is different from what is in the Yearbook. If you are not currently in the Yearbook and would like to be, please make sure to fill out a form. Extra forms are also available in the Court Area.

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus enrollment is now underway. All men and boys who enjoy singing are encouraged to sign up by December 31, so that music packets can be ordered. For more information, contact Don Kingsley at 316-773-8044.

SR. HIGH YOUTH

*With Jesus as the center, we are called to be:
Faith-Focused, Mission-Minded, Community-Connected*



LUMINIARIES - TONIGHT! (Sunday, 12/24) @ 6:02 PM

YOUTH GROUP - Wednesday, 12/27 @ 7:02 pm—

Decorate cookies that will be shared to encourage others!

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS - Wednesday, 1/3/2018



Register now for the Year of Evangelism Kick-Off: January 19-20, 2018. Reconnect ancient spiritual practices, social justice, and authentic Anabaptist evangelism for today. See the poster on the bulletin boards. Find a schedule and more information about this exciting workshop for church groups and individuals at: <http://mennowdc.org/year-of-evangelism/>. Registration is \$30/person or \$25/person if four or more people from the same congregation attend. Contact Joel Schroeder if you're interested.

Offering envelopes for 2018 have been placed in your mailbox. If you did not receive offering envelopes and would like them or have any questions, contact the Church Office.

Community Announcements

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association is selling recipe books with 23 favorite recipes. The books are \$20. If you are interested in one of the recipe books, there is more information on the shelf outside of the Church Office.

We're looking for you, summer staffers! Camp Mennoscah has started the "round-up" process for the 2018 summer staff. Find the information online at campmennoscah.org/application/ and then fill out the application! Our summer staff are dedicated to giving campers, staff, and guests a great, God-filled experience at Camp Mennoscah. Contact Olivia at 620-297-3290 with questions.

Kauffman Museum at Bethel College is open regular hours through the holidays: Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 AM-4:30 PM, Saturday-Sunday, 1:30-4:30 PM (closed Monday). Visit "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War," extended through January 21, 2018, and the newest special exhibit, "Chisholm Trail: Driving the American West," opening December 19 and going through April 1, 2018, as well as the permanent exhibits, "Of Land and People" and "Mennonite Immigrant Furniture." See www.bethelks.edu/kauffman/ or the Kauffman Museum Facebook page for more information.

Looking for a unique gift idea? Give a book to the WDC Resource Library in honor of your loved one this Christmas! A book given in their name can enrich the faith of individuals all over the conference. The library's wish list can be found at Faith & Life Bookstore in Newton or on their website at www.faithandlifebookstore.net (when ordering online, use "store pick up" to avoid paying shipping).

In February 2018, *The Mennonite* magazine will celebrate its 20th anniversary in its current form as the official publication of Mennonite Church USA and we want to hear from you. Send us your memories of *The Mennonite*: reflections on your favorite stories, authors that have been important or reasons you've relied on this publication. You can send your short reflections (200 words or less) to Editor@TheMennonite.org. Responses received by January 1 may be included in the February 2018 issue of the magazine.

Looking for someone to haul a small John Deere Tractor from Bakersfield, CA to Goessel, KS for the KS MCC Sale. Contact Jerry Toews, 620-367-8257 or jtoews62@gmail.com.

WANTED: Good cars, trucks, tractors, motorcycles, farm machinery, etc. to donate to the KS MCC Sale—new to antique. If you are thinking of getting a new car, consider donating your trade-in to the MCC Sale as a tax deductible donation. Contact Jerry Toews for more info at 620-367-8257 or jtoews62@gmail.com.

OUR VISION—Together in Christ: rooted deeply, reaching widely, loving well
OUR MISSION—With Jesus as our center, we are called to be:

- Faith-Focused
- Mission-Minded
- Community-Connected



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Pastoral Team	
Anita Kehr, Pastor.....	316-283-5598
Joel Schroeder, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults	316-215-2497
Kay Schroeder, Pastor of Worship and Visitation (Sabbatical, September 1-December 31)	
Administrative Assistant	Custodian
Tracy Kerr	Gordon Flickner
316-283-0273	316-217-1346

WELCOME TO EVERYONE who has come to worship and especially to those who are here for the first time. May you experience the loving embrace of God today. Nursery Care, infants to age 2, is provided during the worship service in the nursery located at the back of the Sanctuary. Childcare is available for children ages 2-4 during the second half of the worship service in Room 223. If you need help finding your way, ask an usher at the door. We would be glad to help you!

Today's Worship Participants

Chorister: Paul Schrag
 Childcare: Stephanie Weaver, Sarah Koehn
 Ushers: Alan Entz, Ryan Nye, Jan Groves, Wenda Black
 Audio Tech: Ron Bachman Video/Lighting Tech: Eric Murphy
 Visuals: Carol Hiebert

"Meet the Congregation" displays now feature Melvin and Nancy Pauls (Court Area display case); Doug and Joanie Pauls and family (Library display case); Rod and Andrea Pauls and family (Court Area display case); and Stan and Kim Pauls (Court Area display case). Take a look at these display cases and learn more!

First Mennonite Church by the numbers

Attendance:

- Worship—243 Visitors—13
- Sunday School—188

Offering: Last week's offering for Local Missions Fund was \$19,867. The offering for December 31 is for Local Mission.

THANK YOU for your year-end financial gifts! Over the past three weeks, the offerings for Local Missions have totaled close to \$40,000! However, with two Sundays (December 24 and 31) remaining in the fiscal year, **we need approximately \$30,000** to meet our anticipated expenses for 2017. Plus, we may have some additional expenses before the year is over. Please contribute as you are able and together lets end the year well. For your offering to count towards 2017 expenses, the Church Office must receive it by Sunday, December 31. Thanks for your giving! ~Financial Stewardship Committee

For your awareness—Pastor Joel will be on vacation December 23-29.