



Prayer Requests

Christmas greetings to friends and members of BCMC!

May the peace of Christ be with you at Christmas and in the coming year. Thank you for the opportunity to share in ministry together with you.

~ from the BCMC staff

Mennonite Church USA: Many young adults working with Mennonite Mission Network's short-term mission programs, Mennonite Voluntary Service and Service Adventure, go home for the holidays. Pray for safe travels and pray for those who will be experiencing Christmas far from their families.

Western District Conference: Praise God for the outpouring of his love in the sending of his Son Jesus Christ. Pray that each of our churches will be open channels of sharing that love in their communities.

If you would like to request prayer or a visit, contact the church office or one of the pastors. The Prayer Network and Visitation Team are ministries sponsored by the Deacon Commission.

Bethel College Mennonite Church welcomes into fellowship and membership all persons who confess faith in Jesus Christ, without regard to their race, ethnic background, gender, age, sexual orientation, education, ability, and other factors which give rise to discrimination and marginalization.

Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Avenue, Box 364
North Newton, KS 67117

Phone: 316-283-3667

Fax: 316-283-2079

Email: office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net Web site: bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Church office hours: 9:00 a.m. – noon on Mon – Fri; 1:00 –5:00 p.m. on Mon – Thurs.

Building is locked daily at 5 p.m. unless evening activities are scheduled.

Notary public service is available in the church office.

Pastor: Heidi Regier Kreider, heidi.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Home phone 284-0448, day off is Friday

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Susan Wheeler, susanmwheeler@gmail.com

Home phone 620-327-2295, cell phone 316-706-0887; day off is Monday

Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: John Tyson, john.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Cell phone 215-896-1047; day off is Monday

Administrative Assistant: Monica Lichti, office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Custodian: Michael Crawford, 316-727-9840

Music Coordinator: Rebecca Schloneger, 316-772-6084

Bell Choir Director: Vada Snider, 283-5231

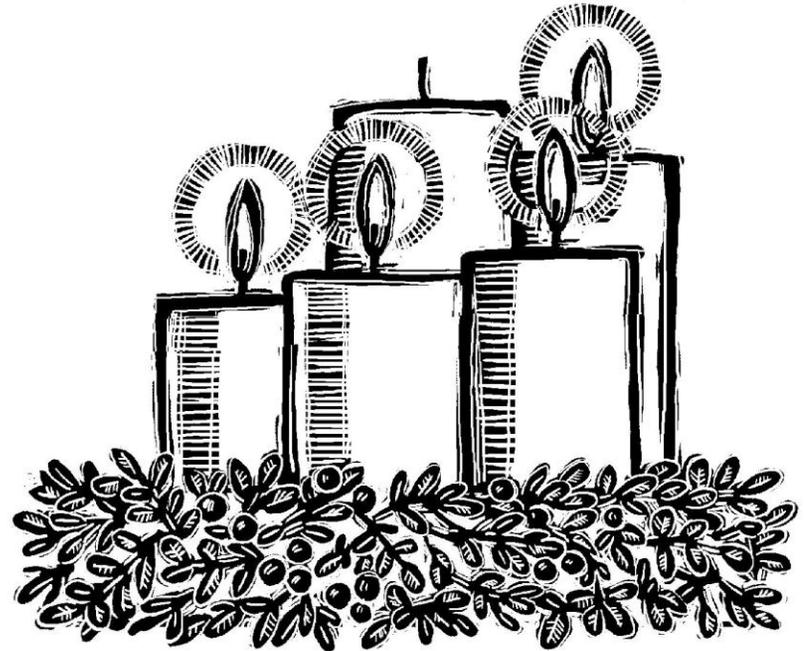
Chancel Choir Director: William Eash

Cherub Choir director: Jill Siebert

Junior Choir director: Elizabeth Schrag

December 14 at BCMC: Attendance: 285. General Fund \$8,901.85; Living Stones \$3,145; Sr Hi Youth for Homeless Shelter \$588; Transfer-General \$91.20; General Fund 2015 \$100; *The Mennonite* \$814; Caring Fund \$200; Flower Fund \$30.

Fourth Sunday in Advent



Bethel College Mennonite Church December 21, 2014

Bethel College Mennonite Church
December 21, 2014 - 9:30 a.m. Worship
Fourth Sunday in Advent: *Keep Awake!*

GATHERING

9:00 a.m. Prelude Chancel Bells; Vada Snider, director
White Christmas arr. Dobrinski
O little town of Bethlehem arr. Dobrinski
German Christmas medley arr. Snider
Ding Dong! Merrily on high arr. Dobrinski
Silent night, holy night arr. Sherman
Love came down at Christmas arr. Dobrinski
 Rebecca Schloneger, violin
Sing we now of Christmas arr. McChesney

Greeting Jill Robb
Hymn *O come, O come, Immanuel* (verses 1-4) **HWB 172**

Karen Loucks, pianist

Lighting of Advent candles Lois and Jim Brubacher

Prayer of confession: Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent, and turn to you in love. Forgive our self-centeredness, and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.

Words of assurance

***Hymn** *Oh, how shall I receive thee* **HWB 182**
 (Children come forward during hymn)

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Time with children Matt Koontz
Worship music *O come, O come, Immanuel* arr. Valey/Berry
Carol of the bells arr. McChesney
 Menno Ringers

Scripture readings 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 and Luke 1:26-38

Worship music *Mary's song (Breath of heaven)* Eaton/Grant
 Rebecca Schloneger, soloist

Sermon *A home for God* Heidi Regier Kreider

RESPONDING IN FAITH

***Hymn** *My soul proclaims with wonder* **HWB 181**
Prayer of God's people

Offering

To learn more about BCMC or share a prayer request, please fill out a card from the pew rack and place in offering plate.

Offertory *Pat-A-Pan* arr. Eithun
 Chancel Bells
***Dedication hymn** *Gloria* (sing once unison) **HWB 204**
***Dedication prayer**

SENDING

***Hymn** *Fling wide the door, unbar the gate* **HWB 186**
***Benediction**
***Benediction response**
***Postlude**
 *All who are able are invited to stand

HWB = Hymnal: A Worship Book **STS = Sing the Story**

Welcome visitors and friends! May you sense God's presence at BCMC. Personal hearing devices are at the north sanctuary entrance. The nursery at rear of sanctuary is available during worship for families with infants and toddlers. Following Time with Children, children receive activity bags to use during worship (return to baskets at the entrance as you leave). We invite members and visitors to fill out welcome/prayer cards in pew racks and place them in the offering plates for response by pastoral staff.

Keep Awake! is our Advent worship theme as we await and celebrate the coming of Christ. **Musical preludes** invite us to listen attentively and enter into God's presence. **Advent banners** created by Robert Regier mark our movement through the season with a gradual crescendo of light and color, and possibilities for insight, discovery and renewal. **Reflection questions** related to the sermon may prompt conversation or personal reflection. Today's questions: What happens when God takes up residence in our lives? How do we provide a "home" for God's presence? What are ways that we mistakenly attempt to control, contain and confine Divine presence? How does God provide a home for us?



Christmas Eve services at BCMC, Tues, Dec. 24: Worship at 7 p.m. will feature musical selections by children, Cherub Choir and Junior Choir, and readings by youth. At 11 p.m. will be a candle-light service of Lessons and Carols with Chancel Choir and congregational singing. [Note: **A rehearsal for the 7 p.m. service** will take place tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, for Cherub Choir; Junior Choir and senior high youth; pizza will be served afterwards in Fellowship Hall.]

Today, Dec. 21, 3:30 p.m., Kauffman Museum— Lisa Weaver, author of the new book *Swords to Plowshares: The Creation of John P. Klassen's Mennonite Central Committee Medallion*, will present a program, including slides of Klassen's artwork.

Offender/Victim Ministries benefit: Support the ministries of OVM by using Dillons reloadable gift cards to purchase groceries, prescriptions and fuel. OVM receives 5% of each dollar spent. To purchase a reloadable Dillons card to benefit OVM, contact OVM at 283-2038, or stop by the office Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 p.m.

Western District Conference Executive Board has appointed a Search Committee to conduct the search for a new Conference Minister, following Clarence Rempel's announcement to retire next summer. The committee is chaired by Sondra Bandy Koontz, who also serves on the Staff Relations Committee. Other members include Moderator-Elect Anita Kehr, Executive Board Members Norma Johnson and Johann Reimer, Violeta Ajquejay from the Church Planting Commission, Weldon Schloneger from the Ministerial Leadership Commission, and Pastor Ryan Koch. Your prayers for the committee are greatly appreciated as they prepare to begin their work early in the New Year. • Gilberto Flores, WDC Associate Conference Minister, will retire on Jan. 31, 2015. Everyone is invited to wish him well at a farewell on Jan. 18, 5 p.m. at First Mennonite Church, Newton. Fasma will be served.

It's time for men to register for a new season of singing with the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus; an opportunity to combine the love of singing with making a contribution to the mission of the church. All offerings received at KMMC concerts go to Mennonite Central Committee. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board, or call Omar Voran. *"We sing that others might live."*

Scrapbook Retreat at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp is Jan. 16-18. Come for a fun time to fellowship with other "scrappers." For details about any of the winter retreats go to www.rmmc.org or call us: 719-687-9506.

Thank you to those who supported our Ten Thousand Village Festival Sale in Newton. We sold \$11,590 worth of merchandise, which will go to help Third World Artisans make a living, educate their children, and provide income to create more handcrafted items. We were so encouraged by your participation that we are looking forward to a similar sale next fall. Watch for future dates! ~ *The Planning Committee: Dianne Epp, Marlene Ewert, Marvin Holck, Andrea Unzicker, Jim & Janet Zook*

Join the Harvest of Love to gather non-perishable food and donations to assist households in need in Harvey County. Make checks payable to Harvest of Love and send to Salvation Army at 208 W. 6th St., Newton, KS 67114, or bring food items to BCMC and place them on the pew in the south entrance under the coat racks.

This Week at BCMC: December 21– December 28, 2014

Today—Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Fellowship time in the Gathering Place; coffee/water available

10:50 a.m. Christian Education – Visitors welcome!

- 2-3 year olds through 4th grade—meet in Fellowship Hall for snack, then Room B-8 for singing before going to classrooms (2-3 year olds in B-6; Pre-K —1st grade in B-4; 2nd-4th grade stay in B-8)
- Grades 5-8 —Rm 26 • Senior High Youth—Rm 22

Adult classes:

- Agape— KIPCOR at 2515 College Ave.
- Bible Study— Room 14 – *Handel's* Messiah, Christmas Section
- Catacombs—Rm B-5—Sing Christmas carols & social hour
- Fine Arts —Rm 24—*From Paul to Constantine* - Bart Ehrman d.v.d.s
- Mosaic— Rm 22—Assemble Christmas Eve goodie bags—Kitchen
- Issues & Christianity—Rm 23—*Understanding of the New Testament*
- Open Circle—Rm B-7—Sermon reflection and response
- Seekers—Rm 21— Sermon topic discussion
- Sojourners—Chapel—*PACE, A new Bluestem Program*, Chris Scott

6:00 p.m. Rehearsal for children/youth Christmas Eve 7 pm service - Sanctuary

Monday, December 22

9:30 a.m. Governance Committee—Rm 14

3:00 p.m. BCMC worship DVD—Kidron Bethel Health Care

6:30 p.m. BCMC staff Christmas dinner – home of Monica & Marlin Lichti

Tuesday, December 23

10:30 a.m. Administrative Team—Rm 14

1:00 p.m. BCMC worship DVD—Kidron Bethel Assisted Living

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Children and Youth Christmas Program—Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Service—Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25 - Merry Christmas! Office closed; building locked

Friday, December 26 - Office closed; building locked

Sunday, December 28 - Sunday after Christmas

Prelude - Vocal solos by BCMC members and friends

10:00 a.m. Worship with carol singing; sermon by John Tyson; sabbatical release for Susan Wheeler, associate pastor for pastoral care.

11:00 a.m. Fellowship time in the Gathering Place. Bring goodies to share! Coffee/water provided. (No Sunday school)

The nativity scene on display in the Gathering Place at BCMC during the Advent and Christmas season was a gift from Rex and Connie Esau. ~ *Worship Decoration Committee*

We offer sympathy to Wes and Ada Schmidt-Tieszen and family on the death of Wes' mother, Margaret Tieszen, Dec. 15. The memorial service was Sat., Dec. 20 at Evergreen Mennonite Church, Caldwell, Idaho.

We offer sympathy to Virginia and Ron Benninghoff and family on the death of Virginia's mother and BCMC member, Inez Koehn. Inez died Dec. 18 at Presbyterian Manor in Newton. A memorial service is planned for the spring of 2015. A memorial fund has been established for the BCMC Kitchen Fund since Inez spent so many years working in the BCMC kitchen.

The thoughts, kind words, cards, prayers, and flowers have encouraged my heart during this time of saying farewell to my father, Melvin Headrick. Thank you very much for remembering us. ~ *Susan Wheeler*

Thank you for your contributions to BCMC this year! Contributions received in the church office by noon on Dec. 29 will be credited in 2014. Undesignated checks will be credited to General Fund. Other contributions must be designated in the memo line. **Year end reports are in your boxes,** unless you received them by email. Recycle the envelopes by putting them into assistant treasurer Lois Goertzen's box. Your generous support to the BCMC General Fund and many other funds and causes is greatly appreciated and benefits many.

• **On December 16 Congress passed H.R. 5771** which includes the retroactive extension of the IRA Rollover provision allowing individuals age 70½ and older to make direct transfers from traditional and Roth IRAs to qualified charities in amounts up to \$100,000 that are free from federal taxation and income taxes under the laws of states that follow federal guidelines for determination of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). Note that the extension is for 2014 only and applies to gifts completed by December 31, 2014. This provision applies only to IRAs and not to 401(k)s, 403(b)s and other similar qualified retirement plans. Gifts must be made directly to a qualified charity and may not be made to donor advised funds, private foundations or supporting organizations. Please consult your financial advisor or tax professional for specific instructions as it pertains to your financial situation. ~ *Richard Friesen, Treasurer*

Last Sunday, the Sr Hi Youth received \$588 for our First Annual Christmas Party with the kids at Harvey County Homeless Shelter! We are thankful for this generous donation! We are blessed to be part of this supportive congregation. We look forward to spending time sharing in God's abundant love with the kids at HCHS! ~ *Pastor John Tyson*

BCMC member Elizabeth Raid will be ordained in a service on Sunday, Jan. 4 at 3:00 p.m. at BCMC. All are invited to attend this special occasion! Elizabeth and her husband Lou Gomez serve as the pastoral ministry team at Mennonite Friendship Communities in South Hutchinson.

BCMC's annual New Year Memorial and Communion service will take place Sunday, Jan. 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. During the service, candles will be lit for BCMC members and loved ones who have died during 2014, and communion will be observed. Family, friends and community members are welcome to attend.

BCMC Witness Commission calls attention to the issue of repealing the death penalty which will come before the Kansas state legislature in the session beginning Jan. 12. Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty (KCADP) calls for letters to the editor in the next few weeks. Witness Commission will sponsor letter-writing sessions to legislators Jan. 4 and 11. If you would like to write a letter to the editor and need some helpful facts, contact Valetta Seymour of Witness Commission.

Staff/Office schedule: The BCMC office and building will be closed for several days over Christmas and New Year, to allow vacation time for staff: This week's schedule:

- * Dec. 23-24 – Office and building open
- * Dec. 25-26 – Office and building closed
- * Dec. 27 - Building open

For pastoral care concerns, please contact the pastor on-call:

- Dec. 22-25 – Heidi Regier Kreider (316-284-0448 or 316-727-4344)
- Dec. 26– Dec. 31 - Susan Wheeler (620-327-2295 or 316-706-0887)

Susan Wheeler will take sabbatical leave Jan. 1–Feb. 7. During that time, BCMC member Harold Thieszen will assist with pastoral care ministry.

The BCMC winter congregational meeting will be Sun., Jan. 25, 12:45 p.m. following a soup luncheon served by Senior High youth as a fundraiser. **In order to plan agenda** for the meeting, the Board asks committees and commissions to provide a written motion or proposal for topics they would like considered. This is also true for any congregation member who may want to make a motion. Knowing about plans in advance allows the Board to provide the congregation with accurate wording of motions, and to plan agenda. The Board will review these requests and determine the congregational meeting agenda at the Jan. 8 Board meeting. Send any proposals, or motions to the church office or to me. Thank You.

~ *Jim Robb, BCMC Moderator*

It's time to renew the group subscription plan to *The Mennonite* for 2015. To join the BCMC group plan, fill out this form; attach payment of \$37.00, made out to BCMC with "The Mennonite subscription" in the memo line. **Place this form, along with payment, in the offering plate or bring to the church office no later than, today, Dec. 21.** I am subscribing to *The Mennonite* through the BCMC group plan: Name _____