

Advent Banners and Decorations—We wish to express a deep thanks to all who have helped with advent visuals this year! The Worship Decorations Committee has wonderfully transformed our sanctuary as we prepare for Jesus' birth. We wish to express a specific thanks to Josh Brubacher and Matt Koontz for hanging new banners each week during the advent season. As we progress toward the birth of Jesus on Christmas, the light grows stronger and stronger. The progression of the advent banners, our candle lighting, and other visual elements all mark our movement towards the Light.

The Advent Candle Lighting reading and the Confession and Assurance is from *Leader Magazine*, Mennonite Church USA.

The bulletin cover is from SALT Project Inc. SALT is a not-for-profit production company dedicated to the craft of visual storytelling.

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: Matthew and Toni Krabill, of Mennonite Mission Network, are serving as co-directors for the Paris Mennonite Center in France. Pray for their health, creativity and joy, as they welcome researchers, share Anabaptist resources and develop online classes for French-speaking theology students throughout the world.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Give thanks for WDC congregations as a visible expression of God's presence in local communities, now in this Christmas season and throughout the year.

To request prayer or a visit, or if a family member is hospitalized, please contact the church office or a pastor so that visits and prayer support can be offered. Names of people receiving medical care are printed in the BCMC bulletin only by permission of the patient or a guardian/family-member. This is part of the caring network at BCMC, which includes support among members of Sunday school classes and small groups, as well as the Prayer Network and Caring Fund 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 Ave., Box 364, North Newton, KS 67117

Phone: 316-283-3667—Fax: 316-283-2079

Email: office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Website: bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Church office hours: 9 am–12:00 pm Mon–Fri; 1:00 –5 pm Mon–Thur

Church office is closed Friday afternoons

Building is locked weekdays at 5 pm unless evening activities are scheduled

Saturdays—building is locked; Sundays—building is locked at 2 pm

Notary public service is available in the church office

Pastor: Dawn Yoder Harms, Day off: Monday—Phone: 316-283-3667

cell phone: 316-212-1847; Email: dawn@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: Renee Reimer, Day off: Friday—

cell phone: 605-212-0081; Email: renee@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Nathan Koontz, Days off: Monday and Wednesday—cell phone: 316-212-4593

Email: nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, cell phone 316-249-9652

Our faith in a God of love leads us, by the power of the Spirit,
to follow Jesus in doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God.

Bethel College Mennonite Church

December 19, 2021

4th Sunday of Advent



Bethel College Mennonite Church
ADVENT SUNDAY 4
Dare to Imagine God's Face!

Advent Prelude Doxology

Gathering

Welcome and Call to Worship Ada Schmidt-Tieszen

Introit Chancel Choir
Come Away from Rush and Worry [VT 9]
 William Eash, director; Verlene Garber, accompanist

Advent Candle Lighting Lily Schloneger

Leader: We light a candle of love, and imagine
People: the lowly lifted, fear met with love.
 Leader: We light the candle and pray for God's face to shine on us, to save us, restore us.

Hope is a Candle Verses 1, 2, 3, 4 VT 211

Prayer of Confession

Leader: We notice, O God, that when you feed people, everyone has enough.
People: We notice that in our world, when we feed people, some have more than enough, and many are still hungry.
 Leader: Teach us to love.
People: We notice, O God, that in your social, economic, racial, and gender orders, no one is greater, and no one is left behind.
 Leader: We notice that in our world there are many ladders, and many are climbing.
People: Reorientate us to your vision of equality.
 Leader: God of mercy, lower us, raise us, empty us, and fill us. Like an empty manger, we want to be ready to receive Emmanuel.

Words of Assurance (adapted from Luke 1:46-49)

All: Our souls magnify the Lord, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

God has looked with favor on our lowliness.

The Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.

Hymn of assurance My Soul Proclaims with Wonder VT 222

Hearing God's Word

Children's Conversation Esther Kreider Eash

Scripture Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:39-56 Omer Galle
Abigail Koontz

Special Music *The Glory of the Father* Egil Hovland

Sermon *Improvisation on a Song* Dawn Yoder Harms

Responding

Hymn of Response *With Mary Sing Magnificat* VT 208

Prayers of God's People Ada Schmidt-Tieszen

Sending Song *My Soul Cries Out* VT 412

Benediction *Go Ye Now in Peace* [VT 839] Chancel Choir

VT: *Voices Together*

AV: Ken Lamp

The church nursery is staffed during worship and Sunday School

Children and youth Sunday School classes! 10:30-11:30 am

Preschoolers - Room B4 Midders (3rd-8th graders) - Room 26

High School - Room 24 Koinonia (college students welcome!) - The Agape House

The Agape Class will meet in Room B8

Adult Classes (If meeting): Bible Study (Rm 14); Catacombs (Rm B5);

Fellowship (B7); Fine Arts (Rm 22); Issues and Christianity (Rm 23); Mosaic (Rm

20); Open Circle (Chapel); Seekers (Rm 28)

This week at BCMC

Tuesday, December 21

7 pm Worship Commission meeting by Zoom

Wednesday, December 22

7:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal in Sanctuary

Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve

5 pm Christmas Enactment Service in BCMC sanctuary. Costumes encouraged & provided for all attendees.

9 pm Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 25—Merry Christmas!—Church building will be locked

Sunday, December 26—Christmas 1

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

There will be no children and youth Sunday school today

Monday, December 27—Office will be closed; church locked

Tuesday, December 28—Friday, December 31—Office will be closed