

Advent 2017



“Let It Be”

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church
Wichita, Kansas

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Worship
Fellowship

*Infused with God's vision, we proclaim with confidence,
"Let it be with us according to your word!"*

Prelude	Lo, How a Rose e'er blooming O Little Town of Bethlehem <i>Linda Buller, organ</i>	Brahms Paxton
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*Call to Worship (Isaiah 52:7-10) Marcel Kouame

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion,

All: Your God reigns!

Leader: Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.
(Silence)

Leader: Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem.

All: The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God!

*Lighting the Advent Candles The Lichty family

*Hymn Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly HWB 203

The Epistle Hebrews 1:1-12 (PB 970)

Hymn Fling wide the door, unbar the gate! HWB 186

Time for Children Catherine Everingham
Shaped by God

Bringing Our First Fruits Offerings		
Offertory	Still, Still, Still	arr. Manz
Prayer of Dedication		
Anthem	See Amid the Winter's Snow <i>Chancel Choir</i>	arr. Forrest
The Gospel	John 1:1-5, 10-14, HWB 841	
Sermon	Love came down	Lois Harder
*Hymn	Love came down at Christmas	HWB 208
Work of the Church		
Welcome and Introductions		
Announcements/Activities		
Joys/Concerns		
Prayer		
*Hymn	Come, thou long expected Jesus	HWB 178
*Benediction		
Postlude	From Heaven Above	arr. Held

Special thanks to: Linda Gebert and Jane Tanner for creating the banners and overlays; Myra Swartz and Anne Daum for decorating the church; Carrie Dicke for providing the poinsettias; Cindy Thompson for organizing and leading the Advent Orchestra.

We light the peace lamp as a reminder that peace is God's will for all of creation, that Christ is the Prince of Peace, and that the Holy Spirit empowers us to proclaim boldly the gospel of peace.

We welcome you to this service of worship! Please write your name on the welcome pad at the end of your pew, and then return it to learn who is sitting near you. Please include your address if you are a visitor or new attender. A nursery for children up to 5 years of age is available in Room 204.

Greeters this morning are Sharon Pauls and Esther Schmidt. **Nursery workers during worship** are Anna Harder, Beth Lichty, and Melanie Mitchell. **Fellowship workers** are Joel and Ruth Tieszen.

Following the worship service, you all are invited to the Fellowship Hall for coffee and casual conversation. There is no Sunday School this morning.

Among our friends...

On-going prayers are appreciated for **Robert and Kathy Gaeddert**; they have spent the past 2 weeks at Mayo Clinic where Robert has undergone medical tests and procedures. He is scheduled to be dismissed from the hospital this weekend, but travel plans home are not certain yet.

The Harders/Crawfords will do a “Songs of the Season” concert on Friday, December 29, 7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary. An offering will be taken for Mennonite Central Committee.

Thank you to Miss Alyssa Steele (Samantha’s daughter). During her weeks of hospitalization at Children’s Mercy in Kansas City, this thoughtful 8-year old wanted to express her appreciation to our congregation for prayers for her. She ordered and had sent a beautiful wall hanging, “Faith, Hope and Love” – it’s hanging on the east wall of the Fellowship Hall.

...in our community, our city, and beyond.

THANK YOU LAMC Congregation for the support given to Inter-Faith Ministries - Operation Holiday. We had 3 big collection boxes filled with blankets, coats, scarves, hats, gloves, and food. Thanks to those of you who made monetary donations. In 3 days, over 13,000 people received assistance, over half of them children. *The following people volunteered to help with Operation Holiday distribution as an LAMC group on Friday, Dec. 15:* Anne and Kerm Daum, Meribeth Buhr, Nadine Reimer-Penner, Yolanda Coria, Sharon Pauls, Sandy Schrag, Treva and Gerry Lichti, Sylvia Schmidt, Amanda Doll Gabel, Linda Doll, Hennie Janzen, Chuck Graber. *Thanks to those who helped sort food and coats prior to distribution:* Suzanne Birch, Gerry and Treva Lichti, Linda D. and Amanda, and anyone else that helped. *Special thanks to Marie Krehbiel who worked many hours over many days in the Teen gift area before and during distribution. Special thanks to Hennie Janzen who was a volunteer receptionist for several weeks at Inter-Faith Ministries and mastered answering one phone with 8 lines ringing all at the same time, all with people desperate for help and needing Operation Holiday information and social services referrals. Special thanks to Chuck Graber who volunteered countless hours*

each week prior to Operation Holiday by repairing and putting together coat racks and untangling hangers; unloading donations; sorting, counting, and hauling food behind the scenes. Chuck also helped with tearing down and clean up after Operation Holiday. Operation Holiday is a massive FAITH undertaking in our community that does make a difference for those giving as well as receiving! THANK YOU! - Linda Doll on behalf of the Lorraine Avenue Mission Board

Year-end giving for 2017. We are pleased to accept your end-of-year contributions during the December worship services. Mailed or delivered checks must be dated on or before Dec. 31 and must be received by Jan. 3. You may designate your payment for next year by writing "Contribution for 2018" in the memo line of your check.

Carolyn Smoker would like you to be on the look-out for a rather posh foot stool that she uses during church to relieve back pain. This stool, with purple embossed velvet, was last seen on the rack above the coats in the north lobby. If you see it, please let Carolyn know (648-5499).

Volunteers needed! We have a large group of Kindergarten through 2nd grade Sunday School children (good problem to have) and the teachers could use an extra adult to help out with this enthusiastic group. There will be a signup sheet posted outside the classroom. All parents, grandparents and friends are encouraged to volunteer.

The Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus (KMMC) is getting ready to start its 50th season. KMMC concerts raise money for MCC to provide worldwide relief. All men and boys are welcome to participate in the chorus, which usually numbers at least 200 participants. Rehearsals begin in late January, culminating in 2 concerts in April. Missing a rehearsal isn't a problem because each member will get a learning CD to practice along with, if needed. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Joel Tieszen.

Did you know you can support Camp Mennoscah every time you buy groceries or gas? With the MyNeighbor credit card from Everence, you can earn donations for Camp Mennoscah every time you pay with your card. Since MyNeighbor launched in April 2017, over \$100,000 has been generated for charitable organizations like Camp Mennoscah. Learn more by calling 1(800)451-5719 or at everence.com/MyNeighbor.

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
Kauffman Museum is open regular hours through the holidays: Tues.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun., 1:30-4:30 p.m. Visit "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War," extended through Jan. 21, 2018, and the newest special exhibit, "Chisholm Trail: Driving the American West" (through April 1, 2018). See www.bethelks.edu/kauffman/ or the Kauffman Museum Facebook page for more information.

Registration is now open for the academic conference "Mennonites and the Holocaust," to be held on the Bethel College campus March 16-17, 2018, with speakers and scholars from Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Ukraine and the United States. See mla.bethelk.edu/MennosandHolocaust for more information or to register online.

Prayer Request from Western District Conference:

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us give thanks for the ways Christ's presence is made visible through WDC congregations.

Prayer Request from Mennonite Mission Network:

May all those who have left homes and families for the sake of the gospel be embraced by the family of God and be blessed by discovering fresh insights into the meaning of Christmas.

Prayer Request from Mennonite Education Agency:

Pray with thanksgiving for our supporting congregations who see the value in the mission of Iowa Mennonite School in Kalona, as we work to serve Christ.

Prayers for Peacemakers:

Pray for the Palestinian people who have faced Israeli military suppression and violence during nonviolent protests of the U.S. decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem.

Israeli occupation forces have drastically increased their campaign of collective punishment through mass arrests. They have detained

more than 350 Palestinians since U.S. President Donald Trump’s declaration regarding Jerusalem on Wednesday, 6 December 2017. Many of those taken have been violently beaten during their arrests; many are now imprisoned for practicing their rights and speaking out about their suffering. Israeli forces have murdered eleven Palestinians in the last two weeks and injured at least 3,000. These numbers impact not only those who have been arrested, injured, or killed, but also their families and communities.

We ask you to send your prayers, love, and strength to those who continue to resist Israel’s occupation. Pray that Palestine will one day be free from military occupation and violence underwritten by U.S. tax dollars. We ask also that you act for a lasting peace by speaking out about the injustice in Palestine to your community, calling your elected officials, and boycotting companies that benefit from the occupation.

Prayer Request from Sabeel:

Lord, we give thanks for the fellowship experienced last Saturday during the Sabeel Annual Ecumenical Christmas Dinner. We are grateful for the amazing Al Rua’ Choir, the dedication of our Jerusalem committee and for our many friends who made the Christmas dinner a success. *We ask for the ecumenical spirit to be strengthened in the world “so in Christ we who are many are one body” Romans 12:5. Lord in your mercy...*

Visitors last Sunday:

Roxann Lynne and Brooklyn Brandon, Wichita; Ryna-Ries Ignacio, Wichita; Connor, Laura, Morgan and Abram Aronis, Wichita; Gracia and Greg Stucky, St. Simons, GA; Luz Puentes, Wichita

This Week at Church

Monday	<i>Merry Christmas</i>	
Tuesday	<i>Messenger</i> articles due	
Thursday	Lifestyle Strategies – Gathering Room	12:00 p.m.
	Lifestyle Strategies – Fellowship Hall	5:30 p.m.
Friday	Harder/Crawford Concert	7:30 p.m.
	(sanctuary)	
Saturday	Annual Reports due	

Mission Statement*

We are called to be followers of Christ
seeking God's will through the Holy Spirit
sharing the good news of love, peace,
healing, and hope
through worship, fellowship, and service
in our community, our city, and beyond.



**Foundational Scripture passages: Micah 6:8; Matthew 5-7; Mark 12:29-31; John 3:16; John 13:34-35; John 20:31; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 1 Peter 4:7-11; 1 John 4:16.*

We welcome all persons without regard to their race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, social status, education, ability, or any other factor subject to discrimination and exclusion in our world. *"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus"* (Galatians 3:28)

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church
655 S. Lorraine Avenue, Wichita, KS 67211: (316) 682-4555

Staff:

Pastor Lois Harder
Pastor Tom Harder

Office Hours

Tues. to Fri. 9:30-5:00
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Monday is the pastors' day off

Admin. Asst., Barbara Gingrich Tues. 9:30-1:30, Fri. 10:00-12:00
Admin. Asst., Linda Gebert Weds. 10:30 – 2:30, Thurs. 2:00 – 4:00
Bookkeeper, Beth Tanner Weds. mornings
Minister of Visitation Linda Buller 722-0390
Deacon on Call – December Mike Fetters 719-9046
Trustee on call (12/24-12/30) Al Beck 618-9814

Custodian

William Ozor

Choir Director

Andrew Voth

Organists

Linda Buller, Erica Schmidt

Pianist

DeAnn Diller

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