

*Benediction

HWB = Hymnal, a Worship Book; SJ = Sing the Journey
PB = Pew Bible; SS = Sing the Story

*Congregation stands

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.

Greeters this morning are Don and Ruth Klaassen.

Many thanks to **Jane Tanner** for providing our refreshments this morning! All are invited to stay after the service for cookies and fellowship.

Among our friends:

We extend our love and sympathy to William Ozor at the death of his "Sponsor/Dad", Alvin Plank. When William came as a student to Hesston College, Alvin and his wife Bertha were his sponsors. They were adoptive parents for William and played a very important role for him. Alvin died at age 90 in Grabill, IN on Wednesday, December 21. William and Adella will go for his Memorial service on January 14.

We have received a Christmas letter from John and MaDonna Yoder, now living in Catonsville VA; the letter is on the south lobby bulletin board.

Year-end giving. Contributions to your church support the missions and programs that benefit the congregation, our community, our city, and beyond. Year-end giving is a special opportunity to complete the amount you estimated earlier for 2016, helping the church balance its annual budget. Checks may be given during Sunday offerings, of course, and may also be mailed or delivered to the church office. All checks for 2016 need to be dated Dec. 31 or earlier, and need to be received by Jan. 4. You may also **give ahead for next year** by simply writing "2017 general fund" on the memo line of your 2016 check. **Electronic payments** can be made through PayPal using the "send money to friends and family" option and the address treasurer@lorraineavenue.org.

From Bethel College:

Bethel College is offering many of its classes for community audit. You pay \$50 per credit hour (compared to the normal audit rate of \$85 per hour) OR, if you're age 62 and older, a flat rate of \$30. For more information, go to www.bethelks.edu/audit.

The **Bethel College Alumni Choir is looking for more singers** interested in getting together for music, fun and fellowship. The next concert will be Sun., Feb. 5, 3 p.m. (you'll be out in time for football!), with one rehearsal, Sat., Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. If you're a Bethel choir alumnus and want to be involved, contact Andrew Voth, votha@usd411.org; see "Bethel College Alumni Choir" on Facebook for more information.

Prayer Request from Western District Conference:

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, give thanks for the congregations of WDC as local communities of faith where God's Word becomes flesh.

Prayer Request for Peacemakers:

Please pray today for kak Awat, Gulala khan and kak Hassan, who CPT Iraqi Kurdistan team accompanies in their nonviolent struggle against corrupt rulers and powerful natural gas companies. They continue to be the voice and hands of change despite kidnappings, death threats and lawsuit against them. In our prayers let us remember also members of the Asaish (security forces / intelligence agency) and ask the Spirit to move their hearts and minds so that also they can take part in bringing about the nonviolent transformation of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Prayer Request from Mennonite Education Agency:

Merry Christmas from all the schools of Mennonite Education Agency. We I invite you to join us today in praying for the continued coming of the light of Jesus Christ into our world.

Prayer Request from Mennonite Mission Network:

On this Christmas day, pray for Nazareth Village near where Jesus grew up 20 centuries ago. Personnel seek to peel away the layers that distort Jesus' message of peace in a world torn apart by conflict.

Prayer Request from *Sabeel*:

The darkness in Syria continues. Hundreds of thousands are dead,

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Former pastor, Melvin Schmidt has written a memoir; it is available for sale in the Fellowship Hall.

On Monday, January 16, 2017, ARISE ensemble will be honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a city-wide celebration of **Sheroes and Heroes** over breakfast at St. James Episcopal Church, 3750 E Douglas Ave in Wichita at 7:30 a.m. Gretchen Eick has tickets and will hold one or more for you if you email her at eick@friends.edu. ARISE will be performing at this commemorative event.

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