

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

Class:

Early Childhood (Ages 0-3 years)..... Parents
Preschool (Ages 3-5 years)..... Evie Shellenberger, Patsy H, Crescencia N
Primary (Grades 1-3)..... Veronika Sukup & Andrew Blount
Middler (Grades 4, 5, & 6)..... Jim Beachy & Marlene Beachy
Junior High (Grades 7&8)..... Jamey Sullivan, Aaron Johnson, Bonnie B.
Youth (Grades 9-12)..... Matt Pflederer

Teachers:

Adult Class: Bible study on “Acts of Worship” using passages from Psalms, Daniel, and the NT.

Call to Worship

Leader: All creation holds its breath.

People: The time is almost here.

Leader: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

People: Excitement is all around us.

Leader: Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form.
Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

**People: We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ,
our peace**

FOR PRAYER

Ask for God’s Spirit of strength and healing to be with Lynsey Rice and her father Bill as they face his recent cancer diagnosis. Pray for calmness and hope in the midst of many questions. Pray also that God would sustain and comfort those who are living with cancer, including: Sarah W., Mickey Lewellyn, Donald Parsons, and Pam Guess.

Pray that our Longest Night service this evening would reflect the light and love of Jesus to all who attend. Pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, or losses of other kinds.

Give thanks to God for Louise O’Connell and her many years of service to First Chance Center. May God grant her a sense of joy and satisfaction as she enters retirement.

Continue to pray for Jahsmine and Jerrod as she recovers from gall bladder surgery.

Nazareth Village in Israel tells the story of its most famous citizen, Jesus, in fascinating and interactive ways. Every year thousands of people tour the village. Pray that visitors’ lives may be touched with Jesus’ love during this Christmas season.

PAOLI MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP



December 21, 2014

*We welcome all persons
to worship, study and fellowship with us as we continually
seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus.*

Oh, that you would reveal your love

Focus: In a world of loneliness and isolation God makes a home with us.

Gathering to Worship

Gathering Song: Away in the manger – H 194
Hope is a candle - SS 15, verses 1-4

Welcome and introductions

Call to Worship (see back of bulletin)

Lighting the Advent candles

Confession (see insert) – Come and fill our hearts – SJ 59

Singing Our Faith

Helpless and hungry – SS 26

What Child is this – H 215

Holy Child – SS 28

O little town of Bethlehem – H 191

Opportunities for Generosity - Special giving for December to Life Family Resource Center

Hearing and Experiencing God's Word

Children's time

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-12, 16-17; Luke 1:26-38

Meditation

Responses

Sharing joy and concerns / intercessory prayer

Announcements

Sending song: Love came down – H 208

Benediction

PASTOR-ELDER TEAM

Rebecca Kauffman, Pastor 653-4140
Matt Pflederer, Pastor 653-4131
Mary Beth Gibbons 723-2723
Ted Larrison 723-3826

MINISTERS

All the congregation

CHURCH OFFICE

Pastors: Rebecca Kauffman; Office Hours - Tues 9-4, Wed 9-1, Thurs 1-5
Matt Pflederer; Office Hours – Mon, 1-3 pm, Tues, Wed, Fri. 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Secretary: Deb Giles; Office Hours – Wed. and Fri. 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Phone: (812) 723-2414; **Fax:** (812) 723-3515 **email:** mennos.paoli@gmail.com
Address: 2589 N. CR 100 W., Paoli, IN 47454

OUR COVENANT

In covenanting together, we affirm that Jesus Christ is Lord. We gratefully acknowledge him as our Lord and accept his teaching as the way to live. We recognize the importance of:

- Regular Bible study, worship with others, and prayer as a vital part of our Christian life.
- Taking each other seriously, contributing our gifts and caring for one another in love to strengthen the Christian body.
- Living and sharing the Good News as Christ has taught us and as the Holy Spirit enables.

TODAY

A successful king and an unknown peasant girl – can they have anything in common? One desires to build a house for God, the other is asked to provide a home for the son of God. Both become known as servants of the Most High and participate in fulfilling the purposes of God.

This evening at 7:00, PMF will hold the Longest Night Service. This service will include scripture readings, prayer, silence, music and the lighting of candles. It is a time to experience the call of Jesus: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday we will meet two old radicals, Simeon and Anna. Both have waited for Israel's deliverance and now see that being fulfilled in Jesus but not without a cost.

This Week

Have a blessed Christmas Day, celebrating the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. Give thanks for God's gifts of love, grace, and new life.

UPCOMING

Jan. 16-18, Winter High School Retreat at Amigo Centre

Sunday, Jan. 25, Covenant service.

Feb. 7-8 - PMF Winter Retreat at Mount St. Francis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rebecca will be on **vacation** Mon. 22nd through Sat. 27th. Matt will be gone Dec. 31-Jan. 2.

New in magazine rack: December issue of "behind the hammer" from Mennonite Disaster Service.

New on the bulletin board: *The FriedensWord* newsletter from Camp Friedenswald, and MCC's newsletter *Great Lake Stories*.

It is time to update the **PMF address roster and participant information** for our files. I have put cards in your mail boxes and ask that you complete them and drop them in the box on the office door. I will need them by December 28. If you have any questions please let me know. Thank you, Deb.

This message is for everyone, but particularly for those who have or expect to have a life changing event such as finishing school, getting married, had a baby, changed jobs, retired, or death in the family. **Everence, the stewardship arm of the Mennonite Church** provides faith based advice, assistance, and products to meet your stewardship needs. To connect with this resource, contact your local Everence advocate, Wendell Lantz.

The Mennonite is published monthly and serves Mennonite Church USA through articles that challenge and inspire, news that connects readers to the larger Mennonite community and more. If you would like to subscribe to receive The Mennonite you can through the PMF group subscription. The cost is \$37 which is a \$9 savings. Let Deb Giles know by Sunday Dec. 28 to be added to the list.

<p><u>TODAY</u> Dec. 21, 2014 (worship at 9:30)</p> <p>Oh, that you would reveal your mystery</p> <p>Worship Leader: Lonnie Sears Music Leader: Sandi Sears Meditation: Rebecca Kauffman Greeters: Wendell Lantz/Doris Weaver Nursery: Cynthia Parsons/ Dave Mullet A.V.: Craig Bumbalough</p>	<p><u>NEXT SUNDAY</u> Dec. 28, 2014 (worship at 9:30)</p> <p>Oh, that you would reveal your mystery</p> <p>Worship Leader: Jamey Sullivan Music Leader: Joanna and Dave Woodsmall Meditation: Matt Pflederer Greeters: Ted and Darlene Larrison Nursery: Andrew Blount / Crystal Shellenberger AV: Craig Bumbalough</p>
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Confession

Leader: Today, in this safe but dark and holy place we become aware of your presence, God. In your presence we focus on your worldwide church and its story across the centuries. We offer confession on her behalf because her story is also our story. At times we have killed enemies with whose faith or politics we have differed, instead of loving them. We have been the agents of slavery instead of freeing people to live within your reign of righteousness. We have perpetuated racism and devalued those you call your own.

People: **We have acted in your name, but have often failed to reflect your nature.**

Leader: Forgive us for times when we have failed to demonstrate to all God's people the boundless love of God in Christ. We confess these heavy sins to you, Lord, knowing we cannot carry the burden of these sins. We pray that you would remove the weight of the church's sin from our shoulders.

People: **Restore your love in us, part of your worldwide church. Grant even to us the expansive love revealed in this holy season.**

All: *Restore our love, Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Song: Come and fill our hearts with your love
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your love
Alleluia.

Assurance

Leader: The Lord declares: I will gladly restore my love in you, my never ending love for the church and for all peoples.

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