



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered –

Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, March 3, 2024

9:45 a.m.

Third Sunday of Lent

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer

*Welcoming One Another

*Gathering and Praising

Lead on, O Cloud of Presence VT #194

Christ's Is the World STJ #62

Scripture Reading

Psalm 19 Pew Bible p. 292

Sharing Time and Prayer

Children's Time

Worship Music

Holy Manna arr. Joel Raney

Prayer of Confession

Scripture Reading

John 2:13-22 Pew Bible p. 561

Message

Christ Among Us: Showing Us Justice

Offering Prayer

*Responding and Sending

I Bind My Heart This Tide VT #556

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me VT #429

*Benediction

Postlude

***please stand if you are able**

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

www.HMCFreeman.org

TODAY March 3, 2024 9:45 a.m.. Third Sunday of Lent

Worship Leader: Suzanne Koerner

Accompanist: Charlene Friesen

Song Leader: Suzanne Koerner

Worship Music: Men's Ensemble

Children's Time: Kenneth Birkey

Message: Pastor Randall Koehler

Coffee Time: Rodney & Amanda Mettler

Children's Sunday School following the worship service. Adult

Sunday School following coffee time in the Education Wing.

NEXT SUNDAY March 10, 2024 9:45 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent

Worship Leader: Lyndon Hofer

Accompanist: Paige Hofer

Song Leader: Amanda Mettler

Worship Music: Cole Hofer

Children's Time: Paige Hofer & Torrie Zachariasen

Message: Christ Among Us: The Way of Mercy - Pastor Randall

Scripture: Psalm 107; John 3:1-21

Coffee Time: Les & Mary Rensink

Children's Sunday School following the worship service. Adult

Sunday School following coffee time in the Education Wing.

Calendar:

March 6: Winter Midweek Bible Study on Zoom at 7 PM

March 24 - 27: Holy Week Services at HMC at 7 PM

March 28: HMC Annual Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM in
the Fellowship Hall

HMC Congregational Ministry Project for March:

MCC Hygiene Kits

Please place items for donation in the bin in Sunday School
room 1 or give monetary donations to Joyce Hofer, treasurer
or place in C.M. mailbox

Call to Worship:

All: May the words of our mouths and the mediations of our hearts be pleasing to you, O God.

One: We speak because you spoke first, bringing voice to the brightness of the sun and singing the airy darkness of the sky. You spoke this earth from end to end, and speaking must have given you pleasure, for you said, "It was good."

Many: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to you, O God.

One: Year after year you have poured forth speech: passing stories and statutes down through hands and lips.

From you we learned to speak, and speaking, we spoke to you - singing songs of consolation that would become your psalms to us; writing poems our children's children would hear as the voice of God.

Many: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to you, O God.

One: Your law, O Lord, is perfect. Your Word is the one that endures. We seek the grammar of your justice in the words that you spoke before. Speak here now; speak here once more.

All: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to you, O God.

Prayer of Confession:

One: We often miss the beauty in your work, God.

Many: Forgive our distracted hearts.

One: When we put our trust in other things,

Many: remind us of your love and care.

All: Bring joy to us once again.

One: May the meditations of our hearts

Many: be pleasing on your sight,

All: our Rock and our Redeemer.

Prayer Requests and Praises:

- **Birthdays:** Shirley Hofer and Vernon P. Hofer on March 4, Donovan Friesen on March 6
- Please continue to pray for Amy Hofer Vetch as she receives radiation treatments these next few weeks. She has eleven more treatments to go. Before she started radiation, she had a breast lump removed, and after further testing, was found to be at stage 0 for breast cancer. Her continued treatment with radiation was recommended to fully eradicate any further cancer.
- Pray for the staff of Swan Lake Christian Camp (SD) and Crooked Creek Christian Camp (IA) as they begin to prepare for the summer camping season.
- Tomorrow, members of the Central Plains Mennonite Conference will begin a week-long Just Peace Pilgrimage, organized by Mennonite Mission Network. Pray for open minds and hearts as participants focus on the struggle for civil rights in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, and how Jesus is calling his followers to respond.

Pastor Randall's contact information:

Office: call or email to make an appointment

Phone - 309-208-6032

Email - pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com

Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey

OAA Hours: Thursday mornings

Church Email: hutterthal@goldenwest.net

Church Website: www.hmcfreeman.org

Our **Lenten Visual** this week is a scroll with the Ten Commandments written in it. God pursues us with words of love. God gave us commandments to follow so we could rest in the giver of life. When the world pulls us in different directions, let's circle back to the path that directs us toward God. We may stumble and fall, but God is always there to guide us. The scroll with the commandments is a reminder of God's great love for us.

The deacons and pastor invite you to join our annual winter **midweek study** on Wednesday evenings via zoom at 7 PM. We have been learning about conflicts in Palestine and Northern Ireland. This coming Wednesday, we continue studying the present-day effects of Apartheid in South Africa. Our central text, *I Am Not Your Enemy* by Michael T. McRay. Our next meeting is March 6.

In preparation of the Easter season and our hosting of the pre-Easter services it has been decided that our church will have a **spring cleaning**. This event has not taken place since pre-Covid, so it is time. Areas that will be of primary focus prior to Easter is the sanctuary, bathrooms, nursery, the two childcare rooms and the foyers. Other areas will need to be done also, but can wait until after Easter. Your help will be much appreciated. Dates will be announced soon and assignments will be in your mailboxes, so please watch for them. Thank you. - Joline

The **February edition of On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King shares his insights on Jesus passion for sharing meals, learn how MDS volunteers are finding additional work along the Texas border, and find out why one woman says MDS is the light of Canada. <https://conta.cc/49pNHoc>

Thank you to those who helped with setting up and making noodles and cheese pockets for this year's Schmeckfest. We packaged a total of 293 pounds of noodles to be served at the meal and sell in the Country Kitchen. We also made 406 dozen cheese pockets! The number of intergenerational volunteers who showed up was wonderful! Thanks again.

- Beth Bontrager

Donations sought for Schmeckfest Country Kitchen: The Schmeckfest Food Committee is asking for donations of food items for March 15 and 16. Poppyseed rolls, fruit pockets, kuchen, pumpkin rolls, caramel rolls, jams, horseradish and summer savory sell especially well. Donated food items for the Country Kitchen may be brought to Sterling Hall and should be labeled. Thank you!

MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory: An MCC kit cannot be distributed until each item for the kit is assembled, but some supplies in the Material Resources Center are so low that kits cannot be processed for shipping. You can help by filling the following needs:

- new infant sleepers (6-12 month sizes)
- bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight)
- laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha or Zote brands)
- shampoo (20 oz min)
- spiral notebooks (70 sheets).

Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome, please contact brociamueller@mcc.org or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at mcc.org/kits.

Every year the **Justice and Peace Task Group** awards a peace mug to a Central Plains peacemaker. This year we are looking for a special person who has seen the plight of immigrants and responded. As God's people, we are called to welcome the stranger. Look around your congregation and community. Think about people who have found ways to bring peace and justice by welcoming immigrants. Who do you hear advocating for their rights? Who do you see welcoming them by sharing resources? Who do you see inspiring others to notice the cruelty of our immigration system? We need nominations for this special Welcome the Stranger Peace Mug Award. Send names and a brief description of why you are nominating them to Jane Y-S (wilmajane17@gmail.com). We need them by Monday, March 18.

COMING! Commemorating 500 Years of Anabaptism in Zurich + Swiss Alps 9-Day Tour in May 2025. Tour sites: Lake Geneva, Murren – the Swiss mountain village accessed by cable car, and Mennonite heritage in Bern and the Emmental Valley. On May 29 we will join Anabaptists from around the world in Zurich in worship and celebration of the 500 Year beginning of Anabaptism. Details and registration coming soon. Preview the tour at www.tourwithweldon.com To join the "Interested List" contact Weldon Martens at weldon.martens@gmail.com or 402-202-9276.

A Lenten Journey: Coming Home to Love

We are created with an inner restlessness and desire for connection with God. It is this very restlessness that accompanies us through the losses, struggles, and joys of life, finally leading us home to our true selves, God's Beloved.

Please join us for a silent Lenten retreat at Die Heimat Country Inn. We will dwell together in silence in a place where, as God meets us, we will have the time and space to welcome and attend to that Divine meeting.

When: March 21-24, 2024 (Thurs-Sun)

(Check-in between 4:00-6:00 pm March 21, Check-out 1:00 pm March 24)

Where: Die Heimat Country Inn, 4434 V Street, Homestead, IA 52236

Included: 3 nights stay in a private room with a private bath, 5 meals, retreat resources, and a personal session each day (Friday and Saturday) with a spiritual director.

Cost: \$350 plus tax

To register, call June at 319-461-6611 or Ruth at 612-432-8757. (We need a minimum of 6 people to hold the retreat - maximum 12.)