

A New Year in Anabaptist History

Submitted by: Pastor Randall Koehler

I pray that Christmas and the New Year were filled with the hope, peace, love, and joy of Christ Jesus’s coming among us. Not long before Christmas day, I received my copy of the Anabaptist Community Bible. First thing, I scoured the contributor list in the first few pages and found Hutterthal Mennonite Church; I was thrilled that we had been able to share in this opportunity.

Along with the Voices Together Hymnal a few years ago, this Anabaptist Study Bible adds to the growing list of things that will be shared in 2025, the 500th year of Anabaptism. This is the background story, according to Anabaptist World (<https://anabaptistworld.org/anabaptisms-500th-birthday/>): “Nearly 500 years ago, a group of young people gathered in a house in the shadow of” Zurich’s main cathedral “to commit an act of subversion: adult baptism. Their study of the Bible led them to challenge the Catholic practice of baptizing infants. They held that baptism was a symbol of their decision to submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ and follow his example — a commitment only an adult could make. This radical act, on Jan. 21, 1525, marked the beginning of the Anabaptist (“rebaptizer”) movement.

During the month of January, this anniversary’s theme, renewal, will be central to our worship services at HMC. On Wednesday evenings, we will share together in reading The Bible Unwrapped and continue a key Anabaptist tradition of reading and interpreting scripture in community together just as was mentioned above. Then in February, we will begin a journey through the Sermon on the Mount, a piece of scripture that I have heard many Anabaptists mention as one of the central pieces of scripture for Anabaptist Mennonites.

If you would like to look ahead, you can read Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount in its entirety in Matthew 5-7. If you are interested in more of what will be happening for the 500th anniversary, you can look here: <https://anabaptismat500.com/>. Finally, if you continue to wonder about what it means to be an Anabaptist Mennonite, I find Mennonite World Conference’s list of shared convictions to be a good starting place: <https://mwc-cmm.org/en/shared-convictions/>



Upcoming Events at HMC

- Jan. 8: Winter Midweek Bible Study at 7 PM
- Jan. 19: Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday

Birthdays

- 1) Ardella Gross
- 5) Brandon Waltner
- 7) Amy Hofer Vetch
- 8) Egan Mettler
- 10) Ethan Waltner
- 10) Reinhardt Hofer
- 12) Joline Thomas
- 18) Randy Glanzer
- 23) Les Rensink
- 26) Oaklynn Zachariasen
- 27) Phil Thomas
- 30) Landon Neuharth

Anniversary

- 26) Cameron & Rina Hofer



Thank you, Hutterthal Church Ministries, for the useful Christmas gift and to Kathy Pullman and Barbie Hofer for the priceless visit on Dec. 6th. It was all much appreciated. — Ardella Gross

Date	Attendance	Income
Dec. 1	66	\$1,965.00
Dec. 8	61	\$2,031.25
Dec. 15	61	\$2,515.00
Dec. 22	101	\$1,912.00
Online Giving		\$363.02

January Congregational Ministries Project:

Blankets and Soap for MCC

Items can be placed in the bin in Sunday School room 1

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION
with one another

Editor & Publisher

Aprille Birkey
Office Hours:
Thursday 9 AM -12 PM

Connection Advisory Board

Joline Thomas
Barbie Hofer
Kenneth Birkey

Christmas Program

On December 22, the children, with the help of some adults, put on the Christmas program "Wy the Chimes Rang" by Julia Neufeld and Margaret Tucker. This musical is based on the book by Raymond MacDonald Alden and combines the charm of far-off lands and the innocence of childhood, with Luke's story of the Widow's offering. Thank you Suzanne and Rebecca for all your hard work in putting this together!



Thank you as well to the
sound/tech crew!

Hanging Microphones

In December, the trustees and the tech crews, led by Chad Hofer, worked together to install hanging microphones. These microphones will help in the online service recordings to pick up the sound of the congregation during hymns.



HMC Links

- Website - www.hmcfreeman.org
- "Like" Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch

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