

Bethel Mennonite Church

“Serving Jesus, Loving Others”

Vol. 63

December 26, 2021

No. 52

Christmas Sunday: Love

Announcements

Lighting the Peace Lamp:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” Luke 2:14 (NRSV)

Prelude: Overture to Messiah

Call to worship

Lighting the Christmas candles

We light a candle for *love*:

love in our hearts, love in our homes,
love in the world.

May the light of *Christ and his Love* shine through our lives.

Call to Praise

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,

you have come to your people and set them free.

Glory to You:

Source of all Love, Incarnate Word, and Holy Spirit;

Glory to the Three in One,

in whom we live and move and have our being.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Psalm 96:9-13

Worship the Lord, all the earth! Stand in awe of the Lord.

Proclaim to the nations: “God is king.”

**Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,**

let the land and all it bears rejoice,

and shout for joy at the presence of the Lord who comes,

**who comes with justice to rule the earth,
and to judge the peoples with truth.**

THIS WEEK

TODAY

9:30 - Sunday School.

10:30 a.m. – Worship. Speaker: Rebecca Kauffmxn.

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship. Speaker: Jared Chxse, pastor of Sharon Mennonite, Plain City.

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: Dick Lindemxr

LAST WEEK

Worship 33

Your generosity empowers our collective work for God’s kingdom purposes. Thanks.

OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

This Week – December 26

Worship leader: Rebecca Kauffmxn

Music leader: Byron Kauffmxn

Speaker: Rebecca Kauffmxn

Greeters: Ken & Jeanette Hostetlrx

Sound: Lori Lehmxn

Media: Andrew Bloxnt

Prelude: Byron Kauffmxn

Next Week – January 2

Worship leader: Doug Steinrx

Music leader: Carl Newcomxr

Speaker: Jared Chxse

Greeters: Mary P & Mary N.

Sound: Andrew Bloxnt

Media: Andrew Bloxnt

Prelude: Elaine Newcomxr

PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- Praise God, “for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples. It’s a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people” (Luke 2:30-32).
- Praise God for the collaboration between West Liberty churches as many people were served a meal on Christmas day. May we all continue to bring healing and hope in our community as God enables us.
- Continue to pray for God’s healing mercy to be upon Bob Bxss, Peggy Wirxck, Deb Cramxr, Kyle’s friend Mackenzie (anticipating surgery), and others you know.
- Pray for safety for those who are traveling. Pray God’s blessing on family and friend interactions, that we can encourage and build one another up in Christ.
- As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we marvel at how God dared to come among us in such a vulnerable form. May we, like Jesus, Mary and Joseph choose to become vulnerable, taking risks to offer genuine love, to build bridges of understanding, and to stand with and protect others who are vulnerable.

In order to sing together as a congregation as safely as possible, we will need to wear our masks during the service, and especially while singing. Thank you for caring for one another in this way. May God’s grace cover us as we worship together.

The number of Covid-19 cases and community spread in our area continues to be quite high, please take appropriate precautions (using masks and distance) given your own health factors and the vulnerability of those you come into contact with.

Bethel Mennonite Church 937- 465-4587
P.O. Box 549, 416 Washington Street www.bethelchurchwl.org
West Liberty, OH 43357
Pastor: Rebecca Kauffmxn (Rebecca@bethelchurchwl.org)

Office hours: T & F 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,
W & Th 1:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment

Administrative Assistant: Miriam Lxpp (secretary@bethelchurchwl.org)

Office Hours: W and F 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Leadership Team: Elaine Newcomxr, Dick Lindemxr, Carol Bxck, Byron Kauffmxn, Doug Steinxr, Ken Shxnk

Hymns: O come, all ye faithful – H #212
The first Noel, the angel did say – H #199

Thanksgiving

We remember your great goodness to us, Lord.

*It was no messenger or angel
but your very presence that saved us.*

(free prayers of thanksgiving)

In love and pity you redeemed us;
you lift us up and carry us all our days. Amen.

Offering & prayer

Offertory: Pastoral symphony from Messiah

Call to Discipleship

Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is from God;

everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Reflection: Angels sing good news

Hymns: Silent night, holy night – H #193
Joy to the world – H #318

Affirmation of Faith: Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;

*for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible,*

whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers –
all things have been created through him and for him.

*He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.*

He is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.

*For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.*

Call to Intercession

Sharing: reflections on the scripture, joys, requests, thanksgivings
Intercessory prayer

Sending song: Solemn Stillness – VT #276 (see insert)

Benediction

*May grace and peace be ours in abundance
in the knowledge of God
and of Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rebecca and Andrew will be out of town Dec. xx for the holiday. For emergency pastoral care, contact Carl Newcomr.

Consider sharing your hospitality with the congregation. Sign up to be a greeter in 2022!

An **MDS Early Response Team** is investigating several of the tornado sites to determine how and where MDS will respond. If you are interested in being added to a *volunteer waitlist*, call 800-241-8111 or email dfrey@mds.org. *Monetary donations* to the MDS response are welcome; see our website: <https://mds.org/donate-usa/>. We are unable to accept clothing, food, water or other material aid.

Barb & Byron Kauffmxn have a new email address: Their new phone number, xx, is listed in the new directory. Their cell phone numbers in the directory remain the same.

David Hostetlrx has moved to the Green Hills Inn, apt. #101. (This is listed in the new directory.)

“**Empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead like yourself**”. This retreat, Feb. 18-19, is designed to encourage and empower women to lead in our congregation, family, and community. It will take place in Tiffin, OH and features input by Rebecca Sloxgh, retired professor at AMBS. Sponsored by Ohio Conference. See bulletin board &/or talk to Pastor Rebecca if interested.