

## FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Halstead, Kansas

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23, 2018

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**Gathering Music** Lauren Mueller

**Welcome and Announcements** Denice Klassen

**Centering Music** Lauren Mueller

**Special Music** *Silent Night, Holy Night*

### Call to Worship

Advent Candle Lighting

### \*Praise Songs

*To us a Child of Hope is Born* – HWB #189

*The First Noel* – HWB #199

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* – HWB #212

**Offering and Offertory** Lauren Mueller

Mutual Aid Fund

### Children's Story

**Prayer of Praise and Concern** Pastor Steve

### Praise Song

*What Child is This* – HWB #215

### Scripture

Luke 1:46-55 (pg. 1589)

**Message** Pastor Steve

*New Possibilities*

### \*Closing Song

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky* – HWB #216

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

Cindy Siemens

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\*Asterisk indicates to stand as you are able.  
Visitors, please complete a Visitor Information Card  
from the pew pocket and place in the offering plate.

### CALENDAR

Dec. 24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 26 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting

Dec. 31 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Party

Jan. 5 9:00 am Verenike Making Day

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Secretary Note:** The rose at the front today is to celebrate the 94<sup>th</sup> birthday of Evelyn Regier today! Happy birthday Evelyn!

**The Christmas Eve worship service** will begin at 7 pm on December 24. Plan to attend this special service to celebrate Christmas with your church family and friends. Invite someone to share it with you!

**We will have our annual New Year's Eve party** at the church on Monday, Dec. 31 starting at 7 pm. Bring snacks to share and games to play! We will also have a White Elephant gift exchange, which is always a highlight of the night. Invite your family and friends!

**Verenike Making:** Join us Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 9 am to make verenike for our annual Verenike Supper! We made nearly 2000 last year. The upcoming Verenike Supper will be held on Saturday February 23, 2019.

**Looking Ahead for Wednesday Nights:** Kids Club will meet this year from January 30-March 27 on Wednesday's at 5 pm (not meeting on March 13). The theme will be "Colossal Coaster World." The adult meeting dates and topic will be announced soon.

**Camp Mennoscah is now accepting applicants** for a quarter-time (10 hours/week) custodial position. The position starts January 2, 2019, and will remain open until filled. Contact Olivia at 620-297-3290 or [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) for further information.

**Bethel College: Centering Prayer** will not meet Monday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve), or Monday, Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve) but will resume Monday, Jan. 7, 2019. **Dec. 31** – The Bethel College advancement/development office invites you to a holiday open house, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Come by to visit with staff, enjoy holiday treats and a warm beverage – and make your year-end donation. The office is on the main floor of the Administration Building on campus.

**Kauffman Museum is open through the holidays** (closed Mondays, plus Tues., Christmas Day, and Tues., New Year's Day): hours 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, Sat.-Sun., 1:30-4:30 p.m. Visit the current special exhibit "Better Choose Me: Collecting and Creating with Tobacco Fabric Novelties, 1880-1920."

**Five Times Harder will perform a holiday concert** at First Mennonite Church of Hillsboro, KS on December 30 at 4:00 pm. They will perform a variety of Christmas music in styles ranging from classical to bluegrass to folk. No admission charge. Tom Harder is pastor at First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, KS, and Lois Harder is Bridge Pastor at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS.

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**PASTOR: Steve Wilcox**

[www.firstmennonitehalstead.org](http://www.firstmennonitehalstead.org)

Office Phone: 316-835-2282

Cell Phone: 316-322-5651

Office Hours: Tues. 9-2 & Thurs. 8-11, 12-3

**WELCOMERS TODAY**

**ORGANIST/PIANIST**

**NURSERY TODAY**

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

**OFFERING LAST SUNDAY**

Western District Conference (designated) \$1,096.00

Church Budget 1,185.00

MCC Christmas Tree 320.00

Sound System 75.00

**OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY**

**WELCOMERS NEXT SUNDAY**

**NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY**

Harley & Elaine Mohler

Lauren Mueller/Cindy Siemens

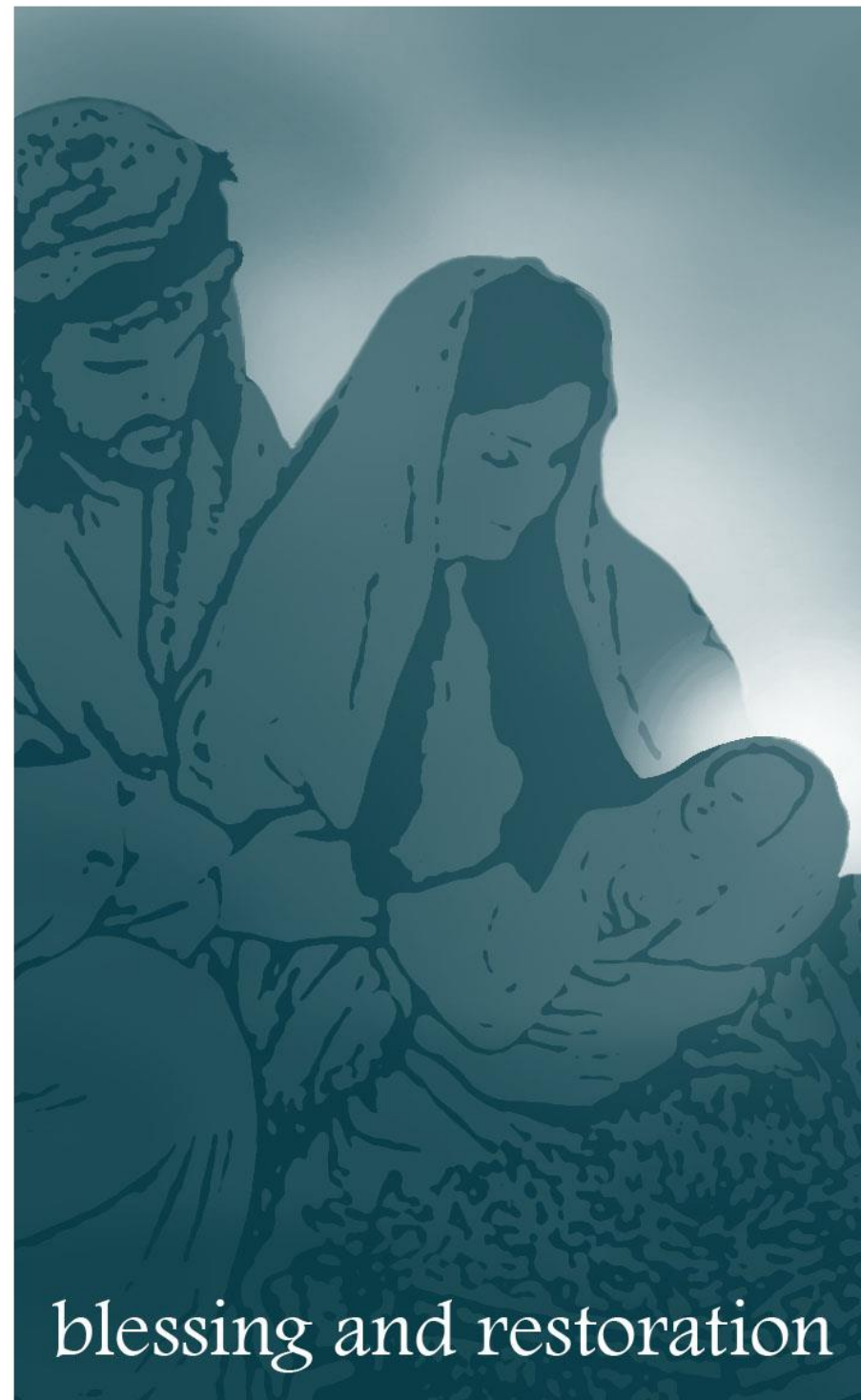
Jason Smoker & Lauren Mueller

122

Church Budget

Arnita Haury

Sara Smoker & Melanie Haspels



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Retirement Party!** Please join the Nightingale family in Stauffer Hall for a cupcake following worship today to celebrate James' retirement from Alloy Architecture on December 31.

**Borderlands Tour:** WDC Immigration Task Force invites you to register for the May 6-11, 2019 MCC South Texas Borderlands Learning Tour. Go to <https://mcc.org/get-involved/events/learning-tour-south-texas-borderlands> to register. Cost: \$650. For more information, please contact Kathy at 316-283-6300.

**Winter Wonderland Worship** on Dec. 28 from 3-6pm! Join us for songs from evening worship at summer youth camps at Camp Mennoscah in the Dining Hall. Enjoy classic "Sunday" camp sandwiches, hot chocolate, time by the campfire/fireplace, and the warmth that comes from being surrounded by friends at camp! Also, TP the Christmas tree! We'll metaphorically TP our Christmas Tree with your donations of toilet paper or paper towels. Cash or checks for 4-square/gaga balls are welcome, too. RSVP to 620-297-3290 or [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) by December 26 so we know how many sandwiches to fix--and tell us about any food allergies!

**Hello, future summer staffers!** You can apply for a summer staff position at Camp Mennoscah at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org) under Summer Youth Camps. Do it now! Positions are music, crafts, nature, lifeguard, office, and grounds/maintenance. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled; we'll start interviewing in January! Contact us at 620-297-3290 or [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) with questions. We can't wait to talk to you about being on summer staff!

**WDC congregations and members:** Remember to share your feedback for the Mennonite Church USA Journey Forward process by the due-date of December 31! Use the online survey at <http://mennoniteusa.org/journey-forward/>.

## **PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES**

- Pray for Allen and Karolyn Unruh and the treatment of the tumor that was found in Karolyn. Pray for strength to face this, healing in every way possible, and peace to settle over them.
- Please pray for Marilyn, Alan, Garris, Liara, and the rest of Melissa's family as they mourn her passing. Pray that God will hold them all close as they navigate this new terrain in life with her gone.
- Western District Conference: Give thanks for the gift of God's Word-made-flesh in Jesus, and for the many ways in which WDC congregations make God's love tangible in our world today.
- Mennonite Mission Network: In this season of "Peace on earth, goodwill to all people," Nancy Frey and Bruce Yoder of Mennonite Mission Network request prayer for peace in Burkina Faso, where terrorist groups have become more active. May the Mennonite Church show the way to the Prince of Peace.