

Summit Mennonite Church

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We follow Christ, offering healing and hope as we serve our neighbors in need

Marilyn Rossiter, Pastor

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Stan King and Mary Schwartz, Caring Team

Worship: 10:30 am

If you are a visitor this morning, we welcome you to our worship service! We hope that you feel at ease with us and sense the presence of God. We invite you to sign our Guest book in the foyer.

Childcare during worship is available for infants and toddlers (generally ages three and under) in the nursery through the back doors of the sanctuary. Children's bulletins and toys are available at the sanctuary entrance.

December 21, 2014

Advent 3 Oh that you would reveal your **love**

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Susan Moyer

Welcome

Rachael Oyer

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Jack and Laci Rhorer

Announcements

Call to worship

Leader: Come, let us worship in faith the God who is here and desires our worship. Redeeming God, work in our hearts, that our worship would be filled with your redeeming love.

All: Oh, that you would reveal your love to us, O Lord.

Leader: When Mary was sent away, she found an embrace in your arms.

People: When we feel isolated by the world, we find security in your kingdom.

Leader: The world does not see us as the Lord does.

People: They do not value us as the eternal One does.

Leader: The world cannot love us like the Lord does.

People: They cannot comfort us as our Creator does.

All: When others abandon us, God makes a home with us.

Opening Prayer

Hymn: HWB #178 *Come Thou long expected Jesus* Hank Rossiter

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

of church history. 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: Most of all, 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 committed in your name. 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.

ASSURANCE

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

PROCLAIMING

Children's Time

Mona Rhorer

Cantata: **Let Us Adore Him** (see insert)

RESPONDING

Hymn: STJ #44 The Love of God

Sharing joys and sorrows

Prayer

Offering

SENDING

All: Our souls proclaim the greatness of God, our spirits exhale God our Savior. In love the mighty One has done great deeds and has filled us with good things.

Leader: Depart now, in peace to proclaim the greatness of God.

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Food Donations for BACM for Dec: Cereal

Greeter: LaVerne Yousey & Deb Barry

Worship Planners: Julia Beyeler and Suzie Yoder

Nursery: Judy King

## LAST WEEK

Attendance Dec 14: 50 Dec 7: 59 Offering \$1,758

## THIS WEEK

Dec 24, 7pm: Christmas Eve Service

## COMING EVENTS

Sun, Jan 11: Annual Reports due to LaVerne

Sun, Jan 25: Meal followed by Annual Business Meeting

July 18-19, 2015: Summit's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please try to park in our **upper parking lot** 😊 for the Christmas Eve service. There is a foot path (gravel) from there to the back church door. This candlelight service will begin shortly before 7. Come early for a good seat!

There will be a **Children's Christmas Birthday Party** during Sunday School (9:30) next week, December 28th. Adults, please enter the church through the kitchen door after 9:30. Children, we will have games and refreshments.

The church is one place to give a special **year-end gift**, for the glory of God and the growth of His Kingdom. The love of God has been a VERY special gift to us in 2014! We are all very grateful.

**Mittens, gloves, scarves and hats** are being collected for our "Mitten Tree" in the corner of the sanctuary. Bring items to share with local organizations.

Camp Luz will host a **Mother Daughter Retreat** on January 9-10. Deb Horst- associate pastor of Christian Formation and Youth at Lindale Mennonite Church (VA) and former director of Camp Luz, will be speaking on being "Rooted In Christ". More information and registration forms are available at [www.camluz.com](http://www.camluz.com)

BULLETIN INSERT DECEMBER 21, 2014

**Do you feel overwhelmed with credit card debt?** Do you wonder how you will pay your rent or mortgage? Are you facing a difficult financial situation or need basic financial counsel? Everence offers a compassionate and thoughtful service that can help. You can receive confidential budget and debt counseling from a certified credit counselor (up to six sessions) at no cost through an arrangement Everence has with LSS financial Counseling Service. Pick up a brochure from the table at the back of the sanctuary or see Stan, our Everence Advocate, for more information.

**BACM:** Bring cereal for the month of December and drop into the box by our white giving tree. You may bring other food or grocery supplies also. It would be helpful to get into the habit of buying a few extra items when you do your grocery shopping.

**MISSION NETWORK PRAYER REQUEST:** Some young adults working with Mennonite Mission Network's short-term mission programs, like Mennonite Voluntary Service and Service Adventure, will be going home for the holidays. Pray for safe travels. Pray also for those who will be experiencing Christmas far from their families this year.