

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

December 3, 2017

Welcome to our service of worship. We invite you to sign our register and to worship with us whenever you can. We welcome everyone without regard to race, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and economic or other life circumstances. Information about our church and about the Mennonite faith is available on the brochure racks near the side entrances to the sanctuary. After the worship service, the Welcome Committee invites you to the designated Welcome Table in the Fellowship Hall (lower level) to connect with other attendees.

Today's greeters are **Peggy Coriell and Phyllis Carlson**. Ushers are **Brad and Nancy Gritman**. Please ask any of them if you need assistance with seating, would like to use a large-print hymnal, need a hearing assistance device or have questions about the location of the restrooms. The nursery is located on the second floor of the education wing. Our nursery workers today are **Jeff Jantzen, Ashton Wells and Kennedy Kaufman**.

Closing Trustee: **Mitch Kaufman**

Remembering in Prayer...

Please keep Lori Lichty in your thoughts and prayers as she will undergo surgery on December 8 to remove a carcinoid tumor from her lung. While NOT life threatening and a full recovery is expected, she will be recuperating from this major surgery for 4 to 6 weeks.

This Morning at Rainbow – First Day of Advent

During Sunday school hour today, Rainbow Church Council would like your feedback on five congregational goals that are starting to take shape. We will organize ourselves in small table groups in Fellowship Hall to discuss and refine these potential goals. Come to share your input and listen to what others have to say.

*Special note to those who are otherwise occupied with Christmas program rehearsal on Sunday: There will be an additional table group time from 6-6:45 pm on Wednesday, December 6, with an added bonus of supper being included!

Rehearsals for the Christmas Program during the Sunday School hour continue! Children in preschool and Kindergarten will meet in the preschool Sunday School room. Children in grades 1st-5th will be taken to their interest group following Worship Arts. Youth in grades 6th-12th have been assigned their interest group rooms.

Advent Hope

Our Advent season (December 3-24) will revolve around hope—hope observed, experienced, sometimes barely flickering. Here are a variety of ways we will offer and receive hope in the coming weeks:

Dec 4-9

CROSS-LINES CHRISTMAS STORE 2017 * Revised, new location*****

Cross-Lines Christmas Store allows 500 area families the opportunity to shop for Christmas. The Christmas Store is located at **736 Shawnee Ave, Kansas City, KS, corner of Shawnee and Pyle**. Whether it's with your time or your funds, you can experience the joy of contributing to this great cause! Here are ways you can help:

- Consider making a cash donation. Please make checks payable to Rainbow Mennonite Church, designated for "Cross-Lines Christmas Store"; please put cash in an envelope and mark it "Cross-Lines Christmas Store"
- Volunteers are needed to staff the store while customers shop, from December 4-9. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Fellowship Hall after this Sunday's service

Sun, Dec. 10

9:30 am worship, followed by a **youth peppernut fundraiser** during fellowship time. (All donations will go toward future youth trips.)

4:00 pm **Christmas Program**, *O Come ALL Ye Faithful*, with refreshments to follow. (Please bring a dessert or snack to share!) The program will be a collaborative work with children, youth and adults. A free-will offering will be received with funds disbursed evenly to Deacons' Fund and Mennonite Central Committee. Contact Rosi Penner Kaufman if you would like to offer any special music as a prelude.

Sun, Dec 17

9:30 am worship; Sunday School will feature an outdoor **carol sing** (weather pending) with cider, hot cocoa and doughnuts.

Thurs, Dec. 21

7:00 -8:00 pm **Longest Night/Winter Solstice Service**. This will be a quiet, candlelit service as we hold our various losses and grief up to the Light of Hope and Love.

Sun, Dec. 24

10:00 am worship (no Sunday school) *Note the later time!*

6:00 pm **Christmas Eve Service**

Sun, Dec. 31

10:00 am worship (no Sunday school) *Note the later time!*

Announcements

Women's Luncheons: All women are invited to Ten Thousand Villages on December 6th at 11:00am for our Wednesday lunch! Charity Gourley will be ordering lunch for us from Panera. Whether you've been attending the Wednesday lunch or not, you're welcome to join us for lunch and shopping. If you are not on the email list and would like to join us, please email: Charity Gourley.

Budget Update - we fell a bit short of budgeted revenues in November. Year to date, our revenues are \$9K below budget and expenses remain around \$20K under budget. We project requiring \$95K in contributions during December to meet our budget. As a point of reference, contributions during December 2016 were \$110K. Thank you for your continued generosity and for remembering the church's financial needs as the end of the year approaches.

Online Giving - if you set up automatic contributions in November or December of 2016, your giving schedule may be expiring or already has expired. Please log in to Online Giving from the church website to check your automatic deductions schedule to renew, if necessary. Whether or not you have automatic deductions, anyone can make contributions to the general fund or any of the other funds we have, including Crosslines Christmas. Please contact Mark Unruh with any questions.

Committees are reminded that requests for the 2018 budget were due to Stewardship Committee by December 1. Contact Mark Unruh with any questions.

Youth Updates

Jr high breakfast in December is scheduled for **Sunday, December 17th beginning at 8:30am** in the jr high Sunday School room. Dress warm as we will be outside for part of the breakfast!

Sr high lunch discussion is set for Sunday, December 17th from 11am-12:30pm. Dress warm for this "discussion"!

November 26

Attendance.....	151
Visitors (included in attendance count).....	3
General Fund	\$ 5,433.75
Other Donations	\$ 1,502.52
Offering Total	\$ 6,936.27
Cross-Lines Donations To Date	\$ 8,140.00

This Week

Sunday	Dec 3	First Sunday of Advent / Communion Sunday	
		Christmas Program Rehearsal	10:50am
		Congregational Goal Table Talks	10:50am
		Faith Formation Board Meeting	12:00pm
		Youth Group Peppernut Making	6:00pm
Monday	Dec 4	Cross-Lines Christmas Store Opens (Dec 4-9)	
Tuesday	Dec 5	Staff Meeting	1:30pm
		Worship Committee Meeting	7:00pm
Wednesday	Dec 6	Women's Luncheon at Ten Thousand Villages	11:00am
		Choir Dinner	6:15pm
		Choir Rehearsal	6:45pm
Saturday	Dec 9	Sr High Cross-Lines Christmas Store	8:00am

Next Week

Sunday	Dec 10	Second Sunday of Advent	
		Youth Peppernut Fundraiser	10:30am
		Christmas Program Rehearsal	10:50am
		MVS Support Board Meeting	10:00pm
		Christmas Program	4:00pm
Monday	Dec 11	United Government Meeting	4:00pm
Tuesday	Dec 12	Staff Outing – Office Closes at Noon	12:00pm
		Personnel Committee Meeting	5:00pm
		United Government Meeting	5:30pm
Wednesday	Dec 13	Choir Dinner	6:15pm
		Choir Rehearsal	6:45pm
Thursday	Dec 14	Trustees Meeting	7:00pm

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Anonymous author in the collection of Joseph Smith, 1784

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel;
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought
And pleasure dearly I have bought
I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile;
Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive
It keeps my dying faith alive
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

