

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

December 17, 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 and ushers are **Dave, Janelle, Hannah and Larissa Schrag**. 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 **Cynthia Olavarria Kaufman, Karla Leuenberg and Madeline Bollinger**.

Closing Trustee: **Eric Jantzen**

Remembering in Prayer...

We share the sad news that Rainbow neighbor, Pablo Escareno, passed away unexpectedly last week. Many will remember him for his jovial, mischievous spirit and for the ways he looked out for others. He volunteered many hours working to make this a safer, more beautiful Rosedale neighborhood, and we always knew when our parking lot lights weren't working thanks to him. May he rest in peace. Pablo's funeral has been set for this afternoon at McGilley Midtown Chapel, visitation from 2:00 - 4:00 pm and Rosary at 3:30.

Please pray for Betty Bodine who is receiving hospital care at St. Luke's Hospital for reoccurring diverticulitis.

Please pray for Linda Graham and her family as her sister- in- law, Kim Straub, lost her battle with cancer at age 59 last Sunday. Linda's whole family gathered in Austin, TX yesterday for her funeral.

Lori Lichty had surgery recently for the removal of a carcinoid tumor from her lung. The operation went perfectly and she is recovering well at home. Lori & Kent wish to thank you all for your prayers and support.

This Morning at Rainbow – Third Sunday of Advent

Please join us during the Sunday School hour as we gather for an outdoor carol sing with cider, hot cocoa and doughnuts.

The welcome banners hanging in the east entry were designed and created by children who were part of an art interest group for the Christmas program. They were inspired by the ever-changing hanging cloth displayed in our sanctuary and were created as a representation of that first, and ongoing, invitation to "Come, all ye faithful."

Advent Hope

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

- **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!*

Year End Reminders

Budget Update - as of December 13, we project requiring \$73K in contributions during the remainder of December to meet our budget. In addition to giving on Sundays, contributions can be made online via the church website and by mail to the church office. Any mailed contributions will need to be postmarked by December 31 to count toward 2017. 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.

Announcements

Thank you to everyone who participated in recent congregational goal table talks. Rainbow Church Council will meet again Tuesday, December 19 to review the feedback we have received thus far. Please email Christian Buller at christian.buller@gmail.com if you have additional comments before the 19th.

Staff Updates

Please note that the church office will be closed at the following dates and times:

- Friday, December 22 – Closing at noon (Christmas Eve Holiday)
- Monday, December 25 thru Wednesday, December 27 – Closed for Christmas
- Friday, December 29 – Closing at noon (New Year's Eve)
- Monday, January 1 – Closed for New Year's Day

December 10

Attendance.....	184
Visitors (included in attendance count)	2
General Fund	\$ 9,262.00
Other Donations	\$ 1,401.00
Christmas Program Offering	\$ 1,502.00
For Deacons' Fund and Mennonite Central Committee	
Total Offering	\$ 12,165.00

This Week

Sunday	Dec 17	Third Sunday of Advent	
		Jr High Breakfast	8:30am
		Sr High Lunch Discussion	11:00am
Tuesday	Dec 19	Staff Meeting	1:30pm
		Church Council Meeting	7:00pm
Wednesday	Dec 20	Women's Luncheon	11:00am
		Choir Dinner	6:15pm
		Choir Rehearsal	6:45pm
Thursday	Dec 21	Longest Night Service	7:00pm
Friday	Dec 22	Church Office Closes at Noon	12:00pm

Next Week

Sunday	Dec 24	Christmas Eve Morning Worship	10:00am
		Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	6:00pm

*The church office will be closed Dec 24 – 27; Open Dec 28;
Open until Noon Dec 29; Closed Jan 1.

December has already been a full month at Rainbow. People have helped out in so many generous ways--everything from raking leaves in the Playground, setting up Christmas trees and decorations, sharing music and art, passing out food at the Cross-Lines Christmas store, donating items for Mennonite Central Committee relief kits, and opening and locking the building for various events and services. We cherish the opportunity to learn, worship and serve alongside all of you. Now let's have ourselves a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

RMC Staff: Terry, Rosi, Renee, Carrie and Ruth

