Vol. 67 December 3, 2017 #49

Worship Focus: We awaken to God's purpose, which begins in darkness – whether seed in the ground, child in the womb, or new self in the soul. We are shaking, fearful, and resistant, yet we call upon God to tear open the heavens and be present with us in our uncertainty.

9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL

(More info below)

11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE – First Sunday of Advent

Prelude Worship Team
Welcome and Announcements Derrick Burkhart
Call to Worship

Call to Worship

L: Awake! The invitation to carry light comes from the God of trembling mountains and shaking foundations.

All: Our God, your expectations terrify us. How can our small selves hold your blazing presence?

L: Quiet our questioning souls.

All: Lead us beyond our resistance. Let it be.

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the First Advent Candle The Tony and Char Martin Family Congregational Singing Worship Team

ongregational Singing Worship Team "Here I Am to Worship" on screen

"O come, O come, Immanuel"

WB#172

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 64:1-9 Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Our God of power and might, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down, yet we tremble and quake at the thought of it. We confess that even though we know your Light, we do not like the dark, empty void where your Spirit hovers over the waters. We shake like leaves in the wind, fearful of what you might ask of us; afraid to trust you completely. Caught up in the swirling of our world we struggle to "let it be."

Word of Assurance (leader)

Our God, Emmanuel, in Jesus, the Christ, You have come among us. You have given us life, and we are restored.

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Children's Story

Nancy Mann

Dismissal for Junior Church

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Congregational Singing

"Angels from the Realms of Glory/Emmanuel" on screen "For Unto Us a Child is Born/Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord" on screen

Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Johnny Friesen

Sermon: "God With Us and For Us"

Gary Knarr

Hymn of Response

"I will come to you in the silence"

STS#49

Time of Sharing, Testimony and Silence

Pastoral Prayer Sending Song "Holy, Holy, Holy" Benediction Postlude

on screen

Children of all ages are invited to Jr. Church following the children's story. We ask that parents/guardians accompany very young children as needed. *An unstaffed nursery is available during the worship service.*

Our morning worship services are being videotaped and put on our website. If for any reason you would not like a portion of the service to be included, please contact the AV person.

A warm welcome to our visitors this morning.

We hope our time of worship together has been an encouragement to you. You are invited to drop by our Welcome Table and learn more about our church and our ministries. God bless you and we hope to see you again!

Prayer Shawl Ministry: This morning in worship we offer a blessing for our prayer shawl ministry. Knitters in the church create these shawls to share with people in our congregation (and beyond) in times of need. Anyone interested in knitting a prayer shawl to contribute to this ministry can contact Fern Metzger for details. A simple pattern and wool are provided.

Church Greeters Today: Ron & Merri-Lee Metzger Next Week: Ozie & Marilyn Martin

THIS WEEK AT FMC

<u>Today</u> - Focus articles due. Theme: Music and heart songs. Photos, reports, recipes, news items welcome. Use the Focus mailbox or email to rbdraper@golden.net.

<u>Tuesday – 9:00</u> - **Correction** - NO Ladies Quilting & Knotting

<u>Tuesday – 7:00</u> – Christmas Choir practice in the sanctuary.

<u>Wednesday</u> - Women's Fellowship Christmas Banquet at Bonnie Lou's

<u>Cafe</u> , 6:00 p.m. punch, 6:30 dinner

YAF CIRCLE

Friday December 15 - Young Adult Christmas Banquet here at the church. Punch at 6:30 pm/dinner at 7 pm. A full three-course meal for only \$10! Bring a small gift (under \$10) for a gift exchange. RSVP to Nancy Mann by Dec. 10th - invite your friends!

LOOKING AHEAD at FMC

Dec. 12 - 8:30 - Ladies breakfast at Bonnie Lou's

Dec. 13 – 7:00 - Finance Committee Meeting – Board Room

Dec. 14 - 9:30 - Let's Connect

Dec. 14 - 7:00 - Women's/Men's Bible Study

Sunday School Classes available		Upcoming Elective Classes
at 9:45		Jan. 14 – Meet Jim Loepp Thiessen
Kidz Korner	basement	during Sunday School Hour.
Drawing Class	Room 12	
Discussion Class	Room 9	
Seniors Class	Board Room	
Adult Bible Study	Room 11	

No Sunday School December 24th and 31st.

Financial Report

As of Nov. 19: \$325,630.18 required \$287,580.86 received \$38,049.32 deficit



Advent and Christmas Services at Floradale

Sunday, December 3 at 7 p.m.

Community Memorial Service at **Elmira Mennonite Church**. This service is an opportunity for people who have lost loved ones during the past year, or for anyone who has a deep grief or painful loss, to gather in prayer, remembrance and hope at the beginning of the Christmas season.

Sunday, December 10 at 7 p.m.

Community Carol Sing – **Gale Presbyterian Church**. Elmira and District Church choirs join together and share a joyful evening of anthems and carolling. Bring your joyful voices and join in this festive holiday tradition.

Sunday, December 17 at 11 a.m.

Sunday worship at Floradale will be special Christmas worship, including our Floradale Christmas Choir and involving the children. We rejoice to celebrate the birth of Christ together.

Sunday, December 24 at 11 a.m.

4th Advent Service – No Sunday School

Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.

Join us for Christmas Eve Service.

Christmas Day

No worship service. Enjoy this special time with your family.

See announcement sheet for other announcements.



"Loving God...Loving Our Neighbour"

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