



**One of the joys of heaven will be
discovering the hidden ways that God in
His sovereignty acted in our lives on
earth to protect us and guide us.
~ Billy Graham**

Worship Preview

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Advent Season. This year we will be looking at the different roles Jesus fills, and the first one we notice is that Jesus is our High Priest. We Mennonites don't have Priests, so we might find it difficult to understand and appreciate this unique role.

Sermon Title: **Jesus Our High Priest**
Sermon Text: **Luke 1:5-17**

But we do have pastors. And the difference between the two is this, pastors understand their role more as

shepherds, while priests understand themselves as representatives or God. In the religious structure God set up for the Israelites, there were priests and there was a High Priest who had responsibility for the spiritual health of Israel and for their religious practices. Of course, while these positions were originally appointed by God, they could and often did become corrupted, mixed with politics, self-interest, cronyism, and the pagan cultures that surrounded Israel. But there were also faithful priests who were not corrupted by all the lures and evils of the day. And Zechariah was one of these priests. It is interesting that when Luke tells the birth narrative of Jesus, he begins with Zechariah's story, and gives more space in the narrative to Zechariah and his song than to Mary, the shepherds, or the angels, the ones we give all our attention to. Why did Luke give so much attention to Zechariah? That is one of the things we want to explore a bit on Sunday.

Zechariah was a priest, and that is a not-so-subtle clue. Our common concept of Israel's priests is that their primary role was to offer sacrifices. And yet, Luke doesn't mention anything about sacrifices in his story of Zechariah. When we first meet Zechariah,

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Sunday Worship - 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am

Worship Leader - Tim Eash

Music - Worship Team

You can now join in the live stream of Sunday sermons by clicking onto You Tube, then typing in FMC INDIANA in the search box.

We begin at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings, but the livestream may not be fully available until 11 am.

BIRTHDAYS

Malinda Eash	11/23
Ernie Wingard	11/24
Sharon Wyse	11/28
Shawn Eash	11/28
Jerry Beasley	12/2
Shena Yoder	12/5
Sara Weaver	12/8
Theo Outman	12/8
Betty Birky	12/17
Curt Troyer	12/19
Bobbie Werker	12/21

First Mennonite Church
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Middlebury IN 46540
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*Our mission is to extend
grace, build peace, and share
love within & beyond our
faith community*

Worship Service
Sunday 9:00a
Sunday School 10:15a

Office Hours

Pastor Phil
Tuesday 9:30a—1:30p
Thursday 1:00p—6:00p

Pastor Tim
by appointment

Business Office
Monday and Tuesday
8:00a—5:00p

Ladies Night In

LNI will be celebrating Christmas on Dec 2. Please bring a \$10-\$20 gift if you wish to participate in the gift exchange.

Outreach

MCC's Annual Report is posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board. Please stop by and check out the impact MCC is having on the needs of our world.

Worship Preview (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

he is in the Temple offering incense. Incense was generally associated with prayers offered in the temple. Incense was burned as prayers were lifted to God as a sign of prayers ascending toward heaven, and also that prayers are a sweet aroma to God. Perhaps that is what Luke wants us to see in this narrative. The first thing we find in Luke's birth narrative of Jesus is godly people praying. That is very significant! But the role of a priest also has significant overtones. The primary role of priests, as God ordained their ministry, was to make sinful people acceptable to a Holy God. And is that not the primary purpose of Jesus' life, death, and ministry, as He offered mercy and forgiveness and taught people how to live in a way that pleases God? A large portion of the Book of Hebrews is dedicated to explaining Jesus as our High Priest in the New Covenant.

Background Scripture: Luke 1:5-79, Hebrews 4:14-10:25

Administration

Stewardship Report for November 20, 2022:

Money Given to Budget \$ **3,928.00**

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget
\$ **5,992.95**

Year-to-Date Money Given to Budget
\$ **56,611.00**

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget
\$ **71,915.64**

Preschool

Please consider helping Pleasant Oaks Preschool with their Fall Fundraiser this year! We are selling peeler cards to businesses in our area. This card will help our area businesses and Preschool at the same time! Our goal is to sell 300 cards and pay off our last piece of large playground equipment which replaced our wooden one. The flyer is on the bulletin board. This fundraiser will go through the end of November. Payment is due at the time of purchase. Please place payment in Janelle Walther or Robin Tahara Miller's church mailbox with your name on it. Cards will be distributed on December 1. Thank you for your continued support of the preschool!

Publishing deadlines!!

All **newsletter** submissions need to be in to the church office by **12 noon on Monday**, **bulletin** submissions are due by **10 am on Tuesday!**

GREAT LAKES WEST DISTRICT BISHOP JOHN NISSLEY

Fall Newsletter 2022

1. Why I am excited to be a member of LMC?

During the discernment process to serve as the bishop of the Great Lakes West District (GLWD), I became aware of the vision for renewal that has been forming in LMC. In response to God's call to be a people of faith grounded in God's Word, LMC is empowered by hope in the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit with Jesus' love expressed in service, reconciliation, and mission!

2. Reflections on serving as your bishop.

On August 1st, I realized in the first year of service as your bishop that I was just beginning to know your history, dreams, concerns, and compassion. The vision for mission in your communities and beyond is expressed in different ways in each of the 8 churches in the GLWD. We are located in diverse communities with different contexts for being God's people in the following locations: Illinois: Arthur & Morton; Indiana: Berne, Elkhart, Goshen, Middlebury, & North Leo; Michigan: Pigeon. It is a blessing and privilege to serve as your bishop. If you have dreams, concerns, feedback, or visions to process, please contact me at: jnissley@lmcchurches.org or (419) 672-1772.

3. Year End Giving for Growth 2022 | (more information is in your church mailbox)

Pray for our LMC churches as we live out Christ's commission of making disciples in 14 states, 5 countries outside the USA, and worshipping in 12 languages. Your support is appreciated as we cast the "Vision at the Horizon" to reach people in the "10/40 Window" who have not heard the gospel and to resource churches in their mission. Perhaps God is calling you to serve as a witness in the 10/40 Window or in a new way in your local community, contact your pastor to share this call.

