

Joy Mennonite Church

MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 1993

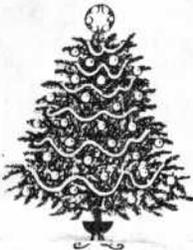
EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,



It would seem that Joy Mennonite Church is trying to make Thanksgiving an attitude or lifestyle rather than just a day or a season. Sounds good to me. Through Nov., each Sunday had

special "hunger awareness" moments to challenge us and inspire (or shame) us in our affluence and apathy to the unnecessary suffering around us. As a day, when it is over it is over, but as an attitude it could be contagious and lasting. We need some carry-over, jumping directly from Thanksgiving to the Advent season. This year Thanksgiving and "Christmas" are in the balance, being measured by the dollars spent on Friday after Thanksgiving - traditionally the greatest retail sales day of the year. Are the spenders considered as successful as the merchants? What a measure of success!!! Maybe we actually believe we are buying happiness.



We have truly been blessed this season with presentations, messages, sermons, call them what you like, that are so inspiring and thought-provoking, so challenging and causing soul searching, even to the extent of tears, that one must acknowledge God working in our midst. Asked what platform he was running on, a politician stated that Matthew 25 said it all - that we are being held countable, even up through the various levels of government, in how we have responded to Jesus in feeding him, giving him to drink, clothing

him, caring for and tending him when he was sick or in prison. The goal is obviously that we, the church, must take some initiative, exercise our rights, exert pressure to "demand?" acceptable priorities in allocating funds to tend to "Jesus' needs." Will we pass this inspection? Love more - and have a beautiful and meaningful Christmas.

Bice Klassen



What has happened, and what lies ahead can both qualify for great news - Just look at November and December 1993. A beautiful communion service helped set the tone for November and the transition season - Thanksgiving to Advent to Christmas. Our hunger awareness moments helped prepare us to face issues to be dealt with, these issues also being on display at the Fall Peace Festival. Thanksgiving was the climax of the transition, but guest speaker Jeff Hamilton supplied the inspiration for facing the anticipation and waiting of the Advent season, expressing that the church has its work cut out for it in dealing with injustice and suffering.

For the four Sundays of Advent the various church families will be the "worship leaders" in love and sharing with the church. First Advent - the Klassens, second - the Hostetlers, third - the Brueckners, fourth - the Powers', and Christmas Sunday (Dec. 26) - Cheryl Crichley. Each Sunday is a progression into Advent with candle lighting on the Advent wreath and songs of joy of the Christmas season.

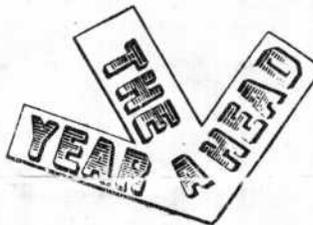
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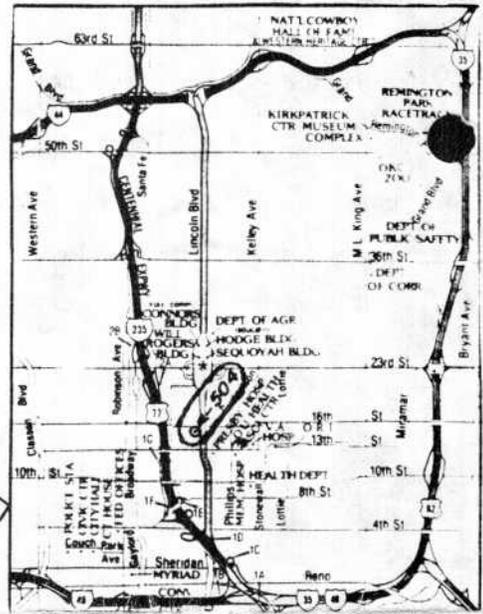
The church family is having a combination work day/decoration day for Christmas at 3:00 p.m. on Sat., 4 December, at the church. We will get ready for the Joy Mennonite Church neighborhood Christmas "tea" at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, 12 Dec., -

inviting the neighborhood to a Christmas celebration with us, in family fellowship, games, singing, treat tasting and carolling

We are attempting to make these activities truly family experiences. Bring your children into our church family.



WORSHIP SERVICE
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 O'CLOCK A.M.



Church Address: 504 NE 16th St.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sun. 5, 12, 19 Dec. '93 Advent Sundays
- Fri., 24 Dec. '93 Christmas Eve
- Sat., 25 Dec. '93 Christmas Day
- Fri., 31 Dec. '93 New Years Eve
- Sat., 1 Jan. '94 New Years Day
- Sat., 15 Jan. '94 Martin Luther King's Birthd

We do hope that churches receiving this letter are also posting them to be seen or read by their church members.

Joy Mennonite Church
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