

**About the Cover:** This week's image from MennoMedia's *Leader* materials invites us into Advent through a quiet night sky, where golden branches reach in like whispers of light. The artwork echoes the series theme, *Be Amazed!*, reminding us that God's presence often shimmers at the edges of our vision before we fully see it. As we continue this season of watching and waiting, the cover draws us to look up, look around, and notice the light already breaking into the darkness.

**Attendance: December 7 — 64**

**North Goshen Mennonite Church**

501 N. 8th St., Goshen, IN 46528

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574-533-4255 | [office@northgoshenmc.org](mailto:office@northgoshenmc.org) | [northgoshenmc.org](http://northgoshenmc.org)

**9:00 AM Sunday school | 10:15 AM Worship services**

**Pastoral Team**

Becky Helmuth 574-370-0767 | [rebeccahelmuth@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccahelmuth@gmail.com)

Becky's office hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 am to 2 pm

Sabbath day: Friday

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**Office Administrator**

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# North Goshen Mennonite Church

Third Sunday of Advent

*Be Amazed: Joy in the Desert*

Isaiah 55:1-13; Psalm 42; Isaiah 40:1-5; John 4:13-14

December 14, 2025

**Focus Question:** God says 'Come to the waters, buy without money.' What does it mean to receive what you cannot earn?

**Gathering** *El cielo canta Alegría! (Heaven sings for joy)*

**Welcome & Announcements** Nick K.

**Doorway Scripture**

**Call to Worship**

**Song** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* VT 218

**Advent Candle lighting** Izaete & Alaiza N.

**Candle lighting Litany**

One: We have been walking through darkness, through the cold desert of grief and despair, feeling heavy and dry.

**Many: Ven, Gozo del mundo. Ven a asombrarnos.  
Come, Joy of the world. Come amaze us.**

***All: May your joy water our thirsty souls, that we may become fountains of joy.***

**Song** *Hope is a Candle* VT 211  
*Bless'd Be the God of Israel* VT 223

**Offering Prayer**

**Song** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* VT 241

**Children's Story** Reina B.  
Children are dismissed for Children's Church

**Storytelling: Isaiah 55:1-13** Alan L. & Teri Y.

**Congregational Response**

Nuestro gozo está en ti, oh Dios.  
Our joy is in you, O God.

**Message** *Rain in the Ruins, Joy in the Desert* Becky H.

**Song** *He Came Down* VT 239

**Sharing our Joys & Concerns**

**Prayers of the People** Becky H.

**Sending Blessing**

**Sending Song** *You Shall Go Out with Joy* VT 847

## Next Sunday - December 21

### Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love Comes Down

Next Sunday we celebrate with our Children and Youth Christmas Program! Our youngest members will tell the story of Jesus' birth, followed by the cosmic poetry of **John 1:1-18** woven with pastoral reflection. We'll explore the mystery at the heart of Christmas: "The Word became flesh and lived among us." The infinite becoming an infant. The cosmic Love coming all the way down. As we reveal the fourth point of our Advent star, we remember that God doesn't stay at a safe distance. God moves into the neighborhood. God becomes as vulnerable as we are.

## Next Sunday, December 21

*Forth Sunday of Advent*

9:00AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Worship Focus: *Love Comes Down*

Scripture: John 1:1-18

Worship Leader: Michael Y.      Song Leader: Todd H.

Speaker: Becky H.      Children's Story: Tim Nafziger

Nursery: Elaine T., Kerry K., & Jenny G.

Children's Church: Christmas Program

## Upcoming Events

12/17 Community Meal (Wed., 6 PM)

12/21 Children's Christmas Program during worship

12/24 Christmas Eve Service at College Mennonite (7 PM)

1/4 Epiphany Sunday

## Community Meal – Wednesday, December 17

All are invited to our **December Community Meal** on **Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall.

Bring one of your **favorite Christmas dishes or desserts** to share—family recipes, comfort foods, or whatever says “holiday” to you. Come for good food, warm conversation, and time around the table with church family and neighbors

## Small Groups

Church council has organized small groups for our congregation. Even if you didn't fill out an interest form, you've been connected to a group. These groups are places for community and care. You're under no obligation to participate, but we want to make sure you're cared for. Small group lists are in your mailboxes today. Reach out to a council member with any questions or concerns. — NGMC Council members are: Kathy N., Jan L., Belen R., Robert M., and Nick K.

## Christmas Eve Worship

For those who love gathering on Christmas Eve, or who are longing for a place to pause and welcome Christ's light, you are invited to **College Mennonite Church's bilingual Christmas Eve service** on **Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 PM.** North Goshen's Worship Planning Team encourages us to attend *together* this year. The service will be in both English and Spanish, a beautiful way to celebrate hope with our wider community. Come as you are, and join us for this meaningful Christmas Eve gathering.

## Everence Toolkit

A link to the newest issue of Everence's **Toolkit** is available in the weekly church newsletter. There are also several printed copies available under the church mailboxes today.

## Advent through Epiphany 2025-2026: Be Amazed!

This Advent, we journey through stories of God's powerful and astonishing acts, from fire and dry bones to flowing water and finally to the incarnation itself. Week by week, we'll reveal more of the Advent star in our worship space, reminding us that God's light is always shining, slowly being revealed.

### Our Journey:

- **Dec 21** - Love Comes Down | John 1:1-18
- **Dec 28** - God Among Us | John 1:19-34
- **Jan 4** - Stranger Who Come to See | Matthew 2:1-12



This is Advent as formation: learning to see God's presence, trust God's character, and be amazed by the ways God shows up.

## Ways Children Worship With Us

At North Goshen, we celebrate children as full participants in our worship life, and we offer several options to support them — and their grown-ups — on Sunday mornings.

**Children's Church** is available for ages 3 through grade 4 during the second half of the service, giving kids a space to learn, play, and explore the story of faith together.

**Nursery care** for infants through age 3 is offered throughout the service by our team of caring adults and youth.

**Buddy Bags** with quiet activities, books, and art supplies are available in the narthex for children who prefer to stay in the sanctuary.

Wherever children choose to be — up front, in a pew, downstairs, or moving between spaces — their joy and presence are a welcome part of our worship.

### Anniversaries & Birthdays This Week

12/16 Mary Trinidad  
12/20 Carol Wolfer  
12/21 Edna Thomas

## 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes

### Pathfinders

- Intergenerational Bible study using the Mennonite "Builder" curriculum
- Location: Curtained classroom next to kitchen in the fellowship hall
- All are welcome

### Contemporary Issues and Christian Faith

- Explores current events through a Christian lens using "The Wired Word"
- Location: South corner of fellowship hall
- All ages welcome

### Clase de los Amigos (Latino Bible Study)

- Bible study in Spanish
- Location: Large classroom at bottom of basement stairs
- Todos son bienvenidos

### Youth Class (Grades 6-12)

- Location: Basement classroom (follow posted signs)
- All youth are welcome to attend!

## Today's Volunteers

Children's Church: Robert M., Hilda L., & Kristina Be-Mo

Nursery: Elaine H., Kathy N.Y., & Jenny G.

Tech Team: Jose J., Greg S & Tim N.

Translator: Erin Be-Mo

Speaker: Becky H.

Music Leader: Todd H.

Worship Leader: Nick K.

Candlelighters: Izaete & Alaiza N. Children's Story: Reina B.

Sunday School Greeter: Terry P. Worship Greeter: Lola J.