

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 14 — 64

North Goshen Mennonite Church

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

Mailing address: P.O. Box 505, Goshen, IN 46527

574-533-4255 | office@northgoshenmc.org | northgoshenmc.org

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

Pastoral Team

Becky Helmuth 574-370-0767 | rebeccahelmuth@gmail.com

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

Sabbath day: Friday

Izaete Nafziger 574-202-4344 | Izaete@northgoshenmc.org

Office Administrator

Belen Robledo 574-533-4255 | office@northgoshenmc.org

Church Council

Kathy Nofziger Yeakey

Belen Robledo

Jan Lehman

Nick King

Robert Morillo

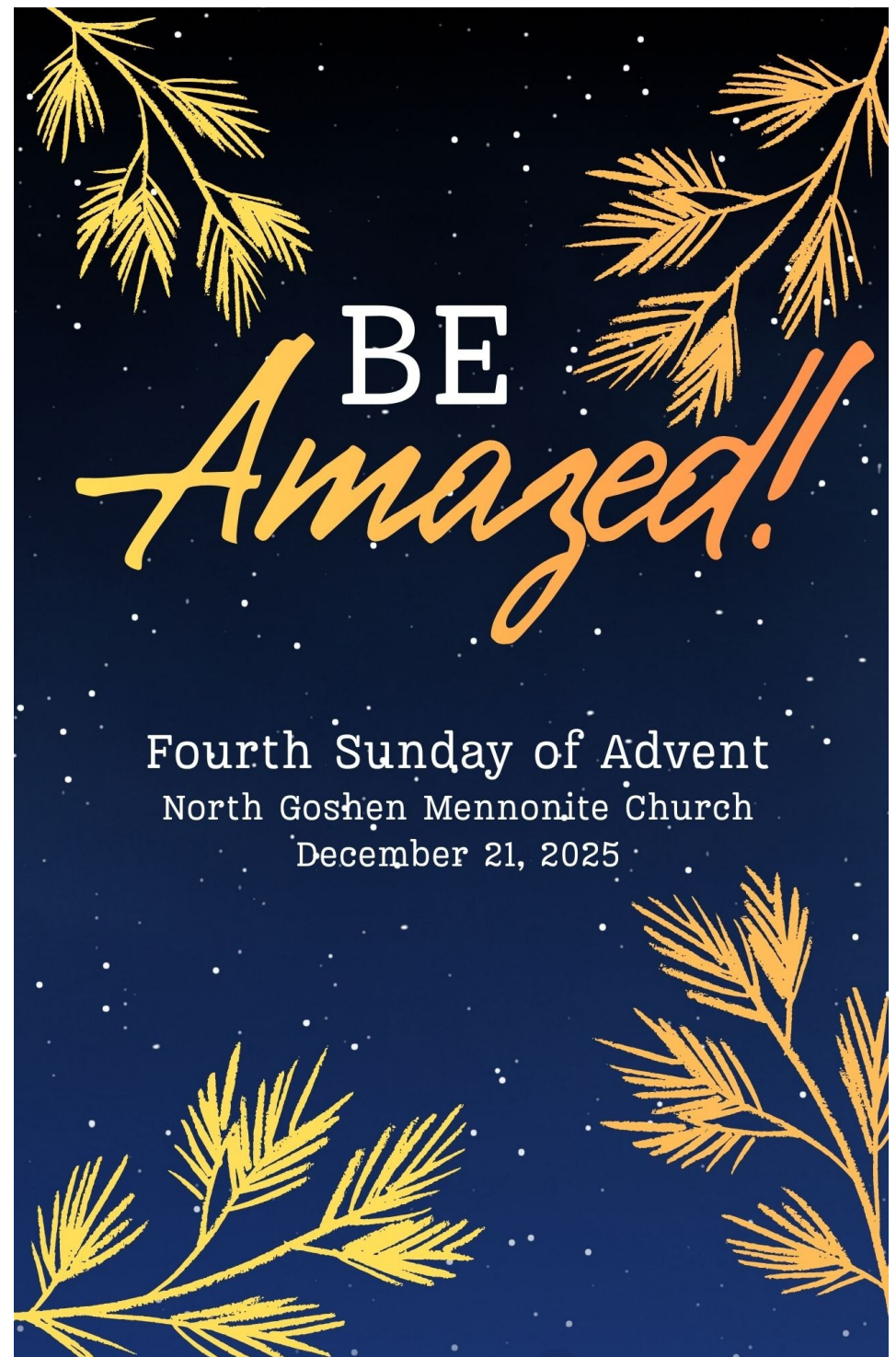
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North Goshen Mennonite Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Love Comes Down

John 1:1-18

December 21, 2025

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

Welcome & Announcements Michael Y.

Doorway Scripture

Call to Worship

Advent Candle lighting Izamar G., Elena & Nora

Candle lighting Litany

Song *Hope is a Candle* VT 211

Offering Prayer

Song *The First Noel, the Angel Did Say* VT 250

Children's Story Izaete N.

John 1:1-18

Scripture Storytelling Francisco BeMo, Robert M., Becky H.

Song *O Little Town of Bethlehem* VT 245

Youth and Children's Christmas Program

CHRISTMAS STORY

This year's program combines songs, drama, and narration to tell the Christmas story. The children have been excited to practice and share this gift with you. Feel free to sing along and enjoy!

Readers

Kristina Behan-Morillo,
Jordan Rodriguez, Jenny Gonzalez

Inn Keepers

Rudy Gonzalez, Alaiza Nafziger, Ashlynn Rodriguez

Mary - Elena Fuentes

Joseph - Zahir Rodriguez

Donkey - Greyson Hyde

Shepherds

Victoria Thomas, Yadria Rodriguez, Ruth Ochoa

Angels

Nora Fuentes, Catalina Loera, Aurora Perez, Sandra Ochoa

Star - Lorenzo Perez

Mom of Angel Nora - Izamar Garcia

Church Member - Izaete Nafziger

Baby, Baby Boy

Prince of Peace and Silent Night

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

We Wish you a Merry Christmas & Feliz Navidad

Children exit to gathering area

Invitation to Fellowship & Closing Prayer

Next Sunday, December 28

First Sunday After Christmas - God Among Us

The baby is born — now what? In John 1:19-34, John the Baptist helps us see who this child is: the Lamb of God, the one on whom the Spirit rests. We'll explore what it means to witness to the light we've seen, to point beyond ourselves to Christ. As we reveal the final piece of our Advent star, we celebrate the full light of God's presence among us.

Next Sunday, December 28

Sunday after Christmas

9:00AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Worship Focus: *God Among Us*

Scripture: John 1:19-34

Worship Leader: Kathy N.Y. Song Leader: Todd H.

Speaker: Becky H. Children's Story: Alies Alindor

Nursery: Deena B., Alan L., & Kristina Be-Mo

Children's Church: Michael Y., Daisy L., & Jenny G.

Upcoming Events

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

12/25 Christmas Day

1/1 New Year's Day 2026

1/4 Epiphany Sunday
Koinonia Kafé, Fellowship Hall (Sun., 9:45 AM)

1/6 Día de los Reyes | Three Kings' Day
Women's Prayer Group, Manor 4 (Tues., 9 AM)

1/11 Small Group Kick-Off, Carry-in Lunch (Sun., 12 noon)

1/13 Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall (Tues., 6:30 PM)

1/21 January Community Meal (Wed., 6 PM)

Thank you to our Children & Youth!

A huge thank you to Daisy and Bonnie for their creativity and dedication in preparing this morning's Christmas program with our children and youth. Thank you to the families (and Alan!) who helped the children learn their songs and practice at home. Thank you to our children for sharing your energy and voices. And special thanks to our youth for participating — the children look up to you and love having you as part of the celebration!

Join the children in the fellowship hall after worship for cookies and ponche!

Christmas Eve Worship

If you're looking for a place to gather on Christmas Eve—or longing for a moment to pause and welcome Christ's light—you're invited to join us at **College Mennonite Church's bilingual Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 PM.**, at 1900 South Main St., Goshen. We hope we will attend together as a congregation, joining with our wider community for a service offered in both English and Spanish. Come as you are, and join us for this shared Christmas Eve worship experience.

Small Groups — Kickoff Invitation

Our small groups are ready to begin, and everyone has been connected to a group as a way of strengthening care and connection at North Goshen. Participation is always an invitation, not an obligation, but we want to be sure no one is carrying life alone.

Join us for our Small Group Kickoff on Sunday, January 11.

We'll share a carry-in lunch, sit with our small groups, get to know one another, and begin imagining how each group might gather and support each other in the year ahead.

NGMC Council members are: Kathy N., Jan L., Belen R., Robert M., and Nick K.

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 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

12/21	Edna Thomas
12/22	Yara Loera
12/23	Lola Jenkins
12/24	Reina & Richard B.

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: Christmas Program

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

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

Translator: Erin Be-Mo Speaker: Becky H.

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

Candlelighters: Izamar, Nora & Elena G.

Children's Story: Izaete N.

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