

Five Skits Portraying the Lives of Brethren Heroes

By Michael Witmer

Skit 1: Alexander Mack and the Beginning of the Brethren Peace Position

Characters

Alexander Mack
Anna Margaretha Kling Mack, his wife
Lucas Vetter
Johannes Kipping
Johanna Kipping
Narrator

Narrator: It is the summer of 1708 in Germany. The Thirty Years' War has ended only a generation ago, and the countryside is still feeling the effects of ruined farmland and the loss of over 100,000 lives. It is early evening at the Mack household. Alexander Mack and his wife Anna are awaiting the arrival of their friends to begin their Bible Study. Alexander is sitting at a table studying a Bible when Anna enters.

Anna: It's such a beautiful night out there, Alexander. I wish we could study out there and not have to worry about being caught. I think it's just awful that we have to study about God in hiding.

Alexander: I guess we're not too different from the first Christians. They also had to meet in hiding.

Anna: Yes, but that was 1,700 years ago. You would think the world had changed by now.

Alexander: A lot has changed. Germany has broken up into many smaller countries; the prince we live under chooses which church we belong to; and every few years we are forced to leave our farm and community because we have held Bible studies there. But at least we are finally living without war.

Anna: I know. I am so thankful for this peace, but I can't stop worrying about the next war. As I was growing up, I heard so many stories about farms being ruined, houses being burned, and friends and family being killed.

Alexander: I know. There are still bridges and homes waiting to be rebuilt.

Anna: But there are still wars all over Europe and I worry they will spread back here. I just wish there were another way for the world to run.

Alexander: I think there is another way and it is right in front of our noses. [*A knock at the door*] Come in.

[*enter Lucas, Johannes, and Johanna*]

Johannes: Good evening.

Alexander: I'm glad you could come.

Johanna: We look forward to the time we spend together. I think it's so exciting to study the Bible as the ministers do.

Alexander: Well it does say in the Bible that we are all called to be ministers. [*Lucas and Johannes pull Bibles from their coats and all sit down around the table.*]

Anna: Before you arrived, Alexander was about to tell how the world could function without war.

Lucas: That would be wonderful. What's your idea?

Alexander: Well, it isn't actually my idea. I found it in Matthew 5:43-44: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemies.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Lucas: That doesn't sound like what I am used to hearing in church. I remember stories from the Old Testament about men like Joshua and David leading God's children into battle.

Alexander: That's why it's so important to study the Bible. Jesus talks about peace at several other places in the Sermon on the Mount and throughout the New Testament, like Luke ...

Johannes: Some of the prophets also talk about a world without war.

Johanna: I really liked the verses in Isaiah 11 we looked at last week that talked about all the animals at peace with each other.

Lucas: Well, the world would certainly be a better place today if we hadn't fought that terrible Thirty Years' War.

Alexander: I think it goes further than war. The Bible calls us not to fight any evil with evil. Remember how Jesus asked his disciples not to fight for him when the guards arrested him in Matthew 26.

Lucas: But even some of the Anabaptist groups who followed that teaching eventually decided to fight back when the government persecuted them.

Johannes: Yes, but the ones that did were destroyed. It's as Jesus said to Peter in Matthew 26:52—"For all those who take the sword will perish by the sword."

Johanna: It isn't easy to love someone instead of fighting back when he has hurt you.

Anna: Maybe that's why Jesus says we must count well the costs of following him, because it is so difficult.

Alexander: You're right. It is hard, but at least we don't have to do it alone.

Johannes: You're also right. I'm glad I have people like you to support me in my faith.

Alexander: You do have us, but you also have something even more powerful: the Holy Spirit.

Anna: We also have this book to guide us.

Lucas: I will need all the help I can get. I've always been taught that when someone hits me, I should hit him back. I don't think I can change without your prayers.

Alexander: Anna and I will always keep you in our prayers.

Johanna: As will we.

Johannes: It sounds as if we all agree that the Bible says we should love our enemies and always work for peace, even when it's hard.

All: That's right, yes, I agree, no matter how difficult, etc.

Alexander: We should pray about it now. [*They all kneel*] "Lord, thank you for bringing us together to study your word. We want to do your will and live as Jesus did by rejecting violence, but we cannot do it alone. Please be with us as we try to follow your will and as we grow as a faith community. We don't know what will become of these meetings, but we ask you to continue guiding us as we struggle to follow your call. Amen."

Narrator: Soon after, Alexander, Anna, Lucas, Johannes, Johanna, and three others began the little movement that grew to be the Church of the Brethren when they baptized each other in the Eder River. Although this happened almost 300 years ago, the church still teaches us to love all people and work for peace today.

Skit 2: Dan West and Peace Through Cows

Narrator: World War II has just ended and Europe is in ruins. Much of the farmland was destroyed, so America and the Allied Powers have been trying to feed all of the hungry. When Dan West had visited war torn Spain, he had a brilliant idea about how to fight hunger. He just needed to convince people to help.

Amos: How do you know this Dan West?

Ruth: He used to work on our farm. He milked cows for Father. He was a hard worker, but kind of strange.

Amos: What do you mean *strange*?

Ruth: Well, he was one of those Brethren people.

Amos: You mean the ones who don't fight in wars.

Ruth: That's right. He was drafted in World War I, but he did service work instead of fighting. After the war, he began working with youth in Brethren camps and talking with them about peace.

Amos: So what does he want?

Ruth: I'm not sure. I ran into him in town and he said he wanted to talk about something important. He said you should be here, too.

Amos: I don't want him starting any trouble.

Ruth: Don't worry, Amos, he isn't like that at all.

[Enter Dan West]

Dan: Ruth, how are you?

Ruth: It's good to see you, Dan. This is my husband Amos.

Dan: How do you do?

Amos: Ruth tells me you were a good worker for her father.

Dan: I'm sorry about his passing.

Ruth: Thank you.

Amos: Can we offer you anything?

Dan: That's why I'm here. Before I left for college, your father told me if I ever needed anything to come to him.

Ruth: What do you need?

Dan: How many dairy cows do you have?

Amos: Seventeen. Why do you ask?

Dan: I was hoping to have one of your cows?

Ruth: Are you starting a farm?

Dan: No, it's not for me. I'm taking them to Spain.

Amos: Spain? You mean the country across the ocean?

Dan: That's right. A civil war has ruined the country. There are so many people in need.

Ruth: That's why our government sends food there.

Dan: That's right. The government does send food. When I was in Spain, I helped hand out the food, but some days there wasn't enough and we had to turn people away. Some of them were children.

Ruth: That's terrible.

Dan: But then I began to think, we run out because there are so many hungry people and every day they come back for more food. I think I have a better idea. Instead of giving each family milk for one day, why not give them a cow. That way they won't have to come back for milk again and again.

Amos: So you just give away cows for free?

Dan: Not for free! The family has to promise to give the first calf to another family, and when that calf grows up and has a calf, the family must give that one to yet another family. It's the gift that keeps on giving. But the gift needs to start somewhere and that's why I came to ask for a cow.

Amos: So you want me to send one of my cows to Spain?

Dan: It would make a huge difference in someone's life.

Amos: Why are you so concerned about these people. We have plenty of hungry people here in America.

Dan: Because peace is important to me, and I think these cows will help bring it.

Amos: What do a bunch of cows have to do with peace?

Dan: Brethren believe peace means more than not fighting. It means that the needs of all the people are met. We can't have peace when people are going hungry.

Ruth: I don't understand.

Dan: We just fought a terrible war. This war happened ...

Amos: It happened when Germany started attacking other countries.

Dan: No it started before then. It happened when the people in Germany were starving and we did nothing to help them. They became angry, and when someone urged them to go to war because of it, they listened.

Amos: If that's true, why doesn't anyone else believe that?

Dan: Lots of people think that. That's why we're trying to rebuild the countries we fought. Our government understands that to have peace we need to help those in need. We need to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, and visit those in prison.

Amos: Where did that come from, one of those Brethren preachers?

Ruth: Matthew 25.

Amos: Oh.

Ruth: Amos, we have enough cows. Why can't we let him have one?

Amos: I guess, since your father made the promise, we should give him a cow.

Dan: Thank you. You may not see it now, but one person or even one cow can really make a difference. This cow will give milk to an entire family and allow them to sell the extra milk for more money. They can use that money to send their children to school or to buy better farming equipment. The possibilities are endless.

Amos: The cows are behind the barn if you want to have a look. I'll join you in a minute.

Ruth: Thank you, Amos.

Dan: Thank you. [*Exits*]

Amos: He said one person or one cow can make a difference. Do you really think that?

Ruth: I do, and I think you do, too.

Narrator: Dan West's idea eventually turned into Heifer International. Today many churches participate in this program that helps fight hunger on five continents.

Skit 3: Dirk Willems, Anabaptist Martyr

Narrator: When the Church of the Brethren began in 1708, it defied the law by performing adult baptisms, or what is sometimes called Believer Baptism. Some early Brethren lost their property and even went to jail for their acts of faith. Others were forced to emigrate from Germany. They were not the first Christians to suffer for their beliefs about baptism, however. In 1525 government officials were executing Anabaptists for their beliefs. It is now 1569 and the Anabaptist movement is 44 years old. An Anabaptist named Dirk Willems has just escaped from prison with several other people, but just because he is out of prison doesn't mean he is safe. He will have to cross a frozen lake to get to freedom, and one wrong step could mean death.

Fritz: Are you sure this ice is thick enough to walk on?

Eva: Would you rather go back to the dungeon and wait until it gets thicker? Keep moving, Fritz.

Fritz: I didn't think we'd ever have a chance to break out. You know, Dirk, I can't get over the fact that we were supposed to be in that dungeon for a year for stealing some horses, and you were supposed to be in there for the rest of your life, or until they killed you, for joining a church. Don't you think that's strange?

Dirk: No, not really.

Fritz: Don't be so gloomy. You're a free man now. You can do whatever you want.

Dirk: What I really want is for my friends to stop being persecuted for what they believe. That's when we'll be free.

Eva: No we'll be free once we're off this frozen lake and on dry land. Keep moving. Watch out for that ice to your left. It's thin.

Hans: [*Offstage*] Hey, where do you think you're going?

Fritz: Who's that?

Eva: It's Hans, the big guard.

Hans: Don't make me come after you?

Eva: You want us? Come and get us.

Dirk: I don't think the ice will support him. He's too big.

Eva: I know. That's the point. [*To Hans*] Come on, Hans, you can catch us. Don't tell me you had that much for breakfast!

Fritz: Let's get out of here before more guards arrive.

Hans: I would get back here if I were you. Do you have any idea what they do to prisoners who try to escape? [*All of a sudden Hans drops through the ice. He screams*] Help, someone help me!

Dirk: He fell in!

Eva: Now's our chance. Let's go.

Hans: Please, someone help me.

Dirk: What about Hans?

Eva: What about him?

Dirk: We can't leave him there. He'll freeze to death.

Eva: Are you crazy, Dirk?

Dirk: I'm going back for him.

Fritz: He'll put you back in the dungeon. He has to.

Dirk: I can't leave him to die.

Fritz: Why not? He's the one who beats us and gives us barely any food.

Dirk: I can't turn my back on someone in need.

Fritz: The other soldiers will save him.

Dirk: No they won't. Look, they're scared to get close to him. I'll have to save him.

Fritz: But he's our enemy.

Dirk: I know, Fritz, but that doesn't mean I shouldn't care about him.

Fritz: But people like him put your people in jail all the time. They even kill some of them. Why should you care about him?

Dirk: Because God expects us to love *all* people, even those who are hardest to love, like Hans.

Eva: I'm sure even God thinks you're being very stupid right now.

Dirk: Did you know that when Jesus was captured by a crowd, one of his disciples cut off the ear of a man in the crowd, and Jesus healed the injured man.

Hans: Help! Help me!

Eva: I don't have time for a sermon, I'm getting out of here. [*Leaves*]

Fritz: Someone else will save him, Dirk.

Dirk: I have to go back.

Fritz: I suppose you really do take that Anabaptist stuff seriously. Good luck.

Dirk: Thanks, Fritz.

Fritz: Wait for me, Eva. [*Leaves*]

Dirk: [*Kneels*] Don't worry, Hans. I'm coming. [*Exits off other side of stage*]

Narrator: Dirk Willems saved the life of the guard, who, by orders of the other guards, arrested Willems. Willems was executed soon after. Willem's legacy of loving even his worst enemy lives on. When the Church of the Brethren began almost 150 years later, love for enemies was an important belief, and it is still a central belief of Brethren today.

Skit 4: John Kline and God's peaceable Kingdom

The scene is Virginia during the Civil War. John Kline is an important church official who must travel to meetings and preach to congregations in both the North and South. As a doctor, he also helps care for the wounded on both sides. As a result, people on both sides of the border suspect that John Kline is a spy for the other side.

Corporal: Who goes there?

John: John Kline. I'm a minister.

Corporal: You're that preacher from the South.

John: I minister to all no matter which side they are on. I'm here to help your wounded.

Corporal: How do I know you're not here to spy. [*Enter Rachel*]

Rachel: John Kline is that you?

John: Rachel!

Rachel: It's okay, Corporal. I sent for him.

Corporal: This man helps the South.

Rachel: He helps whoever asks for help. Brother John, we need you right away. There were hundreds wounded in today's battle and there is no way our chaplains can see everyone. Please, Corporal, let John Kline comfort our wounded.

Corporal: Very well, but I have my eye on you, John Kline.

John: Thank you. What's your name, Corporal?

Corporal: Thomas, Thomas Reynolds, sir.

John: How old are you?

Corporal: 15.

John: Do you have family?

Corporal: Only my parents. Scarlet fever killed my sisters.

John: It must be hard on your parents having their only son during a war.

Rachel: John, we need you now.

Corporal: I guess I can trust you, sir. Just stay with Rachel.

John: Thank you, Thomas.

Narrator: Although John's love made many soldiers admire him, others became more and more suspicious. The longer the war went on, the more dangerous it became for him to make his trips to the North and back.

Private: Don't move, John. [*To the troops*] Hold your fire! He's a friend. [*To John Kline*] How are you, John?

John: Private Jacobs, it's good to see you again.

Private: How was the meeting in Pennsylvania?

John: It went well, but everyone is so worried about the Brethren here. Some of them are related to people in the North.

Private: Almost everyone in the Army has friends or family on the other side.

John: What happened to your arm?

Private: I hurt it a few days ago in battle. I know you don't like it when I use this hand to fight, but I also need it to provide for my family.

John: I understand that and pray it heals soon.

Lieutenant: Private, who is that man?

Private: It's John Kline, sir. He's a preacher ...

Lieutenant: I know who John Kline is. For a Southerner you make a lot of trips into enemy territory.

John: Just because our nation is at war does not make them our enemies.

Lieutenant: Well I'm the one who has to fight them, so they are my enemies. If you know what's best for you, you'll stay in the South from now on.

John: I can't do that. I must go where I am needed.

Lieutenant: As long as we're at war, you will do what we say. The next time I catch you heading north, I'll have you put in jail for spying. Now get out of my camp.

Private: But sir, he's here to tend our sick.

Lieutenant: We don't have room for enemy spies! [*To the guards*] Get him out of here before I have him shot. [*Leaves*]

Private: I'm sorry about that, John.

John: Are there sick who need attention?

Private: But the Lieutenant ...

John: I must obey God's law, not man's. If there are sick people, let me go to them.

Private: Come with me, then. The men always ask for you when they're dying.

Narrator: John Kline didn't stop helping the wounded on either side or traveling to the north. Eventually he went to jail for this. When he was let out, he went back to his work because of his love for people in both the North and the South. As a result, his life became more and more dangerous.

[*Some time later*]

Rachel: John! John!

John: What is it Rachel?

Rachel: I was afraid that was you.

John: I was passing through on my way to a meeting in the North.

Rachel: There are rumors of spies in this camp. The General ordered the soldiers to shoot anyone who looks suspicious. You have to get out of here.

John: But what about the wounded at the camp?

Rachel: We'll have to manage without you. It's too dangerous and we can't lose you, John. You bring so much comfort to those in both armies.

John: The Lord will protect me as long as he has work for me to do here. Let me see the wounded.

Rachel: They're by the fire over there. [*Points*]

John: Where's that young corporal?

Rachel: He was killed in battle last week.

John: He was the last child in his family.

Rachel: The wounded are over there, John. Hurry before someone sees you. [*He leaves and Rachel kneels*] Dear Lord, please be with John Kline. We don't want to lose him now when the world is telling us to hate our brothers and sisters in the South. Help us to obey your laws instead of our own, and please let there be peace. Amen.

Narrator: John Kline never did stop serving or loving people in both armies. Finally in 1864 a group of soldiers killed him. Although the church lost one of its most valuable members, it continues his legacy of peace and obedience to God.

Skit 5: Counting the Cost Today: Ted Studebaker and Anna Mow

Production note: All the names and places in this skit should be changed to reflect the church/community where it is being performed.

Setting: It is Saturday night at X's home. On Sunday X will be baptized into the Palmyra Church of the Brethren; however, his/her deacon forgot to mention something important and is calling to tell X about it.

X: Well I guess I'm a little nervous about tomorrow, but I think baptism is the right choice. I'm ready for it. [*Listens*] Faith statement, what's a faith statement? [*Listens again*] So I just need to write about why I want to be baptized? Well okay, I'll see what I can come up with. [*Listens*] No, don't worry, I'll be fine. How hard can it be? [*Listens*] All right, well I'll write one. See you tomorrow. Bye. [*Hangs up the phone, shakes head*] Deacons! [*Speaking out loud to self*] All right,

what to put in my faith statement. Let me see ... [*Starts to write*] I believe that Jesus is the son of God and, and, and in order to be ... uh ... [*crumples up paper and throws to the floor. Starts to write again*] Since Jesus died for our sins, I believe ... uh [*crumples up paper and throws to floor. Bows head and begins to pray*]) Dear God, I know you don't like it when people only pray to you when they have problems, but I need to come up with a good statement by tomorrow. I don't want to be up all night and fall asleep in church the Sunday I'm baptized, so if you could give me a hand, I would appreciate it. Amen. [*Knock*] Yes?

Ted: X, can we come in?

X: Sure. Who are you?

Anna: We're here to help you out for tomorrow.

X: That's amazing. [*Looks up*] Thanks, God. So are you angels?

Ted: No, I'm Ted Studebaker.

X: Who's he?

Ted: Who's he? Your church has one of these books about me in the library.

X: No one has checked out that book since 1991.

Ted: Oh.

Anna: Surely you know who I am.

X: No, I'm sorry.

Anna: I'm Anna Mow from the Andy Murray song.

X: Who's Andy Murray?

Anna: A Brethren singer who ... oh, never mind.

X: Wait, now I remember you two from my youth group. You were the guy who helped farmers in Vietnam instead of joining the army, and you were the missionary in India who became one of the first woman preachers.

Anna: See, you do remember us. We're here to help you get ready for tomorrow.

X: That's great, I'm really not sure what to write for this faith statement.

Ted: We're not here to help you with your faith statement.

X: But that's why I prayed for help.

Anna: Once you're in the church family a little longer you'll see that God doesn't always answer your prayers the way you expect.

X: So how can you help me?

Ted: Well baptism is one of the most important decisions you'll make in your life. We want to make sure you've counted all the costs.

X: What does it cost?

Ted: Being a Christian is very challenging. We want to make sure you're ready for it.

X: Well I follow the Ten Commandments. I go to church. I love God.

Anna: But are you willing to take a risk, or step out of your comfort zone?

X: What do you mean?

Ted: Well Anna went to be a missionary in one of the most dangerous parts of the world.

Anna: And Ted went to work with people whom Americans considered to be our enemies. He was so concerned about that these people that he took a great risk to help them during wartime and was killed in the process. Do you think you can step outside your comfort zone to help others?

X: I don't think my parents want me to move to another country, at least not until I graduate.

Anna: You don't have to. There are plenty of opportunities around here to help people who others ignore.

X: Like who?

Ted: You could help out by visiting people at Lebanon Valley Brethren Home.

X: Are you kidding? Those people are even older than my deacon. Besides all they'll want to do is tell me boring stories about life 200 years ago when they were kids. There has to be something better than that.

Anna: Well, summer is coming up. You could help serve the noonday meals in Lebanon.

X: But the people who go there don't really need help. They just need to find work. Some of them probably *do* work and just want a free meal.

Anna: Once you meet the people who go there for the meals, I think you'll find out that's not true.

Ted: I know. You could see if they need volunteers at the Phoenix Center. It's right by the church and you can help people your own age. No old people.

X: Are you crazy? Do you know what kind of people go there? Some of the kids there have green hair and pierced eyebrows. And did you ever hear the music they listen to? A bunch of them are always in trouble with the police. Besides, do you have any idea what my friends would think?

Anna: Maybe they will see what you're doing and want to help, too.

X: Why would they do that?

Ted: Because you showed them that you can. They might think you're crazy at first, but if you set a good example, people will follow. Anna took a huge risk when she became a minister in 1960. A lot of people back then didn't think women should be ministers, and she made a lot of people angry by doing it. However when other women saw that she could do it, they began to enter the ministry, too. Look at your church. You have [woman's name] and [woman's name] as ministers. Ask your parents about our other female ministers like [woman's name] and [woman's name]. Our church was blessed with them because Anna helped lead the way by becoming a minister.

Anna: We're not saying these are easy things to do. That is why you must count the cost.

X: I guess I'm not ready to be baptized after all.

Anna: Well a baptism is a commitment towards living a new life. If you're willing to begin taking risk in your new Christian life, I think you're ready.

X: I can volunteer at Bethesda Mission in Harrisburg. I've never done that before.

Ted: That's another great idea.

X: If that works out, maybe I could try one of those other places you mentioned, too.

Anna: Just remember you don't have to do it alone. God will be with you the entire time.

Ted: And who knows how many people you will touch, people who will serve others because of the example you set.

Anna: Well I think our work here is done.

X: But what about my faith statement?

Ted: It will come to you. [*Starts to leave and turns back*] Oh and one more thing. Could you check my book out of the church library and read it. Just because I'm dead doesn't mean I don't have feelings.

X: I guess I can do that.

Anna: Good luck! [*They leave*]

X: Let's see here. [*Starts to write. Action freezes*]

Yes, Come and See!

A Drama for Youth

By Mary Alice Dick

Characters

Joe, a high school boy (taller than the other characters)

David, a junior high boy

David's three friends, boys or girls

Production note: David and his friends wear shirts with a big 300 on the front along with the COB anniversary logo

[Joe enters from one side of the stage as David enters from the other. The two nearly run into each other at mid-stage.]

Joe: Hey, kid, where d'ya think you're goin'? And what's that 300 on the front of your shirt? *[Derisively]* Did'ja try out for track but couldn't make the 400 meter dash so you're tryin' for the 300?

David: No, no! I am ...

Joe: *[Interrupting]* Shoulda' known you couldn't handle sports. Well, then, it must be a club.

David: It's not what I'd call a club. It's our youth ...

Joe: *[Interrupting]* For Pete's sake! *[Directing attention to David's three friends entering from David's side of the stage]* Three more 300s! What kinda' bunch are you? *[Raising his voice and laughing]* Why don't ya put a dollar sign in front of your 300's and hold out tin cups to people comin' by. Tell 'em you're gettin' money to send your teacher on vacation. *[Laughs uproariously]*

First Friend: Don't get yourself into such a stew.

Second Friend: For, apparently, you haven't a clue.

Third Friend: Just listen to us, and we will tell you.

David: You see, our church—the Church of the Brethren—is 300 years old.

Joe: Aw, c'mon. There's no building in this town that's that old.

First Friend: The church is not a building.

Second Friend: The church is not a steeple.

Third Friend: The church is the people.

David: The first group of Brethren was organized in Germany in 1708.

First Friend: The Church was founded by a man named Alexander Mack.

Second Friend: Strong convictions he did not lack.

Third Friend: The state religion he dared to attack.

Joe: Well, if your church began in Germany, how did it get here?

David: I don't know a lot about it, but this fellow Alexander Mack got into trouble because of some of his beliefs.

First Friend: He didn't believe babies should be baptized,
And for this his followers were criticized.

Joe: That doesn't tell me why your church is here.

Second Friend: For freedom to worship as they pleased,
A group crossed the ocean and were most relieved,
to find Germans in Philadelphia who similarly believed.

Third Friend: Peter Becker led the Brethren to Germantown.
On Christmas Day, 1723, he took them down
To Wissahickon Creek where six were baptized.
On that day the first Brethren here were organized.

Joe: Here? We don't have any Wissa ... Wissa ... What-the-heck!

David: My friend meant "here," as in America, in Germantown. The Brethren visited communities along the frontier and established new churches. Ten years after Peter Becker arrived, Alexander Mack arrived in America.

Joe: C'mon, I don't want any history lesson. I'm sorry I asked. Gotta' go now. [*Starts toward opposite side of stage from which he entered*]

David: Wait a minute. Haven't I seen you on our basketball team?

Joe: Yeah. Once in a while ... when the coach lets me play.

David: Do you know Rick Martin?

Joe: Rick Martin! Of course I know Rick Martin. He can do a "nothin' but net" from anywhere on the floor. That's why the coach always plays him.

David: He goes to our church every Sunday. He's president of the senior high youth group.

Joe: Rick goes to your church? [*Thoughtfully*] Guess I never see him around on Sunday. He's awesome.

David: I've seen a couple of others play basketball at your school who come to our church, too. The church is only three blocks from your school. I don't know the other players because I'm still in junior high, but I'll be in your school next year.

First Friend: All four of us will be.

Second Friend: Why don't you come to our church and see?

Third Friend: You'll like it, I guarantee.

Joe: Do I hav'ta wear one of those 300 shirts?

David: No, but you might want to after you know more about our church.

Joe: Boy, this has been ... [*groping for the right word*] some ... uh, some ... yeah ... some encounter! [*Turns to exit, looks over shoulder, grins and waves*] See ya!

[*All on stage pause as though thinking about Joe.*]

David: Do you suppose Joe really will come to church with us next Sunday?

First Friend: We didn't tell him our church stands for peace,
That we work and pray for wars to cease.
Led by the Spirit, we serve others in need,
Following Christ faithfully in word and deed.

Second Friend: You know it bothers me, it seems so odd,
That we talked of our church, but never mentioned God.
Does the name Jesus mean anything to Joe?
If he doesn't come to church, how will he ever know?

Third Friend: Do you think Joe knows what the Bible is about?
Its teachings and guidance we can't live without.
How can we help him experience God's grace
that is ours for the asking any time, any place?

David: We're lucky to have parents who have been good examples and taught us about Jesus and taken us to church. [*Points to shirt*] There are lots of people like Joe in our school who are never challenged to think about being surrendered to God, transformed in Christ, empowered by the Spirit. Let's pray and ask the church to pray that we can find ways to share the Good News with kids at school.

[*End with an appropriate prayer by the pastor, worship leader, or other selected person*]

Who are the Brethren?

By Delbert Blickenstaff

Reporter: Pardon me sir, can you spare a few minutes? I'd like to ask you some questions.

Brethren Person: I'd be glad to answer your questions. What are they about?

Reporter: I'm a reporter for the local newspaper and since you're meeting in town this week, I'd like to learn something about the Brethren. I've never heard of them before.

Brethren Person: Well, we've been around for 300 years. Do you want me to start at the beginning with Alexander Mack? This will take several hours.

Reporter: You don't need to go back that far! What are the Brethren like today? Are they like the Quakers?

Brethren Person: Yes and no. Let me tell you a story and I think you'll get the picture. Have you ever heard of Heifer International?

Reporter: No. What's that?

Brethren Person: A heifer is a young cow and the story of Heifer International says a lot about the Brethren. In the 1940's a man named Dan West conceived the idea of sending heifers to Spain to help provide milk for children suffering after the civil war there. Brethren supported the idea with great enthusiasm. One congregation brought young calves to the church for people to adopt and raise. When the heifers were old enough, they were bred and shipped overseas. The real genius of the program is that each family who receives an animal must promise to give the first offspring to another family, so the gift keeps growing.

Reporter: That's a wonderful story. Is the program still functioning?

Brethren Person: Yes and it's a multi-million dollar effort that gives many kinds of animals to families all over the world.

Reporter: Really? A multi-million dollar effort? I didn't realize Brethren were that wealthy.

Brethren Person: We're not, at least not most of us. Heifer International is no longer a Church of the Brethren program. It's an entirely separate organization supported by many denominations, but Brethren still support it. In fact it's a favorite project for Sunday school classes, especially children's classes.

Reporter: Do Brethren support other programs?

Brethren Person: Oh, sure. Many of our people are involved in disaster relief, helping victims of hurricanes, tornados, and floods in the United States and around the world. Other Brethren have joined organizations that work for peace. Did you see the newspaper picture of Christian Peacemaker Teams member Art Gish staring down an Israeli tank in Hebron?

Reporter: No, I'm sorry I missed that. Do you mean these people actually go places looking for trouble?

Brethren Person: Some might say that. But in reality the Brethren go to troubled places because they believe that is what Jesus would do.

Reporter: My friend, you Brethren are a bunch of strange people. You give away a million dollar business and go all over the world looking for trouble. Really strange!

The Prodigal Surrenders

By Lorele Yager

Players

Father (someone who can sing *a capella*)

Prodigal (someone who can sing *a capella*)

Pigs (any number of children with pig ears and noses)

Angel Choir (the congregation)

Servants

Props

Money bag

Bucket filled with wrapped candy

A cow cookie for each person (cutters available in baking supply stores)

Explain to the congregation that they will function as the Angel Choir, joining whenever the father sings the chorus of “Softly and tenderly.” Run through the song one time so the congregation is prepared when the father begins singing.

[Father and Son enter from different directions.]

Prodigal: *[Demandingly]* Father, I have lived here and obeyed you long enough. I want to be on my own to explore the world. Give me my share of the inheritance.

Father: *[Sadly]* All right, child. I will give it to you tomorrow. *[Both exit and return, Father with a money bag. He hands the prodigal the bag]* Here is what you asked for.

Prodigal: Thank you, Father. *[Exits]*

Father: *[Calling after the prodigal]* I love you, my child. *[Stands at the back of the stage and watches the child go, then exits]*

Prodigal: *[Enters from the back of the sanctuary and comes up the aisle]* Being able to live any way I want is great! I can’t wait for the next adventure. *[Exits at back of sanctuary]*

[Father appears in chancel again and leads the Angel Choir in a chorus of “Softly and tenderly, then fades back]

Prodigal: *[Enters from the back of the sanctuary scattering candy from the bucket and talking while walking up the aisle]* Here pigs! Here pigs!

[Pigs appear from where they have been hiding in front of the first pew. They grab candy as the Prodigal throws it. Then they sit while the Prodigal speaks]

What am I doing here? This is no life for me. How can I be feeding pigs? I am so hungry, and these pigs *[said with great disgust]*, these unclean creatures, are eating better than I am. This is not the kind of life I should be living. I’m so hungry and miserable. I don’t know what to do.

[Prodigal and pigs freeze while Father moves forward again and leads the Angel Choir in another chorus of "Softly and Tenderly." Father fades back until Son returns to surrender]

[Action unfreezes] I went away looking for freedom, but now I am a prisoner of my own selfishness. I want to go home to my father. He knew what was best for me all along, but I was too stubborn to listen. I wonder if he will take me back? *[Sings solo to the tune of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot]*

Verse 1

I examine myself and what do I see?
One who is completely alone
A dreadful sinner, a sad refugee,
Who cannot survive all alone.

Chorus

How low, how low can one be?
I'm suffering so uselessly;
Too much, too much misery,
This is not the good life for me.

Verse 2

Oh why, Oh why did I flee?
This is not the way to be free.
I pray, I pray on bended knee,
O Father, please let me come home.

Chorus

Prodigal: I'll go home and tell my father how sorry I am. I will surrender completely in whatever way I must. *[Exits at back of sanctuary]*

[Reenters momentarily from the back of the sanctuary and hurries up the aisle and kneels at the steps to the chancel. Father reappears in the chancel]

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.

Father: *[Pulls Prodigal to a standing position and gives the Prodigal an embrace. The father shouts]* Servants, cook the fatted calf. We must have a party to celebrate, for my child, this very child, was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now is found.

[Servants enter from the back of the sanctuary and distribute a cow cookie to everyone while the congregation sings the following song:]

"Joyous Welcome"

Tune: My Redeemer

Verse

Joyous welcome by the Father
Springs from love we cannot earn.

All is forgiven and forgotten,
When repentant we return.

Chorus

Joy, oh joy in the glad welcome,
Yet God's way is a mystery.
When we kneel in full surrender,
We become completely free.

Faithful---Yesterday, Today, and Forever
A Celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the founding of the Church of the Brethren

By Diane Hall

Players: A Brethren family from the past, including Father Utz, Mother Utz, Older Son, Younger Daughter, and Younger Son

A present day church family (PDCF), including Father, Mother, Son, Daughter, a woman, a man, a teen, the organist, and the minister

Pastor Wayne, current pastor of the congregation

Setting: A Brethren family from the past returns to visit the church today. The play takes place in a modern day church service. Pews are arranged in two sets, one set on either side of a center aisle. The pews face a pulpit.

Act I

Father Utz: [*Quoting scripture as the family enters the Present Day Church of the Brethren*] "One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life" (Ps. 27:4).

Mother Utz: "I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" (Psalm 122:1).

Father Utz: It is good for us to visit our brothers and sisters here on their 300th anniversary.

Mother Utz: The building has been maintained nicely on the outside.

Daughter Utz. It is very attractive inside, too.

Father Utz: The true test is not the condition of the building, but the condition of the hearts of the people who worship here now.

Mother Utz: I wonder if they have been faithful in reading their Bibles and teaching. The scriptures to their children?

Father Utz: Are the people still serving Jesus Christ as the Son of God and living according to his teachings?

Older Utz son: I wonder if they still baptize people down at the creek where I was baptized.

Younger Utz son: I wonder if they still eat lamb at Love Feast.

Daughter Utz: Mother, look at the fancy curtains in the windows. Look at the bright banners up front! I wonder if they are able to worship with all these things in the church.

Younger Utz son: Feel how soft the carpet is on the floor. [*He reaches down and touches the carpet*]

Older Utz son: Don't they have a hitching post to tie our horse?

Father Utz: If they don't need a hitching post, they must have a new type of horseless carriage."

Younger Utz son: I wonder if they stay here only a short time, for they don't have an outhouse? [*Looking out the window*]

Daughter Utz: So many things have changed; I suspect they have become very worldly.

Mother Utz: Judge not, that you may not be judged, child.

Older Utz son: The Bible says, "Hate what is evil or God's anger will be poured out on this place."

Father Utz: It looks to me as if our inheritance has been turned over to aliens and God's house has become a house of iniquity.

Daughter Utz: It seems they have turned from God and moved backwards instead of forwards.

Mother Utz: Do not lose hope, we have prayed that our children and grandchildren would be faithful down through the ages. Perhaps it is not as bad as we think.

Older Utz son: They still worship together. Here is a paper with today's date, which says "Order of Worship," and it lists the minister as Rev. Wayne Hall. [*Shows the bulletin to the others*]

Daughter Utz: I wonder if he is related to Elder Hall.

Younger Utz son: Everyone is related in the Church of the Brethren.

Mother Utz. Does it mention any worship this evening or a prayer meeting on Wednesday evening?

Younger Utz son: I remember every time the church doors were open we were here. I remember walking through ten inches of snow for five miles to get here.

Daughter Utz: I remember how we were on our knees for hours, or so it seemed, at Wednesday night prayer meeting.

Older Utz son: Yes, *many* elders shared God's word, but I also remember learning Bible verses and having lots of good times with our friends.

Mother Utz: Let us go sit quietly and read our Bibles. We need to prepare our hearts for worship."
[*As they move to sit, the men go to one side and the women to the other*]

Younger Utz son: I wish I had my own Bible" [*as he shares with his older brother*].

Older Utz son: You have to learn to read first. [*The father gives them a stern look*]

[*Leave a few minutes of silence as modern day church members begin to arrive. Many of them greet the new people before they sit down. The older family is surprised by the dress of the people. Minister enters last.*]

Daughter Utz: [*To a modern day teen sitting beside her*] I don't see anyone carrying a Bible, do you have it memorized?"

Teen: Not exactly. [*Turns to modern day woman, saying*] Look how weird those people are dressed!

Woman: Remember what our Sunday school teacher Miss Sherri says, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Pastor: Good morning, everyone. Welcome as we celebrate the 300th anniversary of the church. Join me in the Call to Worship, Psalm 100, and remain standing for the invocation prayer.

[*In unison*] Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us and we are his;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

[*As they remain standing, the pastor prays the invocation*]

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for our brothers and sisters in faith, whose prayers and actions have resulted in our being here today. Three hundred years have past and the faith of our fathers is living still. In Jesus' name, Amen." *[As the pastor ends his prayer, they all say Amen]*

Remain standing to sing "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

[Everyone in the Utz family strains to see the organ.]

Pastor: Today let us greet our neighbors with our favorite Bible verse.

Father: "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find, knock, and the door will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7). *[He turns to greet Father Utz with a handshake]*

Mother: "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matt. 6:33). *[She turns to greet Mother Utz with a handshake]*

Daughter: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude" (1 Cor. 13:4). *[She turns to greet Daughter Utz]*

Father: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge" (Ps. 18:2). *[He turns to greet Older Utz son with a handshake]*

Teen: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God" (Rom. 8:28).

Woman: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). *[She turns to greet Mother Utz with a handshake]*

Son: "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). *[He greets Younger Utz son with a handshake]*

[Everyone sits]

Pastor: I would like to welcome our visitors. Would you please introduce yourselves?

Father Utz: My name is Samuel Utz and this is my wife Lucinda, our daughter Cora, and our sons Charles and Silas.

Pastor: We are very glad to have you with us.

Father Utz: We have been gone for quite some time. We decided to return for your 300th anniversary celebration.

Son: Wow! Like, you mean, you came back to the future?

Father Utz: Do you still worship Jesus Christ here or have you conformed yourselves to the standards of this world?

Woman: Worship? We worship every Sunday. You have no idea what the standards of this world are today.

Man: The world is so full of hate and anger. Wars, murders, broken homes, no one but the followers of Christ seem to value human life anymore.

Father: Some people worship creation instead of the creator.

Daughter: Many don't honor or respect God.

Son: Respect God? They don't even believe in God!

Mother: But there are some of us who do still believe and share the love of Jesus every chance we get.

Woman: Well, three hundred years is a long time, and we're still here.

Pastor: We have come to that time of sharing joys and concerns.

Man: I would like to thank all the people who helped prepare everything for this 300th anniversary celebration.

Mother: The church is beautiful with all the flowers and the new banners.

Daughter: I would like to know what the church was like three hundred years ago.

Son: Good grief! [*As he shakes his head no*]

Woman: Yes, tell us what people were like back then.

Father Utz: The Brethren began as people who were willing to surrender their lives to God, and had no thought of life apart from Christ.

Mother Utz: The Lord was their Alpha and Omega, and they consulted him before they did anything. They were transformed in Christ, faithful and true to our Lord.

Older Utz son: They were eager to praise God and serve others. The Spirit empowered them to bear fruit and share their spiritual gifts.

Daughter Utz: Brethren were honest, humble, and sincere. Brethren loved to help their neighbors.

Mother Utz: One brother would lend another hundreds of dollars without asking for a contract. He would just write it down on a piece of paper or a board in the barn. If a brother's barn was destroyed, the people in the church would get together to raise a new one. If a brother got sick, they would put his crops away for him."

Man: They really lived out their faith in their everyday lives, didn't they?

Woman: Whatever happened to the good old days?

Father: I feel there are many good things happening here at Locust Grove.

Mother: I agree. Just last year we had 12 new members here at church.

Daughter: Seven members attended the 213th Annual Conference in Milwaukee this year. I hope to go in two years when it will be in Baltimore, close to home.

Son: That's not all. This summer the youth went to New Windsor to help pack boxes for disaster relief. We had a great time.

Woman: With our compassion fund, we help many people in our community. And each month, we take a mission offering.

Man: In the Church of the Brethren now, we have many service works—B.V.S., Heifer Project, disaster relief, and meat canning.

Teen: I like church picnics, making apple butter, and eating hot dogs.

Mother: For the past two months, Pastor Wayne has been teaching a special Sunday school class helping us understand what it means to be Brethren.

Father: Many good and courageous men have made sacrifices for the work of the Lord Jesus Christ and the church.

Daughter: I learned about Alexander Mack who started the Church of Brethren in 1708 in Schwarzenau, Germany. He made great personal sacrifices for the church. He was led by love and didn't believe in force in religion. He searched for the truth in the Bible, trying to pattern the Brethren after the New Testament Church.”

Teen: There were Church of the Brethren congregations in America thirty years before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Son: I thought people called us Dunkers because Brethren dunked cookies and doughnuts in their coffee or milk, like Pastor Wayne. But, the real reason, I learned, was because the early Brethren baptized by immersion three times forward. Most churches didn't do it that way.

Woman: I heard Peter Becker, who emigrated to Germantown, Pennsylvania, relied on the Holy Spirit and had powerful prayers.

Teen: Christopher Sauer wanted to print Bibles but Ben Franklin bought up all the paper available to stop him. Franklin didn't like our peace stand.

Son: Get out! That old Ben was a clever fox.

Man: Have you ever heard of John Kline, a preacher and a physician who was a healer of the body as well as the soul? He dedicated his life during the Civil War to riding horseback between the North and the South, trying to help the sick and wounded. Both sides suspected him of spying for the other. He was shot because he helped both sides.

Son: I once thought a Pietist was someone who eats pies. But then I learned in Sunday school that it was someone who lived out faith in every day life.

Father Utz: We always sought to serve and follow Christ. This is exactly why we got together and became the Brethren.

Mother: Now I think we can appreciate more fully the beautiful heritage we have in the ideals and examples they gave us from the way they lived.

Pastor: Thank you all for sharing the joys of our heritage. Let us pray. [*Utz family kneels*] That's a good idea. Let's all kneel. [*Pause as everyone kneels*] "Dear Father, we come to you humbly today realizing the great sacrifices of those who have gone before us. Realizing that if they had not passed the message of Christ on to us, we wouldn't be here today. We bring our concerns for those in need, for those suffering from sickness or loss. May they feel your love and peace through us, your disciples. Allow me to be your humble servant, that my words would be your words. May your spirit empower us to discover your truths. Amen." [*All the people in the play say Amen*]

Man: Today's reading is a paraphrase of Ephesians 4:1-6. "Here is what I want you to do. While I am locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk. Better yet run. On the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourself out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

"You were led to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one master, one faith, one baptism, and one God and father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with oneness." [*Utz family is looking at their Bible trying to find the scripture*]

Father Utz: Where do you find these words?

Man: Ephesians 4. [*Shows his Bible*] The version I read from is called *The Message*.

Mother Utz: It's not the King James Version?

Man: No, we have many versions now, some for children, some for youth, some easy to read, and most are very close to the original Greek and Hebrew.

Pastor: Just as the King James Version was a translation of Greek into English, *The Message* tries to translate the tone, rhythm, events, and ideas of the Bible into the way we speak today.

Son: I still have trouble understanding it all.

Woman: Today we should all be able to find a translation we can read and understand.

Father Utz: My goodness, how many changes have there been? Do you still have feet washing as Christ commanded?

Father: Yes, we have Love Feast and our feet washing, meal, and communion are all done by candlelight.

Mother Utz: Are you still a peace church that believes in living a simple life?

Teen: Yes, for the most part we do believe in the simple life. We don't always obtain it, however, in this very complicated modern world.

Mother: We believe a peaceful world begins in our own lives. It begins with me personally, loving my family, my church family, my friends and neighbors, before I can work for peace in the world.

Older Utz son: Do the Brethren still talk of the New Testament as their creed?

Daughter: Yes, but we have a saying now that I really like: “Continuing the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, and together.”

Mother Utz: I guess there have been many changes in the way people worship, but Jesus seems to still be the focus of your worship.

Father: One thing never changes, and that’s God—he is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Man: Let’s give Pastor Wayne a chance to speak to us today. His sermon is titled “Unity Within the Church.”

Pastor: Thank you. I am beginning my sermon with a question. Do we want unity in our church? God wants the church to be a picture of the kingdom that Christ will bring, a picture of what heaven will be like. The truth in the scripture tells us all believers are one body in Christ. Like the parts of the human body, all Christians have dignity in that one body and lovingly serve the body’s other members (1 Cor. 12:26). If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. We are accountable and responsible for each other’s spiritual growth. We start by showing God’s love and compassion. We need to give unconditional forgiveness to our brothers and sisters, to be reconciled to each other and then reconciled to God. This reconciliation, which brings about true peace allows us to stand together at the foot of the cross.

We the church need to bring the light of Christ to the world. When others see Christ in us, they will believe and want to be changed, too. In John 17 Jesus prays that our love and unity will be so visible and striking that it will convince a watching world that he did indeed come from the Father. He says, “May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me.” Our broken world needs the gospel now more than ever. But it must be the gospel of the New Testament and not our own version. Faith demands it, Jesus modeled it, and it works. Our work should be constructive not destructive. Our aim is to surrender our lives to God, be transformed by Christ, and empowered by the Spirit. This will strengthen the fabric of the church. The work of our Christian service then is to come together in oneness in Christ Jesus in order to build up the body of Christ, the church.

Christ’s one body has been ripped apart into thousands of pieces. We have been divided because of prejudice, clothes, doctrine, music, traditions, and wanting our own way instead of seeking God’s will. Our church needs to be a safe haven for sinners to find love and compassion, a place to heal. For there are many hurting people, both outside the church and within. They are lonely, depressed, suffering with pain, stressed, fatigue, and the feeling they’re not loved.

First we need to repent of our division and brokenness and seek God’s love and forgiveness. The common bond in Christ is more important than all the things that divide us. We all confess that there is one God, the Father, who sent the Son, Jesus, and now works through the Holy Spirit. We all teach that sin separates us from God, and that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation for all people everywhere. We all confess that the Bible is God’s divinely inspired word. We all look forward to that coming day, when the returning Christ will complete the victory over sin and death and the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord. We need to talk honestly

about our differences, seeking truly for greater unity, and cooperating where possible in what God has called us to do.

Let us pray. “Lord you know we are imperfect pilgrims. Help us no matter what the cost to be your humble obedient servants. To recognize sin in our lives and to distinguish between our differences with others and to know you, Lord, are the common bond that unites us. Amen.” [*All characters say Amen*]

Boy: I get it. Together we stand, divided we fall.

Daughter: Surrendered to God, transformed in Christ, and empowered by the Spirit. Awesome!

Father Utz: Well, I am glad to see that Jesus Christ is still the focus of your worship, though you certainly do it differently than we did.

Father: With God’s help we can all work together so the church will be here and vibrant three hundred years from now, or until the Lord’s return.

[*All characters form circle and single one verse of “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”*]

Teen: It’s totally awesome when all of God’s people live together in harmony.

Woman: Now we are ready to go out into the world and become ambassadors for Christ!

Pastor: [*Turning to the audience for a benediction*] “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus; that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . Now, the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. . . . Now, the God of peace be with you” (Rom. 15:5-6, 13, 33). Amen. [*All characters say Amen*]

Organist plays “Victory in Jesus” as players leave.