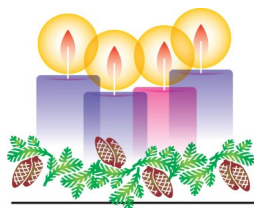


# Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXI

December 18, 2016

No. 51



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

## God's Restoration is at Hand

The psalmist prays, "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved." Today, the Adult Choir will lead us in Scripture and song as we remember God's plan of restoration throughout all of history which finds fulfillment in Jesus Christ. God's restoration is at hand! Come, let us walk in the Way of God!

### GATHERING

PRELUDE Mark Schmidt, Joshua Schmidt

LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP Leann Toews

\*WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

\*GATHERING HYMN "Fling wide the door, unbar the gate!" No. 186  
Diana Schmidt, accompanist

\*GATHERING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION "Holy Child within the manger" No. 28 STS

\*LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE Lindsay, Brian and Daniel Lightner

\*PRAYER

\*PASSING THE PEACE *The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.*

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING OUR GIFTS *please pass Infant Care Kit items to center aisle*

CHILDREN'S STORY Jill Litwiller

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S PLAN FOR RESOTRATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 1: 20-23 Eric Litwiller  
Isaiah 9: 6-7 Katy Schmidt

\*HYMN "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming" No. 211

CHORAL ANTHEM "Emmanuel" -Larry Nickel

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2: 8-12, 15-18, 20 Eric Litwiller

CHORAL ANTHEM "Rise Up!" -spiritual, arr. Mark Hill

### CONFESSING AND RECONCILING

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 53: 1-3, 7, 12 Katy Schmidt

CHORAL ANTHEM "Sweet little Jesus boy" -MacGimsey, arr. Don Hart

### WORSHIP AND PRAISE

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 61: 1-3 Eric Litwiller

\*HYMN "Praise the One who breaks the darkness" No. 1 STS

CHORAL ANTHEM "God rest you merry gentlemen" -traditional, arr. Larry Shackley  
Deloris Schmidt and Michelle Unruh accompanists

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 65: 17-19, Isaiah 61: 10-11 Katy Schmidt

CHORAL ANTHEM "Good Christians all, rejoice" -arr Tom Fettke & Thomas Grassi

### RESPONDING

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER Pastor Katherine Goerzen

### SENDING

\*SENDING HYMN "Hark! The herald angels sing" No. 201

\*BENEDICTION 1 Peter 5: 8a, 10-11 Pastor Rosie Jantz

\*POSTLUDE

### Today

We are so glad you are here with us to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Elmer and Lynne Voth and Paul and Norma Graber. *A special welcome is extended to all visitors.*

At the back of the sanctuary there is a quiet room for infants and mothers, as well as a toddler nursery for those age three and under, staffed today by Yvette Nickel.

In the pew pockets are **Welcome Cards** and **Prayer Request Cards**. If you are a visitor to Tabor, please fill out a **Welcome Card** and return it in the offering bag. If you have a prayer request or praise item, please fill out a **Prayer Request Card** and return to a Pastor's mailbox.

**10:45 a.m.**—Faith Formation for everyone. Regular adult classes will meet. Discussion will also continue with Erica Stoltzfus and James Goerzen following their recent trip to Standing Rock, North Dakota to join the peaceful protests for the Dakota Access Pipeline and stand in solidarity with the Sioux people. You may join the discussion, which will take place in the sanctuary overflow.

**6:00-8:00 p.m.**—TMYF presents Night in the Barn see *announcements*

## This Week

Pastor Phil and family will be returning from Ohio tomorrow, December 19.  
For pastoral care concerns, please contact Pastor Rosie or Pastor Katherine.

### Tuesday, December 20

10:00 a.m.—Staff meeting

*Bulletin announcements  
are due on Wednesday.*

### Wednesday, December 21

6:30-7:30 p.m.—Christmas Eve Program Practice 7:00 p.m.—TMYF

### Wednesday, December 21 - Tuesday, December 27

Tabor Serves at New Hope Shelter

### Saturday, December 24

7:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Celebration Service



## Next Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m.—**Christmas Day Worship.** Celebrate the birth of Jesus through scripture and song! Scripture focus is Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 148; Matthew 1:18-25 and Pastor Phil will be preaching. *Faith Formation classes will not meet.*

## Prayer Requests

*The following items were shared on Sunday, December 11:*

- ★ Elaine shared a prayer request for all who are grieving the absence and loss of loved ones this holiday season. Lord, hear our prayer for healing and strength.
- ★ Jim shared a praise for witnessing someone from our congregation step up and take care of a situation that had arisen. Thanks be to God for all who work for God's healing and peace in our congregation, in our community, and in the world.
- ★ Pastor Katherine shared that Grace Regier will be retiring from the position of Church Custodian at the end of January. Thanks be to God for the many gifts that Grace has and for all that she has done for Tabor in the last 22 years!

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ *Caring Quilt locations:* The caring quilts are home.

### Dates to Remember:

January 1: Worship at 10am; Faith Formation Time: Christmas Fellowship  
January 4: Wednesday Evening Ministries pizza and game night  
January 14: Prayer and Visioning Retreat  
January 22: Potluck with Mission Partner Dan Smith Derksen

## OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE December 11, 2016

Offering = \$ 9,436.36	Attendance = 185
Adult F.F. = \$ 22.00	Attendance = 47
Jr. F.F. = \$ 14.63	Attendance = 43

**Wednesday Evening, December 14**  
Attendance = 80



Tabor Mennonite Church

Prelude: 9:15am      Worship: 9:30am  
Fellowship Time: 10:30am      Faith Formation: 10:45am

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*As God's children and the body of Christ, we are called by God to offer hospitality, healing and hope in the name of Christ.*

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