

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVI

December 5, 2021

No. 49



Dare to Imagine God's Embrace

Imagine the wideness of God's embrace of all creatures and creation! It will widen our hearts to do the things that make for *peace*.¹

WORSHIP

PRELUDE Mark Schmidt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Nathan Ashley

LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP AND RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Luke 1:68-69, 78-79*

*GATHERING PRAYER

*GATHERING HYMN *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* No. 218
Michelle Unruh accompanying

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE Grace Regier
"Nun Ist Sie Erschienen" (English or German) No. 52 CS

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CHILDREN'S STORY Carol Duerksen

SCRIPTURE READINGS *Luke 1:68-79; Luke 3:1-6* Corynn, Stephan,
Yvette & Kevin Nickel
The Word of God for the people of God ~ Thanks be to God!

SERMON Pastor Katherine Goerzen

HYMN OF RESPONSE *"Prepare the Way! The Prophet Called"* No. 220

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING & PRAYER Pastor Luke Unruh

*SENDING HYMN *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* No. 247

*BENEDICTION *Philippians 1:9-11*

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able*

Sunday, December 5

Welcome to worship at Tabor Mennonite Church! Come together to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Gayle Funk and Brian Voth. A special welcome is extended to all visitors.

9:30 am: Worship Service in the Sanctuary.
YouTube Livestream (also available following the service).
Link: <https://youtu.be/hoDf0j-rsSM>

Fellowship Time following worship.

10:45 am: Faith Formation.

This Week

Mon. Dec. 6, 5:30 pm - Faithful Fitness
7 pm - Men's Bible Study in the Hospitality Hall.

Tues. Dec. 7 - Staff Christmas Breakfast. *Offices will be closed in the morning.*

Thurs. Dec. 9, 10 am - Christmas Coffee and Chat.

Dec. 8 through 12 - Pastor Luke will be out of the office to candidate at First Mennonite Church in Newton.

Next Sunday, December 12

9:30 am: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. The theme is "Dare to Imagine" and our focus will be God's Song. Scripture for reflection will be Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Luke 3:7-18 and Pastor Katherine will be preaching.

10:45 am: Faith Formation for everyone.

7:30 pm: Christmas Brass Concert, Goessel High Gymnasium.
See announcement for details.

Prayer Requests

The following prayer requests were shared on Sunday, November 28.

- ★ Jim Schmidt shared an update for his cousin Leroy Schmidt, who has moved out of ICU and seems to be improving. Thanks be to God! He also shared that Leroy's daughter Alison had been hospitalized with Covid pneumonia. She seems to be better, but remains hospitalized. Lord, hear our prayers for healing for Alison and Leroy and surround their family at this time.

¹From the *Leader* magazine Advent Worship Resources "Dare to Imagine," Advent 2 Focus Statement

- ★ Steve Janzen is thankful that the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus is planning to reconvene for the 2022 season. He is grateful for this opportunity to express and share faith through music. Thanks be to God!
- ★ Janna Duerksen requests prayers for the Service Adventure unit in Albuquerque. Though Dawson is enjoying his work and feels supported by the local Mennonite congregation there, others in the unit are struggling with being away from home and therefore one or more may not return after Christmas. Lord, hear our prayers for strength and for your healing presence to surround them.
- ★ Pastor Luke shared that he has accepted an offer to be a pastoral candidate for First Mennonite Church in Newton. He is grateful for his time here at Tabor and the ways he has felt nurtured and encouraged as he begins in ministry. He is also looking forward to an opportunity to grow in his ministry experience as he follows God's calling for his life. Thanks be to God for Pastor Luke, his gifts for ministry and the ways he shares them at Tabor, the ways Tabor has supported him and nurtured him at the outset of his ministry, and for this opportunity for him to serve at First Mennonite Church!

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ our Pastor Search team as they meet. Lord, hear our prayers for listening ears, wisdom, and clarity.
- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC Church Planting Commission, as they envision new initiatives and partnerships for church planting in the coming year.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Delicia Bravo Aguilar and Peter Wigginton, of MMN, request prayer for the churches in Ecuador that have suffered the loss of many leaders and members, due to COVID-19. While they continue to lament their losses, pray for their strength and resilience, as new leaders come forward to continue the reconciling mission of Christ.

Remember to Praise God for:

- ★ the birth of Ruth Ann Unruh, born Tuesday, November 30 to Jason and Anna Unruh. Proud siblings are Eliza and David, and grandparents are Lewis and Carrie Unruh. Thanks be to God! 
- ★ the season of Advent, as we wait and prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus!
- ★ the faithful and generous giving of the Tabor congregation that allowed us to exceed the fiscal year budget. Thanks be to God for the ministries of Tabor Mennonite Church and the benevolent causes that also are supported through the budget. Thanks be to God!

Congregational Announcements

Christmas Coffee and Chat: Thursday, December 9 there will be a Christmas coffee for anyone who would like to join us. It will be at 10 a.m. in the Hospitality Hall. Please bring a small gift if you plan to attend. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. You can sign up until the Sunday before the event, December 5. Come have a time to visit and celebrate this special time. Contact Leann Toews (367-8257) if you have questions.

Christmas Brass Concert: The McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews will give their Christmas Brass Concert Sunday, Dec. 12 at 7:30pm in the Goessel HS gym. This event is sponsored by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. Note the location change accommodating for social distancing. Come and enjoy a festive brass Christmas concert!

Tabor Mennonite Women and Girls Breakfast will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 18. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to attend. There is another sign-up sheet for volunteering to make muffins or bring a Christmas "piece". The breakfast will consist of muffins, fruit and cheese. Come to the Hospitality Hall to enjoy music and the flavor of Christmas! Masks are strongly encouraged and we will follow Tabor COVID protocol. If you have questions, contact Denise Nickel.

Night in the Barn has been a tradition of Tabor Church for many years. We would like to continue it this year. As an outdoor activity, we feel it is safe to plan to share this Christmas event. Once again, we are inviting the congregation to participate as desired. We will need volunteers for characters as well as guides. Those who can donate Christmas goodies are also appreciated. We are planning for December 18 & 19, 5 - 8 pm, at the farm of Brandon and Kristi Unruh. Please contact Kristi Unruh by phone/text at 345-6867 or email kdunruh97@gmail.com to volunteer.

Small Group Update: The pastors and deacons would like to update Tabor's small group lists and would like to hear from those of you who would like to be in a small group.

- 1) Are you in a Small Group? Who is all in your group?
- 2) Has your group disbanded?
- 3) Are you in a Small Group and would welcome more participants to your group?
- 4) Would you like to be in a Small Group?
- 5) Would you like to see Small Groups reorganized and if so, what are your ideas?

Please put your comments in Denise Nickel's mailbox or email her at oreo@mtelco.net.

Attention singers, Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus will be again singing this year after not being able to the last two years. If you would like to join us please contact Donavon Schmidt and sign up today. We are doing a two concert series this year. Our first concert is April 24th at Bethel College and our second concert will be May 1st at Bethany College. So, please, if you have any interest in singing with us let me know and I will get you registered to sing for the 2022 concert season!

Come Home to the Museum Store for Christmas: Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum, 200 N. Poplar, Goessel. Open Tues - Sat. 12-4pm until Dec 22. Mennonite cookbooks, locally crafted items, gift memberships to the museum, gift certificates.

The Christmas Giving Tree: Goessel Ministerial Alliance and the Crossroads Credit Union are sponsoring a "Christmas Giving Tree" to help families in need. All the gifts will need to be brought back to the Credit Union by **Monday, December 13.** The gifts should be wrapped and the credit union personnel will assist with the "checking in" process.

Do you enjoy a cup of coffee? A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board if you would be willing to help make coffee on Sunday mornings. Volunteering to clean up after Faith Formation is also very much appreciated.

Fiscal Year End: Now is the time to prepare annual reports for the 2021 fiscal year which ended November 30. Reports are due in December. Thanks you for submitting reports in a timely manner.

Bloodmobile: During this holiday season, share the gift of life by donating blood at Goessel Church between 1:00-6:00 on Monday, December 13. Make a single unit donation or a Power Red donation (double units for those with type O+, O-, A-, or B-) to help meet the critical needs. Sign up for your appointment time online at redcrossblood.org. For more information contact Rosie Reimer 620-367-2418 or Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081.

Conference Announcements

Western District Conference: December's WDC Resource Library Book Discussion will be Thursday, December 16 at 7pm via Zoom. Join us to discuss *Tongue-Tied: Learning the Lost Art of Talking about Faith* by Sara Wenger Shenk. We welcome those who have read the book and those interested in the topic. Copies of the book available through the library. RSVP at crlib@mennowdc.org

Mennonite Central Committee:

--**The MCC Comforter Blitz Committee** is looking for additional committee members! Would you be interested in assisting the making of comforters for MCC, and helping to plan the annual three-day comforter making event in Yoder, Kansas? If so, we would love your skills and your voice! If interested, please reach out to Committee Chair, Kara Klingenberg at k.klingenberg@hotmail.com or call her at 620-983-9003 for more information. We are currently looking for a treasurer, advertising help, and anyone else who is interested in helping.

--**Have yourself a honkin' good holiday,** December 17 from 4-6 pm! MCC is thrilled to host this drive-thru event again this year. Order your charcuterie box(es) today to enjoy in the comfort of your home, spread Christmas joy and order extra to give as gifts! Suggested donation per box is \$25. We're also collecting items for [MCC hygiene kits](#) at this event. Place your order by 5 pm on December 9. Questions? Please call 316.283.2720. [Details and order form are on \[mcc.org\]\(http://mcc.org\).](#)

Camp Mennoscah:

--**2022 Summer staff applications are being accepted!** Applicants should be 18 years old or older and in agreement with the Camp Mennoscah mission statement. See website for details. Call or email with questions! [Information and the online application can be found here!](#)

--**Christmas Gathering on Dec. 18 at 2:30pm!** Join us in the Dining Hall at Camp Mennoscah for afternoon fun--bring games to play indoors or out. Camp will provide popcorn and generic pop. (Masks recommended and encouraged for inside activities.)

Hesston College: Sunflower Performing Arts Series. Lauded as one of the most popular brass ensembles today, Canadian Brass will perform a holiday concert as part of the 2021-22 Sunflower Performing Arts season on Tues., Dec. 7 at 7:30 pm at Hesston Mennonite Church. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 620-327-8158 or visit the [SPA website](#)

Bethel College:

--**Bethel College Steel Drum Band concert,** Tues., Dec. 7, 7 pm. Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center.

--**Singalong to Christmas portions of Handel's Messiah** returns in-person, Weds., Dec. 8, 11 am. Memorial Hall, with chamber orchestra, soloists and student conductors. Scores provided.

--**Christmas Gala Jazz concert,** Fri., Dec. 10, 8 pm. Krehbiel Auditorium.

--**Lighting of the Green** returns in-person this year; Sun., Dec. 12, 8 pm on the Bethel College campus.

--*Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing to the extent possible and mask-wearing indoors with groups of 10 or more.*

DECEMBER COVID-19 PROTOCOL

- During this holiday time we ask that you are still vigilant about wearing masks and using hand sanitizer.
- Every other Pew in the Sanctuary is roped off for Social Distance Seating.
- Social Distance seating on dots during children's story time will continue.
- During worship service the people speaking from the front microphones are encouraged to remove your mask to accommodate those who have difficulty understanding the speakers.
- Please use the microphone at the front of the sanctuary for Announcements and Sharing. During Sharing if you feel more comfortable for a pastor to bring you a mic while in the pew, we ask you to keep your mask on while sharing.
- Musicians are still encouraged to perform from the stage to minimize the transmission of respiratory droplets.
- Congregational Singing has resumed.
- Passing Offering Bags will continue so please carry sanitizer with you and use after passing the offering bags.
- PLEASE KEEP HANDSHAKING TO A MINIMUM WITH GREETERS AND DURING THE SERVICE.**
- If you test positive after attending a church event, **PLEASE** call one of the Covid Task Team or notify the church office.
- Sanitizing stations will remain available and encouraged to be used.
- Mailboxes are in use.
- If you are gathering for meals in the Hospitality Hall please wear masks and gloves and serve each person, versus potluck style or allowing individuals to touch dishes and utensils.

Thank You, The Covid Task Team – Gayle Funk, Duane Duerksen, Erica Stoltzfus

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE November 28, 2021

Offering	= \$23,091.30	Attendance	=	118
Adult FF	= \$ 29.50	Attendance	=	24
Jr. FF	= \$ 7.34	Attendance	=	39

Worship Link Views = 44

Advent Worship Services

"Dare to Imagine"

Advent candle lighting. Advent and Christmas songs.
Scripture passages read by children and parents.
Sanctuary beautifully decorated by our gifted Visual Arts Team.

Christmas Coffee

Thursday, December 9, 10 am.
Coffee, fellowship, and nativities.

Christmas Brass

Sunday, December 12, 7:30 pm.
Goessel High School Gymnasium.

Taber Mennonite Women's Christmas Breakfast

Saturday, December 18, 9 am.
Gather together for this wonderful Tabor tradition.

Night in the Barn

December 18 and 19, 5-8 pm.
At Patchwork Farms.
Experience this meaningful retelling of the Christmas Story!

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 7 pm.
Christmas story from Matthew and Luke.
Christmas carols and candle lighting.

The Sunday after Christmas

"Lessons and Carols"
Scripture readings from Isaiah and the Gospels.
Christmas music.

See newsletter and announcements for details on all of the above.



Tabor Mennonite Church

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email: tabor@tabormennonite.org

Website: www.tabormennonite.org

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.

Pastor:

Katherine Goerzen

Cell: 316-727-4986

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Supply Pastor:

Luke Unruh

Cell: 620-386-4596

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Deacons:

Carol Duerksen
Ruby Graber

Denise Nickel

Emil Schmidt
Lewis Unruh

Pastor Search Committee:

Reece Hiebert, co chr.
Eunice Nickel, co chr.

Nancy Funk, sec.
Lewis Unruh, deacon rep.
Pastor Katherine Goerzen

Larry Goerzen
Sheri Schmidt

Christmas At Tabor