



Tabor Church News

March, 2022

Lenten Worship: *Seeking God's Ways*

Hello Tabor Church Family,

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2. For anyone who is interested, there will be a brief Ash Wednesday Service around 6:20 (following the Wednesday Evening Fellowship Meal) on the 2nd. All are welcome!

Sunday Worship Themes

March 6 - MDS Reporting

Cleo Koop and
Pastor Luke preaching

March 13 - Lent 2:

From Fear to Compassion

Luke 13:31-35
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Pastor Katherine preaching

March 20 - Lent 3:

From Earning to Receiving

Luke 13:1-9
I Corinthians 10:1-13
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
Pastor Luke preaching

March 27 - Lent 4:

From Exceptionalism to Inclusion

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
Pastor Katherine preaching

Our worship series for Lent is taken from the *Leader* magazine worship resources, and is entitled "Seeking God's Ways." The series was planned by a team from Western District Conference, which included Carol Duerksen and Doris Unruh. Here is the way the worship resources team introduced the series: *Of all the Lectionary readings for Lent 2022, our worship resource team kept circling back to this verse from the prophet Isaiah: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8). We realized that the Scriptures for each Sunday reveal a truth about the ways of God, as well as the many ways God's people get it wrong. Scripture after Scripture is about how people think God offers one thing (privilege), but what God really offers looks quite different (inclusion); how we think the world works one way (scarcity), but really it works a different way (abundance); how we think power means one thing (control), but it is really found in something else (solidarity).*

Lent is a time to repent – to turn from our ways and recommit ourselves to the ways of God as revealed in Jesus. We hope that within this theme of "seeking God's ways" you will find space and encouragement to explore the ways your congregation is being called to greater faithfulness.

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Friends, may we continue to keep our hearts and minds open to the ways that God is moving in our midst this Lenten season. And may we look for opportunities to share with one another, for it is within our conversations with our brothers and sisters in Christ – even our difficult conversations – that we can better discern how God is calling us to deeper faith and faithfulness as a congregation. May it be so.

~ Grace and Peace, Pastor Katherine



MDS trip to McAllen, TX
February 19-26



Pastoral Search Committee Congregational Update

The Pastoral Search Committee would like to share a brief update as to where we are in the process.

We first want to say a huge thank you to everyone who completed the Pastoral Priorities survey. We ended up with a total of around 95 completed surveys, which were all tabulated and the results used to complete our Congregational Information Form. The completed CIF was then submitted to the church council for review. Once it received the council's blessing, it was submitted to the Western District Conference office and just this past week the job opening was posted! It's starting to get exciting!

The search committee met with Heidi Regier Kreider on February 17th to plan our next steps. Now that the job opening has been posted, the committee has begun the next phase of reviewing, considering and praying over the Ministerial Leadership Information, or MLI, forms received from any applicants. And yes, there have already been some! So if you're following along on our process checklist, we can now check Box No. 4 that says "The Search Committee is considering potential candidates"!

Now we know you are as eager and curious as the rest of us to know about the applications we receive. The committee is committed to being as open and transparent about our work as possible. But we are also committed to maintaining the integrity of the process and protecting the privacy of any potential candidates, so we will answer almost any question *except* "Who have you gotten applications from?" We're telling you this now so you are prepared for the committee's prepared response of, "We are looking at a number of excellent applications so just keep your hair on." Or something to that effect. So if you have any questions – except that one – please talk to any of the committee members: Eunice, Reece, Nancy, Lewis, Larry, Sheri or Pastor Katherine. Also, if you'd like to see a copy of the completed CIF, there is a copy available in the library, or we can send you an electronic copy upon request.

It may feel like the process has been slow up to this point and in some ways it may feel like we've just now arrived at the starting line. But that's because much of the work has been laying the groundwork and preparing to start the process of considering possible candidates. But you can't start a marathon without putting in the work ahead of time. The committee has been striving to be deliberate and diligent with every step in order to give us every possible chance for a successful outcome. There has been a lot of hard work by each member of the committee and many productive, prayerful meetings together just getting to this point.

This phase will take as long as it takes to discern the right pastor for Tabor. It's not a race and the timing is entirely God's. And while this part of the process is exciting, it is also the most important. We would just ask for your continued prayers for the committee, for clarity and wisdom as we review applications and meet together to discern God's calling for Tabor. And pray for our new pastor. We may not yet know who it will be, but God does, so please be in prayer that whoever it may be will likewise hear God's calling to serve here at Tabor. Thank you.

~The Pastoral Search Committee

REPORTING PROGRESS TO THE CONGREGATION CONCERNING OUR SEARCH FOR A NEW PASTOR	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. We have appointed a search committee. They are: Eunice Nickel, Reece Hiebert (Co-chairs); Nancy Funk (Secretary), Larry Goerzen, Sheri Schmidt, Lewis Unruh, Pastor Katherine Goerzen.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. The search committee has met with our area conference minister/representative.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. We are gathering information and developing a description of our congregation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. The search committee is considering potential candidates.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. The search committee has identified possible candidates and will conduct interviews.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. One candidate is being selected to recommend to the congregation for our pastoral opening.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. This candidate, _____, will visit the congregation and community on _____.
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. The congregation will vote on the recommended candidate on _____.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. We will celebrate with the installation of our new pastor on _____.