

# Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVII

December 11, 2022

No. 50



On this third Sunday of Advent, we reflect upon the story of an angel appearing to Joseph. May our eyes and hearts be open to notice the ways that our Lord Emmanuel is indeed with us and is working to save us from the powers of sin.

## WORSHIP

- PRELUDE Diane Unruh and Michelle Unruh
- WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Janna Duerksen
- LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP AND RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL
- \*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Isaiah 11:1-9*
- \*GATHERING PRAYER
- GATHERING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" vs. 1, 4, 7 No. 210
- ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Wyatt and Weston Sommerfeld,  
Kaylynn, Marshall, Carrie, and Mark Smith
- SCRIPTURE READING *from Isaiah 9:2, 11:1-3; 2 Corinthians 4:6*
- \*CHRISTMAS CAROLS "Away in a Manger" No. 257  
"What Child Is This/Helpless and Hungry" No. 267/268
- \*PASSING THE PEACE *The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.*
- OFFERING OUR GIFTS
- CHILDREN'S STORY Russell Adrian
- SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 1:18-25* Isaac, Kara,  
and Anthony Swartzendruber  
*The Word of God for the people of God. ~ Thanks be to God!*
- SERMON Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- \*HYMN OF RESPONSE "Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets" No. 276

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING & PRAYER Pastor Todd Schlosser

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

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand if you are able*

## Sunday, December 11

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

**9:00 am:** Prelude. Worship with beautiful music of the season!

**9:30 am:** Worship  
YouTube Livestream (also available following the service).  
[https://youtu.be/i8G6Tu\\_YfQQ](https://youtu.be/i8G6Tu_YfQQ)

**10:45 am:** Faith Formation for everyone.  
Les Goerzen's Faith Formation class will be moving to a new location - the sanctuary overflow area. Join the class for a sermon response discussion.

**Tabor Trading Post** will be open in the Hospitality Hall following worship.

**7:00 pm:** Brass Christmas Concert. Everyone is invited to enjoy the McPherson Community Brass Choir at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church. The Goessel High School Elbiata Singers will also be featured. A free will offering will support local ministries.

## This Week

*Bulletin announcements are due on Thursday mornings*

**Mon, Dec. 12, 5:30 pm** - Faithful Fitness.  
**7:00 pm** - Men's Bible Study.

**Tues, Dec. 13, 9:30 am** - Staff meeting.

**Wed. Dec. 14, Wednesday Evening programs.**  
**5:45 pm** - Fellowship Meal. All are invited!  
**6:25 pm** - Quiz Bowl Tournament  
**7:30 pm** - Adult Choir practice

**Thurs, Dec. 15, 9:30 am** - Christmas Coffee.

**Sat, Dec. 17, 2:00 - 4:00 pm** - Birthday Celebration for Grace Regier  
**5:00 - 7:00 pm** - Night in the Barn

**For all events this week, please make sure to read the announcements!**

## Next Sunday, December 18

**9:30 am:** Next Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Advent and the Adult Choir will lead us in worship. The theme will focus on salvation with selected Scripture passages.

**10:45 am:** Faith Formation for everyone.

**5:00 - 7:00 pm** - Night in the Barn.

## Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ Western District Conference: In this Advent season, give thanks for God's gifts of justice, peace and restoration offered through ministries of WDC congregations.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Laura Schlabach, who is serving with MMN, asks for God's wisdom for the decision-makers at JCS International, a consortium of mission agencies in Mongolia. She also requests prayer for those who have been affected by the extreme winter air pollution that has caused respiratory illnesses in Ulaanbaatar, the country's capital, and other cities.

Remember to Praise God for:

- ★ the Goessel students, staff, and PTO who collected more than 800 grocery items for the Tabor Food Pantry! Thanks be to God for the enthusiasm with which the students participated in this event and for a community that supports our students!

## Congregational Announcements

**Christmas Meal and Quiz Bowl Tournament!** Everyone is invited to come on Wednesday evening to enjoy a festive meal and to watch a children's Quiz Bowl tournament. Come and see what all we have been learning on Wednesday evenings!

Menu: Glazed ham, garlic mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, veggie tray, dinner rolls, and Christmas cookies. If you do not usually attend Wednesday evenings, please let Keith Banman know you will be coming so he can plan accordingly. *Suggested donation \$3.50.*

**Christmas Coffee:** Everyone is welcome to a Christmas coffee in the fellowship hall on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a plate/tray of your favorite Christmas goodies. Drinks will be provided. You are encouraged to bring a white elephant gift for a fun gift exchange. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please sign up by Sunday, Dec. 11. See Leann Toews if you have any questions.

**You're invited!** On Friday, December 16 the Senior Coffee event at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church is the Schowalter Villa Choir (choir members are residents at Schowalter Villa). They will sing at 2 pm in the sanctuary and then coffee and cookies will be served in the Fellowship Hall. If you're a senior citizen (or if you're free on Friday afternoon) we hope you'll join us!

**Birthday Celebration!** Grace Regier is turning 80 and her family is hosting a Come & Go Coffee to celebrate on **Saturday, Dec. 17, 2-4pm (note change in time!)** at Bill & Sherry Unruh's home, 4718 E Dutch Ave, Walton. Come help wish her a Very Merry Birthday!

**Night In The Barn:** Come to the this annual event presented by Tabor Church, on December 17 & 18 from 5-7pm (note end time correction from newsletter calendar) at Patchwork Farms, 6 miles north of Newton on Hwy K-15, then 3/4 mile east). Be part of this live nativity walking tour that lasts about 30 minutes and includes lights, sounds, animals, and the characters of the Christmas story. Warm drinks and Christmas treats wait for you at the end. Donations accepted for Tabor Mennonite Youth Group. Everyone is welcome to attend!!

**Advent Giving:** MCC's Buckets of Thanks is the MCC kit to which Tabor is donating throughout Advent. Shopping lists for supplies can be found on the shelf below the mailboxes in the foyer. Donate all the items in a relief kit or pick just a few items to donate – all items are helpful and necessary to complete a relief kit bucket. ***Please leave your donations in the basket in the foyer and they will be taken to the MCC Resource Center in North Newton.*** Thanks to Camille Adrian's kindergarten and first grade Wednesday evening class for sorting the supplies and assembling kits as donations come in. So far, 7 completed kits have been donated with extra supplies waiting to complete more kits! Donate supplies now!

**Christmas Giving Tree:** The Goessel Ministerial Alliance and the Crossroads Credit Union are sponsoring a community giving tree to help with some of the expenses of Christmas for families in need. Tags with suggestions for gifts for children are available on the tree at the Crossroads Credit Union. Gifts will need to be brought back to the Credit Union by Mon, Dec. 12. The gifts should be wrapped and the credit union personnel will assist with the "checking in" process. It is our goal that everyone has a blessed and happy Christmas, both the giver and the receiver.

**Volunteer to be a Greeter:** If you'd like to be a Sunday morning greeter but did not greet this past year, please let Diana Schmidt know before December 15th so adjustments can be made to the greeter list. If you have been a greeter this past year, but don't care to remain on the list, please let Diana know. Email: [jd77schmidt@hotmail.com](mailto:jd77schmidt@hotmail.com) Call: 620-367-8415

**Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus (KMMC):** *"We come together as men with a common bond: A love of Jesus Christ, a love of singing and as men who love to help those in need."* Be a part of KMMC 2023. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the foyer. Rehearsals begin January 29. For more information, please see Steve Janzen.

**Blood Drive:** In this busy holiday season make time to donate blood on December 12, between 1-6 pm at the Goessel Church. The need continues! Make a single unit donation or a Power Red donation to help meet the needs. Sign up for your appointment time online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). For more information contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081 or Rosie Reimer 620-367-2418. Thanks for giving this gift of life!

#### **Upcoming:**

Dec. 12 - Goessel Community Blood Drive, Goessel Church  
Dec. 15 - Christmas Coffee (men and women) in Hospitality Hall  
Dec. 17-18 - Night in the Barn  
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service (7 pm)  
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Worship (10 am)

### **Conference and Community Announcements**

#### **Mennonite Church USA:**

--As members of Mennonite Church USA, let us look ahead to the new year and to focus on living into our Renewed Commitments to follow Jesus, witness to God's peace and help our communities experience transformation. Your financial gifts to Mennonite Church USA help to equip and empower our conferences, congregations and our diverse body of believers to tell the transformative story of the birth, life and resurrection of Jesus Christ. [MennoniteUSA.org/give](http://MennoniteUSA.org/give)

--Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) has released the completed report from its denominational survey, "The Mennonite Experience: MC USA Membership Study 2021-22." The 85-page report revealed that members have deep commitments to their faith, a passion for peacebuilding, a heart for service and close congregational ties. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/denominational-survey](http://mennoniteusa.org/news/denominational-survey)

**MCC Christmas Giving!** Give gifts of comfort and joy and help meet the basic needs of our global neighbors this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, bees, backpacks and more. Give at [mcc.org/delight](http://mcc.org/delight), call 888.563.4676 or visit the MCC Central States office in North Newton, KS at 121 E. 30th Street. With each gift you can get a card and insert explaining the project. These gifts (from \$10-\$4,000) make wonderful hostess/teacher gifts, stocking stuffers and are ideal for those on your Christmas list that are hard to shop for!

#### **Camp Mennoscah:**

--[Application and further details for summer staffers here!](#) We are seeking stunning summer staff to fill the following leadership positions for the 2023 summer: crafts, lifeguard, music, nature, office, and grounds. These positions are typically filled by college-age students, are summer-long and receive a stipend. A summer of fun, service and faith formation!

--Help us Plan for the Future! A seven-question survey will help us know how camp is used and what you would like to see in the future. [Click here to tell us what you think!](#)

**Bethel College:** The Lighting of the Green will take place on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 8 p.m. Students, staff, faculty, and community members gather around the Green to create a "wreath" of candlelight, then converge to form a "Christ candle." All are invited to attend.

**Prairie Window Concert Series:** Come enjoy a concert at Dyck Arboretum featuring John Fullbright on December 11 at 4 p.m. This performance is part of the Prairie Window Concert Series. Crust and Crumb will be there serving savory and sweet treats at intermission. Purchase tickets at [dyckarboretum.org](http://dyckarboretum.org).

#### **Ted&Co to Perform "Just Give 'em The News"**

In this original, delightfully askew, musical look at the first Christmas, Jeff Raught and Ted Swartz weave original songs, inspired piano playing and comedic theater around a new look at familiar Christmas stories. Finding the humor and humanity in biblical stories has long been a hallmark of Ted & Company. So what did Zechariah sound like before his temper rendered him mute? Did Gabriel ever tire of needing to tell people to "Fear not"? Did Mary ever..... Come and find out. December 11, 7 pm Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston. Free will offering directed to Mennonite Central Committee in support of relief efforts in Ukraine.

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE December 4, 2022			
Offering	= \$ 2,872.00	Attendance	= 143
Adult FF	= \$ 35.30	Attendance	= 34
Jr. FF	= \$ 11.03	Attendance	= 27
Worship Link Views		=	30

BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY . . .

we again have a beautifully decorated church this Christmas season. Part of your annual giving is designated for visual arts. Thanks to the visual arts team for using their gifts to create a lovely and meaningful space to meet, worship, and fellowship together.



**Christmas Brass Concert:**

December 11, 7pm  
Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

**Christmas Coffee:**

December 15, 9:30am  
Tabor Hospitality Hall

**Night in the Barn:**

December 17 & 18, 5-7pm  
Patchwork Farm

**Christmas Eve Service:**

December 24, 7pm  
Tabor Sanctuary

**Christmas Day Service:**

December 25, 10am  
Tabor Sanctuary

*Find details for all in the announcements.*



Tabor Mennonite Church  
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Website: [www.tabormennonite.org](http://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	Todd Schlosser
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Deacons:

Carol Duerksen	Denise Nickel	Kristi Unruh
Ruby Graber	Emil Schmidt	Lewis Unruh