

December 16, 2007

## Joy: Mary and Elizabeth Giggle

*"My soul magnifies the Lord . . ." -Luke 1:46*

### Gathering

PRELUDE Diane, Kristin, Michelle, Luke Unruh, and Tina Huebner

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Kylee, Audessi and Porclein Unruh  
*"Joy is a candle" v.1 & 5* No. 148CS

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP Worship Leader, Rosie Jantz

Leader: The Lord God, he is with you! He is mighty to save!

**People: We feel the JOY of Mary and Elizabeth as their babies  
kicked with delight.**

Leader: He will bring great JOY to you! He will cover you with his love!

**People: We can't get enough of the same old story.**

**We hear the JOY as the birth of Jesus draws near.**

Leader: He will REJOICE over you with singing!

**All: We sing with JOY filled worship!**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

### Praising God

\*SINGING OUR PRAISE *"O Come, all ye faithful"* No. 212

INVOCATION

\*SINGING OUR PRAISE *"Nun ist sie erschienen"* No. 52CS

\*GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *Please pass the welcome pads*

DEDICATING OUR DEACONS

OFFERING OUR GIFTS IN WORSHIP

*Pass items for MCC Relief Kits to the center aisle*

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Praise, Rejoice and Sing!"* Children of Light  
Kristin Unruh, flute

CHILDREN'S STORY Maynard Knepp

### Hearing God's Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 11:1-9* Corey Miller

SONG *"Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming"* No. 211

HEARING THE GOSPEL *Luke 1:39-56* Brittany and Sierra Dirksen

SONG *"My soul is filled with joy"* Laura, Kristin,  
Anna & Michelle Unruh

SERMON *"Triads of Joy"* Karen Andres

# Responding

SILENT MEDITATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Anna and Leah Unruh

RESPONSE HYMN

*“O little town of Bethlehem”*

No. 191

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

\*HYMN OF HOPE

*“The virgin Mary had a baby boy”*

No. 202

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## Today

The story of Mary and Elizabeth is one of true joy. Joy comes when we listen to the *yearning* of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and *delight* in the goodness of God. Joy that is a part of us cannot be held within but is *shared* with everyone we meet. May you find true joy this Advent season.

A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. This morning you were greeted by Darlene & Jerry Schroeder and Fred & Brenda Schmidt. *Please take time to fill out our friendship pad.* Come back & join us again soon.

Childcare is available during worship today.

In the Advent banner, the blue and purple colors reflect the moods of watching and waiting for the Christ Child. The angel Gabriel has come to announce that Mary will conceive a son who will be called *Jesus*, for he will save the people from their sins.

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ADVENT HELPERS**

- Layci Froese, who designed and created the bulletin cover.
- Ron Dirksen, who created and assembled the barn
- Carol Duerksen, who wrote the drama for today.
- Carrie Sommerfeld who choreographed the dance movement.
- Sherry Unruh who created the power point.

**10:45 a.m.**—Sunday School for everyone.

On the table in the foyer are **PRAYER REQUEST CARDS**. You are invited to fill one out if you have a request and return it to a pastor's box.

**PRAY FOR PEACE; ACT FOR PEACE:** Today, we invite everyone to sign the peace petition in the foyer that will be sent to our federal legislators to call for peaceful relations between the United States and Iran. We believe that prayer changes us and changes the world. Educational research backs this claim by showing that people who take action for peace have more hope during bleak times. The call for peace must continue to be heard, otherwise everyone becomes numb to the hope that it can happen. Please stop by the table in the foyer and offer your name as we call for peace in the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

## This Week

### **Monday, December 17**

**7:00 p.m.**—Worship/Fellowship committee meeting at Nathan Ashley's.

### **Wednesday, December 19**

**See Evening Activities next page.**

### **Saturday, December 22**

**7:00 a.m.**—Men's Bible Study on Mark 9, in the Pastor's Study.

**9:30 a.m.**—Christmas Eve Program Practice.

### **Meal will not be served**

6:30-7:15pm: Children of Light Choir

6:45-7:15pm: Sonbeams Choir

7:00-8:00pm: TGYF

7:00 pm.-Christmas Eve Program Practice. Education Committee, old and new year, meet to assemble Christmas Sacks

## **Next Sunday, December 23**

**NEXT SUNDAY** is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The theme is "**Love: Joseph's Love**". Jerry Toews will be offering a special Christmas prelude that will start at 9:00am. Come early to hear this! The scripture texts are Isaiah 35:1-10 and Luke 2:1-7. Corey will be preaching and the adult choir will be singing. The items for MCC Relief Kits that we will receive in our Advent offering are 1 squeeze-tube toothpaste (min. 6oz. in box), 4 adult size tooth-brushes (in packaging) and 1 pkg. sanitary pads (18-24 thin maxi or ultra thin).

**10:45 a.m.**—Come fellowship with your friends from Tabor and welcome those visiting this Christmas. Bring your favorite Christmas goodies to share. No Sunday School.

## **Announcements**

### **THANKS**

Thanks so much to all of you for your prayers, love, sympathy and other expressions of caring during Wilma's illness and following her death. The cards, phone calls, visits, caring quilt, food and numerous offers of help supported us spiritually and practically through this difficult time. The extra concern for Arnie after his accident was also much appreciated. Please keep us in your prayers.

- Arnold Voth and family

Thank you to my church family for all your prayers, cards, visits, during my illness in the past few months at WMC and NMC and then at home these past few weeks. God does work miracles, and my life is so precious to me! You are all special to me! Also thanks to those of you that have brought food since I have been home. It has helped me so much! I look forward to seeing all of you in church in the next few weeks. -Venita Schroeder

To the Tabor Church Community: Thank you so much for the food, prayers, and support the last two weeks, following our accident. We are just so thankful that Brittany is alive. Thanks again. -

Lester and Lois Voth

**In Case of Bad Weather:** With the ice and snow storms that we've had lately, its important to know how and when church activities are cancelled. The pastor consults with the lead deacon, the trustee & the congregational chair and they make the final decision. That information is then put on the email prayer chain and the phone prayer chain is started. The cancellation news is then put on channel 3, 10, and 12 news and also on KFDI radio.

Check your emails if you are not sure about church and if you don't have electricity, then call your deacon. If you have needs when electricity goes off, don't hesitate to contact the deacons or the pastors for your needs.

**DECEMBER 9 WORSHIP CANCELLED:** Because of last week's cancellation, we will try and incorporate elements of that worship service on the December 25th Christmas Day worship service. The bulletins for Dec. 9 are in the foyer and can be picked up if you want.

**LADIES/GIRLS CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST** rescheduled for January 5, 9am.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS TO *THE MENNONITE*:** Since services were not held last Sunday you may still turn in your form to renew your subscription to *The Mennonite* for the coming year TODAY. Donations toward the cost of subscriptions are welcome and help with keeping that line item in our budget down.

**NEEDED: DEVOTIONALS FOR THE DEVOTIONAL BOOK!** The devotionals are slowly coming in! If you find writing difficult, then give Corey a call and he'll listen to the story and help you write it. Send any devotionals to: [cmiller@tabormennonite.org](mailto:cmiller@tabormennonite.org).

**ANNUAL REPORTS** are welcome now and if possible, need to be in no later than January 6. Place in the secretary's mail box, or if possible, email your report to [kfunk@tabormennonite.org](mailto:kfunk@tabormennonite.org).

**COULD YOU USE SOME EXTRA MONEY FOR CHRISTMAS EXPENSES?** Joyful Noise Community Child Care has the opportunity for you!! Between Dec. 10 to early January, when the college students who work with the After School Program are gone for Christmas break, we could use some people to help out. The time is from 3:20 - 6:00 at the Grade School. If you can help out any of these days during this time period please call Rosemary Reimer (367-2418).

**"HALLELUJAH CHORUS":** The GHS Christmas Concert will be Thurs., Dec. 20, 7:00p.m. in the Goessel High School Auditorium. Anyone interested is invited to join the choir in singing the "*Hallelujah Chorus*" from Handel's *Messiah* at the end of the program. Bring the music if you have it; some copies will be available.

**BOOK REVIEWS SPECIAL SALES:** 50% off on Christmas, Fiction and Cook books - Dec 15-24. 50% off most books, all categories, Dec 26-31. Profits go to local charities. Store located at 707 N Main in Newton..

**ADDICTION: DO YOU KNOW A FAMILY CONFRONTING ADDICTIONS?** *Finding Hope in Recovery: Families Living with Addiction* is a new TV documentary from Mennonite Media/Mennonite Mission Network which will air on Hallmark Channel, Sunday Dec. 30 at 7 a.m. ET/PT, 6 a.m. CT/MT. For more information, go to [www.FindingHopeInRecovery.com](http://www.FindingHopeInRecovery.com) or call 800-999-3534.

#### **ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS:**

Christmas Greetings from John and Mary Gaeddert & Bethel College.

Newsletter from Mission Partners Joe and Anna Sawatzky.

Greetings from Kumail Ali Mehdi, the child that Tabor's children are sponsoring through MCC's Global Family Program.

Performance of DoveTale by Ted and Company at Hesston Mennonite, Sat, Dec. 22 at 7pm. Details are posted.

**Newsletter items are due Friday, December 21, sooner if possible.**

#### **God's Peace in Advent:**

First Coming

God did not wait till the world was ready,  
till . . . nations were at peace.

God came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time.  
God came when the need was deep and great.  
God dined with sinners in all their grime,  
Turned water into wine. God did not wait

till hearts were pure. In joy God came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
to a world like ours, of anguished shame  
God came, and God's Light would not go out.

God came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
The Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

- Madeleine L'Engle