

March 4, 2007

***“God Gathers Us Together
in Safe Shelter”***

“Do not be afraid Abram, I am your shield . . .” - Genesis 15:1b

Gathering

PRELUDE Deloris Schmidt

INTROIT *“Praise to the Lord”* -Hugo Distler Bel Canto Singers

WELCOME Worship Leader, Corey Miller

CALL TO WORSHIP From Psalm 63 & Psalm 27

Leader: O God, you are our God. We seek you.

**People: Our souls thirst for you as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.**

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation - we shall not be afraid.

**People: We will wait for the Lord, and take courage,
for we will see God’s goodness.**

**All: O God, you satisfy our souls as with a rich feast.
In the shadow of your wings, we sing for joy,
and you uphold us.**

PRAYING FOR GOD’S PRESENCE

*GATHERING OUR PRAISE *“Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing”* No. 110

Praising God

*GREETING EACH OTHER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *Please pass the welcome pads*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS IN WORSHIP

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Ride on King Jesus”* Children of Light

Hannah Miller, Soloist

CHILDREN’S STORY Leann Toews

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Sicut cervus”* -Palestrina Bel Canto Singers

As the hart longs for flowing streams,
So longs my soul for thee, God.

“O Be Joyful in the Lord” -John Rutter

Hearing God’s Word

HEARING THE OLD TESTAMENT *Genesis 15:1-12*

SERMON

“Authentic Faith”

Michelle Hershberger

Responding to God

SONG OF FAITH

“I am weak and I need thy strength”

No. 553

CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

Leader: We are all invited to seek the Lord today.

Let us bring ourselves to God in prayer.

All: Sheltering God, we seek you, for you alone are our Light and Salvation. When darkness moves into our lives, we seek your face.

Leader: When fears overcome us and paralyze us (*pause*), we seek your face.

When our souls hunger for your shelter (*pause*), we seek your face.

All: In the morning and in the evening, we will seek the face of our God.

Leader: Our generous God provides for us.

SONG

“Agnus Die” -Paul Basler

Bel Canto Singers

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Lord we give you our thanks

-“Thanks be to God”

Lord we pray to you

-“Hear our prayer”

*SENDING SONG *“Peace I Leave With You”*-Timothy Shue Bel Canto Singers

*POSTLUDE

Today

We continue on our Lenten journey this morning with a focus on God’s gathering activity. When dark fear overwhelms us, God gathers us together in safe shelter. With Abram, may our faith be strengthened as we seek the light of God’s face.

We are blessed to have our friends from Hesston College sharing their gifts in our worship. Michelle Hershberger is the Bible Professor at Hesston and the Bel Canto Singers are under the direction of Jake Ritenhouse and accompanied by Ken Rodgers. We welcome all who are here today!

A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. This morning you were greeted by Brad & Sara Hiebert and Russ & Sharleen Francis. *Please take time to fill out our friendship pad.* Come back & join us again soon.

Childcare is available during worship today.

10:45—Sunday School for all ages. College-age people are invited to Les and Cynthia Goerzen's home today.

Individuals going on the MDS service trip please meet after the worship service at the front of the sanctuary to finalize plans.

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.

NOON: The Goessel Area Jr. High annual fundraiser in the fellowship hall. Donations will go toward expenses for Camp WaShunGa in May.

2:00- Bethesda Home BCCL Campaign Volunteer Meeting, Bethesda Conf. Rm.

This Week

Monday, March 5

7:00 p.m.—Historical Committee Meeting in the library.

Tuesday, March 6

7:30 p.m.—Trustee Meeting.

Wednesday, March 7

6:00-6:45 p.m.—Supper-*sign up for meal* . —Blood Pressure Checks.

6:30-7:15 p.m.—Children of Light

6:45-7:00 p.m.—Supper Clean Up

6:45-7:15 p.m.—Sonbeams Choir

7:00-8:00 p.m.—TGYF

—Adult Bible Study: *Transforming Conflict: Speaking With Care*

7:15-8:00 p.m.—Children's Bible Study, Worship Team

7:15-8:15 p.m.—Faith Weaver Friends, Youth Explorers

8:00-9:00 p.m.—Adult Choir

Thursday, March 8

7:00 p.m.—Education Committee meeting in the library.

Saturday, March 10

Tabor participants in MDS Service Trip leave for Port Arthur.

7:00 a.m.—Men's Bible Study. Hebrews 11.

Next Sunday, March 11

Daylight Saving Time Begins

9:30 a.m.—Next Sunday is the third Sunday in Lent. The focus of the morning will be "*God pours out life-giving drink*". The texts are Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63, and I Corinthians 10:1-13 and Corey will be preaching.

We invite you to enter the sanctuary quietly and reflectively during the season of Lent. Come early and use the time for prayer and centering your hearts on Christ. May we all prepare to be fed in this season of Lent.

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

6:00 p.m.—*Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* for those who signed up.

Prayer Requests

Remember to pray for:

Tabor individuals who are going on the MDS service trip as they travel and as they work.

The families of Bluffton University, that have been affected by the tragic bus accident on Friday morning. At least 6 people were killed as a charter bus went off the Interstate, carrying the baseball team that was scheduled to play Eastern Mennonite University on Saturday. May our prayers lift them in their time of need.

Western District Conference: Pray for Joan Boyer, pastor of care and prayer at First Mennonite Church, Newton, as she is ordained to Christian ministry today.

Mennonite Mission Network: Please pray for local members of the new Korea Anabaptist Center reference council as they meet for the first time on March 10 to discuss together the direction and leadership of KAC. Mennonite Mission Network is one of the agencies supporting KAC.

Mennonite Education Agency: Praise God for lives of service lived by Bethel College alumni when the recipient of the annual Young Alumni Award speaks March 9 in convocation.

Remember to Praise God For:

Led by God's Spirit, we received an offering last Sunday night at Maynard's program. \$952 was given at the door, which has been sent off to MCC earmarked for the meat canning ministries. Thanks be to God!

Announcements

IN YOUR MAILBOXES: Survey for our Pastoral/Congregation Review. Please spend some time in thoughtful and prayerful reflection as you respond to the questionnaires. Return completed form to the box in the foyer no later than Sunday, March 18, 2007. All responses will be kept confidential.

"GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?" Those who signed up for this event on March 11, check your mailboxes for assignments.

TEXAS SERVICE TRIP: We have a group of 16 people going to Port Arthur, TX, to help re-build after Hurricane Rita. This group will be leaving on March 10th and arriving home March 17th. Financial need was estimated to be around \$2,000. \$365 has been donated to date, leaving \$1635. If you would like to contribute financially, make checks payable to Tabor Church, earmarked "Texas Service Trip" and put your donation in the secretary's mailbox.

GROCERY SHOWER MINISTRIES: Tabor is exploring a new ministry that is intended to nurture our young married people. We are proposing that we would have a Grocery Shower for those who are getting married. We would gather (perhaps on Sundays for a potluck) and bring items of food for the young couple starting out, and would bless them as they begin their life together. We think this is a wonderful gesture of hospitality to the wonderful young adults in our midst. If you are interested in helping to coordinate these events, please contact Corey or Barb Abrahams.

MARCH FOR PEACE: On March 16, you may come to Tabor at any time during the day to pray for peace and reflect on your life as a peacemaker. At 5:30pm, we will gather at the church and walk to the road and have a prayer vigil by our sign by the highway. Please consider being more public in our yearning for peace in the world and especially in Iraq.

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES are invited to an open house in celebration of Rudy Voth's 90th birthday on Sunday, March 11, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the main activity room at Bethesda Home. No gifts, please. This is hosted by his children and grandchildren.

THE ALEXANDERWOHL MENNONITE MEN'S PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE SUPPER will be on Sat., March 17 at the Goessel Grade School. All-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage will be served from 6-8 pm. Donations will be gratefully accepted to help purchase new folding tables for the Alexanderwohl Church Fellowship Hall. Come out and enjoy the food and fellowship!

GOESSEL HERITAGE MUSEUM DINNER - March 24, 6:30 p.m. Museum Board members will be selling tickets after the service next Sunday. See poster for more information. Museum membership may also be purchased.

URGENT MCC RELIEF RESPONSE TO IRAQ: You can help more than 500,000 people who have been displaced by the war in Iraq. MCC is shipping material aid, including 4,200 relief kits and raising \$60,000 for shipping and related costs in the month of March. In Central States, we are committed to collecting 865 relief kits and \$12,000. Designate funds for "Iraq Emergency Assistance." Kits can be brought to any MCC center. Details about relief kits and other drop-off sites can be found at <http://www.mcc.org/iraqrelief>. Questions? Please call 316-283-2720. *MCC is supporting peace building to address the root causes of violence and displacement throughout the Middle East. MCC believes the US should take steps toward withdrawing troops, not adding more.*

SPRING SUNSET SUPPER: March 15, Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston. Theme: "Women Proclaiming Jesus as Lord". Supper at 6pm (cost \$5.00) followed by program featuring Tom and Lois Harder family. Offering for Mennonite Women USA.. This event is for all women. Sign up for reservations by March 8. Additional information posted.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES: From Aug. 1–Dec. 15, the Newton store will benefit greatly from the presence and assistance of Cynthia Peacock of India. During her time with the store, she will require lodging, ideally that is either close enough to walk to the store or with someone willing to transport her daily. Host family will be given \$100 per mo. food allowance. If interested contact Pandeia Smith at 316-283-0061 or Dave Gerber at 316-283-2720.

>>Ten Thousand Villages will be conducting the **annual store inventory** on Sun., March 11 at 2pm.. Consider volunteering a couple of hours to help with this activity. There will be refreshments for all to enjoy. If interested in helping, please contact the store at 316-283-0061.

IMMEDIATE NEED: a good, used vehicle, under 150,000 miles, for the Denver team of *deo* (discipleship, encounter, outreach). Contact Dwight Regier at 316-283-5155, ext. 247 or email: dwightr@mennonitemission.net.

YOU ARE INVITED to join Mennonite Mission Network Board and Executive staff for dessert and coffee, Sat., March 10, 7pm., Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton. Time for interaction with the board, including questions you may have, is the only agenda for this informal event.

ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS:

Peace Lecture Series: "Scarlet Daughters", March 8, 7:30 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium, Bethel College. Information on Kansas Friends of MCC "**Comforter Blitz**" on March 8. Sign up if you would like to car pool.

Camp Mennoscah: **Explore the Night Sky**. March 16-18. **Retirees Relaxation Retreat** is coming up April 23-25. Information posted.

Goessel Blood Drive, March 19, noon-6pm, Goessel Mennonite Church.

KANSAS MCC SALE NOTES

39th annual Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale
April 13 & 14, 2007 - Kansas State Fairgrounds

The Children's Coin offering last Sunday for the MCC Sale brought in \$90.05. FANTASTIC!!
"Change Does Change Lives". THANKS Children for doing your part!!

Keep bringing your items to place on the floor or on the tables in the northwest corner of the basement. Please take time to look these items over. We will keep collecting these items until sale time.

Check the table in the foyer with the **signup sheets and MCC sale information**. PLEASE look it over and sign up NOW. By signing up NOW you greatly help those in charge to know that help will be coming for the different shifts. Waiting until the week before the sale makes it much more difficult for those in charge.

Today is Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale **Fellowship Sunday**. We extend a warm welcome to visitors in our worship service today who are guests. Some of our families are guests in other congregations. These fellowship meals help to build a bond between our congregations and other Mennonite, Amish and Brethren in Christ churches supporting the relief sale.

God's Peace: It can be lived out in your life.

Where would we be today if certain women, men, young people, and also children had not arisen at moments when the human family seemed destined for the worst? They did not say: "Let things take their course!" Beyond the confrontations between persons, peoples, and spiritual families, they prepared a way of trusting. Their lives bear witness to the fact that human beings have not been created for hopelessness. - *Brother Roger of Taize*