

# Into the Wilderness

*"Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted." -Matthew 4:1*

## Gathering and Praising

PRELUDE

Sara Adrian

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Worship Leader, Rosie Jantz

Leader: God of all who thirst,  
our hearts are parched from wandering in deserts  
far from your live-giving springs.  
Call us to your well.

**All: Fill our cups with your grace.  
Let your love overflow in our hearts,  
and make us fully alive. AMEN.**

PRAYING FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

\*SINGING OUR PRAISE *"Praise, my soul, the King of heaven!"* No. 65

\*GREETING EACH OTHER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please pass the welcome pads*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS IN WORSHIP

*Coins collected for MCC Relief Sale Penny Challenge*

CHILDREN'S STORY

*Psalm 32*

Diane Unruh

SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Alleluia" -Mozart* Adult Choir

## Confessing Our Sins

CONFESSIONAL

Back of Bulletin

SILENCE

SONG

*"Have mercy on us, Lord"* Insert

AFFIRMING FAITH

## Hearing Gods Word

HEARING THE OLD TESTAMENT *Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7*

Robert Unruh

A STORY ABOUT AUGUSTA SCHMIDT

Leann Toews

SONG

*"Take thou my hand, O Father"* No. 581

Congregation - v. 3

HEARING THE GOSPEL STORY

*Matthew 4:1-11*

SERMON

*"Grace in the Wilderness"*

Corey Miller

# Responding To God

SONG OF FAITH      *"From Ashes to the Living Fount"*      CS 149

READING      *"The Tempter"*      Jim Schmidt, Rosie Jantz,  
Kristin Unruh, Jason Unruh

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

\*SONG OF HOPE      *"I am weak and I need thy strength"*      No. 553

\*SENDING

POSTLUDE

## Today

As we begin Lent we are invited to follow Jesus into the wilderness. What tempts us? How do we want to control our own destiny? How do we try to be our own gods? Can we accept God's grace? Can we let God control our destiny? Can we trust God with ourselves?

May we find grace in the wilderness as we worship today in this new season of Lent.

A warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us today. This morning you were greeted by Brandy & Nathan Ashley and Kent & Rosie Jantz. *Please take time to fill out our friendship pad.* Come back & join us again soon.

Childcare is available during worship today.

**LENT: OUT OF THE DEPTHS.** The visuals that will guide our worship over the next 40 days are the two banners and the tree on the communion table. On the cross is a cloth that moves from darker to lighter, emphasizing the movement from depth and darkness to height and light. The "tree" on the communion table evokes a person reaching upward for help or mercy. The toned down colors of the Lent banner by the piano remind us of the difficult road that Jesus took to the cross. Black swirls represent Jesus being bound and flogged. The jagged bottom edge of the banner symbolizes the crown of thorns. May these visuals enhance your worship this Lent season.

### *Historical Focus*

Today Leann Toews portrays Augusta Schmidt, member of Tabor Church and sister to Rev. H. B. Schmidt. Augusta spent four terms as a missionary in India. She quickly realized that along with the beauty of the area came ignorance, poverty and filth.

**10:45 a.m.**—Sunday School for everyone. **All college-age people** are invited to Les and Cynthia Goerzen's home right after Sunday School for devotions and visiting, followed by lunch.

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.

**CARDS TO SIGN:** There are two cards that we invite the Tabor congregation to sign in the foyer. One card will go to the Emmaus Mennonite Church in the loss of their place of worship. The other card will go to Rainbow Mennonite Church as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

**4:00 p.m.**—Goessel Area Jr High Bowling Party. Meet at Goessel Mennonite Church and bring \$5. Snack bar is available at your own expense. Still need drivers if anyone is interested. Be back by 7:00 p.m.

## This Week

**Wednesday, February 13**

**6:00 p.m.—Wednesday Evening Activities**

**Saturday, February 16**

**7:00 a.m.—Men's Bible Study on Mark 13.**

## Next Sunday, February 17

**NEXT SUNDAY** is the second Sunday in Lent. The focus of the morning will be "Into New Birth." The texts are Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5,13-17, John 3:1-17 and **our youth** will be leading the service.

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

**NOON: CARING MINISTRY** The Caring Group Ministry is planning a potluck and meeting with caring group leaders at church. We are also inviting the caregivers and deacons as we will be talking about concrete ways in which we can relate to people who are dealing with hospitalizations or mental illnesses. Anyone is welcome to come who is interested in pastoral care ministry. Families welcome. Bring tableware and food for the potluck.

## Announcements

**THANKS** to all who contributed to the Mennonite College scholarship fund raiser - \$1,897 was received which will help fund spring semester.

**THANK YOU** to all who supported conference-wide youth ministry through the recent seven performances of the "Upside Down King," an original musical. We are pleased to report that 2,200 people attended at least one performance and almost \$12,000 was raised to support youth ministry in Western District Conference and South Central Conference.

**COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGE TIME!** Take a student name off the board in the foyer, fill a gallon size zip-lock bag with the goodies or gift & card that you want to send, and place it on the table north of the basement kitchen by noon, Feb 17. It is always fun sending these surprise packages to the students as another connection from Tabor church. ALSO, if you would like to be a prayer support to a student for this spring semester - take a card off the other side of the board and you will find their college & contact info on the card. Thank you for being a part of the caring connection for students!

**A Word from our new Sister Church Plant Congregation.** Nita Wilson, hired by WDC this year to work with church plants and relationships with partnering congregations, sent this email: "I have visited with (Pastor) Aurora and they are very excited about the partnership. I have recommended that they visit with their Pastoral Support Committee (leadership group) and make it official. I have sent the covenant to them as reference. I explained it all to Claudia, their daughter and also visited with Alberto on the phone. Just wanted to be in touch with you that all is progressing."

**Devotionals Watch!** You may have noticed that I pushed back the date for getting devotionals in by one month, so you have more time. There is grace in Lent! We have 35 devotionals but we have room for so many more. Please consider writing one and send them to Corey at: [cmiller@tabormennonite.org](mailto:cmiller@tabormennonite.org).

**THE MENNONITE MUTUAL AID SHARING FUNDS** provided \$2250 in matching funds to support special needs at Tabor in 2007. Bill Unruh serves as the MMA advocate in our congregation. Please contact him for more information.

**MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS:** Now is the time to enroll your membership to the Mennonite Heritage Museum. Museum representatives will be available in the Church Foyer asking for your enrollment after the services today. For \$10 per person or \$25 per family you will receive unlimited admittance to the Museum for the year! Or become a contributing member for \$50 (recommended). Your support at this time is crucial!

### ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS:

- \* Greetings from **Nate and Janel Stucky**.
- \* Update from Mission partners **Joe and Anna Sawtzky**.
- \* KIPCOR's 35<sup>th</sup> annual **PEACE LECTURE SERIES** February 16, 7:30pm.
- \* **CELEBRATION 35!** Offender/Victim Ministries February 18, 6:30pm., Bethel College Mennonite Church.

**Peace, lived out in us.**

*God has chosen the weak things to overcome the strong, foolish things to confound the wise, lowly things to humble the haughty.*

*That is God's way, and it ought to be a reminder for us when we wish to know where to look for God or to know what God wants us to do in the world.*  
- Richard Groves

**KANSAS MENNONITE RELIEF SALE:**

April 11 & 12, 2008

Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, Kansas

>>**Fellowship Meals** - Tabor has 20 people participating in MCC Fellowship Meals this year. IF you want to participate in a MCC Fellowship meal at Tabor on March 2 PLEASE get your name on the signup sheet on the bulletin board by Feb. 17.

>>**Last Sunday's Children's Coin Offering** was \$48.08. PLEASE HELP. In 2007 the MCC Penny Challenge raised \$614,000 nationwide!!!! This IS a staggering amount. Our Kansas Goal THIS year is \$40,000. See IF your employer is willing to MATCH what we raise on our Sunday Mornings.

>>Kansas Mennonite Churches have raised HALF of our **pre-sale expenses** already. Tabor people have already contributed over \$2,000 toward this. IF you have never contributed to pre-sale expenses before, PLEASE consider donating \$40 this year to celebrate our 40th Anniversary. Pre-sale expenses are things like: \$750 for raisins for those delicious new year's cookies, \$750 for ice cream to put on your home-made pie, \$2,000 for the hams in the ham gravy for the verenika, \$6000 for insurance which we can't eat, \$5000 for sausage, etc. PLEASE put your donations in Kris and Archie Schmidt or Jerry and Leann Toews' box.

>>If YOU have items that you want listed on the KS **MCC Sale Bill**, the deadline is Feb. 15. PLEASE give the info to your contact persons.

>>If YOU have items that should go in the **Buyers Guide** (quilt items) the DEADLINE is March 27. Give information to your contact persons.

>>**The New Years Cookies Committee** is seeking to expand their team by 5 or 6 persons. This can be either couples OR individuals of ANY age. That way the committee can divide into two teams with one team overseeing the NYC operation on Friday and one team working on Saturday. Pam and Brent are the Tabor couple that is on that committee. Let's see IF we can help them out.

>>We like to repeat things that are successful; SO kids get ready for the **Children's Auction** again. A box will be available later for items you can donate for the Children's Auction.

>>**Plants and Things:** Want a little green in your life? Grow a plant for the Relief Sale. You can start growing, repotting, and transplanting bulbs and flowers now. Remember to label all your plants. We would like more "things" such as planter boxes, iron work, stepping stones, pavers, bird baths, yard decor, etc.

>>**Woodworking and Metal Projects:** We would like to encourage more woodworking and metal projects this year. Small projects such as plant stands, tables, display cases, sculptures, bookcases, etc. always sell well.