

June 1, 2008

The Greater Communion of Saints

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom . . .
but only the one who does the will of my Father." -Matthew 7:21*

Praising Our Generous God

PRELUDE *"The work is thine, O Christ"* No. 396 Crossroad
 "What is this place" No. 1 *"God of grace and God of glory"* No. 366

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP Worship Leader
 Carrie Sommerfeld

PRAYER

*SINGING OUR PRAISE *"Let the whole creation cry"* No. 51

*GREETING EACH OTHER and ANNOUNCEMENTS
 please pass the friendship pads

DEDICATING OUR BIBLE SCHOOL STAFF AND STUDENTS

WORSHIPING WITH OUR OFFERINGS & DEDICATING THEM
 Michelle Unruh

CHILDREN'S STORY Linda Kusse-Wolfe

Proclaiming God's Generous Word

HEARING THE OLD TESTAMENT *Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19*

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Break thou the bread of life"* DeVon and Reece Hiebert

*HEARING THE GOSPEL *Matthew 7:21-29*

SERMON *"The Greater Communion of Saints"*
 David Wolfe and Linda Kusse-Wolfe

Responding with Generosity

SONG *"Heart with loving heart united"* No. 420

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Sent out as Generous People

*SENDING SONG *"Beyond a dying sun"* No. 323

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Today

We are glad to have David Wolfe and Linda Kusse-Wolfe here with us today. David and Linda are both ordained Friends ministers from southern Virginia. David has served in both pastoral ministry and hospital chaplaincy and Linda has been a pastoral minister for the past 25 years. They are completing an MCC term in Qom, Iran as participants in a Muslim-Christian Exchange. Friendships among Muslims in Qom and the Christian community in Tehran have been life changing for them. They have three young adult children and one exceptional son-in-law.

We also will be celebrating communion this morning. The Lord's Table is for all adult believers in Jesus Christ, who earnestly love Christ and are committed to Christ's church. We seek to encounter the risen Christ in our breaking bread and drinking the cup this morning.

We welcome all of you to our time of worship! This morning you were greeted by Warren, Sheri, Mark & Joshua Schmidt and Jerry & Darlene Schroeder. *Please take time to fill out our friendship pads.* Come back and join us again.

Childcare is available during worship today.

10:45 a.m.—Sunday School classes for all ages today.

If you would like to hear more stories about what is happening in Iran, stay in the sanctuary for a presentation by David and Linda. They will share some slides and some stories. With our country experiencing an ambivalent relationship with Iran, it is good to learn as much as we can. SS will begin after worship.

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.

12-1:30 P.M.—**BETHESDA HOME** free BBQ at the Bethesda Gazebo on Walking Path, to celebrate our receiving a \$225,000 check from the Mabee Foundation. We couldn't have done it without all of you, and want to say thank you.

2:00 P.M.—**GOESSEL AREA JR HIGH** will be going to All-Star Sports in Wichita. Meet at the Goessel Mennonite Church and bring \$15 for admission plus extra for concessions. We will be back in Goessel by 6:00 pm.

5:00-8:00 P.M.—**SONG ON THE LAWN** is the second annual mini-music festival and meal on the farm of Maynard Knepp/Carol Duerksen. This is a fundraiser for Joyful Noise Community Child Care Center in Goessel. See the June newsletter (in your mailboxes today) for more details. In case of bad weather, the event will be held at the Goessel Elementary School.

This Week

Monday, June 2 - Friday, June 6

8:30-11:45 a.m.—Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, June 3

7:30 p.m.—Trustee meeting.

Wednesday, June 4

11:59 a.m.—Men's Morning Manna at the Whistlestop Café in Walton.

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Next Sunday, June 8

10:00 a.m.—Next Sunday will be Bible School Sunday. The Bible School children will share the morning worship. An open house of classrooms and activity areas will follow the service.

12:00 noon—Picnic in the Tabor church park. Please bring a potluck picnic, table service and lawn chairs. Drinks provided.

Announcements

REMINDER: The new directories have come out and with them some changes have been made to the phone prayer chains. Please check who comes after you so you can call the correct person. Reminder: if that person isn't home, call the next person and so on until you get someone. Keep trying to reach those who were skipped. More instructions are listed on page 42 in the directory.

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE: The early registration deadline (June 13) for the **annual conference, June 27-28** in Hesston, Kansas is fast approaching. Doug Krehbiel and Hugo Saucedo, youth ministers serving Western District and South Central Conference churches, are planning an appealing program for junior high age, so they will be well served even if parents do not attend, if sponsors arrange for group participation. Sandra Richard, children's ministry volunteer at Hesston Mennonite Church, is planning an enjoyable experience for elementary age children. Childcare for infants through preschool will also be available.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

>>If you are wanting to contribute to MCC as it helps with the recent tragedies in Myanmar and in China, you can write your checks out to: MCC, and designate it to: "Myanmar relief and recovery" or "China emergency assistance". MCC seeks \$500,000 for the devastating Cyclone in Myanmar (see last weeks bulletin insert for more information) and they seek \$20,000 for the earthquake relief and recovery in China.

>>MCC Central States responds to Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid in Postville, Iowa. In the raid, 389 undocumented workers were captured and detained. MCC Central States is providing \$1,000 to help cover housing and food costs for families affected by the raid through Cedar Falls Mennonite Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa. MCC Central States encourages individuals and congregations to write letters to their US Congressional Representative and Senators advocating for comprehensive immigration reform. To view a sample letter and for more information on immigration from MCC please visit mcc.org/centralstates.

CAMP MENNOSCAH:

>>Summer Camps—Yippee! Today is the first day of our summer camps! Our summer staff is here—come and meet Aaron, Katie, Isaac, Greg, Megan, Briana, and Michael. Our theme this summer is The Bible: Digging for Treasure. We still have room at all of our camps—especially the weeks of June 1-5 and July 6-12. We'll have lots of fun—canoes, river play, swimming, crafts, and friends galore. Confirmation cards should be arriving for those campers already registered. Check for any inaccurate information.

>>Camp Mennoscah Support Staff—Join in the camping fun this summer. Kitchen helpers needed for the weeks of June 8-14, June 15-19, June 22-28, July 20-26, and July 27-August 1. No experience needed, only the willingness to follow directions and have fun. Kitchen helpers/parent volunteers receive a full discount for a camper. And a stunning camp tee shirt will go home with you!

>>Camp Mennoscah has a few weekends that are open, and we'd love to have your group or family visit. Main Camp and Retreat Center available July 3-6, and July 19-20. Retreat Center (only) available for June 6-8, and August 29-31. Main Camp (only) available July 25-27.

>>For all of the above: Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org for more information.

PEACE CONNECTIONS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Hear Sara Thomsen, singer, songwriter, & community choir director, from South Range, WI, in concert Friday, June 6, 7:30 pm, Trinity Heights United Methodist, 1200 Boyd Ave. Everyone is welcome! A freewill offering for Peace Connections will be received. On Saturday, June 7, join Sara for a "Sing Fest" - create community, sing for fun, nurture your soul! Thomsen will offer signing workshops for any youth and adults who enjoy singing or want to learn at 10am-noon or at 1:30-4 pm at the above location. Donations welcome. Information: Peace Connections at 316-284-0000 or info@peaceconnections.org

ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS:

- * Volunteers needed for Peace Connections **Kids Summer Food and Activities Program**. See bulletin board for all the details.
- * Window With a View, **Bethel College Women's Association Annual Meeting**, June 5, 7pm, Krehbiel Auditorium. See poster.
- * **JOB OPENINGS:** Mennonite Mission Network: Church Relations Associate. Mennonite Central Committee: Service Program Administrator.

THE PRAYER AND ENVISIONING GROUP continues to meet once or twice a month. The focus thus far has been on identifying who we are as a congregation and what binds us together as a community of faith. As I came to our last meeting I felt the press of events in my life; the hectic end of school schedule, getting ready for graduation, and visiting family and international guests. As we explored new ideas, shared what made Tabor special to each of us, and wrestled with how to create a climate of change to build a stronger Tabor Church for the future the tension of these daily cares melted away. I actually felt more refreshed at the end of the meeting than when I arrived! Not a typical meeting, huh? We will be looking for ways to share this refreshing "living water" with you.

One metaphor we explored was comparing our experience at Tabor to an iceberg. The part we see are meetings, agendas, positions needing filled, etc. But underwater is the bulk of the church that gives us stability. This portion consists of things such as spiritual gifts, community, faith, love, relationships, passions, etc. If we pay attention to, and nurture the bottom part of this iceberg then the top part will be easy. Perhaps this will be the looking glass into our future. Will a proposed change build up and strengthen what we value the most? Can we look past the uncertainty of a transition period and keep our eyes focused on the goal?
Harlin Unruh – Prayer and Envisioning member

REJOICE! Due to a 'glitch' in processing at Mennonite Publishing, the *Rejoice!* devotional had not yet arrived at this time. I will place them in the usual mailbox spaces as soon as they come in.

Peace, lived out in us.

"Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Victory is ours through him who loves us." - Archbishop Desmond Tutu

LITANY OF DEDICATION

Leader: In Bible times, God called prophets to take God's messages to the people. The prophets did what God asked them to do, bringing messages of repentance and words of hope. They stood firm in faith even when it was unpopular or dangerous (*well, most of them did*). What do you know about Amos, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Jonah? These Old Testament prophets have much to tell us about God. Don't you think our world could use a few prophets today? This week, our children will learn how to hear and share God's messages. Everyone can find ways to be God's messengers in this community and beyond. Let us dedicate our staff who will guide our VBS program this year.

Leader: (*All Staff please stand.*) There are many ways our children will be learning about God's messages this week. A daily interactive drama will introduce God's special messengers: Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jonah, Amos and Daniel. The children will learn songs written especially for this program—all about listening to God and sharing God's messages. There will be time for Bible study and thinking about God's message from the children's perspectives. *Listen Up! Links* activities will engage the children's different learning styles in art, drama, games, and crafts on the themes of giving and receiving messages of faith. Listen up, people in the congregation! Take note of our leaders for this important ministry. Pray for them all week. Listen up, leaders! You have been called by God and this congregation to share some exciting messages from God. How will you share these messages?

Vacation Bible School Staff:

We will share our faith in God with joy and confidence.
We will share God's transforming love with the children.
We will listen for God's message through the children.

Congregational Response:

Thank you for sharing your gifts of time and talent with the children.
We will pray for you each day. May God speak to you and through you, in new and exciting ways. May God bless you and make you a blessing.

Leader: (*Children stand.*) Listen up, children! Welcome to our Bible school program. Here you'll find answers to questions like: "What did Isaiah do with coal? What strange thing did Ezekiel eat? Why was Jonah upset with God? What did Amos have to say about worship? How did Daniel stand firm by going down?" By the end of the week, you will know new ways to "listen up!" to God and share God's messages with others. So listen up, children! Bring your friends and get the message. And remember, we will be praying for you.

Congregational Response:

We will pray for you and your friends every day. We pray that God will bless you and make you a blessing as you listen and learn. Amen.