

“The Reign of God”

“... for in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.” -Luke 17:21

Gathering to Worship

PRELUDE Youth Worship Team

WELCOME Worship Leader, Leann Toews

CALL TO WORSHIP from Matthew 6

Leader: Seek first God's Kingdom and God's Righteousness.

People: A Kingdom that started at creation, filled full in Jesus, and will be completed by God.

Leader: A Kingdom that comes very near to you and to me.

People: A Kingdom that we wait for, pray for, and long for.

Leader: A Kingdom that we can see already and yet a Kingdom that is not completed.

People: Today, we seek first God's Kingdom and God's Righteousness.

All: May God's Kingdom Come and God's Will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven!

Praising God

*GATHERING OUR PRAISE “Sing praise to God who reigns” No. 59

*PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

*SINGING OUR PRAISE “Come, ye thankful people” No. 94

*GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *please pass the welcome pads*

WORSHIPING WITH OUR OFFERING AND DEDICATING THEM

CHILDREN'S STORY Diane Unruh

Proclaiming God's Word

HEARING THE SCRIPTURES *Revelation 5:11-14; 21:1-4*

PRAYER OF THANKS

Thank you, God, that in every nation and every time you accept all people who honor you.

Thank you for anointing Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and for working through him to do good to all and to heal those weighed down by evil.

Thank you for calling us to be your witnesses. May we see and taste and know Jesus' resurrection power, his care for the world, and his wisdom as Judge of the living and the dead.

Call us toward the great banquet of unity you are preparing for the world, as all who have faith like Jesus come into peace with one another and peace with God. AMEN!

*GOSPEL READING *Luke 10:3-9, 17:20-24*

SERMON “Celebrating and Anticipating God's Reign!” Corey Miller

Responding to God's Word

HYMN "Beyond a dying sun" No. 323

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

*SENDING SONG "Praise God from whom" No. 118

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Today

The Reign of God is evident all around us and yet it isn't completed. Words often fail us in talking about God's Reign but it is inspiring to experience it now and we trust that God will bring it to completion at the right time. In the meantime, we are called to be witnesses of God's Reign in our lives, communities and in the world!

Your presence in our worship is yet another sign of God's Reign among us. We are so glad you chose to worship with us.

This morning you were greeted by Pete & Sharon Unruh and Archie & Kristin Schmidt. *Please take time to fill out our friendship pads.* Come back and join us again.

Childcare is provided by Kristi Unruh in the nursery during worship.

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.

This Week

Wednesday, November 26—Thanksgiving Service: *An Attitude of Gratitude.* All Tabor people are invited to a special Thanksgiving Meal and Worship service in the cozy confines of our Fellowship Hall. Come at **6:00pm** and enjoy a simple yet nourishing meal with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Then at **7:00pm**, a wonderful worship service is being planned where we will gather our thanks to God for all that God has done. There will be a special offering to help our sister church plant, the New Jerusalem Mennonite Church in North Houston. (Checks payable to Tabor Mennonite Church.) We have committed to giving \$1200 to them every year, so we need generous givers for this offering. Bring family members. Bring friends. Sign up for the meal on the sheet in the foyer and come for a good evening of Thanksgiving.

Thursday, November 27, Friday, November 28—Church offices closed.

Pastors Traveling: Corey and his family will be traveling to South Dakota for Thanksgiving on Wednesday. They will return on Saturday evening.

Doug and Jude will be traveling to Iowa for Thanksgiving and Doug will be preaching in Jude's home congregation on Sunday. Contact Pastor Karen or Deacon Chr. Denise Nickel if there is need. *Bulletin items due Tue., Nov. 25.*

Next Sunday, November 30

9:30 a.m.—NEXT SUNDAY we will begin the season of Advent with the theme, "**Let Your Face Shine.**" The focus of the morning will be "*The Hidden Face of God.*" The texts for day are Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-19, I Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37 and Karen will be preaching. We will be receiving towels (dark, med. weight) and fingernail clippers for MCC relief kits during the worship service as well.

10:45 a.m.—Sunday School for everyone. All adult Sunday school classes will meet in the sanctuary following worship to discuss and debrief what we have learned this fall in the Practicing our Faith series.

Announcements

Thank you to all the Tabor Church family who prayed for me before and during my back surgery. Thank you for the visits and meals brought to us. Thank you for visits from pastors Karen and Corey. It was all appreciated very much.
—Bonnie Heinrichs

Advent Offerings: Advent begins Nov. 30. While shopping for Christmas this year, plan to purchase supplies for Relief Kits for MCC. Shopping lists for these urgently needed supplies were in your mailboxes. There are extras on the table in the foyer.

Looking for a ministry to contribute to this Christmas--consider our local Tabor Food Pantry. Many people have come in for food this past year and continue to. If your family would like to donate a box of food, here are some suggestions: boxed cereal, hamburger helper dinners, peanut butter and jelly, jello, pudding, ketchup, spaghetti noodles and sauce, mac & cheese, ramen noodles, laundry detergent, shampoo and toilet paper. *For question talk to Nancy Miller & Phyllis Goertzen.*

The Mennonite Subscriptions: Our group subscription plan to *The Mennonite* is renewing. Subscription forms were in your mailboxes. (additional forms are on the table in the foyer) Please fill out and return forms to the box in the foyer by Dec. 7. Group subscription rates are \$33. You are invited to make a contribution to help cover the cost. Make checks payable to Tabor Mennonite Church.

Worship Service CD's available: If you miss a worship service you may still listen to the service by purchasing a CD for \$1. See Lee Goertzen.

WDC stewardship suggestion: Congress has passed the IRA Charitable rollover for 2008 and 2009. Withdrawals from your IRA are normally subject to being taxed. However, for those over 70 1/2 a direct gift from an IRA to a charitable organization (like your local congregation or Western District Conference) eliminates the tax, even if you have already maxed out on your charitable deduction for the year. The gift is not counted as income; however, you do not receive a tax deduction for the gift either. Ask your IRA custodian or financial adviser for more information on this giving opportunity.

Peace Connections: The next Bridges/Circles Community gathering is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 24, 5:30-7 pm, at Peace Connections, 612 N. Main, Newton. Vicki Adame, Santa Fe Middle School Principal, will give a mini poverty simulation. This is an open meeting. We especially welcome those interested in partnering across economic differences. Call 284-0000 for more information.

Thanksgiving Concerts:

Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts will present *The Lieurance Woodwind Quintet* in concert at Hesston Mennonite Church on Sunday, Nov. 23, 3 pm. **Youth**—Bethel College Mennonite Church, together with the Bethel College music department, invite area junior and senior high students to a hymn sing on Sunday, Nov. 23 from 6-8 pm in the church Sanctuary.

The Newton Community Children's Choir invites you to their Holiday Concert, Monday, November 24, 7:00 pm at Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton.

Choral Masterworks Concert on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, at 8:00 p.m. in Hesston Mennonite Church.

A service of worship and ordination for Pastor Gail Graber will be held in the Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3:00 p.m. You are invited to attend. A reception will be held in the fellowship hall following the service.

On the Bulletin Board

- * Letter from **Mission Partners** Joe and Anna Sawatzky, serving in South Africa.
- * **Hymns of Nature** CD from Mennonite Media now available. See details.

FATHFUL GIVING

Total 2008 Annual Budget	\$268,306.00
Faithful Giving through November 16	<u>\$240,534.99</u>
Balance	\$ 27,771.01

2 Sunday's left in this fiscal year.
Giving needed per Sunday to meet budget:
\$13,885.51

"Celebrating the Past: Embracing the Future"

A story of generosity.

Last week we received a letter from the Greenhorns, the band that performed at our Centennial on October 11, 2008 stating: *"It was truly a pleasure and an honor for the Greenhorns to perform for the Tabor Church celebration. . . . It is our pleasure to return the enclosed check for use where needed."*

We have decided to put that money toward Tabor's 2008 budget.

Peace stops the cycle of violence.

"We cannot kill our way to victory."

- Adm. Michael Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testifying before a congressional committee about the U.S. war in Afghanistan.