



Tabor Church News

December, 2010

Worship Themes

Nov. 8 - *"Hope: Prophets Prepare!"*
Advent 1

Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 1:26-37,
Luke 3:1-6, 15-16
Corey preaching

Dec. 5 - *"Peace: Mary and Joseph Accept!"* **Advent 2**

Isaiah 2:1-5; Luke 1:38-56,
Matthew 1:24-25
Corey preaching

Dec. 12 - *"Joy: Shepherds Worship & Celebrate!"* **Advent 3**

Isaiah 65:17ff, Galatians 5:22-25,
Luke 2:8-20
Karen preaching

Dec. 19 - *"Love: The Sign of God"*
Advent 4

Psalms 80:1-7, Isaiah 7:10-16,
Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25
Adult Choir

Dec. 25 - *"The Word Made Flesh"*
Christmas

Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98,
Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14
Corey preaching

Dec. 26 - *"A Savior is Born"*

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96,
Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:1-7
College students

**May the Gladness of Christmas
give you Hope,
the Spirit of Christmas
bring you Peace,
the Truth of Christmas
be your Joy,
the warmth of Christmas
grant you Love.**

• author unknown

õPlaying your Part in the Christmas Storyö

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us." – Isaiah 9:6

There is something special about getting ready for the children's Christmas Eve program. It takes willing and patient adults to lead, creative artists to build sets and most importantly, children willing to play their parts. Some of you remember sharing your Christmas pieces and poems in a one room country school house while others of you participated in the much anticipated Christmas Eve service at church.

Some of you got chosen to play Joseph or Mary, which was a pretty special part to play even though it was a little weird to be õmarriedö to a boy or a girl in your class. Some of you got to be the wise men, wearing crowns and carrying glittery and decorative boxes. Some of you got to be angels with halos that were too big or shepherds with robes that were too small. Whether you were the innkeeper, Gabriel or even adoring sheep, you had a part to play in the story!

Some of you remember working tirelessly for weeks to memorize your lines. Sometimes lines were forgotten, solos weren't always on pitch, and props didn't work as expected. And yet, in the end, in spite of the mistakes, the stress on the teachers, and little tiffs amongst the kids themselves, the story of Jesus was told. In the end, everyone shared their part, told the story of how God came to us in Jesus Christ, and inspired faithfulness for another generation.

It would not be Christmas at Tabor Mennonite Church, if we did not gather to tell the story of Jesus' birth and his gift of salvation to the world. And the most special time to do this is on Christmas Eve, that wondrous time of gathering on a cold winter night in the warmth of the sanctuary to hear our children tell and act out the Christmas story. The story is timeless, ageless, and priceless. It is the same and yet, it does not get old. It cannot get old, õfor a child has been born for us, a son given to usö and his name is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6) We continue to live into this story that still shapes us.

Every year there are new Mary's and Joseph's, new shepherds, new wise men, angels and animals. While we all have given our parts to play to the next generation, it is important to remember that we still have a part to play in the Christmas Story. We still are invited to join in with the shepherds in worshiping with joy. We still are invited to praise God with the angels in our singing. We still are invited to seek truth as the wise men did. And we still are invited to trust and obey as Joseph and Mary did so many years ago. We are still the actors in this drama!

We all have a part to play in the Christmas Story this season and we need everyone to offer their part. Whatever part you find yourself playing, put yourself into it. Enter fully into the mystery and miracle of it. Live daily into the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that Christ brings you this Christmas season, for Jesus Christ is born to us. Amen!

-Pastor Corey



1. School Kits.

This year, our special Advent offering project will be School Kits, which is the most requested item from MCC. Notebooks and pencils become treasures to families who struggle to afford basic school supplies. School kits are also given to refugee and displaced children, helping students and teachers add some normalcy to disrupted lives. They are frequently requested after natural disasters. MCC sends school kits to places including Iraq, Nicaragua, North Korea and to poorly funded schools in Canada and the U.S.

- >Nov. 28 - 4 spiral notebooks (70 . 80 pgs. 8.5 X 11.5)
- >Dec. 5 - 4 unsharpened pencils
- >Dec. 12 - 12 colored pencils in pkg.
- >Dec. 19 - 1 large pencil eraser, 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; indicating both 30cm and 12in)

School kits are distributed in a useful double drawstring cloth bag and MCC has many bags that we can use. Consider purchasing these items as a family and teach your children the joy of giving this year at Christmas.

2. Goessel Community Giving Tree.

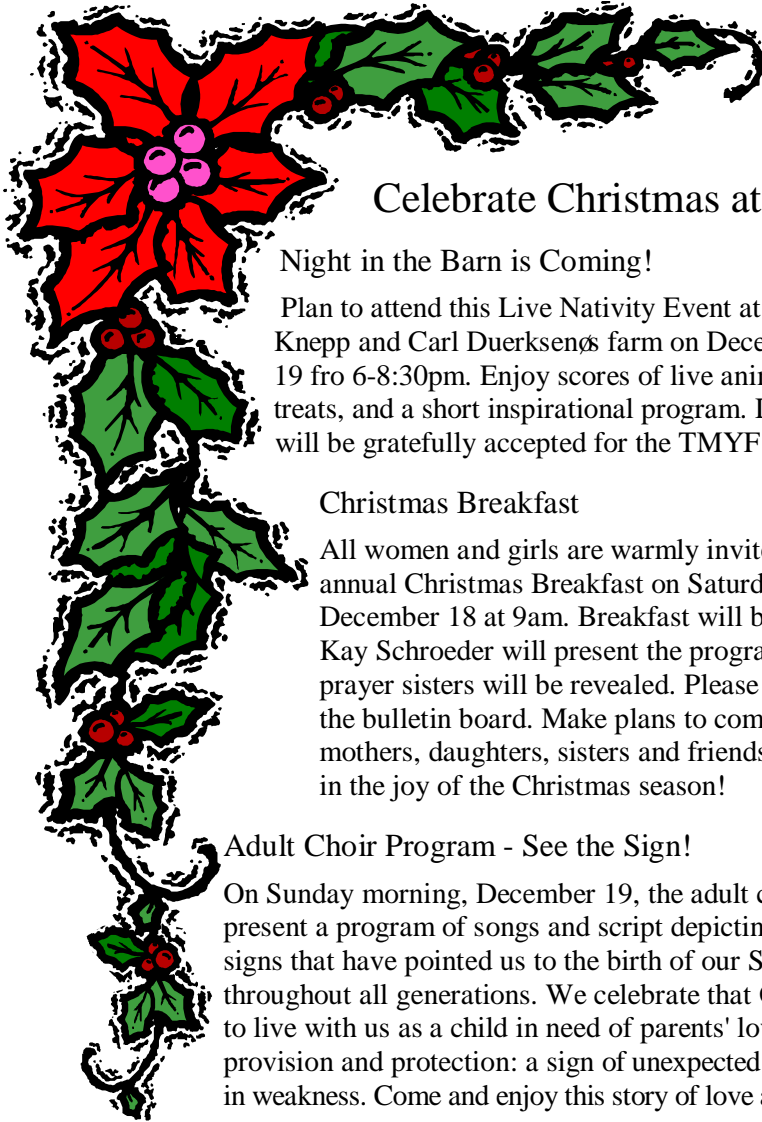
Goessel Ministerial Alliance Giving Tree is a response to the families and children who need an extra touch of love during this season of giving and receiving gifts. You are invited to participate by taking a tag off of the Christmas Tree at The Citizens State Bank to purchase a suggested gift to brighten a child's Christmas. Gifts need to be returned to the bank by Dec. 20.

3. Offering on Christmas Eve.

The School Kits for MCC which were received throughout Advent will be dedicated and the offering received will be donated to MCC to cover shipping expenses. Make checks payable to Tabor Mennonite with MCC on the memo line.

4. Offering on Christmas Day.

The offering will be in support of our sister churches, Neuva Jerusalem and Casa del Alferero. Make checks payable to Tabor Mennonite earmarked church plants.



Celebrate Christmas at Tabor

Night in the Barn is Coming!

Plan to attend this Live Nativity Event at Maynard Knepp and Carl Duerksen's farm on December 18 & 19 from 6-8:30pm. Enjoy scores of live animals, holiday treats, and a short inspirational program. Donations will be gratefully accepted for the TMYF service trip.

Christmas Breakfast

All women and girls are warmly invited to the annual Christmas Breakfast on Saturday, December 18 at 9am. Breakfast will be served, Kay Schroeder will present the program, and prayer sisters will be revealed. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Make plans to come with mothers, daughters, sisters and friends and share in the joy of the Christmas season!

Adult Choir Program - See the Sign!

On Sunday morning, December 19, the adult choir will present a program of songs and script depicting the signs that have pointed us to the birth of our Savior throughout all generations. We celebrate that God came to live with us as a child in need of parents' love, provision and protection: a sign of unexpected power in weakness. Come and enjoy this story of love and grace.

- Christmas Eve Service
 - *The First Christmas* a pageant by Tabor's children will be presented on December 24 at 7pm. Everyone is invited to attend this service of Christmas praise through story and song.
- Christmas Day Worship
 - Jesus is born! Celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Day. Worship begins at 10 am. Share the joy of Christmas morning!!
- Christmas Social Hour
 - The worship service on December 26 will be led by our college students. Following the service, plan to fellowship with friends and visitors during the Sunday school hour. Please bring your favorite Christmas goodies to share as we celebrate Christmas together.
 - No Sunday school.

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

ô Author unknown, attributed to a seven year old named Bobby.

December is the month of New Beginnings!

- December 1 is the first day of our new fiscal year as our budget runs from December to November. Our newly adopted budget is \$260,020 and with 125 Giving Units represented at Tabor, this equates to an average of \$2,080 needed per giving unit for the year. In light of how we have finished up our giving for this fiscal year, this seems to be a manageable goal.
- December 1 is also the first day on the job for those who have been discerned to serve at Tabor.
 - Bill Unruh and Carol Duerksen begin their second term as deacons.
 - Gary Duerksen begins his term as Trustee.
 - Marcene Entz and Sherry Unruh begin their terms on the worship/fellowship committee.
 - Many others will also begin or continue again in the ministries they have been called to share in.
- December is also the month where we feel special joy in giving, to the Lord our lives, to the church our gifts, to our children good gifts, and to the hurting our love, because God gave us the best gift in Christ. Whether it is in giving School Kits for MCC, offerings for the New Jerusalem Church plant in Texas on Christmas morning, or gifts to MCC on Christmas Eve, we glorify God when we joyfully give.

Spotlight on Tabor's Young Adults

Season's greetings! My name is Nick Schroeder, and I currently reside in the north part of Wichita near Park City. It never feels like a journey to come back to Tabor as I grew up in the Goessel community with my parents Darrel & Venita in our K-15 two-story house I call home home.

My current occupation is in the IT department as a hardware manager for a Pizza Hut/Freddy's Frozen Custard franchise called Capital Enterprises. Prior to this, I was a cell phone technician and a nurse aid at Bethesda while going to school for vocal music education. I guess I could run for president too!

I keep quite busy when not on call at work. Aside from helping at church, I serve as Membership Chair for the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus. I also try to keep up with a few remaining customers from my former computer support business. Otherwise I can be found at the YMCA almost 5 days a week, at my house, or spending time with family and friends.

Growing up in the Tabor community, I was very blessed to have such a compassionate and giving church family. A lot of the core values and attributes of my personality have been shaped by my upbringing and I am very thankful. One of my favorite songs and prophetic visions is: "New earth, Heavens new; Spirit of God moving. Sing a new song to the One who has said Behold! I make all things new." I pray the everlasting love of God's glory will continue to pass through our Tabor congregation into the hearts of others always.



TMYF News

This month the TMYF did a study from the Christian movie *To Save a Life* which deals with reaching out to those in our high schools who are desperate and hurting and thinking that life is not worth living. This was in response to the sad fact that Newton High School has had a number of suicides and attempts in the last year. Please pray for the families of these victims, for our youth who are affected by these tragedies and for effective ways to turn this situation around.

Our youth worship team met, picked out songs and began rehearsal. We will make our debut at the Wednesday Thanksgiving worship.

The Youth Ministry Team met and discussed plans, ideas and dreams for the upcoming year. We give a big THANK YOU to mentor coordinator Carol Duerksen who is moving on after several years of faithful service and give a great big HOWDY to Sarahanne Unruh who will be taking her place.

Marie's Radical Journey

Marie Unruh as well as her advocacy team would like to extend an invitation to our church family to become involved in what is happening for Marie Unruh in her time spent in Bradford, England, over the next 10 months. She has a blog that you can read and also you can make replies to what she is writing. We as her advocacy team feel that this would also be a good way of showing our support and love to Marie during her time of service away from home. The blog address is: <http://www.mariesradicaljourney.blogspot.com>. Thank you. Venita Schroeder



Western District Conference

PastorsøResourcing Day with Marlene Kropf

January 21, 2011: 2-5 p.m. - Tending the Garden: The Pastor's Role in Congregational Christian Formation. 7-9 p.m. - Worship Planners and Lay leaders join pastors for an evening of receiving inspiration for worship planning. More details forthcoming. Watch Facebook and our website! Sponsored by WDC Resource Commission and AMBS-Great Plains.

Choral Festival

January 22, 2011: Choral Festival with Dr. Mark Suderman, conductor at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS. Sponsored by WDC Music and Worship Task Force. Watch Facebook and our website for more info!

Congregational Spiritual Health

How is faith nurtured in the midst of congregational life? And how are leaders equipped to guide the congregation in its growth? These are the topics Professor Marlene Kropf will explore in an interterm course through the Great Plains Extension of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary January 11-29, 2011, at 2500 Place, North Newton, Kansas. Through reading, reflection circles, writing, lectures, class discussion, and prayer, the course will seek to provide biblical understandings, resources, and skills for assessing congregational spiritual health and guiding Christian formation within each arena of congregational life. Class meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings plus Saturdays. Three credit hours. Credit or audit. Special audit rates for AMBS MA or MDiv graduates. Register by December 13 at www.ambs.edu/admissions/register-online, or contact Lois Barrett, director, AMBSóGreat Plains, 316-283-7098 or lbarrett@ambs.edu.

Know Jesus

õKnow Jesusó, a bi-annual 24 hour Junior High gathering, is coming to the Hesston College campus on January 29-30, 2011. Know Jesus carries a strong Anabaptist theme with an inspirational speaker, a rocking worship band and an extravagant version of the Anabaptist Game. The Anabaptist Game, organized by Michele Hershberger and approximately 100 volunteers, includes participatory dramatization of early martyrs, safe houses, risky adult baptisms, narrow escapes, capture, trial, imprisonment and the work of the Holy Spirit. Know Jesus is designed to bring our Anabaptist history to life and make powerful connections to our calling to follow and know Jesus today. Taborø Youth Explorers are planning to attend this event!



May there be harmony in all your relationships.
 May sharp words, envious thoughts, and hostile feelings be dissolved.
 May you give and receive love generously.
 May this love echo in your heart like the church bells on a clear December day.
 May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul.
 May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.
 May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you.
 May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted.
 May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.
 May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasure it contains.
 May the coming year be one of good health for you.
 May you have energy and vitality.
 May you care well for your body, mind, and spirit.
 May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.
 May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace.
 May you bring this peace into our world.

—Joyce Rupp
 via Gleanings



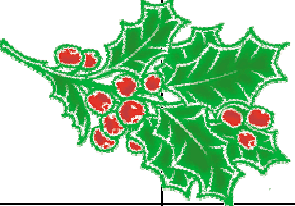
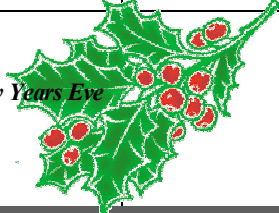
Mennonite Men host their annual chicken bbq.



Faith Adventure children help assemble school kits at MCC Center in N. Newton.

DECEMBER

TABOR CHURCH CALENDAR

			1 Wednesday Evening Activities	2 12 pm Newton Lunch Bunch	3	4 Deacon Christmas Party
5 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	6 1 pm Work at MCC Center	7 12 pm Hesston Lunch Bunch 7:00 pm Church Council Trustee Mtg	8 Wednesday Evening Activities	9	10	11
12 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	13 <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	14 7:00 p.m. Worship Fellowship Mtg	15 No Regular Wednesday Evening Activities <i>See bulletin for details</i>	16	17	18 9am Women's Christmas Breakfast
19 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	20	21	22 No Regular Wednesday Evening Activities <i>See bulletin for details</i>	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7pm Christmas Eve Program	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 10am Christmas Day Service
26 9:30 am Worship No Sunday School <i>Fellowship Time</i>	27	28 12 pm Goessel/ Peabody/Walton Lunch Bunch	29 No Wednesday Evening Activities	30	31 <i>New Years Eve</i> 	

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Lavonne Hermstein | 11 - Frank Ashley | 24 - Nicholas Schroeder |
| Mandy Funk | Venita Schroeder | Denise Nickel |
| 2 - Susan Goerzen, | Sierra Dirksen | Edna Dyck |
| Corey Miller | Austin Voth | Alex Drake |
| 3 - Clifford Bartel | 12 - Nathan Ens | 26 - Brenda (Rollin) |
| Mary Alderfer | 13 - Rollin Schmidt | Schmidt |
| Hudson Jantz | 15 - Devin Schroeder | 27 - Wendy Goerzen |
| 4 - Darrel Schroeder | Corynn Nickel | 28 - Milford Brandt |
| 5 - LeNora Duerksen | 16 - Delome Schmidt | Deanne Franz |
| Helen Schmidt | Dale Alderfer | Shane Goerzen |
| 7 - Esther Penner | Sheldon Goerzen | Colton Diller |
| Mark Seibel | 19 - Kent Jantz | Ruth Peters |
| 8 - Ron Goerzen | Logan Wulf | 29 - Kristie Graber |
| Marcia Zuercher | 21 - Stan Goertzen | Carolyn Schmidt |
| Sarah Goertzen | 22 - Joshua Goertzen | 30 - Phyllis Regier |
| Stacey Young | 23 - Nancy Miller | Eldon Pankratz |
| 10 - Teresa Kennedy | 24 - Grace Regier | James Harris, Jr. |
| Sharon Schroeder | Vickie Schmidt | 31 - Ben Schmidt |
| Bob Unruh | Sherry Unruh | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| Rusten Schroeder & Susan Merrifield | December 10, | 10 yrs. |
| Jerry & Darlene Schroeder | December 13, | 51 yrs. |
| Tom & Tam Perry | December 15, | 20 yrs. |
| Stan & Nancy Ediger | December 16, | 48 yrs. |
| Warren & Sheri Schmidt | December 16, | 21 yrs. |
| Alvin & Wilma Schmidt | December 20, | 58 yrs. |
| Larry & Dora Goerzen | December 26, | 38 yrs. |
| Bill & Sherry Unruh | December 27, | 24 yrs. |
| Brent & Pamela Abrahams | December 27, | 10 yrs. |

