

**OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE**

**December 24, 2009 - Christmas Eve Service**

Offering = \$1,378.80 Attendance = 316  
*MCC School Kits*

**December 25, 2009 - Christmas Day Service**

Offering = \$ 701.75 Attendance = 103  
*Nueva Jerusalem and Casa del Alfarero*

**December 26, 2009 - Sunday Morning Service**

Offering = \$6,614.17 Attendance = 146

**The Work of Christmas:**

The greatest peace, I believe, is the peace which we derive from our faith in God Almighty; from certainty about our relationship with our Creator. Crises might beset us, battles might rage about us--but if we have faith and the certainty it brings, we will enjoy peace--the peace that surpasses all understanding.

-Frederik W. deKlerk, 1993 Nobel Peace Prize winner



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*Be the Sign! Epiphany*

Tabor Mennonite Church

January 2, 2011



**As God's children and the body of Christ,  
we are called by God to offer hospitality,  
healing and hope in the name of Christ.**

Volume LVI

January 2, 2011

No. 1



## “Be the Sign!” Epiphany

*“For we have observed his star at its rising,  
and have come to pay him homage.” -Matthew 2:2*

### Gathering Our Praise

PRELUDE

Worship Team

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Leader, Venita Schroeder

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Arise, shine! For your light has come.

**People: Grace was given to us to bring the news of the boundless riches of Christ,**

Leader: and to make everyone see the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,

**People: So that, through the church, the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to rulers and authorities.**

Leader: Like the magi of old, we bring our gifts to you, God-with-us. They are not gold, nor frankincense, nor myrrh.

**People: But they declare our love and loyalty to you.**

**All: We worship the Christ child, our King!**

\*GATHERING OUR PRAISE *“Christ, whose glory fills the skies”* No. 216

\*PRAYER OF BLESSING

\*SINGING OUR PRAISE *“Bright and glorious is the sky”* No. 219

OFFERING OUR GIFTS IN WORSHIP

*You are welcome to fill out the friendship brochure and place it in the offering bag.*

## Announcements

### Are you looking for opportunities to practice your hospitality skills?

We need two more funeral ushers and two more special greeters. If you are willing to serve in this way, contact Jude Krehbiel, chairperson for the Worship-Fellowship Committee.

**Grocery Shower:** Tabor Church is having a grocery shower for Stephanie and Jake Unruh with a noon meal on Sunday January 16 right after Sunday School, with the shower following the meal. Please bring a basket dinner and your own table service. Drink is furnished. Please bring your grocery shower items to the basement and come wish Jake and Stephanie well in their life together.

**The Western District Music and Worship Task Force** is planning a Choral Festival and Service for Saturday, January 22 at Eden Mennonite Church, rural Moundridge. The Festival clinician is Dr. Mark Suderman, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities, at Bluffton University. Choral rehearsal will be from 2:00-5:00, followed by a meal at the church. Reservations for the meal are strongly encouraged; cost is \$5. The Festival Service will follow at 6:30 pm. For a list of repertoire and to make meal reservations, please contact the Western District office at [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org) or 316.283.6300. We offer this as an exciting opportunity for all who love to sing in a large choir experience.

### Refresh your Spirit, Renew your Brain, Reconnect with others . . .

Attend the WEB (Welcome to Education at Bethel) day on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, 8:30 am-1:00 pm in the Fine Arts Center, Bethel College campus. Please sign up for the brunch and two of four presentations given by persons personally involved in Bethel College. Registrations and the \$20.00 fee are due by Jan. 5, 2011. Details are posted on the bulletin board.

**The 2011 annual meeting of Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service** will be held January 16, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. at Bethel Mennonite Church, one and one-half miles south of Inman. Rosina Felipe from Grand Bayou, Louisiana will be the featured speaker. She will talk about the challenges of hurricanes and oil spills in the gulf area.

**Peace Connections:** Inspire change in our community and yourself in 2011: A Circles of Hope information session will be held on Sat., Jan. 8, 8:30 am - 4 pm, at the First United Methodist Church, 801 N. Main, Newton. Learn more about ways to be involved with Circles of Hope, including Bridges Out of Poverty and Ally training. No cost/lunch provided. To register call Peace Connections at 284-0000.

## Prayer Requests

The following items were shared last Sunday, December 26.

- ★ Denise Nickel offered a thanks for all the worship services planned during Advent and Christmas, noting especially how meaningful the various types of music had been.

### Happenings:

- ★ Pastor Doug began his one month sabbatical on January 1. He will be taking a seminary class during the month.

### Remember to pray for:

- ★ Doug Krehbiel as he begins his January sabbatical, that it would be restful and renewing.
- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for the Mennonite Church USA Hope for the Future+gathering for people of color on Jan. 9-11. Pray for Gilberto Flores, Violeta Ajquejay, Edurado Vargas, and Alberto Parchmont who will be representing Western District Conference.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Gretchen and Keith Kingsley of Mennonite Mission Network are preparing to leave the Argentine Chaco in April, after living among indigenous people there for the past 13 years. Pray for them in this time of transition, and pray that God would call others to walk alongside Christian brothers and sisters in the Chaco.
- ★ Mennonite Education Agency: Pray for Bethel College students and faculty traveling out of state or out of the country for the January interterm, especially those going to Israel/Palestine with Professor of Bible and Religion Patty Shelly and to Mexico with Professor of Social Work Larry Friesen.

## Proclaiming God's Word

CHILDREN'S STORY	<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	Eunice Nickel
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>"Lamb of God"</i>	DeVon Hiebert
SERMON	<i>"The Third Road to Bethlehem"</i>	Karen Andres

## Responding to the Spirit

RESPONSE HYMN	<i>"Let all mortal flesh keep silence"</i>	Worship Team
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### COMMUNION

### PRAYER

Christ, you illumine us,  
and in your light we see light.  
Make us radiant, a people giving and receiving light  
among our neighbors, whether friend or adversary.  
Make your people as nourishing as showers that water the earth.  
Make us one, that righteousness may flourish,  
and that well-being may abound. Amen.

### SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

\*SENDING HYMN *"As with gladness men of old"* vv. 1,2,4 No. 218

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE



## Today

We all have our own journeys as we seek the Divine Christ child. In Ephesians we read that "through the church, the wisdom of God has been made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.+ Wisdom comes when we surrender to the journey and seek with our whole hearts. Thanks be to God for the promise of Emmanuel - God-with-us.

We invite all who sincerely love Christ and are committed to follow Jesus to come to the communion table. The Lord's Table is a sign of grace and healing for all of God's people. There will be prayers of anointing for healing and blessing for you to receive as well. May we all be drawn into God's presence through these acts of worship and praise. We are so glad that you are here.

This morning you were greeted by Jerry and Leann Toews and Carrie and Lewis Unruh. *Please note the friendship cards in the songbook holders and fill one out if you have requests or if you are a visitor and place it in the offering bag.*

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

The bouquet of flowers is shared by the family of Susan Schmidt whose funeral was here at Tabor on Thursday morning.

**10:45 a.m.**—Sunday school for everyone. Classes will meet as usual this morning and the elective class will begin next Sunday.

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.

There are still some goodie bags left from the Christmas Eve program. Feel free to take one on your way out this morning.

## This Week

### Tuesday, January 4

**12:00 p.m.**—Hesston Lunch Bunch

**6:30 p.m.**—Worship/Fellowship meeting at Carrie Unruh's

**7:00 p.m.**—Deacons' meeting at Rosie Jantz's

### Wednesday, January 5

**6:30 p.m.**—Family Pizza Night at Tabor! If you have children, make plans to come to an evening of fun and activities for all ages in the fellowship hall. We will have mouth watering Nancy+(Schmidt) pizza and all the fixings. Come for great fellowship, group games and our annual scavenger hunt! ALL FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING A 2-LITER BOTTLE OF THEIR FAVORITE BEVERAGE!

### Thursday, January 6

**12:00 p.m.**—Newton Lunch Bunch

**7:00 p.m.**—Education Committee meeting

## Next Sunday, January 9

**9:30 a.m.—Worship:** The theme is *the* Baptism of the Lord+, feeling God's Spirit! The texts are Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43 and Matthew 3:13-17 and Corey will be preaching.

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

New Sunday school Class begins: Pastor Corey will be teaching a SS elective to anyone who is interested. He will be teaching the book, *the* Naked Anabaptist+, one of the most popular books in this past year. The class will be in the fellowship hall basement and it will run for 8 weeks. Books will be available for all class participants. We look forward to *un*covering+the core tenants of our Anabaptist values and discovering what God is calling us at Tabor to do.

