

# Christmas



**TODAY, 4-5pm:** Old-fashioned Christmas Carol Sing in the sanctuary. Please bring a finger-food item to share for Faspa.

**December 17, 9am:** Tabor Women and Girls Breakfast. Wassail served shortly before 9 am as you are seated for breakfast. Program by Pastor June Thomsen: "My Favorite Things of Christmas", musical selections: Sisters Forever. If there is a special diet need, please contact Brenda Buller. Bring your mother, daughter or a friend! *Please sign up on the bulletin board by December 14. Make sure the total number you sign up for is clear.*



**December 17-18, 6:-8 pm:** Night in the Barn, the annual living nativity event by the youth of Tabor, will take place on the farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen. Program features the story of Joseph and will include original music by Doug Krehbiel and script by Carol Duerksen. The menagerie of animals will be hanging out in the barn, and hot drinks will be available to enjoy around the bonfire. This event is by donation and a fundraiser for the youth group. *Directions from Goessel: 3 miles north on highway 15, 4 miles east on 150<sup>th</sup>, 3/4 mile north on Falcon.*

**December 24, 7 pm:** Christmas Eve Program. "The Story of our Wonderful Savior's Birth". Worship with an evening of narration, slides, songs, scripture, and children's pieces.

**December 25, 10 am:** Christmas Day. A special worship service featuring Tabor's adult choir will celebrate the birth of our Savior. Congregational singing of Christmas songs will also be a highlight. No Sunday school.



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## Awesome Deeds We Do Not Expect



## Transforming Our Sorrow



**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

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No. 50



### Gathering

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.*

PRELUDE

Mark Schmidt

INTROIT

*"As the Pauper Waits for Plenty"*

Adult Choir

WELCOME and CALL TO WORSHIP Worship Leader, Warren Schmidt

Leader: Our world is in trouble: war, hunger, fear  
and injustice are the experience of many.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Leader: Our lives are in trouble: sorrow, darkness, anxiety  
and fear live deep within.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Leader: Jesus will come, transforming darkness into light  
and sorrow into joy!

\*GATHERING HYMN

*"In the bulb there is a flower"*

No. 614

\*PRAYER

### Praising

\*HYMN OF PRAISE *"All creatures of our God and King"* -vv.1, 3, 5, 7 No. 48

\*GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please give your name, speak slowly and directly into the microphone.*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*Please pass MCC kit items to center aisle to be collected by children.*

**The Mennonite subscriptions:** Now is the time to renew or begin a subscription to *The Mennonite*. Group subscriptions will be renewed in December. Please fill out the form found in your mailbox and return to the box in the foyer along with a check for \$37.00, the group rate (\$9.00 less than individual subscription rates) TODAY.

**Shaping Families: Christmas Miracles.** Take a needed 15-minute break during your busy Christmas preparations and listen to new, touching Christmas stories, scriptures and carols. Listen to The Third Way Media Shaping Families program on KBCU 88.1 FM North Newton, KS on Friday, December 16 at 4:00 PM or visit [www.ShapingFamilies.com](http://www.ShapingFamilies.com) the weekend the program airs to download a podcast or the transcript. *The December 16 program includes Carol Duerksen reading the Donkey story which was written by Carol and used at Night in the Barn several years ago.*

**It's Wintertime! You can feel it in the air!** The Harvey County Homeless Shelter needs daytime help during the winter. Shifts needed are: 8am - 1pm and noon - 5pm both Saturdays and Sundays; same hours weekdays when it is bitterly cold; noon meals also needed during these times.

**Please see announcement sheet for details regarding this urgent need.**

#### OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

December 4, 2011

Offering	=	\$3,519.00	Attendance	=	183
Adult S.S.	=	\$ 44.45	Attendance	=	69
Jr. S.S.	=	\$ 11.55	Attendance	=	29

#### The Peace Advent Brings

"Only those who are reborn as children shall become children of the light. Wherever the Christmas Child is born in a heart, wherever Jesus begins his earthly life anew - that is where the life of God's love and of God's peace dawns again."

-Emmy Arnold



## Announcements

**Thank you** for your prayers, phone calls, cards and visits after my surgery. It was all appreciated very much.  
-Alice Funk

**The pastors would like to request** that they be contacted directly when someone has been hospitalized if you would like a visit. The hospital usually asks the patient if they want the pastor contacted but we are finding that it has not always been communicated to us when someone is ill. In addition to asking the hospital to contact your pastor, please have a family member or friend contact us immediately so that we can be present to provide pastoral care before surgeries and during the hospital stay. We respect anyone's wishes to not visit but we would still like to be contacted so that we can pray for you. We will ask permission for any information we publicize in the bulletin.

**Adult Sunday School in January:** There will be a special S.S. series in January expanded from the five threads developed by the Prayer and Envisioning Team. Themes: Jan. 8 - Tabor Community; Jan. 15 - Peace and Justice; Jan. 22 – Outreach; Jan. 29 – Facilities. The elective which was planned earlier will be postponed until February.

**Giving opportunity:** On the table in the foyer and on the bulletin board is a letter detailing the budget needs of our mission partners, Joe and Anna Sawatzky. Please give as you feel led to support our mission partners. There will also be a special Christmas Day offering designated for them.

**Giving Tree:** The Christmas Giving Tree for our community has lots of tags hanging on it at the Crossroads Credit Union. Please help make a child's Christmas a little more special by choosing a tag or two off the tree. If you are not able to do the shopping, you may give a monetary donation. Just put your donation in an envelope, label it "Christmas Giving Tree" and give it to the church office. Checks may be made out to "Goessel Ministerial Alliance." Gifts should be wrapped and brought back to the Credit Union by Monday, December 19. Donations are also due by December 19. Thank you!

~Goessel Ministerial Association



**Wednesday Evening meals:** Please sign up to cook or help with the Wednesday evening meals in January. You will find a calendar on the Education bulletin board in the foyer.

**Bierocks for Sale:** The Mennonite College Task Force is selling bierocks to raise funds for college scholarships. 4 for \$10, see Gayle Funk.

## Hearing

CHILDREN'S STORY		Carrie Unruh
WORSHIP MUSIC	"The Yearning" -Craig Courtney	Adult Choir
SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	
SERMON	"Transformed Sorrow"	June Thomsen

## Responding

SILENT REFLECTION		
HYMN OF RESPONSE	"What a day that will be!"	No. 54CS
SHARING and CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER		

## Sending

*HYMN	"Joy to the World"	No. 318
*BENEDICTION	I Thessalonians 5:23-24	
*POSTLUDE		

## Congregational reading for the Advent candles

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation;  
whom shall we fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of our life:  
of whom shall we be afraid?

**All:** *As we long for the light,  
let us lay aside every weight  
and the sin that clings so closely.  
Let us be glad and rejoice  
in the Lord's salvation.*



*Come Holy Spirit.  
Fill the hearts of thy faithful people  
and kindle in us the fire of thy love.*

## Today

Today, the third Sunday of Advent, is focused on God's promises to one day transform our sorrow into joy, and our tears into laughter. How do we hold fast in faithfulness to what is good, even while we wait for God's intervention?

We are so glad you are here with us to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Archie and Kristin Schmidt and Orlin and Mary Jane Janzen.

*Please note the friendship cards in the songbook holders. A special welcome is extended to all visitors. Visitors are invited to fill out the back of the friendship card and place it in the offering bag.*

Childcare is provided by Yvette Nickel in the nursery during the worship service.

Thank you to the children who have been offering their artwork for the bulletin covers and the display on the bulletin board in the foyer. Today's cover illustration shows a popular toy call a Transformer which can be changed from a fierce figure into a car.

**10:45 a.m.**—Sunday school for everyone. You are welcome to join the Young Adult Class in the Fellowship Hall as we study "Untold Stories of Advent."

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.

**4:00-5:00 p.m.**— Come out this afternoon for an old-fashioned Christmas Carol Sing in the sanctuary. Please bring a finger-food item for Faspa (light early-evening meal) afterward. Drinks and table service will be provided.

## This Week

**Wednesday, December 14**  
***Newsletter articles are due***

**7:00 p.m.**—TMYF

**7:30 p.m.**—Adult Choir

**6:00-6:30 p.m.**—Supper for all Children of Light and adults involved in the Christmas Eve program.

**6:30-7:15 p.m.**—Children of Light practice

**7:15-7:30 p.m.**—Christmas Eve program details

**7:30 p.m.**—Jr. High students practice.

**Saturday, December 17**

**9:00 a.m.**—Women and Girl's Christmas Breakfast.

**6:00-8:00 p.m.**—Night in the Barn.



## Next Sunday, December 18

**9:30 a.m.**—Next Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Advent. The theme is "Reordering Our World". The scriptures are II Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 16:26-38, 46-55; Romans 16:25-27 and Pastor June will be preaching. Items for Mennonite Central Committee School Kits which will be received during the offering: 1 large pencil eraser and 1 ruler—flat plastic indicating both 30cm and 12 inches.

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

**6:00-8:00 p.m.**—Night in the Barn.

## Prayer Requests

*The following items were shared last Sunday, December 4.*

- ★ Carrie Unruh expressed thanks to the children for doing a fine job with participation in the children's time during Advent and she also thanked those who have helped.
- ★ Donavon Schmidt expressed thanks to Jerry Toews for the Christmas carols played during the prelude.
- ★ Arnold Voth commented on the beautiful Christmas decorations which enhance our worship time.
- ★ With the help of Carol Duerksen, the Warren Schmidt family reenacted the 'budget graph' and then with applause, song, cheers and chocolate, we celebrated our budget having been exceeded this year.

Remember to pray for:

- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for First Mennonite Church, Clinton, OK as they host a community appreciation and farewell for Pastor Dave Gerbrandt today.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Thank God for MMN's SOOP volunteers serving as tutors and maintenance workers at the Navajo Brethren in Christ Mission in Bloomfield, N.M. Pray that they may be blessed as they bless others through their ministries.
- ★ Mennonite Education Agency: Remember the listening participants, vocalists and instrumentalists as the Bluffton University Choral Society presents the 116th rendition of Handel's Messiah today. May this message of hope and joy be carried into the community and beyond.