



Christmas

**December 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>, ¼ 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.



*Come Holy Spirit.*

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

*Cover Art:  
Layci Froese*

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Awesome Deeds  
We Do Not Expect



Reordering Our World



**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

December 18, 2011

No. 51



## Gathering

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

PRELUDE

Marcene Entz

WELCOME and CALL TO WORSHIP Worship Leader, Karen Andres

Leader: Come, let us praise the Lord.

**People: Let our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things for us:

Holy is God's name.

**People: God's mercy extends to those who honor him  
from generation to generation.**

Leader: God has brought down powerful rulers and lifted the humble.

**People: God has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.**

**All: Let us magnify the Lord and rejoice in God our Savior.**

\*GATHERING HYMN

*"God is here among us"*

No. 16

\*INVOCATION

Praising

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*"Hark! The glad sound!"*

No. 184

\*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.*

**Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus, 2012:** Now is the time to enroll in the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus. A special invitation is given to men of high school age and older who have never sung or used to sing in KMMC. Check the information posted on the bulletin board in the foyer or visit with Donavon Schmidt, Tabor's contact for KMMC. KMMC is a part of MCC and the Mid-Kansas Relief Sale. "We Sing That Others May Live".

**Reminder:** Annual Reports are due by the end of this month. Email to: [kfunk@tabormennonite.org](mailto:kfunk@tabormennonite.org) or place report in sec. mailbox.

### OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

December 11, 2011

Offering	=	\$3,314.75	Attendance	=	185
Adult S.S.	=	\$ 34.50	Attendance	=	57
Jr. S.S.	=	\$ 10.33	Attendance	=	19

### The Peace Advent Brings

"God has a special concern for the poor, the humble, and those whom others overlook. If we are truly to celebrate Christmas and honor the generous spirit of Mary's *Magnificat*, we must look at ways we can be used by God to "send the hungry away full."

-Adam Hamilton, Journey to Bethlehem



**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 at the Crossroads Credit Union had many tags for gifts this year. Many of those gifts are already wrapped and under the tree, waiting to be distributed to bring joy on Christmas morning to the children who receive them. If you have not returned your gift, remember to do so by tomorrow, December 19, or if you wish to make a donation to help pay for gifts purchased by the Ministerial Alliance, those may also be left at the Credit Union. Checks may be made out to "Goessel Ministerial Alliance." Thank you.



**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.

**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.

**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.

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

**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.**

## Hearing

CHILDREN'S STORY Carrie Unruh

WORSHIP MUSIC "Mary Wrapped a Present" -M. Ostrander Denise Nickel  
Venita Schroeder, Kenton Nickel, Nick Schroeder

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-28

SERMON "Mary" June Thomsen

## Responding

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF RESPONSE "Here I am, Lord" No. 395

SHARING and CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

## Sending

\*HYMN "Fling wide the door, unbar the gate!" No. 186

\*BENEDICTION from Romans 16:25-27

Leader: Now go to God who is able to strengthen us according to the proclamation of Jesus Christ,

**People: according to the mystery that was long kept secret but is now revealed to all,**

Leader: to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

**All: be glory forever! Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE

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## Congregational reading for the Advent candles

Leader: The time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God has come near; the true light which enlightens everyone is coming to the world.

**All: As we anticipate the light, let us be alert and watching for the glorious appearing of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

## Today

Today, the fourth Sunday of Advent, we consider together the awesome response of Mary to the angel's message. What might be our response if Gabriel appeared to us with a holy assignment?

We are so glad you are here with us to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by John and Ruth Peters and Jim and Diana Schmidt.

*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 Janna Duerksen in the nursery during the worship service.

**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.

**6:00-8:00 p.m.**—Night in the Barn (*see details back of bulletin for details*)

## This Week

### December 19-24

Pastor Doug will be on vacation.

### Tuesday, December 20

No Goessel/Peabody/Walton Lunch Bunch

### Wednesday, December 21

**6:30 p.m.**—Faithfull Fitness

**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



### Thursday, December 22

**6:30 p.m.**—*TMYF Christmas Party* (Pizza supper) at Jasmine Brandt's. Bring snacks and White Elephant Gift. (something useful or goofy lying around your house or garage or a gift less than \$5).

### Saturday, December 24

**7:00p.m.**—Christmas Eve Program (*see back of bulletin for details*)

## Next Sunday, December 25

**10:00 a.m.**—Christmas Day Worship, "Celebrating the Savior." The Adult choir will lead the worship service and there will be congregational singing of Christmas songs. In addition to the regular Sunday morning offering a second offering for Joe and Anna Sawatzky, our Mission Partners, will be received.

**No Sunday School**

## Prayer Requests

*The following items were shared last Sunday, December 11.*

- ★ Barb Banman shared a story about a recent experience with the Children of Light choir which she directs and how this is an outreach to children in our community.

Remember to pray for:

- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for the Immigration Task Force as they seek to help congregations grow in understanding of the immigration dilemma and develop resources and initiatives for a Christlike response.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Some members of the Macau Mennonite Church—led by Pastor Treasure Chow and Grace Au—share the joy of the Lord each morning through praise dancing in a park near the church. Pray that those participating may be drawn to the abundant life that Jesus gives. Macau Mennonite Church partners with MMN.
- ★ Mennonite Education Agency: Mennonite Early Childhood Network: "Oh God, forgive us and our rich nation for neglecting our children's basic needs. Help us as adults to model the ways and teaching of Jesus in our gift giving and celebrations of this "Good News" season."

## Announcements

**Lend a hand:** Tabor Food Pantry will be packing gift boxes tomorrow, December 19 beginning at 6pm. Boxes will be delivered on Dec. 20. If you are free at 6 or after, stop by the church and help out. There are about 25 boxes that will be delivered this year. Give of your time to help make Christmas a bit happier for someone else. You may find it makes your Christmas happier too!