



Annual pine car derby - April 6

Tabor Church News

May, 2011

“Easter Joy” (even when you don’t feel it)

Worship Themes

- May 1** - “Doubt and Belief”
Acts 2:14,22-32, Psalm 16,
I Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31
-Karen preaching
- May 8** - “Meeting Jesus on the Road”
Acts 2:14,36-41, Psalm 116,
I Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35
-Corey preaching
- May 15** - “Trusting the Shepherd”
Psalm 23, I Peter 2:19-25,
John 10:1-16
-Corey preaching
- May 22** - “Living Stones!”
Psalm 31:1-5, I Peter 2:4-10,
John 14:1-14
-Corey preaching
- May 29** - “Orphaned and Adopted”
Acts 17:22-31, I Peter 3:13-22,
John 14:15-21
-Corey preaching

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! With these powerful words, Christians all throughout the ages have claimed Easter Joy. There is joy because Christ has conquered the powers of sin and death. There is joy because of Jesus’ amazing love in laying down his life for the world. There is joy in knowing that because He lives, we too can share in resurrection life, both in this life and for eternity. Easter Sunday stands as the most important time in the church year for it boldly claims, “Jesus is Lord!” and that truth brings joy.

But sometimes, in spite of what we affirm in our head, joy feels squelched or even non-existent in our heart. Sometimes we will ourselves to feel Easter Joy, but the struggles of life, the pressures of work, and the burdens of the world steal some of our joy.

If we feel this, I am sure we are not alone. Right after Jesus was raised, he appeared to his disciples, but the scene was not all joy. They did rejoice (Jn. 20:20), but there was also fear, doubt, confusion, and uncertainty. Thomas had questions. Peter still felt terrible about his denial and all the disciples felt some sadness or even anger over the loss of Judas. There was joy, to be sure as Mary believed (20:18) and so did John, but for some, this wasn’t a full fledged Easter Joy Party in John 20. At least it wasn’t as joy-full as it might have been.



Perhaps we feel some of this as we begin this Easter season. We have experienced losses in recent times at Tabor. We are still dealing with Wendy’s tragic death. We may be grappling with personal issues. We may still be adjusting to the news that I might be leaving the Tabor community at some time. I think we all feel it, but it is also hard to name exactly what it is. It feels different for me as well. Was this my last Easter Sunday here at Tabor? The thought of not sharing another Easter Sunday with you all steals some of my Easter joy a little.

And yet, in spite of these emotional times and these days of reflecting and grieving and celebrating, I have come to understand that God accepts our joy, whatever amount we have. I know that each Sunday is like an Easter Sunday; it is timeless and it transcends time and space and even place. I know that wherever two or three gather in the name of Christ on a Sunday morning, THAT place becomes a holy body of Christ, proclaiming Easter joy to those around. And for that, I am glad and I can and will rejoice.

In this Easter season, may you all experience God’s joy, whether a lot or just a little, through Jesus Christ our Lord! Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed!
-Pastor Corey

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 6-10, 8:30-11:45 am
*Come, see that God is good
and discover the many ways that
God provides for our needs.*

Recognizing Our Graduates



Middle School

Goessel Middle School

May 16, 7:00 p.m.
Sarah Booth
Kellen Froese
Christian Graber
Hannah Miller

High School

Goessel High School

May 14, 7:00 p.m.
Michelle Unruh

Newton High School

May 21, 7:00 p.m.
Leah Unruh

College

Bethel College

May 22, 4:00 p.m.
Brittany Dirksen

Friends University

May 7, 1:00 p.m.
Travis Buller
Brett Goerzen

Hesston College

May 8, 9:00 a.m.
Ron Dirksen
Laura Unruh

Kansas State University

May 14
Jason Unruh
Janessa Wedel

Pratt Community College

May 13
James Goerzen

Notre Dame University

May 21
Daniel Unruh

The Season of Easter is just getting started!

On Easter Sunday we re-enacted and celebrated Christ's resurrection and by doing so, we celebrate our own personal experience of the risen Christ. The 40 days that follow Easter Sunday make up the Season of Easter, which ends with Ascension Day (June 2).



After the ðAlleluiasö echoed off, the disciples struggled to grasp what had happened and how Easter was changing their perception of who they were as Christians. On the second Sunday of Easter, we will hear about ðDoubting Thomasö (John 20) and while Jesus understood Thomas's skepticism, he declared that faith without seeing, was blessed. Easter III features the revelation given on the road to Emmaus, (Luke 24) another lesson that teaches us about trust and faith in the absence of tangible evidence.

The fourth Sunday of Easter invites Christians to stay connected with their spiritual leader, Jesus, even though he may be physically removed from the earth. Jesus assures his disciples that his sheep ðwill hear his voice.ö The fifth Sunday invites us to ðnot let our hearts be troubledö (Jn. 14) and the 6th Sunday reminds us that Christians have access to the same power that helped Jesus, the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14).

By the time Jesus ascends on Ascension Day (Lk. 24:44-53), Luke's gospel reports that the disciples' minds were opened and they finally began to understand what their identity, authority and purpose as Christians was really about. And then, we are ready for the next celebration in the church year, Pentecost!

May God give us all grace during this time of Easter to understand our own identity, authority and purpose in light of the resurrection.

Special Sundays in May:

May 8 - Child Dedication Service

May 15 ó Blessing of Graduates ó sending our young people into the world

May 22 ó Baptism of John Goerzen and receiving new members

What's So Amazing About Grace?

If you are wondering how amazing grace is, then come out for a very special musical put on by our Children of Light choir on May 8. The musical is called, ðAmazing Graceö and it follows a girl named Grace through some events of her life. The musical will begin at 6:30pm in the sanctuary (come early and get a good seat) and there will be refreshments following the performance. Children of Light is directed by Barb Banman and accompanied by Michelle Unruh.



*Mother's hold their children's hands for a short while,
but their hearts forever.*

Spotlight on Young Adults

Yvette, Corynn, and I (Kevin) love attending and being involved with the Tabor Community. I have been a member since 1997 and Yvette is currently in the process of transferring her membership from Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church.



Upon returning to this area in 2006, we attended Tabor part-time for a while, but within the last couple of years have decided to make Tabor our home church. We enjoy the many opportunities we have to be involved in church activities and events, and feel very blessed that Corynn will grow up in such a loving church and learn from many amazing teachers and mentors.

I work in Hutchinson as the exercise specialist for Pinnacle Sports Medicine and Orthopedics and coordinate the Sports Performance program. This entails providing sport specific programming to all types of athletes as well as personal training to all ages of adults. Outside of work I enjoy participating in triathlons which takes us on trips all over the country during the summer months. Yvette works part-time from home as an accountant for The Citizens State Bank, does bookkeeping work for a couple area small businesses, and is a full-time stay-at-home mom. When she has free time, she enjoys cross-stitching, jigsaw puzzles, baking, and attempts to keep our flowers and a small vegetable garden alive and weed-free. Our daughter Corynn will be 2 1/2 in June. She enjoys singing, reading books, swinging and playing outside, and having tea parties with her Grandma's.

To find out more of what we are up to, and to see entertaining videos of Corynn, you can always check out our blog at www.yvetteandkevin.blogspot.com.

Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship

The TMYF has been keeping busy this past month. We started off the month with a study on immigration prompted by our experience at snow camp led by Marty Troyer. Then after many rehearsals and lots of dedication from the youth, the Youth Sunday turned out a success. Four youth prepared mini sermons covering the topic of thirst for God, some read scripture and others offered their musical talent. The future of Tabor looks bright with all the various gifts. The next Wednesday the youth headed to the tracks for the annual Pine Car Derby. As the creative cars raced down the tracks, Mark and Carson offered jokes to lift the intense, competitive mood, and insightful commentary that kept everyone laughing. The youth got their first öbig breakö the next week as they performed a modified version of their Youth Sunday at the Moundridge Evangelical Free Church. There was around 70 junior highers and high schoolers in attendance for the event on April 13. The youth continue to mourn the loss of Wendy Goerzen. Our hearts especially go out to the three children. Hayden and Sheldon were just in TMYF in the past few years. We are in prayer for healing for the family.



Western District Conference

Coming Events:

May 1 - Camp Mennoscah Camp Sing, 6:30 pm, Bethel College Memorial Hall, North Newton, KS

May 2 . Camp Mennoscah - end of Early Discount for summer youth camps
Registrations accepted until camps are full.

May 27-28 . %Breaking New Ground . A Church Planting Consultation+, Oklahoma City, OK

June 12-August 5 . Summer Youth Camps, Camp Mennoscah

June 18 . Circle of Grace training, First Mennonite Church, Newton, KS

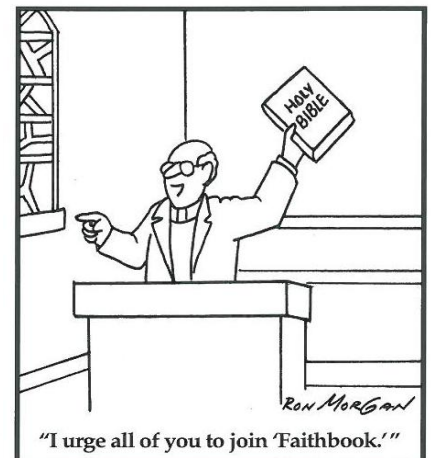
July 4-9 . MC USA Convention, Pittsburgh, PA

July 29-30 . WDC Annual Assembly, Bethel College, North Newton, KS

Camp Mennoscah

Register now for Summer Camps:

Scholarships are again available through the Tabor Mennonite Church Education Committee. Sign up on the bulletin board with your name and the dates you will be attending camp. When registering, mark the box on the form indicating that you are receiving a scholarship from Tabor and a check will be mailed to Camp Mennoscah.



Remembering our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Wendy Goerzen: Wendy Jean Goerzen was born on December 27, 1961 at Bethel Deaconess Hospital in Newton to Clayton and Virginia (Williamson) Harms. She attended grade school at Elbing, junior high at Whitewater and high school at Remington, just outside of White-water. After high school Wendy attended Bethel College, earned a secretarial degree and started working shortly after.

Growing up she attended Grace Hill Mennonite Church and was baptized on April 1, 1979. She became a member of Tabor Mennonite Church on May 26, 1996 after the family moved to the Goessel community and she remained a member there.

Bryan Goerzen met Wendy on November 6, 1981, but they did not start dating until one year later. They were married on September 2, 1984 at Koerner Heights Mennonite Brethren church in Newton. Three children came from this marriage. Brittany was born in 1986, Sheldon in 1988 and Hayden in 1991.

Wendy held numerous jobs but after Hayden was born decided she needed to be a full time mom. This was a great time for her and the children. Two of her favorite jobs were at Hesston College and at Sunset Elementary. Being around college students and helping them kept her young at heart and lively. She had a special sense of knowing which elementary students were hurting inside without them even telling her. She wore many hats at Sunset, from secretary to disciplinarian to part time nurse.

Wendy was always a very active person throughout her life. Growing up at home she helped with the farm work by driving trucks and working in the fields. She became very proficient at water skiing and even owned her own ski boat shortly out of high school. To get back into shape after Brittany was born, Wendy started walking with her in a stroller and as the family grew, eventually worked up to two kids in a double stroller and one in a backpack all at the same time. Walking then turned into running, which became a necessary part of her life and well being from then on. Running also became a way for her to compete with others in many various 2 mile and 5K runs.

Wendy ran her first marathon in Wichita in the fall of 2000. In April of 2001, our family flew to the east coast for the Boston marathon. She finished the race in less than four hours and this was one of the proudest moments in her life.

Wendy, Bryan and the family lived in Newton from 1984 until moving to their current home in 1995, putting up a shed and living there for more than two years while building their house. Being in such tight quarters together made for good family times, especially since there were no walls between us during that time.

Wendy was always concerned more about others than herself. She would tend to the needs of someone else because that made her feel good about herself. Giving and providing to others, especially to her children, gave her the feeling of self worth she needed.

Even though it may not have seemed like it to outsiders, Wendy was a very strong person to keep going on through much adversity that happened in her life. She was able to block things out and still be a good mother and wife, while hurting inside.

Wendy passed away in the evening on March 21, 2011. We now believe that she is with Jesus and is no longer holding any pain inside and can now be free.



In Loving Memory

Bertha Schroeder ~ April 4, 1912 - August 11, 2010
 Rudy Schmidt ~ April 23, 1923 - October 27, 2010
 Milton Goerzen ~ November 23, 1924 - November 4, 2010
 Susan Schmidt ~ July 19, 1907 - December 25, 2010
 Dorothy Schmidt ~ November 10, 1914 - January 9, 2011
 Ernest Goertz ~ May 2, 1922 - February 18, 2011
 Melvin Franzen ~ November 23, 1925 - February 19, 2011
 Wendy Goerzen ~ December 27, 1961 - March 21, 2011

Memorial Services

- ☞ Sunday, May 29, 7:30 p.m. ~ Goessel Mennonite Cemetery
- ☞ Monday, May 30, 10:00 a.m. ~ Tabor Mennonite Cemetery
- ☞ Monday, May 30, 11:00 a.m. ~ Alexanderwohl Mennonite Cemetery