




# Epiphany

**Peace Proclaimed at Christmas**

"Christmas is not a sentimental story. It is the historical drama of God's coming and being present to those oppressed and depressed, those poor and marginalized, those who need justice and righteousness and peace, and who need God's presence and God's deliverance. The joy is real; it is the presence amid humble reality."

-Glen H. Stassen, *Living the Sermon on the Mount*



Cover Art:  
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**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 LVII

January 1, 2012

No. 1



“Embracing a Wide Body”

“... but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” -Isaiah 60:2-3

Gathering

PRELUDE Michelle Unruh

WELCOME and CALL TO WORSHIP Worship Leader, Monica Voth

Leader: Let us arise and shine, for our light has come

**People: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Leader: Where once darkness covered the earth,

**People: people stream to the brightness of a new dawning.**

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around!

**People: We will see and be radiant.**

**All: Our hearts thrill and rejoice, for the light has come!**

\*GATHERING OUR PRAISE *“Longing for light”* inside bulletin

\*PRAYING FOR GOD’S PRESENCE

Praising

\*SINGING OUR PRAISE *“Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming”* No. 211

\*GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING OUR GIFTS Kristin Unruh

**Announcements**

**Thanks** to our youth and their parents who have been "light-bearers" during the Advent season, the Flower Committee for providing fitting decorations, our choirs and all the individuals who have enriched our worship with music.

**Pastor Search Committee:** The search committee has been working on filling out the *Congregational Information Form*. A second form entitled, *Twenty Pastoral Tasks* is to be filled out by members of the congregation. This worksheet is intended to be used by both the congregation and prospective pastors. It is designed to identify both the perceived needs and expectations of the congregation and the priorities and vision of the pastoral candidate. Members will receive this form either by e-mail or in their mailboxes by January 1. The committee would like to encourage everyone to fill out the form and return it to the box in the foyer by January 15. Pray with us as we work together to discern a new lead pastor for Tabor Church. -Search committee members: Ilona Abrahams, Bill Froese, Carrie Friesen, Rosie Jantz, Carrie Schmidt, Michael Unruh, Bill Voth.

**Adult Sunday School in January:** Our congregational discussion during the Sunday School hour will continue on January 15 (Peace), January 22 (Community Outreach), and January 29 (Facilities). Please plan to participate. Your input is needed and valued!

**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.

**OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE**

**December 24, 2011 - Christmas Eve Service**  
Offering = \$1,306.25 Attendance = 272  
*MCC Newborn Kits*

**December 25, 2011- Sunday Morning Service**  
Offering = \$5,113.00 Attendance = 152

**Christmas Day Special Offering**  
Offering = \$1,155.00  
*Mission Partners, Joe and Anna Sawatzky*

## Prayer Requests

Remember to pray for:

- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, Kansas, as they bid farewell to Pastor Alden Dyck, who is retiring. Pray for Pastor Alden and Joan in new opportunities for ministries. Pray for God's guidance for the Search Committee.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Senegal, formerly a quiet and stable country in West Africa, has experienced violent demonstrations due to political discontent and frequent power cuts. Pray for peaceful and fair elections next month. Pray also that Mennonite Mission Network personnel and partners model Jesus as the Prince of Peace.
- ★ Mennonite Education Agency: Many Bethel College students and faculty will be traveling during the January interterm. Pray for safe journeys and meaningful experiences for those going to China, Europe and Lesotho, and for faculty members, Allison McFarland, Lisa Thimm and William Eash.

## Hearing

CHILDREN'S STORY		Carrie Unruh and Leah Unruh
SPECIAL MUSIC	"A Living Prayer" -Krause	Laura Unruh
SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i>	Anna Unruh
REFLECTION		Laura Unruh
SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Ephesians 3:1-2</i>	Duane Unruh
REFLECTION		James Goerzen

## Responding

SILENT REFLECTION		
HYMN OF RESPONSE	"Lord, you sometimes speak"	No. 594
PRAYER OF CONFESSION		Kristin Unruh
SHARING and CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER		

## Sending

*SENDING HYMN	<i>"Joy to the World"</i>	No. 318
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### \*BENEDICTION

Leader: This grace has been given to us:  
to reveal the mystery hidden for ages.

**People: So that through the church the wisdom of God  
in its rich variety might be made known.**

**All: *Our light has come! Let us share what we have  
received with boldness and confidence.***

### \*POSTLUDE



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

## **This Week**

**Wednesday, January 4**

**No Regular Wednesday Evening Activities**

**6:00 p.m.—Family Pizza Night. See back of bulletin for details.**

## **Today**

Today is Epiphany Sunday. Like the wise men, may we follow the light which is Christ and seek to know The Light in our hearts. Our theme is "Embracing a Wide Body" and we welcome our college students as they lead the service, with thanks to Michael Unruh for planning the worship.

We are so glad you are here with us to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Grace Regier and Van, Brenda, Viola and Trevor 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 Carrie Friesen in the nursery during the worship service.

**10:45—Fellowship Time.** Christmas goodies and finger foods in the fellowship hall for all while we visit and share together. No Sunday school.

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.

## **Next Sunday, January 8**

**9:30 a.m.—**Next Sunday we will be blessed with music from the Elbiata Singers from Goessel High School. We will also celebrate communion, and consider together our basis for congregational community from Colossians, chapter 1. Pastor June will be preaching.

**10:45 a.m.—**Sunday School for everyone. All adults and high school youth are invited to join in a discussion in Fellowship Hall. We will work together at discovering goals regarding aspects of "Community - Tabor Style."