

April 15, 2007

“Celebrating Easter Joy”

Holy Hilarity Sunday

*“God has brought laughter to me; whoever hears will laugh with me.
-Genesis 21:6*

Gathering Our Joy and Jokes

PRELUDE

Diana Schmidt

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Worship Leader, Rosie Jantz

From Psalm 100 - The Message

Leader: On your feet now - applaud Yahweh!

Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into his presence.

People: Know this: Yahweh is God, and God, Yahweh.

He made us; we didn't make him.

Leader: Enter with the password: “Thank you!” Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him. Worship him.

**People: For Yahweh is sheer beauty, all-generous in love,
loyal always and ever.**

All: Amen and again with a smile I say, Amen!!

Praising Our Living Savior

*GATHERING OUR PRAISE *“Praise the Lord, sing Hallelujah”* No. 50

*PRAYING FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

*SINGING OUR PRAISE

“We will dance”

No. 27CS

“Shine, Jesus shine”

No. 22CS

*HANDSHAKES, HIGH FIVES AND HUGS *Please pass the welcome pads*

WORSHIPING WITH OUR OFFERINGS AND DEDICATING THEM

Your smiles are encouraged during the offering to represent your glad and generous heart.

CHILDREN'S STORY

Marlene Bogard

LAUGHING WITH THE PSALMIST

Doug Krehbiel

From Psalm 92 and 105 - The Message

REJOICING IN THE RESURRECTION

No. 272

“Christ is risen! Shout hosanna” (tune of Joyful, joyful)

CONFESSING OUR SOMBER WAYS

Sometimes, God, we do not expect too much from you; we expect too little.

Our lives are not filled with “great expectations.”

Sometimes your promises seem so outlandish, so unlikely as to be laughable.

We are afraid that your promise, like our promises, may be broken

and we are hesitant to be so vulnerable.

And sometimes we are afraid they may come true and demand too much of us.

Help us to cling to your promises and laugh with joy when impossibilities come true through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC Michael Unruh and Bethel College Friends

Proclaiming God's Word

HEARING GOD'S PLAYFUL OLD TESTAMENT STORY

Genesis 18-21 Carol Duerksen and Maynard Knepp

SPECIAL MUSIC "*God is no fool*" Doug and Jude Krehbiel

HEARING STORIES FROM JOHN 21:1-19

Go Fish Michael Unruh and Jim Schmidt

Mary and Martha at the Market Karen Andres and Marcene Entz

SERMON "*An Undaunted Divine Comedy*" Corey Miller

Responding to God's Word

*SONG OF JOY "*Joy to the world*" No. 318

JOKE TELLING AND EASTER STORIES

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

*SONG "*All hail the power of Jesus' name*" No. 285

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Today

Christ is Risen and God has the last laugh! Today is Holy Humor Sunday, where the Easter laugh is welcomed and humor is encouraged. Sometimes called "Bright Sunday" the Sunday after Easter was observed by the church as "*days of joy and laughter*" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

We invite you to laugh with us today and to celebrate the joy of our resurrected Lord. Please have your jokes ready to tell during the sharing time.

A warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us today. This morning you were greeted by Rudy & Nola Schmidt and Fred & Brenda Schmidt. *Please take time to fill out our friendship pad.* Come back & join us again soon.

Childcare is available during worship today.

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.

10:45a.m.—Sunday School for children through grade six.

WDC Consultant Lee Lever will be with us during the Sunday school hour to discuss the findings of the pastor/congregational review. All members and high school and junior highers are invited to listen to the report.

3:00 p.m.—The **ordination service for Marlene Bogard** will be held and we invite everyone to the party. Marlene serves the Western District Conference as Minister of Christian Nurture and Resource Library Director. Come and celebrate God's activity in Marlene's life. There will be refreshments following the service.

7:00 p.m.—All who have signed up to be a part of the study, “**Return to the Earth**”, are invited to come to our introductory session led by Karen Kaufman Wall in the fellowship hall.

Frog: Time’s Fun when you’re having flies!

This Week

Monday, April 16

7:00 p.m.—Willing Helpers. Our Exchange Students will share.

Tuesday, April 17

7:00 p.m.—Deacon’s Meeting at Jim and Diana Schmidt home.

Wednesday, April 18

7:00-8:00 p.m.—FaithWeaver Friends, Youth Explorers, TGYF

Thursday, April 19

7:00 p.m.—Worship Fellowship Meeting with Trustees.

—Education Committee Meeting with Stewardship Committee.

Saturday, April 21

7:00 a.m.—Final Men’s Bible Study. Hebrews 12.

Next Sunday, April 22

9:30 a.m.—Next Sunday is the second Sunday of Easter. The theme is “It is the Lord”. Texts are Acts 9:1-6, Revelation 5:11-14 and John 21:12-19 and Karen will be preaching.

10:45 a.m.—Sunday School for children.

Plan to stay after the worship service for a short congregational meeting to conduct a vote to extend an invitation to Corey for another 3 year term.

*Don’t let your worries get the best of you;
remember, Moses started out as a basket case.*

Announcements

THE OFFERING from the Goessel Community Good Friday Service was \$505. Half of that amount will go to the Joyful Noise Community Child Care and half will remain with the Goessel Ministerial Alliance.

START YOUR ENGINES: Faithweaver Friends and Youth Explorers will have their Annual Pine Car Race on April 25 starting at 7 p.m. All family and friends are welcome. We will have snacks and drinks after the race. The kids can come early to weigh their cars.

COMING APRIL 28: GIFT DISCERNMENT WORKSHOP: Brenda Glanzer Lillian and Brian Stucky will be leading a workshop on Gifts Discernment within a congregation. These consultants have offered this workshop many times and have many insights to offer. We are inviting the whole church to attend this event. I believe everyone who comes will have a better understanding of spiritual gifts and will discover how we can continue to cultivate and call out spiritual gifts in our congregation. The workshop will begin at 8:30am and go until 11:30am. There is no cost, but you need to sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

GOT YOUR TAXES DONE? A man wrote a letter to the government tax department confessing to having cheated on his income tax in a prior year. *"I haven't been able to sleep well, so I am enclosing \$100. If I still can't sleep at night, I'll send the other \$100."*

ANNUAL SPRING WORK DAY: Set aside Saturday, May 5 to come out to help at Tabor's Spring work day. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. for those who want an early start, but come anytime throughout the morning. There will be something for everyone to do, young, not so young and in between!

TABLE STORIES: Monday, May 14, 6:30 p.m. Salad supper for all women and girls. Enjoy a meal at a uniquely decorated table and hear the stories about each table's decorations or collections. Different women have been asked to decorate a dinner table for the evening in their own style, with a collection that they might have or any theme they wish. Come and see and eat at one of the tables. There will even be a special table that little girls will love. PLEASE BRING A SALAD FOR THE MEAL AND SIGN UP FOR THE EVENT ON THE BULLETIN BOARD. If you have questions ask Karen or Nancy.

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said,

"See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

KANSAS MENNONITE MEN'S CHORUS CONCERTS: TODAY, 7pm at Central Community Church 6100 W. Maple, Wichita; Sunday, April 22, 7pm Presser Hall, Bethany College, Lindsborg. Offerings for MCC.

JOYFUL NOISE COMMUNITY CHILD CARE: It's not too late to not come to the JOYFUL NOISE LUAU! There is still time to take part in the biggest non-event of the season. Simply return your response card and party "gift" to Joyful Noise or one of the sand buckets located in the foyer. Then sit back and imagine the best party of the year.

AGAPE FUNDRAISER: Everyone is invited to an evening of fun and fellowship at the Goessel Senior Center on Friday, April 27. A barbeque pork supper catered by Bob and Connie Boese will be served at 6:00 p.m.

This fundraiser will feature music by Ann Dunn, violinist and Wanda Ratzlaff, pianist. Cost is by your generous donation. Call 620-367-2275 to make your reservations to support the GSC.

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Parents of children through junior high age can enjoy a weekend away on July 27-29, when 300 or more persons from Western District and South Central Conference churches gather for annual conference at the Doubletree Warren Place Hotel in Tulsa, OK. Separate programs for all these age groups are being planned.

ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS:

Camp Mennoscah see posted information for the following:

> *Men and Boys Retreat* at Camp Mennoscah, April 20-22.

> *The Good Ole Days* is this year's theme for Retirees' Relaxation Retreat to be held April 23-25.

> The *Just fOr You (JOY)* retreat is May 27-28. Focus: friendship with God and each other. Registration forms posted.

> Two *volunteers* for a two year commitment to fill the positions of

1) full-time Maintenance/ Grounds Assistant

2) full-time Food Service Manager/Office Assistant

Volunteers will be part of the Hutchinson MVS unit. See details.

Mission and Congregational Life: a class by Keith Harder offered by **AMBS-Great Plains Extension**, June 11-22. See poster.

deo team letters from Denver and Phoenix

Southern Hills Mennonite Church **50th anniversary** celebration June 2-3.

Bethel College Alumni Banquet, May 19, 6pm, Memorial Hall. Reservation deadline May 9.

Cost \$16. Details posted.

Peace Connections book study: *Coming Back to Life* by Joanna Macy, Ap.25, May 2, 9, 16, 10-11:30 am., 612 Main in Newton.

Earth Day Adventure Walk, April 22, 2-4 pm. Meet at the Sand Creek Trailhead on the Bethel College campus. Sponsored by Kauffman Museum. Details are posted.

Free concert by steelpan artist and drummer Phil Hawkins at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita, as part of their **75th anniversary** celebration on Friday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Benefit for KIPCOR's Community Mediation Center. Full dinner with entertainment by Arthur Marks. Reservations are required by April 23rd. Ticket prices and details posted.

God's Peace: It can be lived out in your life:

"We're the first to admit that our God isn't logical, our religion isn't reasonable, and our Savior isn't realistic. Here is our message: we're fools for God; come join us under the big top."

- Steven James,

Sailing Between the Stars (Revell Books, 2006)