

December 23, 2007

Love: Joseph's Love

*"He went to be registered with Mary,
to whom he was engaged and who was expecting . . ."*
-Luke 2:5

Gathering

- PRELUDE Jerry Toews
- ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Hannah, Isaac, Jessie and David Perry
"Love is a candle" vv.1-4 No. 148CS
- WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP Worship Leader, Carol Duerksen
Leader: For God so loved the world that he gave his only son.
German Exchange Students:
Gott ist die Liebe, lasst mich erlsoen
Gott ist die Liebe, er liebt auch mich
Drum sag ich noch einmal, Gott ist die Liebe
Gott ist die Liebe, Er liebt auch mich.

Praising God

- *SINGING OUR PRAISE *"Joy to the World"* No. 318
- *INVOCATION
- *SINGING OUR PRAISE *"O, beautiful star of Bethlehem"* Insert
- *GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *Please pass the welcome pads*
- CENTENNIAL MOMENT *"Star of the East"* Adult Choir
- OFFERING OUR GIFTS IN WORSHIP
Pass items for MCC Relief Kits to the center aisle

- CHILDREN'S STORY Brandon Unruh
- SPECIAL MUSIC *"Born, Born in Bethlehem"* Adult Choir

Hearing God's Word

- OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 35:1-10* Myron Voth
- HYMN *"What Child is this?"* No. 215
- *HEARING THE GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-7* Bob and Erlene Unruh
- SPECIAL MUSIC *"Rise up that Holy Night"* Adult Choir
- SERMON *"A Father's Love"* Corey Miller
- SONG *"Love came down at Christmas"* No. 208

Responding

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *"Once In Royal David's City"* Adult Choir

SILENT MEDITATION

RESPONSE HYMN *"Away in a Manger"* No. 194

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Sending

*HYMN OF HOPE *"Nun ist sie erscheinen"* v.1 German, v.1 English No. 52CS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Today

Most of the time we see pictures of Mary holding the Christ child, but today we remember that Joseph also chose to love this child that wasn't really his, but he loved him as his own. The gift of a father's love is the message of Christmas.

We are so glad you are here to receive God's love today!

A warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us today. This morning you were greeted by Carrie & Justin Sommerfeld and Brandon, Kristi, Kylee, Audessi, Porclein & Braxton Unruh. *Please take time to fill out our friendship pad.* Come back & join us again soon.

Childcare is available during worship today.

In the Advent banner, the blue and purple colors reflect the moods of watching and waiting for the Christ Child. The angel Gabriel has come to announce that Mary will conceive a son who will be called *Jesus*, for he will save the people from their sins.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ADVENT HELPERS

- Kellen Froese, who designed and created the bulletin cover.
- Ron Dirksen, who created and assembled the barn

No Sunday School Class, but we have Refreshments!

All are invited to the basement for a time of fellowship and refreshments following the worship service.

Jill Brandt will be doing **blood pressure checks** in the library following the worship service.

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.

This Week

PASTOR'S ON VACATION

- Pastor Karen will be on vacation from December 24 - January 2.
- Pastor Corey will be on vacation in South Dakota from December 26 - December 29.

Call Pastor Karen in case of emergency.

Wednesday through Friday: Irregular office hours.

Monday, December 24

6:30 p.m.—Children arrive and go to classrooms.
Sonbeams and Children of Light practice.

7:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service.

Tuesday, December 25

10:00 a.m.—Christmas Day Worship Service.

Wednesday, December 26

No Wednesday evening activities.

Saturday, December 29

No Men's Bible Study.

Next Sunday, December 30

NEXT SUNDAY is the first Sunday of Christmas. The theme is "***Emmanuel: God is with us***". Our college students will be helping to lead the worship service. The scripture texts are Hebrews 2:10-18, Isaiah 7:14-17, Luke 2:22-38 and Michael Unruh will be preaching.

10:45 a.m.—Sunday School for everyone

Announcements

LADIES/GIRLS CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST rescheduled for January 5, 9am.

NEEDED: DEVOTIONALS FOR THE DEVOTIONAL BOOK! The devotionals are coming in, just like presents for Christmas. We have 8 now, but we need more!! Send any devotionals to: cmiller@tabormennonite.org.

ANNUAL REPORTS are welcome now and if possible, need to be in no later than January 6. Place in the secretary's mail box, or if possible, email your report to kfunk@tabormennonite.org.

A NEW YEAR'S TREAT is a musical for youth (and adults) called "**The Upside Down King**" - with script by Carol Duerksen (Tabor Mennonite, Newton, KS) and music by Doug (WDC Conference youth minister) and Jude Krehbiel, (aka Road Less Travelled) (Tabor Mennonite). High school youth and their friends are especially invited to put this on your January calendars! Choose one of six sites to attend: Jan. 6 (6:30 p.m.) First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, NE; Jan. 12 (6:30 p.m.) First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, KS; Jan. 13 (6:30 p.m.) Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS; Jan. 19 (4:00 p.m.) Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas, TX; Jan. 20 (6:30 p.m.) Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS; Jan. 27 (6:00 p.m.) Grace Mennonite Church, Enid, OK.

BOOK REVIEWS Special Sales: 50% off on Christmas, Fiction and Cook books - Dec 24. 50% off most books, all categories, Dec 26-31. Profits go to local charities. Store located at 707 N Main in Newton.

EVERYONE INTERESTED IN AGRI-URBAN, and it's programs is invited to an appreciation dinner on January 19 at 6:00 p.m., in the Eden Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall, 4 miles west and 2 miles north of Moundridge, Kansas. Please make reservations with Van Schmidt at 367-3800 by January 6. An interesting program is planned.

AGING: How are you and your family dealing with the issue of aging relatives? A new documentary from Mennonite Media/Mennonite Mission Network, Embracing Aging: Families Facing Change will air on ABC TV stations (at their discretion) beginning Jan. 6, 2008. For information on the program and aging, go to www.EmbracingAging.com and click on "Airdates" or call 800-999-3534.

ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS:

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS from John and Mary Gaeddert, Ray and Brenda Martin Hurst, Jim and Judy Schrag & Bethel College.

Note from the **JAMES WALTNER FAMILY** along with his life sketch.

Newsletter from Mission Partners **JOE AND ANNA SAWATZKY**.

GI Rights **TRAINING WORKSHOP**, Feb. 2-3, 2008 in Manhattan.

Take Time to be Aware

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehem's of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present.

"An old abbot was fond of saying, 'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.'

"The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos—the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to us all."

—Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*, p. 196

Tabor Mennonite Church

December 24, 2007—7:00 p.m.

PRELUDE Cynthia Goerzen, Carson Voth, Karina Brandt,
Luke Unruh, Elizabeth Alderfer, Layci Froese,
Jessie Perry, Reece Hiebert, Mark Schmidt,
Rachel Miller, Hannah Miller, Kellen Froese

WELCOME Pastor Karen Andres

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN *"Joy to the World"* No. 318

OFFERING AND PRAYER Cynthia Goerzen & Hannah Miller
Make checks payable to Tabor Mennonite Church-earmark MCC

A IS FOR ANGEL - AN ALPHABET CHRISTMAS
by Kenneth Morse and Joyce Miller

OLD TRADITIONS Carol Duerksen and Helen Schmidt

SONG *"O Come All Ye Faithful"* Children of Light

LETTERS A-C Kindergarten and Grade 1

SONG *"Away in a Manger"* Sonbeams and Preschool

LETTERS D-H Grades 2 and 3

SONG *"While By My Sheep"* Sonbeams

LETTER I Grades 4 & 5

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* No. 191

LETTERS J-L

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN *"What Child is This"* No. 215

LETTERS M-P

SONG *"O Come to My Heart"* Children of Light

LETTERS Q-S Junior High

SONG *"Silent Night"* Doug Krehbiel and Rollin Schmidt

LETTERS T-W

SONG *"Praise to the Infant King/For Unto Us"* Children of Light

LETTERS X-Y

LETTER Z Congregation

Z is for the
Zest that marks the
Zeal of Christmas close to Christ
at Christmastime.

CELTIC DANCE OF JOY Jasmine Brandt
"For Unto Us" -Points of Grace

VOLUNTEER OFFERINGS Poems and Songs

CANDLELIGHTING

Congregation and Choirs
"Peace, Peace/Silent Night"

Congregation joins children's choir for Silent Night, vs.1.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Corey Miller

POSTLUDE

The offering this evening is for Mennonite Central Committee's relief kit project. We also dedicate the supplies collected during Advent. MCC takes these ordinary, but necessary things that are donated and delivers them to people in emergencies and with chronic needs around the world. They are valuable gifts both for the receiver and giver.

Thanks to Carol Duerksen/script; Sunday school teachers; Mark Voth/sound; Rachel Miller/cover art; Pam Abrahams/Barb Banman, choir directors; Sara Adrian/Susan Merrifield, accompanists; Adult Choir; Christian Ed. Committee/sacks; Jr. Highers & Grades 4 & 5/letter illustrations; Youth/Nativity; Sharleen Francis/Karen Andres, directors.

Tabor Mennonite Church

December 25, 2007 — 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day

Light: Jesus Shines

"The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world . . ."
-John 1:9

Gathering

PRELUDE Russell Adrian

CALL TO WORSHIP Shepherds
Jim Schmidt, Austin Unruh, Josh Booth

WELCOME Worship Leader, Krista Graber

OPENING WORDS

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news.

People: We receive good news of great joy today, words of peace, a message of salvation.

Leader: Break forth into singing, for God has comforted the people, brought bloom to the wasteland and light to a people walking in darkness.

People: Word of the infant born in Bethlehem is our good news!

Leader: Christ is born. The prophet's hopes are made flesh and all our longings are made human in joy.

ALL: Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is born today!

Praising God

*SINGING OUR PRAISE "O come, all ye faithful" No. 212
Brass: Dave & Melissa Kalinoff, Russ & Sara Adrian, Janna Duerksen

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Carson Voth

*INVOCATION

*OFFERING OUR PRAISE "Hark! the herald angels sing" No. 201

OFFERING OUR GIFTS IN WORSHIP
Potter House Mennonite Church-checks payable to Tabor Mennonite Church

CHILDREN'S STORY Kim Funk

Hearing God's Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 2:1-5* Doug Krehbiel

PRAYER FOR PEACE		Insert
SONG	<i>"Peace before us"</i>	Insert
NEW TESTAMENT READING	<i>Hebrews 1:1-4</i>	
SPECIAL MUSIC		Melissa Kalinoff
*HEARING THE GOSPEL	<i>John 1:1-14</i>	
SONG	<i>"Oh Beautiful Star"</i>	Hannah and Rachel Miller
MEDITATION	<i>"Finding Jesus"</i>	Corey Miller Luke 2:8-20
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>"Christmas Medley"</i>	Doug and Jude Krehbiel

Responding

CANTICLE FOR CHRISTMAS

Leader: Blessed are you, O Christ, our God;

People: you were before time began, and came to the world to save us.

Leader: Blessed are you, Son of righteousness;

People: you shine with the Father's love and illumine the whole universe.

Leader: Blessed are you, Son of Mary;

People: born a child, you shared our humanity.

Leader: Blessed are you, son of David;

People: Born to rule, you received gifts from the wise men.

Leader: Blessed are you son of Man;

People: Baptised by John, you saved us from ourselves.

Leader: Blessed are you, heavenly King;

People: teaching and preaching, healing and comforting, you proclaimed the kingdom.

Leader: With all the voices of heaven, we celebrate the coming of our Savior.

People: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

Leader: With all the creatures on earth, we sing and dance at your birth.

ALL: Praise and glory to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER	Concluded by the Lord's Prayer
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*HYMN OF HOPE	<i>"Nun Ist Sie Erschienen"</i> No. 52CS
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Sending

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN OF HOPE	<i>"Joy to the world"</i> No. 318
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*POSTLUDE