



Pitching in to meet budget.

Tabor Church News

December, 2012

“Longing”

There are many things that we long for. In this time of drought, we long for rain. In times of distress, we long for peace. In times of despair, we long for hope. In times of broken relationships, we long for restoration. In times of sadness, we long for joy.

In a world where many things are not right, we long for everything to be made right: in our world, in our relationships, and in our personal lives.

Advent is a time of longing. During Advent, we focus on our longing for Christ: for Christ’s light to warm our cold hearts, and for Christ’s mercy to flood through us. This Advent, we will focus on these two themes of light and water as we wait expectantly for the birth of Christ and the inauguration of God’s kingdom here on earth.

Each Sunday we will light Advent candles while we sing *Nun Ist Sie Erschienen*. This song focuses on Christ’s light streaming into our world through the darkness bringing salvation. The Advent candles are a reminder of Christ’s light. In the midst of cold darkness, Christ shines forth, bringing warmth and hope.

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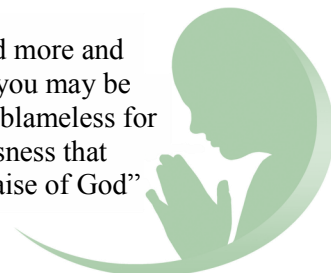
Our overall theme for Advent this year is “Flood of Mercy.” Each Sunday, we will respond to the morning message with a pouring confession. During this time, we will pour out the things that hold us back from accepting God’s peace. After we have poured out, we are ready to receive God’s mercy poured back into us. Only God does not stop pouring when our cup is full, but rather pours into us until we overflow God’s mercy. We become agents of God’s mercy in how we live.

Even as we long and wait for Christ to come again to set things right on earth, we can become Christ’s light and God’s mercy here and now. We can allow Christ’s light to shine through us, and we can overflow God’s mercy in all aspects of our lives.

God turns our inner longing into outward faithfulness. May it be so this Advent and Christmas season.

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God” (Philippians 1:9-11).

~Pastor Phil



Worship Themes

Dec. 2 - Advent 1:

Wading in faithfulness

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalms 25:1-10;
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
Pastor Karen preaching

Dec. 9 - Advent 2: Refined by fire

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
Pastor Phil preaching

Dec. 16 - Advent 3: Repentance, renewal, restoration

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
Pastor Phil preaching

Dec. 23 - Advent 4: Carried on a flood of reversal

Micah 5:2-5a; Psalms 80:1-7;
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45
Adult Choir program.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Service

Luke 2:1-21
Pastor Phil preaching

Dec. 30 - Sunday after Christmas:

Rejoice in his rain

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalms 148;
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52
Pastor Phil preaching

Jan. 6 - Epiphany:

Illuminating the world

Isaiah 60:1-6; 72:1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Pastor Phil preaching



Opportunities to Give



The Goessel Ministerial Alliance is again sponsoring the "Christmas Giving Tree" project for our community. The giving tree is an opportunity for our community to come together and help families who may struggle to provide gifts for their children this Christmas. This year the tree is at the Citizens State Bank in Goessel. Please wrap your gift(s) and return to the bank by Monday, December 17. The Goessel Ministerial Alliance will deliver the gifts in time for Christmas. Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas with families in our community!



School Kits During Advent

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (about 8.5 x 10.5 in. and 70-80 sheets)
- 4 unsharpened pencils
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large pencil eraser
- 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; indicating both 30cm and 12 inches)



During the Christmas season, children as well as adults will have the opportunity to give to MCC for water projects in developing countries.



Christmas at Tabor

Christmas Breakfast

A Christmas Breakfast for Tabor ladies and girls is Saturday, **December 8 at 9:00 a.m.** in the fellowship hall. Our special guests giving the program is a trio, "Just Friends". We will have an offering. If you have a Prayer Sister you will let her know who you are with a gift.

Night in the Barn

The annual living nativity event by Tabor's Youth is **December 15-16, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** on the farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen. The program will include unique perspectives on the Christmas story and Christmas carols. 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.

Adult Choir Program

On Sunday morning, **December 23 at 9:30 a.m.** we will have a special service featuring the Adult Choir as they lead us in song and script. The theme is "Carried on the Flood of Reversal - Bethlehem Bound".

Christmas Eve

The Christmas Eve program on **December 24 at 7:00 p.m.** will feature the story of the Christmas Donkey and her perspective on what happened in Bethlehem on that special night. There will be original music by Doug Krehbiel; special sharing and singing by children as well as high schoolers, young adults, and adults; and a candle light service. An offering will be received for shipping cost for the school kits collected throughout Advent.

Christmas Day

Jesus is born! Celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Day. **Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.** Share the joy of Christmas morning! Offering will be received to support the MCC Water Project.

Sunday after Christmas

We will have our annual social hour in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service on **December 30**. Bring Christmas goodies to share as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season together. No Sunday school.



Water is Life!

A person can survive for up to two months without food, but will die in a few days without water.

Water is life - but for many families around the world, this basic need is out of reach.

"When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them."

(Isaiah 41:57) -from



Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship

As the youth group has settled in to our new year we have found that our numbers have increased to a total of 16 youth who regularly attend. It has been interesting to see our attendance grow as we continue to learn and grow in our faith together. To start the month the youth began a two week lesson study on gender differences and dating from a Christian perspective. It was interesting for the youth to hear the different points of view that opposite genders have when it comes to dating and relationships. The following week the youth group traveled to the Unruh farm, (Kylee's parents Brandon and Kristi), to splatter paint panels that will be put into the new youth room as part of our remodeling project. While we did get carried away with our creativity and wanted to show off our artistic skills we eventually reached a finished product that was almost 100% splatter paint. At the end of the month the youth celebrated Thanksgiving by helping to lead music at the celebration service on Wednesday as well as contribute to the input on what we are thankful for. After the service the youth met up to play a few games and spend some good bonding time together.

-Reece Hiebert, Reporter

Willing Helpers

Anna Yoder who works with Maynard Knepp with the Newton MCC supplies, gave some interesting facts on MCC at the Willing Helpers meeting on November 19. She told how MCC is helping countries with financial and material needs. She gave some examples of how the money we give to MCC is used, such as teaching the people how to grow their own food, get fresh water with water wells, etc. We also enjoyed music provided by a trio of Jude Krehbiel (also works at MCC), Rosie Jantz and Elaine Unruh. Denise Nickel gave a devotional on "Write the Vision". The ladies were reminded to sign up for the Christmas Breakfast on Saturday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m. and remember their Prayer Sister with a small gift.



Christmas Shopping Ideas!!

Consider the Store at **Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum** as one of your Places to Shop this season. Most items are discounted 10-50% through Dec. 22. You'll find books on Mennonite history, Kansas history, agricultural history, cookbooks, children's books, plush finger puppets, Quail Creek Copper decorative metal items, locally made reproduction vintage aprons, and more. The store is also a source for Glen Ediger's new book, *Leave No Threshing Stone Unturned*. Special store hours through December 22: Noon-4 p.m., Thursday through Saturday.

Peace Connections has some wonderful new inventory in stock for gift-giving this season, including puzzles, candles, soaps, handmade gifts, inexpensive greeting cards and stocking stuffers. All proceeds go to support Peace Connections initiatives like Circles of Hope & Kids Summer Food. During December, the store at 612 N. Main Street will be open Monday-Wednesday, 10 am - 5 pm, Thursday 10 am - 7:30 pm, Saturday 10 am - 2 pm, closed Friday and Sunday.



Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Kathleen Sue Schmidt was born November 6, 1945 in Goessel, KS to Rudy and Luella Schmidt. Kathy was the oldest of four children, with brothers Fred and Jim, and sister Mary following. On June 2, 1963, as a young adult, Kathy was baptized by Rev. James Waltner and received into membership into the Tabor Mennonite Church.



As Rudy and Luella brought Kathy to their home to begin their family, Luella as a young mother started noticing differences in Kathy's development. Kathy was soon diagnosed with Down's Syndrome. Thus began a journey. In 1946 options were limited. Rudy and Luella were advised by physicians to admit Kathy into an institution in either Winfield or Topeka. Luella took a trip to Winfield for a visit. After that, she came home and told Rudy that they were going to raise their child at home. With the help of a supportive immediate family and the greater church family Kathy was able to achieve her potential and share her gifts with those around her.

At the age of five Kathy attended the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita where she learned to talk. Kathy soon began school with her brother Fred in the nearby Emmethal Grade School. There she began a life-long friendship with many people; especially neighbor Marcia (Klaassen) Hiebert. Realizing that a public school was not the best educational setting for Kathy, but seeing her willingness to learn, Rudy and Luella began looking for other options. They found other families of disabled children and formed the Northview Opportunity School, which was later called Northview Developmental Services. The school was modeled after public schools. Kathy attended this school regularly until the mid-1970's.

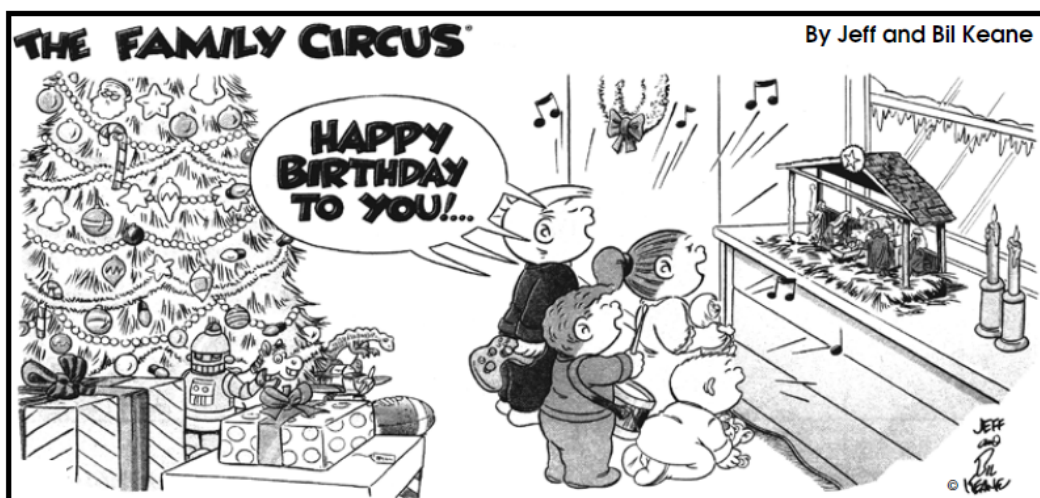
Life on the dairy farm meant working side by side with family every day. Kathy had her responsibilities of daily chores. She wasn't given anything above her abilities, but was expected, just as her siblings were, to carry through with her part of the family farm. Kathy loved routine and any change in the routine was met with great resistance!

Tabor Church and the Goessel community loved Kathy for Kathy. She loved children and children loved her. At Tabor Church she helped Luella teach the 2-yr. old Sunday school class. When Jim Schrag came to Tabor in 1973 Kathy met his wife Judy and a strong friendship was formed. Judy soon discovered Kathy's love of children. This presented Kathy with a new opportunity to serve the church. Every Sunday morning she would sit with Judy and help care for their three young daughters.

In 1977 Luella was diagnosed with Lymphoma. This would set off a chain of events that would further Kathy's growth as an independent individual. In 1984 she had the opportunity to begin working at Bethesda Home. That August, Kathy moved into her own apartment in Goessel and began 25 years of employment with Bethesda. In 2004 Kathy received the "Achievement in the Workplace" award from InterHab – the oldest and largest statewide association of developmental disability service providers.

Throughout Kathy's life, family was very important. Her steadfast faith gave her strength and hope in the passing of each loved one. She was very excited when, in 1994, she welcomed her new "Step-Mom Nola" into the family. The arrival of a new baby brought her great joy! Each of her nieces and nephews felt very loved by Aunt Kathy. Hugs and backrubs flowed freely from Kathy's hands. These past few years Kathy continued to enjoy attending church on Sundays, and going out to eat. Her health began to fail at the end of September. On Tuesday, November 6th Kathy had a wonderful day and evening of celebrating her 67th birthday! What a gift that was! Six days later on November 12th she crossed over to her Heavenly home where we are confident she was welcomed with open arms!

Words cannot begin to express the gratitude the family feels towards Tabor Church as her home of faith and Bethesda Home as her extended family and wonderful caregivers. The love and the care that she received throughout her lifetime was a true gift. Kathy taught all of us how to love unconditionally.



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