



## Christmas at Tabor

**Adult Choir Program:** On Sunday morning, **Dec. 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 program on **Dec. 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. An offering will be received for MCC to help with 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.** Offering will be received to support the MCC Water Project.

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

## Water is Life!

When water is clean and plentiful, people often drink, irrigate their crops, and wash their clothes and bodies without much thought. In places where water is scarce, people must walk long distances to fetch it. In the developing world, many people rely on natural water sources such as streams and rivers for their water. However, the same water used for drinking is used to graze and water animals as well as for dumping waste. At any time, 1.5 million people suffer from parasitic worm infections stemming from human solid waste in the environment.

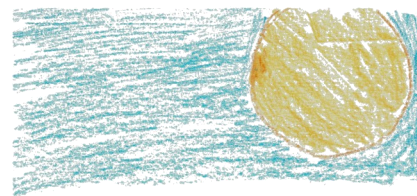
*"Now that I, your Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." -John 13:14*

-from MCC WaterWorks Toolkit



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Repentance,

Renewal,

Restoration



**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

December 16, 2012

No. 51



## Gathering

PRELUDE Deloris Schmidt

WELCOME Worship Leader, Michael Unruh

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE  
Duane, Janna, Dawson and Adriana Duerksen  
"Num Ist Sie Erschienen" -v. 2 German v. 2 English No. 52CS

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Zephaniah 3:14-20*

Leader: Sing aloud, O people,  
shout out your worship in a loud voice!

**People: God takes away the judgment against us;  
there's no need to fear disaster.**

Leader: The Lord our God exults over us with gladness,  
singing loudly as on a day of celebration.

**People: God delivers us from all that oppresses us,  
changing our shame into praise.**

**All: We are saved not because we are good  
but because God is good.**

\*GATHERING HYMN "Comfort, comfort, O my people" No. 176

\*PRAYER

## Praising

\*HYMN OF PRAISE "On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry" No. 183

\*GREETING EACH OTHER and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERING OUR GIFTS *Please pass MCC kit items to center aisle.*

WORSHIP MUSIC "Emmanuel" Sonbeams

## Sermon Notes

*Fruitful Repentance*  
(Luke 3:7-18)

"Bear fruits worthy of repentance." (Luke 3:8a)

Dreaded Deadlines

Pertinent Problems

- I. Coming Judgment (3:7, 9, 17)
- II. Mistaken Identity (3:7-8)
- III. Unfruitful Living (3:10-14)

Qualifying Questions (What then should we do?)

- I. Generosity (3:11)
- II. Honesty (3:13)
- III. Integrity (3:14)

Hearing Hope

- I. Good News (3:18)
- II. Producing Fruit (3:8)
- III. Second Baptism (3:16)

Real Repentance

### OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE December 9, 2012

Offering	=	\$ 4,360.69	Attendance	=	161
Adult S.S.	=	\$ 69.00	Attendance	=	68
Jr. S.S.	=	\$ 8.93	Attendance	=	16

## Announcements

**Thank you church family** for your love and support! Mary and I enjoyed having 80 of you come through our open house a week ago Saturday. We are grateful to be here at Tabor, to have opportunity to build relationships with many of you, and to be living in such a wonderful home.

~Phil & Mary

**Christmas greetings** from Jim and Judy Schrag and John and Mary Gaeddert are posted on the bulleting board.

**Christmas Giving Tree:** Please remember, if you purchased a gift to fill a tag on the Giving Tree, wrapped packages must be returned to the Citizens State Bank by tomorrow, Monday, December 17 so the Ministerial Alliance can deliver the packages.

**Give Water:** The children will be collecting coins during the Christmas season. The money will go toward MCC Water Projects. Adults have the opportunity to give as well. There is a display set up in the foyer and the sheep will collect your donations.

**Pastor Karen's sendoff** is on Sunday, January 6. We will have a special time of sending during the morning worship service. Please also join us for a celebration potluck meal at noon in the fellowship hall. This will include an open mic time for sharing memories of Karen's ministry.

**Are you interested** in being a Tabor delegate for Mennonite Convention in Phoenix, Arizona this summer? The convention dates are July 1-6. Registration opens in January. Please let Pastor Phil know if you are interested.

**Children's Education:** The Education Commission currently has two positions which need to be filled so that our children can be nurtured in faith. A teacher for the Preschool class is needed from January - March on Wednesday evenings. An Assistant Bible School coordinator is needed. Please talk to Doris Unruh or an Education Committee member if you want to volunteer or if you have questions.

**The Mennonite:** Our group subscription plan to *The Mennonite* is renewing. If you are interested in joining our group plan, please return the form found in your mailboxes, along with a check for \$37.00 payable to Tabor Mennonite Church, to the box in the foyer by December 19.

**Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus:** Now is the time to register to sing with the chorus. Forms and details are posted on the bulletin board. See Donavon Schmidt if you have questions.

## Receiving

CHILDREN'S STORY

Carrie Unruh

SCRIPTURE *Philippians 4:4-9; Luke 3:7-18*

Donavon Schmidt

SERMON *"Fruit of Repentance"*

Phil Schmidt

## Responding

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF RESONSE *"Lord, with devotion we pray"*

No 79

POURING CONFESSION

*For our self-centeredness;  
for our failure to produce fruit;  
and for our refusal to care for others;  
We confess these to God.*

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

## Sending

\*SENDING HYMN *"O healing river"*

No. 372

\*BENEDICTION

*Let us not worry about anything,  
but in everything, with thanksgiving,  
make our requests known to God.  
So God's peace, which is beyond our understanding,  
will guard both our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.*

\*POSTLUDE



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

## Today

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. During these weeks leading up to Christmas, we are focusing on our inner longing for God's mercy to flood through us. As God pours mercy into our lives, we become people who can reflect Christ's light in our everyday living.

John the Baptist exhorts the people to produce fruit in keeping with repentance (Luke 3:8a). Repentance is much more than simple words; it is a change in lifestyle. With specific examples directed toward the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers, John prepares a people to embrace Jesus' way of love and peace. John is preparing a Kingdom crop; Jesus will gather it in. In response to John's words, may we live in ways that produce fruit in keeping with our repentance. And may the God of peace be with us.

We are so glad you are here with us to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Warren, Sherry, Mark and Joshua Schmidt and Jim and Diana Schmidt. *A special welcome is extended to all visitors.*

Childcare is provided by Nancy Schroeder in the nursery during the worship service.

**10:45 a.m.—** Sunday School for everyone.

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.

**6:00-8:00 p.m.—Night in the Barn**, the annual living nativity event by TMYF, is this evening from 6-8p.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.

## This Week

*Phil & Mary will be traveling to Ohio this next week to spend time with family. They will be away Monday, December 17 through Sunday, December 23.*

### Monday, December 17

Goessel Blood Drive.

### Wednesday, December 19

**6:15 p.m.—**Supper for those involved with Christmas Eve practice.

**6:30-7:15 p.m.—**Christmas Eve program practice.

**6:45 p.m.—**Christian Ed. meet to pack Christmas sacks.

**7:30 p.m.—**Adult Choir practice.

## Next Sunday, December 23

**9:30 a.m.—** Next Week we continue to long for Jesus' coming, for Jesus' light to warm us and for Jesus' mercy to flood us. While the world is filled with sorrow and injustice, evil does not have the last word. God will send a flood of reversal to make things right, especially for those who've been trampled on: mercy for the poor, the hungry, the lowly. Scriptures next week are Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55). Our Adult Choir will bring the morning message through script and song.

**10:45 a.m.—** Sunday School for everyone.

**Advent Offering:** This year we are collecting items for school kits for MCC during the weeks of Advent. Next Sunday: 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; both 30cm & 12 in.; 1 large pencil eraser.

## Prayer Requests

Remember to pray for:

- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for Gilberto Flores, Associate Conference Minister, and the Church Planting Task Force as they support church planters and assess new possibilities.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for Sue and Wally Fahrer, associated with Mennonite Mission Network in the United Kingdom, as Wally recovers from a stroke. The Fahrers provide an Anabaptist witness within a British charismatic church network called New Frontiers International. They promote peace through written materials, counseling and music.
- ★ Mennonite Education Agency: Pray for discernment for Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary faculty as they shape new programs to be accessible at a distance and programs to strengthen the formation of students on campus.