

*Water is Life!*

Overall, 1.1 billion people around the world lack access to adequate drinking water and 2.9 billion people lack access to proper sanitation. A person living in North America uses around 115 gallons of water each day, while the average person living in the developing world gets by on about 2 gallons a day. To put this in perspective, one flush of a toilet uses as much water as the average person in the developing world uses for a whole day's washing, cleaning, cooking and drinking.



*"Those who are generous are blessed,  
for they share their bread with the poor." -Proverbs 22:9*  
-from MCC WaterWorks Toolkit

**OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE  
November 25, 2012**

Offering	= \$10,482.02	Attendance	= 166
Adult S.S.	= \$ 38.00	Attendance	= 74
Jr. S.S.	= \$ 10.77	Attendance	= 16

*Cover Art:  
Zach Duerksen*

Tabor Mennonite Church 620-367-2318  
 Pastor: Philip Schmidt 620-367-2405  
 Cell: 620-386-0779  
 Associate Pastor: Karen Andres 316-799-2857  
 Youth Pastor: Doug Krehbiel 316-283-7351  
 e-mail: [tabor@tabormennonite.org](mailto:tabor@tabormennonite.org)  
[www.tabormennonite.org](http://www.tabormennonite.org)



*Wading in Faithfulness*

Tabor Mennonite Church

December 2, 2012



**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 2, 2012

No. 49



PRELUDE

Mark Schmidt

Cynthia Goerzen, hymn

WELCOME

Worship Leader, Rosie Jantz

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Nathan & Brandy Ashley

"Nun Ist Sie Erschienen" -vv. 1-2 in German No. 52CS

CALL TO WORSHIP

*from Psalm 25*

Leader: Lift up your souls,  
lift them up to God, who is worthy of your trust.

**People: Our God is a God of salvation;  
on this we wait.**

Leader: God instructs us how to go,  
leading us in right ways.

**People: Our God is a God of salvation;  
on this we wait.**

Leader: All God's paths are steadfast love and faithfulness;  
God's promises are sure.

**All: Yes! Our God is a God of salvation: on this we wait.**

\*GATHERING HYMN

"O come, O come, Immanuel"

No. 172

\*PRAYER

Praising

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

"Hail to the Lord's anointed"

No. 185

\*GREETING EACH OTHER and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*Please pass MCC kit items to center aisle.*

**MDS Adventure:** We are beginning to plan a possible MDS trip for late winter or early spring, most likely to Joplin, MO or Bastrop, Texas. These project are currently rebuilding new homes after tornado's and wildfires. If you are at all interested in being part of a trip, please let Steve Janzen or Dale Alderfer know soon so we can get started with plans. We are looking into possible dates and will keep you updated as we know more.

### **Wednesday Evening Schedule:**

Dec. 5 - Normal Wednesday evening activities.

Dec. 12 & 19 - Christmas Eve Service practice. Adult Choir practice.

Dec. 26 & Jan. 2 - No Wednesday activities.

Jan. 9 - Pizza and Game night.

Jan. 16 - Regular activities begin again.

**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.

**Christmas Giving Project:** It's time to stop by the Citizens State Bank in Goessel and pick a tag or two off the Christmas Giving Tree to help make Christmas happen for a child in our community. 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!

**The Mennonite:** Our group subscription plan to *The Mennonite* is renewing. *The Mennonite*, magazine for Mennonite Church USA, seeks to fulfill its mission of helping readers glorify God, grow in faith and become agents of healing and hope in the world through articles that challenge and inspire, news that connects readers to the larger Mennonite community and much more. 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.

**Annual Reports:** For those responsible for submitting reports, please remember to do so in December and no later than January 7. Email to [kfunk@tabormennonite.org](mailto:kfunk@tabormennonite.org) or place in the secretary's mailbox.

### Prayer requests continued

- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for Marlene Bogard, Minister of Christian Formation, and for the WDC Year of the Bible Planning Team as they begin to imagine fruitful ways of expanding Biblical Literacy for all ages and all congregations in 2013 and beyond.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Nancy Frey and Bruce Yoder of MMN are working with Mennonites in Burkina Faso to discern how they can best serve the church. Pray that Bruce and Nancy and their two children may continue to be blessed by the communities where they live, work, and go to school, even as God's blessing flows through them.
- ★ Mennonite Education Agency: Pray for God's presence and Christ's light with Bethel College students, faculty, staff and the wider community gathered this evening for the 27th annual Lighting of the Green.

Remember to praise God for:

- ★ The generous response to our budget goals for 2012. Giving was above the needed amount. Praise God!
- ★ God's guidance in discerning Ron Schroeder and Lewis Unruh to serve as Tabor's deacons.

## Announcements

**Thank you** for all the prayers, food, and cards I've received before and after my surgery. Every gesture has sustained me and has brightened my days. I have much to be thankful for as I continue to heal. -Marcene Entz

**Advent Devotionals:** Families with young children (up to 6th grade) will find an Advent devotional booklet in their mailbox. The weekly devotions will follow the worship themes for the Advent/Christmas season. If anyone else would like this devotional booklet, see Carrie Unruh.

**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. If you have not signed up for the breakfast, please do so TODAY on the sheet in the foyer.

**Open House at the Parsonage:** Pastor Phil and Mary invite everyone to a come and go open house on Saturday, December 8 from 1-5pm. Come and see the renovations that took place this summer and fellowship with Phil and Mary in their 'new' home.

**Night in the Barn,** the annual living nativity event by TMYF, is Dec.15-16, 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.

## Receiving

RECEIVING A NEW MEMBER-Ron Schroeder Phil Schmidt  
We welcome you with joy and affection into this household of faith.  
We pledge to you our help, our prayers, our concern, that we may all increase in the knowledge and love of God. We trust God for strength to follow with you in Christ's way, keeping together the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Amen.

COMMISSIONING DEACONS Phil Schmidt  
Ron Schroeder, Lewis Unruh  
We, the members of this body of Christ, in the spirit of joy and in renewed loyalty to our Lord, acknowledge and receive you as deacons.  
We promise to pray for you and support you in confidence, encouragement, cooperation, and prayers, that together we may increase in the knowledge and the love of God, manifested to us in Jesus Christ.

WORSHIP MUSIC Children of Light  
"Dance and Sing, for the Lord Will Be With Us" -arr. Hal H. Hopson

CHILDREN'S STORY Kim Funk

SCRIPTURE Luke 21:25-36 Phil Schmidt

SERMON "Mercy Hidden in the Storm" Karen Andres

## Responding

SILENT REFLECTION

CONFESSION

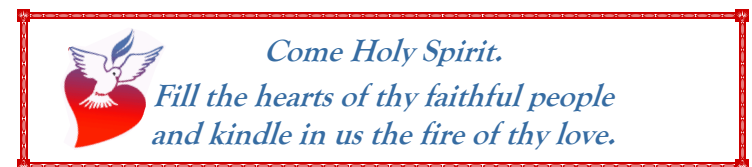
SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

## Sending

\*SENDING HYMN "O healing river" No. 372

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE



## Today

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. The theme is "Flood of Mercy." We all face struggles and desperation in our lives. God has planted within us a yearning, a desire for love. As we long for Christ's reign, how do we respond in the midst of our longing? May we be willing to empty ourselves so that God's flood of mercy can pour into our hearts.

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 Shannon, Carrie and Reed Friesen. *A special welcome is extended to all visitors.*

Childcare is provided by Jill Brandt in the nursery during the worship service.

**10:45 a.m.—** Sunday School for everyone. All college-age people are invited to Les and Cynthia Goerzen's home right after the Tabor Church service for devotions and visiting followed by lunch.

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.

### Noon—Caring Group Gathering

**6:00 p.m.—The Community Christmas Vespers Service** is this evening at Alexanderwohl Mennonite church. Everyone is welcome. Just a sampling of the Christmas songs you will hear are O Holy Night, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, the Christmas Canon, plus more that will be sung by musical groups from Tabor, Goessel, and Alexanderwohl churches. You may bring a generous plate of Christmas goodies to share for the refreshments and fellowship after the service. Invite a friend and join us!

## This Week

### Tuesday, December 4

**7:30 p.m.—**Trustee meeting

### Wednesday, December 5

**9:00 a.m.—**Women's Bible Study. All women are welcome.

**6:00 - 6:45 p.m.—**Supper *Sign up for the meal.*

**6:30 - 6:45 p.m.—**Kids' Movement

**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.—**Faithful Fitness

**6:45 - 7:15 p.m.—**Sonbeams, Children of Light, Faith Friends (age 3-5)

**7:00 - 8:00 p.m.—**TMYF

**7:15 - 7:45 p.m.—**Faith Friends (K-gr. 1)

**7:15 - 8:15 p.m.—**Faith Adventures, Youth Explorers

**7:30 - 8:30 p.m.—**Adult Choir

### Thursday, December 7

**12:00 p.m.—**Newton Lunch Bunch

### Saturday, December 8

**9:00 a.m.—**Christmas Breakfast for Tabor ladies and girls. *See announcements.*

**1:00-5:00 p.m.—**Open House at the Parsonage. *See announcements.*

## Next Sunday, December 9

**9:05 a.m.—**Jerry Toews will start the prelude with Christmas Favorites old and new. Come enjoy some Christmas music before the service.

**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. As the flood of mercy draws near, we prepare to endure the day of God's coming. However, we do not need to fear. Because God remembers the covenant, we can trust that we will be purified rather than wiped out. Scriptures next week are Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; and Luke 3:1-6. Pastor Phil will be preaching.

**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: 4 unsharpened pencils.

## Prayer Requests

*The following items were shared last Sunday, November 25.*

- ★ Bill Froese shared a prayer request for Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman. They have recently decided to leave the Western District Conference. Please pray for God's guidance for Bethel church as well as for WDC. Pray for God's Spirit of Peace to reign in the midst of divisiveness.
- ★ Maynard Knepp shared a prayer request for the violence going on in Syria. Pray for Syria and other countries around the world facing extreme violence. Pray for people who are willing to confront the violence with God's peace.
- ★ Bonnie Janzen shared a praise for good time spent with her parents and sister this past weekend. Thanks be to God for opportunity to spend quality time with family.
- ★ Phil Schmidt shared that Alvin Thiesen was moved to Bethesda last week. (rm. 521) Pray for Alvin, Ann, and family in their time of transition.
- ★ May our prayers be embodied in how we live. Amen.
- ★ *Caring Quilt Locations:* The Caring Quilt is with Jim and Diana Schmidt. The Children's quilt is home.

Remember to pray for:

- ★ Gustav "Gus" Hiebert, 88, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 27, at Sandstone Heights Nursing Home, Little River. Gustav was a member of Tabor Mennonite Church. A graveside service was held at Tabor Mennonite Church Cemetery on Friday.