



Christmas at Tabor

Christmas Eve: The program on **Dec. 24 at 7 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 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!

Why do so many people lack access to water? Factors such as climate change, deforestation, and human population growth are making the situation worse. Some experts predict that water will be as precious in the 21st century as oil was in the 20th century. Improving efficiency of water use and conserving water are needed to protect and ensure a water supply for future generations.

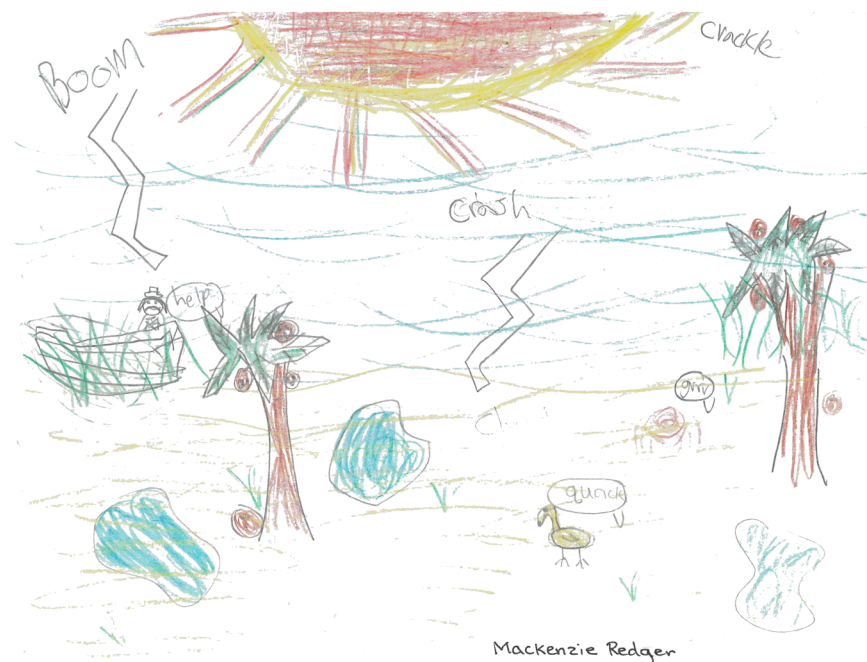
"If your enemy . . . is thirsty, give him water to drink." -Proverbs 25:21

-from MCC WaterWorks Toolkit



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Carried on a Flood of Reversal
~ Bethlehem Bound



**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 23, 2012

No. 53



Gathering

PRELUDE Diana Schmidt

WELCOME Worship Leader, Doug Krehbiel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Jill, Karina and Emily Brandt
"Nun Ist Sie Erschienen" v. 1-2 English No. 52CS

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Luke 1:46-55*

Leader: Our souls magnify you, our God.
Our spirits rejoice in you, our Savior.

**People: You have looked with favor on your lowly servants;
because of you, we are called "blessed."**

Leader: You have scattered the proud
and brought down the mighty.

**People: You have raised up the lowly
and filled the hungry.**

**All: You have remembered your mercy
helping those in need and their descendants forever.**

*GATHERING HYMN
"My soul is filled with joy" -Congregation join on refrain No. 151CS
Mothers and Daughters
Ben Schmidt, Guitar

*PRAYER

Praising

*GREETING EACH OTHER and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING

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

Announcements

THANKS:

We want to thank everyone who gave gifts to families in our community through the Christmas Giving Tree project. All the gifts and boxes of food from the Tabor food pantry were delivered to the families on Tuesday, December 18, by pastors in the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. Each family was very grateful for all they received. May you know the blessing of His love and joy this Christmas! —Pastors Steve Schmidt, Linda Ewert, Phil Schmidt and Brad Penner

Dear Tabor Mennonite Church: Thank you so much for the continued support that you provide for Bethesda Home. We are grateful for your many prayers and visits; your many kind words and referrals; your generosity and volunteer hours; and your spirit of love for those that make the Bethesda Campus their home. We hope that you experience a meaningful Christmas as you celebrate Christ's birth, and find 2013 to be a year filled with much joy and many blessings. Thanks again! —Eric Schrag, Bethesda Home

A special thanks to the many people who took time in this busy Christmas season to make the Goessel blood drive so successful! The total number of donations was nearly twice the number who had made pre-appointments! This thanks includes the 15 people (6 who are students) who volunteered with the various jobs - the blood mobile would not operate without their help. We were excited to have a new high school donor, and encourage others to consider it at our next drive on Monday, Feb. 11.

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.

A Mennonite Disaster Service trip has been tentatively scheduled for the week of February 24, 2013 to Joplin, MO. If you are interested in being a part of this trip, please let Dale Alderfer or Steve Janzen know as soon as possible. We are allowed 10-12 people on this week. All ages and skill levels welcome.

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: 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.

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.

Prayer Requests

The following items were shared last Sunday, December 16.

- ★ Pastor Karen also asked for prayer for the families dealing with loss because of the tragedy in Connecticut recently.
- ★ *Caring Quilt Locations:* The Caring Quilt and Children's quilt are home.

Remember to pray for:

- ★ Western District Conference: Praise God for life and salvation through the gift of God's Son. Pray that our congregations experience the true hope, wonder and blessing of the arrival of the Christ Child.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Thank Jesus for his great love shown to the world through his willingness to submit to the suffering and indignities that humanity experiences. Pray that Mennonite Mission Network ministries will allow that love to overflow in our lives to touch our neighbors across the street and around the world.
- ★ Mennonite Education Agency: Pray that members of Mennonite congregations will express their support for church schools with their year-end gifts. Give thanks to God for the ways God provides and for the church that upholds this important mission.

Remember to praise God for:

- ★ Misty Goerzen will be teaching the Faith Friends Preschool class on Wednesday evenings beginning in January. Praise God for the children who are part of Wednesday evening activities and everyone who makes them possible.

Receiving

CHILDREN'S STORY		Kristi Unruh
SCRIPTURE	<i>Psalms 80:1-7; Micah 5:2-5a</i>	Jim Schmidt
HYMN	<i>"O little town of Bethlehem"</i>	No 191
MUSICAL MESSAGE		Adult Choir
	<i>"Rejoice and Be Merry"</i> - arr. by Jonathan Wilcocks	
	<i>"Morning Star, O Cheering Sight!"</i>	No. 214
	Congregation join on "all", choir will sing "leader" part	
	<i>"The Star and the Wise Men"</i> - by Chase H. Gabriel	
	<i>"Holy Child, Within the Manger"</i> - by Marty Haugen	
	<i>"No wind at the Window"</i> - text by John L. Bell, arr. by Marty Haugen	
	<i>"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heav'nly"</i>	No. 203
		congregation join on verse 3

Responding

SILENT REFLECTION

POURING CONFESSION

*For our busyness;
for our wanting to keep God in a box;
and for not listening to the Christ within;
We confess these to God.*

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Sending

*SENDING HYMN	<i>"O healing river"</i>	No. 372
*BENEDICTION		
	<i>Blessed are all who believe there will be fulfillment of what was spoken to them by the Lord. God has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.</i>	
*POSTLUDE		

Today

Today is the fourth 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.

Today the scripture passages focus on a Savior who comes from Bethlehem for those who are oppressed. Mary's song reflects the joy that comes for the lowly who are raised up and the hungry who are filled. This morning, we will also sing for joy as we worship a God who saves us. The Adult Choir will lead us in reflecting not only on Mary's journey but the journey of all who were Bethlehem bound. The flood of reversal happens as we find Christ in those people and events we least expect.

THANK YOU TO Karen Andres, interim choir director and script writer; Marcene Entz, script reader; Deloris Schmidt, accompanist; Jude Krehbiel, penny whistle, Pastor Phil and Brent Abrahams for working out the details of the technological part of the choir program and the choir for leading us in worship this morning.



The flowers this morning are in honor of Alvin and Wilma Schmidt's 60th wedding anniversary which was on December 20. Praise God for a life commitment of love.

We are so glad you are here with us to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Pete and Sharon Unruh and Kenton and Eunice Nickel. *A special welcome is extended to all visitors.*

Childcare is provided by Sharleen Francis 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.

Give Water: The children are 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.



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

This Week

Pastor Phil & Mary are traveling home from Ohio today.

Monday, December 24

7:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service.

Tuesday, December 25

10:00 a.m.—Christmas Day Celebration.

Wednesday, December 26-Friday, December 28

Church secretary's office will be open, however hours will be irregular. Bulletin announcements are due Thursday morning. Newsletter items are due on December 28.

Pastor Doug will be on vacation from December 25-30.

Next Sunday, December 30

9:30 a.m.— Next Sunday we continue to celebrate Jesus' coming! With the arrival of Jesus, who puts a human face on God, we catch a glimpse of how things ought to be—a flood of forgiveness even for those who don't deserve it. We put on the clothes of compassion, kindness, and patience that will allow us to live in this merciful reality and rejoice with all that God has made. Scriptures next week are 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52. Pastor Phil will be preaching.

10:45 a.m.—Fellowship time. No Sunday School.

Please bring finger foods to share as we continue to celebrate Christmas. *If you prepare food for people with allergies or special diets, please label as such. i.e. peanut allergies, gluten free, etc.*

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE December 16, 2012

Offering	=	\$ 2,980.31	Attendance	=	204
Adult S.S.	=	\$ 56.57	Attendance	=	63
Jr. S.S.	=	\$ 8.78	Attendance	=	18