

Sermon Notes

Epiphany (Matthew 2:1-12)

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."
(Matthew 2:10-11)

Light Bulb Moments

Herod's Epiphany

- I. Troubled (2:3)
- II. Plotting (2:4-8)
- III. Fury (2:16)

The Magi's Epiphany

- I. Exceedingly Great Joy (2:10)
- II. Worship (2:11a)
- III. Gifts fit for a King (2:11b)

Living Epiphany

How do we receive Jesus as King?



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*Cover Art:
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Tabor Mennonite Church

January 6, 2013



Volume LVII

January 6, 2013

No. 1

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.

Gathering

PRELUDE

Anna Wiens, Mark Schmidt, Zach Wiens, Ben Wiens
"He Is the Rock" -Barrett

Elbiata Singers

WELCOME

Worship Leader, Warren Schmidt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Arise, shine:
your light has come.

from Isaiah 60

People: God's glory has risen upon us.

Leader: Even if darkness should cover the earth,
deep darkness cover the peoples,

People: nothing can hide God's glorious light.

All: *Let us look to God and be radiant.*
Let us reflect the brightness of this dawning.

*GATHERING HYMN

"Christ, whose glory fills the skies"

No. 216

*PRAYER

Praising

*HYMN OF PRAISE

"How brightly beams the morning"

No. 222

*GREETING EACH OTHER and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERING OUR GIFTS *"A Festive Alleluia"* -Lightfoot Elbiata Singers

A Mennonite Disaster Service trip has been scheduled for the week of February 24, 2013 to Joplin, MO. If you are interested in being a part of this trip, please sign up on the bulletin board or 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. Please turn in registration forms to Donavon Schmidt by December 13.

Coming In January:

- ★ Wednesday, January 16:
Wednesday evening activities resume.
- ★ Sunday, January 27:
Second half congregational meeting.

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

December 30, 2012

Offering = \$1,746.60 Attendance = 154

Elbiata Singers:

Erin Brubaker	Kara Schmucker
Alyssa Booton	Tyler Schulz
Davis Cook	Keenan Stultz
Nathan Czarnowsky	Gentry Thiesen
Shane Goerzen	Georgia Thiesen
Alex Hiebert	Luke Unruh
Page Hiebert	Leighton Wagner
Reece Hiebert	Anna Wiens
Makayla King	Zach Wiens
Alicen Meysing	Director: Renae Schmidt Peters
Mark Schmidt	Accompanist: Marcia Brubaker

Prayer requests continued

★ Mennonite Education Agency: Lord, help us to model Christ more clearly as we interact with young children, aligning our attitudes and actions with the words we use to teach them about God's love. Help us to provide understanding and tools needed for cooperation and peacemaking. – Mennonite Early Childhood Network

Remember to praise God for:

★ The ministry and gifts which Pastor Karen has given to Tabor Mennonite Church over the past ten years.



Announcements

Dear Tabor Mennonite Church:

Thank you so much for supporting the Peace Connections vision for *thriving communities sustained by social justice and compassion*. We appreciate your generosity and are pleased to partner with you in the work of promoting peace and building community! Bless you!

-Myrna Krehbiel for Peace Connections Board & Staff

Membership Transfer: Rachel Schmidt has requested that her membership be transferred to the Toronto United Mennonite Church where she is being received into membership this morning.

Attention Jr. Highers and Parents: "Know Jesus", an event for junior high youth, is scheduled for January 26-27, 2013 at Hesston College. Register by January 16. A \$10 deposit is due with registration, scholarships are available. Registration and medical release forms will be available on Wednesday evening. Phil and Mary Schmidt will be sponsors for this weekend. Junior Highers will help serve a Wednesday Evening fundraising meal at a later date to help offset additional cost of registration. We hope you can all come to this meaningful event!

Tabor's week to staff the homeless shelter is coming up January 23-29. There will be many opportunities to work evening and night shifts as well as 3-4 meals to provide. Please check your calendar and pray about how you can be a part of this ministry. Please talk to Pam or Brent Abrahams if you would like to volunteer or if you have questions. There are two training dates coming up--January 17 and 22 at 6:30 pm.

Receiving

WORSHIP MUSIC "Of the Father's Love Begotten" -Wohlgemuth
"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow!" -Hayes Elbiata Singers

CHILDREN'S STORY Diane Unruh

SCRIPTURE Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Mathew 2:1-12 Laura Unruh

SERMON "Epiphany" Phil Schmidt

Responding

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF RESPONSE "As with gladness men of old" vv. 1-3 No. 218

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We believe that light is stronger than darkness
and that justice is stronger than wrong.
God will tumble all dividing walls
and bring great things from small beginnings.*

SKIT "The Perfect Church" Karen Andres, Marcene Entz
Eunice Nickel, Krista Graber

THANKSGIVING FOR KAREN'S MINISTRY

LITANY OF RELEASE AND BLESSING

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Sending

*SENDING HYMN "O healing river" No. 372

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE



Today

Today we celebrate Epiphany, the manifestation of Christ as king as revealed to us by the Magi. In this revelation, God's flood of light illuminates the darkness. Like rain that waters the ground, the light of mercy shines on all people. Our job is to let it flow through us so everyone we meet will know God's good news.

We welcome the Elbiata Singers from Goessel High School, who will be blessing us with special music during our worship service.

Today is also Pastor Karen's sendoff. Please join us at noon for a potluck meal to celebrate Karen's 10 years of ministry with us.

The children's focus on water ends today. The children will bring the coins they have collected during the holiday season to the front during the children's story. The sheep in the foyer will still be accepting contributions this morning. The money collected by the children, by the sheep, and at the Christmas Day service will be given to MCC for its WaterWorks projects.

We are so glad you are here with us to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Deloris and Donavon Schmidt and Carrie and Lewis Unruh. *A special welcome is extended to all visitors.*

Childcare is provided 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.

This Week

Monday, January 7

Annual Reports are due. email: kfunk@tabormennonie.org

Tuesday, January 8

7:00 p.m.—Deacon's meeting.

Wednesday, January 9

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

6:00 p.m.—Pizza and game night.

Thursday, January 10

7:00 p.m.—Worship Fellowship meeting.

Next Sunday, January 13

9:30 a.m.—Next Sunday we will begin a journey through the Gospel of Mark that will take us all the way through Easter. Mark's Gospel begins with a bang: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). In this small verse, Mark prepares us for what lies ahead. However, when we get to the end of Mark's Gospel, let us remember that this was only the beginning.

As we begin a new year, let us open ourselves to receive Jesus in a fresh way. As we step out in faith, may we trust that God is with us. To celebrate this new beginning as a church, we will also share communion together during the worship service. In preparation, please take some time this week to reflect on how God might be calling you in this new year.

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

Prayer Requests

The following items were shared last Sunday, December 30.

- ★ Pastor Karen shared that Kathy Schroeder's father, Cal Schroeder, passed away on December 23. She also shared that Bertha Nickel, mother of Elton Nickel, passed away on December 26, and that Orlin Janzen's memorial service was here at Tabor on December 28.
- ★ Pastor Karen also shared praise for the past ten years she has had here at Tabor and gave her thanks for all God has done.
- ★ *Caring Quilt Locations:* The Caring Quilt is with Mary Jane Janzen. The Children's quilt is home.

Remember to pray for:

- ★ Bertha Nickel passed away on December 26. A Celebration of Life service will be held here at Tabor at 11 a.m. on January 8. Remember Elton and Denise and the Nickel family as they grieve their loss.
- ★ Remember Mary Jane, Matt and James Janzen as well as Kathy Schroeder and Richard and Alex Drake as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.
- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, as they commission their new pastor, Brad Roth, today.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Serbian Orthodox believers will celebrate Christmas tomorrow after fasting since the end of November. Lane Stopher serves with MMN and is learning about reducing materialism from new faith expressions. Pray for Lane's ministry with youth and at the War Trauma Center in Serbia.