



Night In The Barn

Sunday Worship Themes

Feb. 7 - Transfiguration Sunday:

Last Sunday before Lent

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36
Pastor Katherine preaching

Feb. 10 - Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Feb. 14 - Living Ink:

Letting Go of the Pen (Lent 1)

Deuteronomy 26:1-11;
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
Pastor Phil preaching

Feb. 21 - Living Ink:

Finding Light in Dark Text (Lent 2)

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
Pastor Phil preaching

Feb. 28 - Living Ink:

Leaping off the Page (Lent 3)

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
Pastor Phil preaching

from the staff...

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Tabor Church News

February, 2016

Phil's Ponderings: "Living Ink"

It is hard to believe, but we will soon be entering into the season of Lent! Here's a brief description of Lent from the writers of our Lent Worship Resources:

Lent is that 40-day season when the church commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent in solitude, in silence, and fasting in the wilderness. This time apart was Jesus' season of preparation before beginning his ministry....Every year Christ's followers are encouraged to embark on their own 40-day journey into this darker season as a way of preparing to receive and share more fully in the contrasting resurrection light of Easter Sunday.¹

This year throughout the season of Lent, we will be focusing on the theme, "Living Ink." Here's what the authors have to say about this theme:

What our writing group discovered in the texts for this season was a story of an Author inviting the people of God into the grand narrative—a tale that encompasses all our struggles, pain, joys, and victories. This Author calls us to co-authorship, using our very lives to shape Jesus' ongoing kingdom story. In the ups and downs found in the pages and chapters of our stories, Christ journeys with us. As we come to the end of our own resources, Christ invites us to give up our pens, relinquish full control, and acknowledge God's co-authorship. As we do this, we catch glimpses of light in the dark that help us carry on. We find ourselves leaping off the page with Christ as we discover new things. Even when we encounter unexpected twists and turns and the plot thickens, the old and ever new salvation story embraces us. We hear God's "Fear not!" and find our places in this grand narrative as individuals and as communities. We receive God's Word with joy as we drink from the spring of reconciliation in the desert landscapes of our lives. This, we find, is the end of the beginning—another new chapter as we live into the resurrection.²

Throughout this season of preparing our hearts for an Easter resurrection celebration, the Tabor Worship Planning Team invites you to participate in a variety of ways:

- We invite you to join us for an intergenerational Worship Service on Ash Wednesday (February 10) following the community meal in the Fellowship Hall.
- We invite you to prepare for each Sunday of Lent by reading the upcoming Sunday's Scripture texts throughout the week and responding in a creative way. We will provide more information about this on Sunday, February 7.
- We invite you to join us for special Holy Week Service on Thursday, March 24 beginning at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin with a meal and communion service in remembrance of Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Then, we will transition to the Sanctuary for a Tenebrae ("shadows") service.
- If you are interested in an additional resource, we invite you to purchase and read Richard Rohr's book, *Wondrous Encounters: Scripture for Lent*. For families, we also invite you to visit http://www.commonword.ca/FileDownload/21831/2016_Lent_at_Home_-_Living_Ink.pdf to find a pdf copy of Lent materials to do at home.
- We invite you to join us at Tabor for our Easter Breakfast and Celebration Service on March 27, 2016!

Let us join Jesus throughout this season in preparing our lives for service in God's kingdom.

~Pastor Phil

¹"Living Ink," *Leader: Practical. Effective. Anabaptist*, In the details: the nuts and bolts of congregational life (Lansing, MI, MennoMedia: Winter 2015-16 Vol. 13, No. 2), 33.

²Ibid.

Conference Resource Library Books

In Your Underwear - Brian Sanders
Notes From a Blue Bike - Tsh Oxenreider
Sacred Trust - Hannah Alexander
Postmarked Heaven - Jack Cavanaugh
Invitations From God - Adele Ahlberg Callhoun
Hidden Sorrow, Lasting Joy
 - Anneke Companjen
Wilderness Time - Emilie Griffin
Women in Search of Mission
 - Gladys V. Goering
Wilderness Wanderings - Marilyn Brown Oden
Diaspora in the Countryside - Royden Loewen
As We Forgive - Catherine Claire Larson
The Unexpected Adventure
 - Lee Strobel/Mark Mittelberg
Curry, Corduroy and The Call
 - Gwendolyn Hiebert Schroth
Never Say Never - Lisa Wingate
In the Silence there are Ghosts
 - James Calvin Schaap
Hope Rising - Kim Meeder
Selling Water by the River - Shane Hipps
Home Town Tales - Philip Gulley
Snitch - Rene Gutteridge
Dive - Cindy Massanari Breeze
The Man Who Loved Clowns - June Rae Wook
Beyond the Mango Tree - Amy Browen Zenser
Brother Juniper - Diane Gibfried
Biblioburro - Jeanette Winter
The Tree that Survived the Winter - Mary Fahy

ALL BOOKS MUST BE RETURNED TO
 THE TABLE IN THE LIBRARY NO LATER
 THAN MARCH 13, 2016

Kim's Cartoon Pick



"If you were a girl, would you get
 bent out of shape if someone gave
 you leftover trick-or-treat goodies for
 Valentine's Day?"

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Rosie's Reflections

My heart is full of gratitude as I reflect on my ministry with you. Tabor is a welcoming congregation. Kent and I began attending in 1998, and were received as members on January 17, 1999. From day one we were encouraged to share our gifts with you, and in doing so we grew spiritually and into deeper relationship with you and with God. In 2013, you called me to use my gifts in a pastoral role. What a joy it has been to minister among you and alongside a great pastoral team. Then last Sunday you gave me a wonderful vote of affirmation to extend my term another 3 years. I am truly grateful and humbly accept your invitation. Thanks be to God!

Tabor is also a nurturing community. Recently at our Leadership retreat we heard stories of how people chose Tabor and remain here. The reasons seem to boil down to the relationships that are built through choirs, Faith Formation classes, small groups, mentoring, and so forth. This sense of belonging to something bigger than ourselves helps us explore and use our gifts in a safe environment. I hope this climate of nurture and encouragement continues to shine at Tabor so that everyone present and future will be strengthened and equipped to use the gifts God has given to each one of us.

Tabor is dynamic. In Tabor's 75th anniversary book, "*Peace, Progress, Promise*," editor Ruby Funk writes, "*In reading our history you will note we are changing in the ways we express ourselves, making us aware that our church is dynamic.*" She goes on to say that Tabor has been a church who reaches out to the local community and beyond. Our ministries are ever changing to meet the needs here and in the surrounding community. Ruby continues, "*Perhaps the lesson history teaches is that we must remain creative as we have been in the past and need to continue to nurture that creative spirit within us. Let us not be bound by our traditions but rather mark progress through the successes and failures we have experienced.*" These are prophetic words for us. How have you experienced Tabor as a changing dynamic church? How have we been a reflection of God in our community and in the world?

My prayer for Tabor comes from Ephesians 3:20-21: "*Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*"

~Pastor Rosie

Katherine's Candor

In January we began our 2016 Catechism class, which will meet together on Sunday evenings. These are the five youth who will be making this faith journey this year: Karina Brandt, Olivia Duerksen, Drew Goerzen, Josh Schmidt and Luke Unruh. Pastor Phil and I are looking forward to journeying alongside these amazing young people.

We will begin our time together each session by joining together in a fellowship meal, recognizing that whenever Jesus ate with someone, lives were changed. These meals will be prepared by pastors, parents, mentors and deacons. All of the people who prepare these meals will have an opportunity to share a bit of their own faith journey with the youth. It is

our hope that this practice will help the youth feel connected to faith as something larger than simply their own journey, as well as model that within the church we are called to walk alongside one another, sharing stories of how God is moving in our own lives and within the life of the church.

During Catechism, we will be reading Michele Hershberger's book *God's Story, Our Story*. Alongside this, we will also be reading through Scripture together and engaging in different Spiritual Disciplines. We will seek to connect our own stories and experiences with God's movement in history, to reflect on God's calling for our lives as individuals and as a congregation connected to the wider church, and to explore the ways that we feel most connected with God's presence. We hope to provide a meaningful and safe space where all who are involved can ask questions, engage Scripture, reflect on Jesus' calling for our lives, see what it means to be a part of the church, and support one another. We hope that through this time we can all learn and grow together in our faith.

There are many emotions that the youth are experiencing as they begin this journey: excitement, nervousness, anticipation, trepidation, feelings of pain, feelings of hope, a longing to go deeper in faith, and passion for following Jesus. I would invite all of us to pray for and support these wonderful young people as they engage in catechism this year.

~Pastor Katherine



Here is our monthly marriage moment: a meaningful memento to married couples to make your marriages marvelous!

On February 5-6, five couples from Tabor will gather together for a Marriage Enrichment Retreat. In addition to Mary and I, who are facilitating the retreat, the four other participating couples are Lewis and Carrie Unruh, Fred and Diane Unruh, Eric and Jill Litwiller, and Nathan and Krista Graber. Throughout the retreat, we will be reflecting on the ups and downs of marriage, and we will have opportunity to encourage one another and build each other up.

I invite you to pray for the couples attending this year's marriage retreat. Furthermore, I invite you to pray for all married couples in our congregation. May God bless us and keep us as we seek to be a living testimony to God's love at work in the world.

With a little work, you too can make your marriage marvelous ☺!

~Pastor Phil



Christmas Eve Celebration Service 2015

Grace's Goodies

Bacon Cheese Quiche
Served at January staff meeting

- 1 unbaked 9" pie crust in glass pie plate
- 1 cup half and half
- 4 eggs slightly beaten
- 1/4th tsp. salt
- 1/4th tsp. pepper
- 8 slices bacon crisply cooked and crumbled
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded Swiss cheese (may use all cheddar OR Swiss)
- 1/4th cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Preheat oven to 350°
- In medium bowl mix together the half and half, eggs, salt and pepper. Set aside.
- Layer the bacon, cheeses and onion in crust lined plate.
- Pour mixture over top.
- Bake 40 to 50 min. or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 5 min. before cutting into wedges.

Valentine's Day is Love

A group of small children were asked:

"What does love mean?"

Here are some of their replies:

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." -Mary Ann, age 4

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." -Billy age 4

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne, and they go out and smell each other." -Bobby, age 5

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." - Terri, age 4

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." -Nikka, age 6

—from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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Tabor Mennonite Church

Devotional

12 Scriptures
Matthew 5:39

Turning the Other Cheek

Les Goerzen

"If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

In 1972, when I turned 18 years old, I was required to submit papers to the local draft board to register for the draft. The Vietnam War was still being fought, and the draft was still in process, although it was shutting down. It was important to register as a conscientious objector just in case I would be drafted at some point. When I wrote my registration, I included scriptures and a statement of my beliefs. I used the Sermon on the Mount as a basis. As I look back on this now, I realize that I didn't have much of a conviction, but this was an important start.

A few months after this, my faith and convictions were tested. During the summer after high school I was involved in an incident late one Sunday night in Goessel. I went to Goessel and stopped in front of the old hospital where there were a number of cars I didn't recognize. It turned out that there was a fight going on, with some guys from another town doing the punching. They were giving my friends a hard time for being CO's. I stepped right into the middle of it and got beat up. Most of the punches were to my stomach and chest. I went home pretty sore and was still sore the next day at work.

I told a friend about it, and he agreed that it was right to not fight back. But rather than giving me sympathy, he asked me what I said to them. When I informed him that I had nothing to tell them about my convictions, he was quite surprised and disappointed in me. This was a challenge for me to again think about the biblical basis for my actions, or non-actions in this case. Saying something at the time might have made matters worse, but it was good for me to think about what I could have said. It made me decide that I really did believe in the way of peace.

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Exodus 34:29-35	2 Psalm 99	3	4 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	5 Luke 9:28-36	6
7	8 Deuteronomy 26:1-11	9 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	10	11 Romans 10:8b-13	12 Luke 4:1-13	13
14	15 Genesis 15:1-12; 17-18	16 Psalm 27	17	18 Philippians 3:17-4:1	19 Luke 13:31-35	20
21	22 Isaiah 55:1-9	23 Psalm 63:1-8	24	25 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	26 Luke 13:1-9	27
28	29 Joshua 5:9-12	March 1 Psalm 32	2	3 2 Corinthians 5:16-21	4 Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32	5