



*Palm Sunday  
Children's processional*

## Sunday Worship Themes

### **April 1 - Upside Down King, Easter:**

*Jesus is Alive!*

Luke 24:28-35

Pastor Phil preaching

### **April 8 - Upside Down King,**

**Holy Humor:**

*Let it Flow Through You!*

Luke 24:36-53

Pastor Phil preaching

### **April 15 - MCC Celebration Sunday**

Luke 10:25-37

Sara Dick preaching

### **April 22 - Reading the Bible**

**with Jesus: Baptism**

Luke 3:21-22

Pastor Katherine preaching

### **April 29 - Reading the Bible**

**with Jesus: Temptation**

Luke 4:1-13

Pastor Phil preaching



(See John 19:17-37)

04-18-2014

"I, JESUS, HEREBY BEQUEATH MY  
CARPENTRY STUFF TO ZED, MY GOOD TUNIC  
TO ROB, AND I'LL BE BACK TO PICK UP  
THE REST. TO EVERYONE IN THE  
UNIVERSE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE  
... I LEAVE LIFE."

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# Tabor Church News

April, 2018

## Phil's Ponderings: "Reading the Bible with Jesus"

Since the beginning of Advent 2017, our worship services have focused on the Gospel of Luke. During Advent, we focused on the Lukan Canticles: the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the Angels, and Simeon from Luke 1-2. Since the beginning of 2018, we have continued journeying through Luke's Gospel by focusing on Jesus as God's Upside Down King. I am especially grateful to Carol Duerksen for writing a wonderful curriculum that we could adapt and use for our worship series. As we anticipate wrapping up this worship series in the next couple weeks, we can look back and see that we have reflected on a lot of material from the Gospel, but we can also realize that there is a lot in Luke's Gospel that we haven't covered.

Furthermore, as we look forward to the end of July when we will host Bryan Moyer Suderman<sup>1</sup> for opening worship of Western District Conference (WDC) Annual Assembly, we can recognize a new angle from which to study Luke's Gospel story. As some of you remember, Bryan is an itinerant musician and Bible teacher who leads a workshop entitled "Reading the Bible with Jesus." Bryan led this workshop at Tabor for the Goessel area churches in the Spring of 2017. He will be leading a similar workshop at WDC Annual Assembly this coming summer.

Thus, as a way of following up on our Upside Down King worship series, continuing to study new passages in the Gospel of Luke, and preparing for WDC Annual Assembly, our next worship series will be entitled "Reading the Bible with Jesus," and we will focus on passages in the Gospel of Luke where Jesus quotes or refers to scripture passages found in the Old Testament. In this way, we will be reading the Bible along with Jesus. We will understand more how Jesus viewed, interpreted, and used passages of Old Testament Scripture in his life and ministry. I look forward to this new worship series and invite you all to participate actively in the study and reflection. May Jesus' use of scripture and interpretation of scripture challenge and inspire us as we continue our journey of faith.

*... we will focus on passages  
in the Gospel of Luke where  
Jesus quotes or refers to  
scripture passages found in  
the Old Testament.*

~Pastor Phil



<sup>1</sup><http://www.smalltallministries.com/>



### Tabor Mennonite Women

Tabor Mennonite Women met on Saturday, March 3 from 9:00-12:00 to work on MCC projects. We tied 5 comforters, 2 of which will be going to the MCC Sale. We also made coasters, journals, and children's items for the sale.

-Sharon Adrian, reporting



### Pastor / Congregational Review

As outlined in the Tabor Church bylaws, it is almost time for our congregation to begin our pastor / congregation review for all three pastors. Rather than doing three separate review processes, Tabor Deacons have affirmed doing one review process for all three pastors and the congregation. Jim Stucky, from Western District Conference, is serving as our review consultant and will assist us throughout the review process. Jim will be present with us during worship on Sunday, April 8, to introduce the process, which will take place throughout April. Following the review process, votes of affirmation will take place for each pastor.

Please watch for further information this spring.

-Tabor Deacons

### Rosie's Reflections

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*  
Proverbs 3:5-6.

You've heard me recite this passage before. It's one of my "go to" references, especially when uncertainty hits. One thing I was certain of, as I planned for sabbatical last year, was God's leading. I finally settled on December, January and February, even though I was a bit hesitant to be away from Tabor during Christmas. I chose these months because winter is "down time" on the farm, and I was looking forward to spending more time with Kent and our children. I trusted that God was nudging me in this direction.

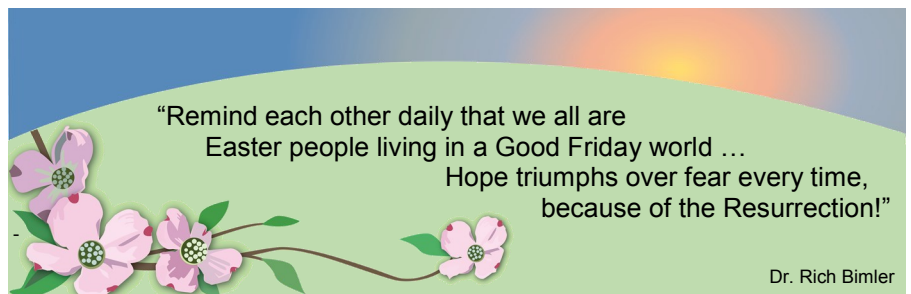
December began with wellness checks. There's nothing better than a clean bill of health before the holidays, right? However, in early December, Kent received a red flag warning during routine lab work, and from then on it was more labs, tests and scans. Christmas came and went with a thick cloud of uncertainty hovering overhead. Surely the New Year would bring good news. But you know the rest of the story. Cancer is a constant companion these days. Life suddenly means more than existence. Cancer is one wall we cannot knock down; a problem without a simple solution. We're in a physical and spiritual battle.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.*

Okay, I thought. It's now or never. In past experiences I've always been rock, solid and sure that God is trustworthy. I learned long ago, through other circumstances, that surrendering everything to God during uncertainty frees me to trust God more. That's what I preach! But this is Kent. This is his life, and its threatening our life together, our family life, the way we've always planned it to be. We're relatively young. It isn't time to think about death yet! This sure wasn't in my sabbatical plan. *Wait a minute!* How did I choose these specific months for sabbatical? Was it God or coincidence? In the early days, after diagnosis, I yelled, I screamed, I cried, I begged, no, no, no! Yet, in the midst of this "shadow of death", I began to see new opportunity for spiritual growth. My spirit was parched; however, the opportunity to quench my thirst was right in front of me, inviting me to drink deeply from its cup.

I cannot tell Kent's story, but I can tell our story that continues to evolve. It's a mystery how cancer has come during the Lenten season this year. We have a new opportunity to walk together through this uncertain time, realizing all the while that Christ is walking with us. Struggling with death is no stranger to Christ, and we are finding new hope with the promise of resurrection each day. We are realizing that we are not alone. Thank you for walking with us. I pray that together, we will be open to new opportunities to *"trust and acknowledge the Lord"* through all of life's winding uncertainties. May it be so.

~Pastor Rosie



Dr. Rich Bimler

## *Katherine's Candor*

*"Jesus said to them, 'When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?' They said, 'No, not a thing.' He said to them, 'But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.' They said, 'Lord, look, here are two swords.' He replied, 'It is enough.'"* (Luke 22:35-38)

This is perhaps one of the most troubling passages of Scripture. Jesus, who has proclaimed peace throughout his ministry, here tells his disciples to buy swords.

Some have used this to justify taking up arms to defend the faith. Some have used this to say that Jesus didn't actually advocate for nonviolence. Some see this as a test for the disciples, saying that the Greek is incorrectly interpreted. Jesus was instead saying, essentially, "Enough! I've been preaching peace since the beginning of my ministry and you still carry around swords!"

Some prefer to skip this passage entirely, as it seems inconsistent with who Jesus was.

But I have come across another interpretation that I find to be even more compelling: Perhaps this was actually Jesus' last temptation: Whether or not to use Holy War.

Perhaps when he said that two swords were enough, he was remembering the story of Gideon in Judges 7 or the story of David and Goliath, two stories where the underdogs are victorious because God fights for them.

Understandably, Jesus (as portrayed in Luke), was dreading the cross. Soon he would be praying that God would remove this bitter cup from him while in the garden. I understand why Holy War would seem a more attractive option, as then the cross could be avoided.

So the temptation arises again: What kind of Messiah would he be? Will he meet the people's expectations and violently overthrow the oppressors through Holy War? Or will he be faithful to who God has called him to be, loving his enemies and praying for his persecutors by not returning violence for violence, even though it leads to the cross?

In the midst of his temptation, he enters into a time of earnest and heartfelt prayer. And after his prayer, he is strengthened and empowered to trust God's purposes, even if it leads to a painful end. And when he is confronted and arrested in the garden, he chooses to engage in healing rather than violence (see Luke 22:47-51). And this ultimately leads to his death.

And yet he is still a warrior, in a way. God is able to bring about victory through Jesus, just not in the expected way. God does not win the victory through the violence and destruction of Holy War, but by self-giving love. Jesus replaces warfare with complete trust in God. Yet neither is he passive: He willingly chooses to lay down his life. Following his prayer, he is confident and in control throughout all that lies ahead.

Jesus confronts evil by exposing it for what it is, by yielding to its tragic results rather than joining in evil actions himself. The powers and principalities lash out with what they consider the ultimate weapon: death. But our God is a God of life, and God responds to Jesus and his faithful way of life, by raising him from the dead on the third day. Thus the ultimate victory is won through self-giving love rather than violence and hatred.

It is tempting to respond violently when we are threatened or when we fear for ourselves and those most dear to us. Indeed, this is what the world teaches us to do: that when someone mistreats us, we respond through violence to put a stop to their violent behavior. But this is a hollow victory at best. Violence only leads to more violence.

But we are people who live knowing that the ultimate victory over death has already been won. We can respond like Jesus, willingly, confidently, lovingly, not giving in to the temptation to respond violently, but by purposefully choosing the way of God's self-giving love.

Yes, there will be times when we fail and fall into this temptation, when we choose hatred over love. But even when we fail, the One who ultimately judges us is the same One who on the cross prayed for those who were killing him, saying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

We are so deeply loved that Christ willingly laid down his life for our sake. How can our response be anything but deep, life-changing gratitude, seeking to follow after his ways, knowing that the victory has already been won?

~Pastor Katherine



# TABOR CHURCH CALENDAR

1 9 am Breakfast 10 am Worship <i>Easter</i>	2 Building Project Begins!	3 9:15 am Community Prayer 10 am Staff Mtg 7 pm Church Council	4 Wednesday Evening Activities	5 12 pm Newton Lunch Bunch	6 6:30 pm Mennonite Heritage Museum dinner @ Tabor	7
8 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am FF Pastor/Cong. Review process begins	9 6pm Tabor Mennonite Women Salad Supper	10 9:15 am Community Prayer 10 am Staff Mtg 7 pm Deacon Meeting	11 7pm Pine Car Derby	12	13	14
15 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am FF	16	17 9:15 am Community Prayer 10 am Staff Mtg	18 5:30pm Faithful Fitness	19 10 am Stories & Stuff <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	20	21
22 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am FF Focus Groups for Review	23	24 9:15 am Community Prayer 10 am Staff Mtg 11:30 am Tabor Ladies Lunch Bunch	25 5:30pm Faithful Fitness	26	27	28
29 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am FF Focus Groups for Review	30					

← Kansas MCC Sale →

← Men's Retreat @ Mennoscah →

← Tabor Serves at New Hope Shelter →

Bulletin announcements are due on Thursday mornings, 8am.



1 - Janna Duerksen	13 - Hans Banman
3 - Hunter Diller	Bruce Funk
Jenna Schmidt	15 - Mark Schmidt
4 - Andrew Hermstein	16 - Ronald K. Schmidt
Austin Hermstein	17 - James Goerzen
Faye Koop	18 - Weston Sommerfeld
5 - Darlene Schroeder	20 - Alice Funk
Cooper Lafferty	Lois (Lester) Voth
6 - Dawson Duerksen	Hoxie Hiebert
8 - Yvette Nickel	21 - Lane Keller
9 - LaVern Unruh	22 - Carrie Friesen
Fawn Schmidt	23 - Mike Goerzen
Devin Gaddis	24 - Daryl Cress
10 - Diana Schmidt	28 - Marie Unruh
14 - Alvin Schmidt	29 - Eunice Nickel
Geneva Goertzen	30 - Brittany Denson
Fred Schmidt	
Nathan Graber	



Lester & Lois Voth	April 4,	36 yrs.
Duane & Sharon Adrian	April 13,	49 yrs.
Kent & Rosie Jantz	April 17,	42 yrs.
Jerry & Linda Graber	April 26,	38 yrs.