



Sunday Worship Themes

June 7 - Unexpected: *Joanna*

Luke 8

Pastor Rosie preaching

June 14 - Unexpected: *Ruth*

Ruth

Pastor Katherine preaching

June 21 - Unexpected: *Joseph*

Genesis 37-50

Pastor Phil preaching

June 28 - Unexpected:

Balaam's Donkey

Numbers 22

Pastor Phil preaching



... fear not,
for I am with you;
be not dismayed,
for I am your God;

I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you
with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Tabor Church News

June, 2020

Phil's Ponderings: Biblical Guidance for a Pandemic

One question that might be on our minds is, "What Biblical passages/themes can help guide us as we try to navigate our way through this pandemic?" Good question. The response to this question could be a book, and I'm guessing that books may very well be written on this topic. But since I don't have space to write a book, I'll offer a few reflections. So here goes...

Did people in the Bible ever face a pandemic like we are facing today? No, I don't believe the Bible describes a pandemic like COVID-19. On the other hand, the Bible does describe God's people living through times of great turmoil. We might consider the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-40, or the story of Exodus from slavery in Egypt, or the traumatic story of God's people being sent into Exile. Each of these stories (and many more) describe God journeying with God's people through extremely difficult times. As our whole world continues to journey through this current pandemic, I hope we can put our trust in a God who is journeying with us through the difficulties. What other Biblical stories come to your mind as you reflect on the coronavirus pandemic?

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One theme that is prevalent throughout scripture is the call to care for the marginalized people in society. This is woven throughout the laws of Leviticus, the prophetic message to God's people, and the life and teachings of Jesus. One of the realities of our current coronavirus pandemic is that it is the people on the margins of society—those who are elderly, those who are poor, those who don't have easy access to healthcare, etc.—who suffer the most. There are plenty of people who were just surviving before the pandemic who are currently hanging on by a thread and who will continue to be impacted greatly in the months and years to come. So what is the church's role? If we are to take this theme woven throughout the Law and the Prophets and Jesus' message seriously, we must find creative ways to name and care for those living on the margins of society today. Much work is already being done and

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much more needs to be done. Thus, what ideas do you have about how our church can extend hospitality, healing, and hope to those most impacted by COVID-19? Let's dream big about how we can be the church in 2020 and beyond!

The reality is that while the Bible wasn't written in our language or culture or time, it does tell the story of God journeying with God's people through many difficult situations. Thus, I believe that we have much to learn from the Bible about how we can live with faith and hope today. Our current worship series is focused on the theme of "Unexpected" and we will continue to reflect on unexpected stories in the Bible and in our lives today. As we do so, I pray that God's unexpected Holy Spirit will inspire us with creativity and compassion and energy to help us live as faithful followers of Jesus as we journey onward.

~Peace, Pastor Phil



Tabor Food Pantry Receives Grants

The Tabor Church Food Pantry is pleased to announce that it has received two grants this Spring.

A \$500 grant from the Goessel Community Foundation, an affiliate of Central Kansas Community Foundation, was again received. The mission of the Goessel Community Foundation is to enhance the quality of educational, cultural, civic and economic life in Goessel both today and in the future by:

- Enabling donors to fulfill their charitable interests
- Building a permanent endowment
- Facilitating prudent management and care of funds
- Meeting community needs through grants, awards, and scholarships.

Another grant for \$2,500 was received from Farmers Grow Communities. The purpose for the Grow Communities program is to partner with farmers to make a positive impact in farm communities across the country by supporting local nonprofit organization. Dealan and Alma Unrau own a farm locally, and we are grateful to Alma for nominating Tabor Food Pantry for this grant. Since the program began in 2010, more than \$35 million has been directed to organizations across rural America.

The Tabor Food Pantry serves the Goessel Community by supplying people in need with groceries. The Tabor congregation, area churches and the Goessel community are strong supporters of the Food Pantry, which operates totally with donations. Grateful thanks to the Goessel Community Foundation and to Alma Unrau on behalf of Farmers Grow Communities for these gifts.

~Kim Funk

Rosie's Reflections

I've been thinking about how the Covid-19 coronavirus has wrecked so many plans. However, if I continue to focus on what I "can't do" rather than dreaming about what I "can do," I might as well sit in a pit. So what am I going to do? Am I going to sit on my pity pot, or climb out of the pit?

This week I've had some great emails and conversations with Tabor's Christian Education team; and let me tell you, I'm excited about the big dreams and plans we have for Tabor's children. From the beginning of my time serving with Christian Education, I've been blown away by their passion and creative ideas for Tabor's Faith Formation activities for children and youth. Remember the huge floor map (created by Gayle Funk) that literally took the children on a journey, "Walking with Jesus" on the map through the Middle East? It's been used a number of times since, and I just heard the other day, "hey, where's that map?" Here we go again!

Parents, you've probably received a survey from Christian Education about ways you and your children can stay engaged with Faith Formation activities this summer. In this time of social distancing, we are dreaming of ways to use the Bible School curriculum, "Big, Beautiful World" that we had purchased before the pandemic hit. It's a great curriculum with many ideas for learning about God through Bible stories and doing activities. We're excited to make it available to you and hope to add some additional surprises throughout the summer. If you haven't responded to the survey, please do it as soon as possible. Your feedback is very important as we continue to plan for the summer.

And, summer isn't the only thing being planned. We're working on some new curriculum for Wednesday evening ministries this fall. Curriculum, skits and videos are in the works, and if we need to shelter in place for everyone's safety, we'll make everything available online or by mail. We want to provide ways to stay connected to each other!

These are crazy times we're in, but we aren't going to let the pandemic stop us from being the Church in our community and in the world. The pandemic may have wrecked a lot of plans, but it can't take our faith. We still have a lot of growing to do and we'll do it together in whatever way we can. God is with us, and with God, all things are possible! Can I get an AMEN?

~ Grace and Peace, Pastor Rosie

Katherine's Candor

I really enjoy meeting with our youth, whether it be for Wednesday evenings, attending their music concerts and sporting events, taking them out for coffee, or simply touching base with them on a regular basis. While I was on sabbatical this past fall, I found myself missing attending volleyball games and football games, and hearing how their school year was starting off. And now with the pandemic, I have been missing watching them in track, attending music concerts, celebrating graduation, taking youth out for a meal before the lock in, and the summer service trip (which has been cancelled).

But I have been grateful for opportunities to continue to check in with them on Wednesday evenings via Zoom. I appreciate hearing how things have been for them during this time, both the frustrations as well as the unexpected joys. Despite how different this year has been, these weekly conversations and check-ins have been a reminder of God's presence and care during these times. I continue to thank God for the youth and young people in our congregation!

One more thing: The church gives graduates and exchange students a gift in May. This year we gave Porcelain and Elizabeth Study Bibles and we gave Jaime *Extending the Table*. We wish them well in all that lies ahead, and trust that God's presence and love will continue to be made known in and through their lives.

~Grace and Peace, Pastor Katherine

Recognizing Our Graduates

Luke Unruh

I graduated from Bethel College with degrees in Social Work and Bible & Religion. Now, I will be working at Swan Lake Christian Camp for the summer before I head to Indonesia with MCC SALT. I had interviews from three different MCC programs abroad: Kenya, Egypt, and Indonesia. All three sounded very good and I would fit in with the programs in each country. All three offered me positions, which was very exciting for me. After some discernment with family, friends, and God, I felt that I was being called to serve with MCC Indonesia. This is a very exciting time for me and I am excited for the opportunities that I will have next year! My position is titled "English Language & Peacebuilding Facilitator." I will be teaching English in a small seminary in Pati, Indonesia, which is a city of about 100,000 people in the Central Java province. The position also includes some peacebuilding in the community, in which the details are still being worked out. The term was originally supposed to start in August, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they have moved the start date to October. I will be returning in July of 2021, but hope to stay and participate in Mennonite World Conference, which will be held in Indonesia in July of 2021. I appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers during this time of transition for me.

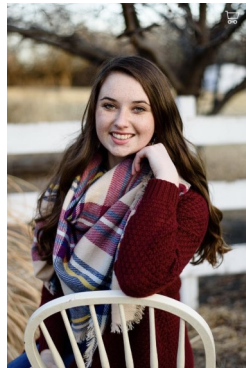
More information will be given later about fundraising and how you can support me in my journey as a church family. Thank you!



Elizabeth Alderfer

I am a senior at Goessel High School. Upon graduation, I plan to attend Bethel College. I am undecided about what I want to study, but trust that with God, mentors, and teachers, I will figure it out.

I would also like to take a moment to thank you and the congregation. Over the years you have provided love and support in everything I have done. You have encouraged me and helped me see my gifts and talents. I am happy that I will be going to college close to home so I can still be connected and attend regularly. Thank you also for your thoughts, prayers, and messages during these past few months; they have truly meant a lot to me.



Porclein Unruh

I am graduating this year from Goessel High School. This fall I will be attending Hesston College where I will be in their 3-year nursing program and playing basketball. The ending to my Senior year was very unexpected. Everything I had been looking forward to was suddenly gone. While it has been sad, I have enjoyed the extra time I have got to spend with my siblings. I am incredibly thankful for the continuous support from this congregation.



NOTE: Goessel High School announced graduation will be held on July 18 at 4pm in the gym. They will be monitoring the state and CDC guidelines to see what restrictions will look like at that time.



Exchange Student: Jaime Fabrellas



"Being an Exchange Student"

Leaving home is not easy,
Starting a new life is not easy,
The beginning is not easy.

I have had amazing moments here,
But what taught me most were the bad ones,
They made me see things
from a different view,
And that made me grow as a person.

I would like to say thank you,
Thank you to all the locals,
Thank you for talking to me
when I didn't know how,
Thank you for being open to new people,
Thank you, thank you for being there.

But especially,
Thank you to all the exchange students,
Thank you for being brave,
Thank you for going further than anyone,
Thank you for having that spirit
of exploring the world,
Thank you.



Greetings!

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) has launched *On the Level*, a monthly online newsletter we hope will inform and inspire you! We'll be sharing current MDS news, as well as taking a walk back through history by republishing some of our best stories from the past. You'll also find links to videos that show volunteers in action.

Although MDS projects remain closed because of COVID-19, our volunteers and donors continue to amaze me with their compassion and generosity. Their work continues to blossom in creative ways across the U.S. and Canada.

In the first issue, you'll read about how MDS volunteers helped a survivor of multiple disasters return home even after closing down the project due to COVID-19. You can also learn how special funds are helping Anabaptist churches in the U.S. and Canada keep their doors open.

As we celebrate 70 years of MDS, I look forward to the day when we can reopen our projects, and embark on another 70 years of helping disaster survivors rebuild their communities. In the meantime, we hope *On the Level* helps keep MDS in your hearts and in your prayers. On the days when we bend under the weight of these challenging times, may these stories lift you up.

~ Kevin King, Executive Director, MDS

To view *On the Level* see:
<https://conta.cc/2LGvidw>

100 YEARS | MCC

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

THANKS to ALL you Tabor folks who made the High Quality Items for the KS MCC Sale this year; THANKS to ALL of you folks who bid on these items. THANKS to Kim for helping to run the auction. We had Excellent success in selling 9 of the 15 items offered for over \$2100. The remaining items will be offered to the Greater Mennonite Churches of KS at a later date.

The KS MCC Sale has raised OVER \$500,000 already this year and hope for more ideas and revenue to make the Centennial Year for MCC a Big Success. Some totals so far are listed below:

- ◆ Over \$300,000 has come in from the 1000 for 1000 Centennial Year Fund Raiser. This is a fund raiser that goes throughout the year in hopes of raising more funds for MCC. We are trying to get 1000 families to give \$1000 to the KS MCC Sale. Let us know if you can help.
- ◆ \$80,000 was raised thru Pre-Sale Expenses that we did not spend since we did not have the Sale.
- ◆ \$15,000 was raised from Business Sponsors
- ◆ \$20,000 Keith's Meal Fund Raiser Feeding the Multitude
- ◆ \$30,000 5K Virtual Run for Relief
- ◆ \$30,000 plus from Sale of Vehicles
- ◆ Fellowship Meals, Children's Coin Offerings, Plant Sales, Church Budget Donations, etc. helped bring our totals to approximately \$530,000 Raised this Year without having the actual sale.

The Board is constantly assessing ways in which we can continue to raise money for MCC. There will be other events throughout the year you can be involved in having more FUN and Supporting one of the MOST Efficiently Run Humanitarian Aid Organizations in the World.

Keep up the GOOD WORK Tabor!!! You ARE making a difference in a Broken World!! With God's Help our MANY little efforts turn in to AMAZING Miraculous Gifts that offer Hope to Thousands that are struggling just to survive. We are Grateful for God's Hand in putting this all together.

~Jerry Toews

Something Fun

- 1) Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?
- 2) Who was the smartest man in the Bible?
- 3) Why didn't Noah go fishing?
- 4) Why didn't they play cards on the ark?
- 5) What animal could Noah not trust?

Answers:
 1. No; just an apple.
 2. Abraham; he knew a lot.
 3. Because he only had two worms.
 4. Because Noah was standing on the deck.
 5. Cheetaah.