



*Christ the Lord is Risen, Indeed!*

## Sunday Worship Themes

### May 3 - Unexpected

***Encountering Jesus  
on the Emmaus Road***

Luke 24:13-35

Michael Unruh preaching

### May 10 - Unexpected

***Sarah gives birth to Isaac***

Genesis 18:9-15; 21:1-7

Pastor Katherine preaching

### May 17 - Unexpected

***Saul's Unexpected Conversion***

Acts 9

Luke Unruh preaching

### May 24 - Unexpected

***Death of Lazarus***

John 11

Pastor Phil preaching

### May 31 - Unexpected

***Pentecost***

Acts 2

Pastor Phil preaching

# Tabor Church News

May, 2020

## *Katherine's Candor*

These are unprecedented times. None of us could have anticipated how far-reaching this pandemic would be nor how drastically our lives would be altered. So much feels unknown, which, for some of us, can be the cause of a lot of anxiety. We wonder whether our lives will ever go back to feeling "normal" again. Following a death in our own Goessel community due to coronavirus, we are reminded just how fragile human life really is. These times draw out some of our deepest fears, especially fears of loss, whether this be loss of familiarity, loss of income, loss of security, loss of control, or loss of loved ones. Many find ourselves asking, "Where is God in all this?"

Our upcoming worship series will focus on people from the Bible who found themselves in unexpected, sometimes frightening, and often life-changing circumstances. May these stories assure us that, even in the midst of unanticipated and fearful situations, God continues to be present with us, to work through us, and to work for good in the world.

*... even in the midst  
of unanticipated and  
fearful situations, God  
continues to be present  
with us . . .*

It has been meaningful to hear from different people in our congregation during our digital worship services. Thank you to all of you who have shared your gifts and your stories! As we enter into this worship series, we will be inviting people from Tabor to specifically share stories from your own lives. Where have you experienced unexpected changes in your own life, at home or at work? Where have you encountered God in an unexpected way? Where are you noticing God's presence, even in the midst of the pandemic? If any of you have a story or experience you would like to share with your brothers and sisters, please let me or one of the other pastors know.

May we continue to have eyes to see and hearts to burn within us as God continues to be made known in our lives, even during these unexpected and sometimes frightening days.

*~Grace and Peace, Pastor Katherine*





## Graduations at Tabor

**Bethel College**  
Luke Unruh

**Goessel High School**  
Elizabeth Alderfer  
Porclein Unruh

**Exchange Student: Goessel High**  
Jaime Fabrellas



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## Rosie's Reflections

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your unfailing commitment to teach and to model to (Tabor) children, youth and adults what it means to be a follower of Jesus." This is how I began my May Newsletter article a year ago. I still mean it! Thank you!

However, as we approach this summer, we find ourselves in the middle of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. We never expected to be sheltering in place, worshipping from our homes, wearing masks in public places, wiping down counters, doorknobs and other surfaces with Lysol wipes. And let me be honest; I don't like it. I need people interaction to stay motivated and invigorated. I want to be with you and visit with you in person. Many of you feel the same. We miss being together, so it cramps our style and comfort to obey the "stay at home" orders. However, we want to stay safe, and we want others to be safe. Maybe this is what it means to love our neighbor.

What we're going through is difficult because we are created for relationship. Even if we enjoy being alone, we have the inherent need to be with others. Think about it, from the very beginning God created everything to be in relationship—plants, animals, humankind and the whole cosmos are connected in some way. When one of these relationships is broken we all suffer the brokenness too. We see this throughout the biblical story. From Genesis to Revelation, God's desire for relationship is undeniable.

*"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them."* (Revelation 21:3).  
*God's steadfast love for us endures forever* (Psalm 136)!

Dear friends, during this time of separation, let us be reminded that as the Body of Christ, we will and we can do this together. This week, in addition to the usual playlist for worship, we will offer a couple of Faith Formation opportunities through Zoom technology. Please see Pastor Phil's announcement and listen for his instructions during the service.

Stay connected. Be each other's light, and may God's grace sustain you, and may Christ's peace surround us as we walk together in the days ahead.

~ Grace and Peace, Pastor Rosie

## Zoom Faith Formation

Beginning on Sunday, May 3, we are inviting all Tabor people to join a Zoom video call beginning at 10:30am. For the first 15ish minutes, we will take time to see each other's faces, connect briefly, share prayer requests, and pray together. Following that, we will send people to break-out rooms for Faith Formation discussions. For May 3, we plan to have 2 breakout rooms, one for the Women of Worth class and one for a worship response discussion. This is an experiment, so we hope you will participate and offer feedback on how we can adapt/improve the experience. Our purpose is to connect with each other and support one another. Zoom information will be included in this week's bulletin email. Please let me know if you have any questions.

~Pastor Phil

## Phil's Ponderings: Experiencing God

Thanks to the recommendation from a couple different men, I have recently been listening to the audiobook, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by Henry and Richard Blackaby. As we journey through the unknown of this pandemic, I have found it helpful to reflect on how to truly experience God in my life today. The book is based on Henry's personal experiences and is full of many good stories and encouragements for readers/listeners to develop a deeper relationship with the living God.

A few points from the book have especially stood out to me:

1. God is constantly at work in the world. Followers of Jesus (both individuals and communities) are to first look for where God is at work and then seek to join God's work already taking place. Sometimes people get excited about their own plans or strategies without first considering where God is already working. When we open ourselves to God's reconciling work around us, we can truly find our purpose in doing the work of God with God.
2. God always takes the initiative and it is our job to respond faithfully. As we seek to live our lives in-tune with God, when we experience a word or calling from God, it is important to respond to that calling promptly with faithfulness. The more we learn to listen and the more we practice responding faithfully, the more opportunities we will have to join God at work all around us.
3. God takes the initiative to speak to us in a variety of ways: especially through the Bible, through prayer, through life circumstances, and through the church. It is important for us to open ourselves to God's message in a variety of ways. The more time we devote to looking and listening for God, the more opportunities we will have to respond faithfully and join in God's work.

So, as we continue to journey into the unknown of this pandemic, how are you experiencing God in your life? How might you be more intentional about looking for God at work, listening for God's call, and responding faithfully? I'd love to hear from you and if you have another book recommendation for me to consider, I'd love to hear that as well.

~Peace, Pastor Phil



-Helen Schmidt  
~ December 5, 1924 - July 2, 2019  
-Alice Funk  
~ April 20, 1927 - July 17, 2019  
-Walden Duerksen  
~ January 21, 1928 - July 18, 2019  
-Paul Graber  
~ October 20, 1936 - October 27, 2019  
-LeRoy Funk  
~ August 13, 1928 - November 24, 2019

### Thoughts to Ponder . . .

*God does not always lift people out of the situation. He himself comes into the situation, as Christ the eternal man once entered this world and in a sense came to stay. He does not pluck people out of the darkness. He becomes the light in the darkness, the peace in the midst of the conflict, the spirits' riches in the midst of poverty and loss and physical degradation.*

~Patricia St. John

*It isn't as bad as you sometimes think it is. It all works out. Don't worry. I say that to myself every morning. It all works out in the end. Put your trust in God, and move forward with faith and confidence in the future. The Lord will not forsake us. He will not forsake us. If we will put our trust in Him, if we will pray to Him, if we will live worthy of His blessings, He will hear our prayers.*

~Gordon B. Hinckley

*But all shall be well,  
And all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well,  
And we shall see it.*

~Julian of Norwich

# May



## TABOR CHURCH CALENDAR

					1	2
3 Worship <i>via playlist</i> 10:30 am Sharing & Prayer Faith Formation <i>via Zoom</i>	4 7pm Christian Ed Zoom Meeting	5 10am Staff Mtg	6	7	8	9
10 Worship <i>via playlist</i> 10:30 am Sharing & Prayer Faith Formation <i>via Zoom</i>	11	12 10am Staff Mtg 7pm Church Council Zoom Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 Worship <i>via playlist</i> 10:30 am Sharing & Prayer Faith Formation <i>via Zoom</i>	18	19 10am Staff Mtg 7pm Deacon Zoom Meeting	20	21 <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	22	23
24 Worship <i>via playlist</i> 10:30 am Sharing & Prayer Faith Formation <i>via Zoom</i>	25	23 10am Staff Mtg	28	28	29	30
31 Worship <i>via playlist</i> 10:30 am Sharing & Prayer Faith Formation <i>via Zoom</i>	You are invited to come together for worship every Sunday through the links provided in the bulletin though weekly mailings.					



### BIRTHDAYS

1 - Emily Brandt Nathan Goerzen	16 - Cynthia Goerzen Fred Unruh
2 - Gary Duerksen	17 - Darren Schmidt Royce Flaming
3 - Karina Brandt Andrew Banman	21 - Kaylynn Smith
4 - Tristan Francis	23 - Elmer Voth Olivia Duerksen
5 - Eva Schmidt	24 - Janessa Wedel
6 - Carrie Smith Melody Hall	25 - Asaf Blubshtein
7 - Kim Funk Lester Voth Michael (Lina) Unruh Jill Litwiller	26 - Chuck Goertzen Maynard Knepp Russ Francis Rene Kaufman
8 - Kurtis Duerksen	28 - Jeff Schmidt
9 - Kellen Froese Sarah Shorthill Schmidt	29 - Les Goerzen Eliza Unruh
14 - Mike Hiebert	31 - Cindy Jantzen
15 - Jake Schrag	



### ANNIVERSARIES

Brad & Sara Hiebert	May 3,	17 yrs.
Russ & Barb Abrahams	May 5,	48 yrs.
Mike & Jodi Unruh	May 21,	37 yrs.
Kyle & Mandy Funk	May 22,	10 yrs.
Richard & Lynette Johnston	May 25,	35 yrs.
Mark & Patty Seibel	May 25,	40 yrs.
Jeremy & Emily Newhouse	May 25,	13 yrs.
Shane & Letha Buller	May 28,	19 yrs.
Jerry & Leann Toews	May 29,	49 yrs.
Carol Duerksen & Maynard Knepp	May 30,	39 yrs.
Paul & Misty Goerzen	May 30,	22 yrs.
Rodney & Ilona Abrahams	May 31,	46 yrs.
Brandon & Kristi Unruh	May 31,	23 yrs.
Monica Voth & Asaf Blubshtein	May 31,	2 yrs.