

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVI

November 28, 2021

No. 48



Dare to Imagine God's Goodness

Can we, dare we, embrace *hope* once more? We can when we remember God's steadfast goodness and the goodness of learning and walking in God's ways.¹

WORSHIP

PRELUDE Sophie Rebitzer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Jim Schmidt

LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP AND RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 25:1-10*

*GATHERING PRAYER

*GATHERING HYMN "To Us a Child of Hope Is Born" No. 259
Pastor Katherine accompanying

*PASSING THE PEACE *The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE Lois and Lester Voth
"Nun Ist Sie Erschienen" (English or German) No. 52 CS

OFFERING OUR GIFTS "We Come" No. 225

CHILDREN'S STORY Sheri Schmidt

SCRIPTURE READINGS *Jeremiah 33:14-16* Braxton, Quinli,
I Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36 Kristi, & Brandon Unruh
The Word of God for the people of God ~ Thanks be to God!

SERMON Pastor Luke Unruh

HYMN OF RESPONSE "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" -vs. 1,2,6,7 No. 210

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING & PRAYER Pastor Katherine Goerzen

*SENDING HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 245

*BENEDICTION Pastor Luke Unruh

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able*

Sunday, November 28

Welcome to worship at Tabor Mennonite Church! Come together to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Jerry and Leann Toews. A special welcome is extended to all visitors.

9:30 am: Worship Service in the Sanctuary.
YouTube Livestream (also available following the service).
Link: https://youtu.be/_XspBp7lwrM

Fellowship Time following worship.

10:45 am: Faith Formation.

This Week

Mon. Nov. 29, 5:30 pm - Faithful Fitness
7 pm - Men's Bible Study in the Hospitality Hall.

Tues. Nov. 30, 9 am - Staff meeting.
6:30 pm - Pastor search committee meeting.

Wed. Dec. 1 - Wednesday Evening Programs
Last meetings of the fall season. TMYF will continue to meet.

--5:45 – 6:30: *Supper served in the Hospitality Hall*
This is the last Wednesday evening meal before Christmas. Since the crowd has been small this year, I would like to invite anyone who would like, to come eat and enjoy a \$2.50 Christmas Dinner for supper. Please let me know by Tuesday evening if you plan to come. ~Keith Banman. 620-386-0730; kbbanman@gmail.com
--6:30 – 7:15: *Class for Preschool through 8th Grade*
--7:00 – 8:00: *Youth Group*
--7:30 – 8:15: *Adult Bible Study*

Next Sunday, December 5

9:30 am: Next Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent. The theme is "Dare to Imagine" and our focus will be God's Embrace. Scripture for reflection will be Luke 1:68-79 and Luke 3:1-6 and Pastor Katherine will be preaching.

10:45 am: Faith Formation for everyone.

¹From the *Leader* magazine Advent Worship Resources "Dare to Imagine," Advent 1 Focus Statement

Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ our Pastor Search team as they meet. Lord, hear our prayers for listening ears, wisdom, and clarity.
- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for pastors, musicians, worship leaders and teachers who guide WDC congregations in celebrating the upcoming Advent and Christmas season.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Alfonsina and José Oyanguren have walked alongside Toba-Qom churches in the Argentine Chaco since 2004, serving through a partnership that includes the Argentina Mennonite Church, Mennonite Mission Network and congregations in Ohio. Pray for them and their children as they build relationships and promote Indigenous languages and cultures.

Remember to Praise God for:

- ★ the season of Advent, as we wait and prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Thank You

Ruth and I want to express our appreciation to the men's group, Pastor Luke and the youth along with all others that have been so helpful and supportive during our move. Our new contact information is as follows:

32 Express Blvd.
Sandia Park,
NM 87047

Ruth's cell: 316-517-1511
John's cell: 620-755-3161
email: jpetersmtelco@gmail.com

~John and Ruth Peters

Congregational Announcements

Small Group Update: The pastors and deacons would like to update Tabor's small group lists and would like to hear from those of you who would like to be in a small group.

- 1) Are you in a Small Group? Who is all in your group?
- 2) Has your group disbanded?
- 3) Are you in a Small Group and would welcome more participants to your group?
- 4) Would you like to be in a Small Group?
- 5) Would you like to see Small Groups reorganized and if so, what are your ideas?

Please put your comments in Denise Nickel's mailbox or email her at oreo@mtelco.net.

Christmas Coffee and Chat: Thursday, December 9 there will be a Christmas coffee for anyone who would like to join us. It will be at 10 a.m. in the Hospitality Hall. Please bring a small gift if you plan to attend. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. You can sign up until the Sunday before the event, December 5. Come have a time to visit and celebrate this special time. Contact Leann Toews (367-8257) if you have questions.

Christmas Brass Concert: The McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews will give their Christmas Brass Concert Sunday, Dec. 12 at 7:30pm in the Goessel HS gym. This event is sponsored by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. Note the location change accommodating for social distancing. Come and enjoy a festive brass Christmas concert!

Tabor Mennonite Women and Girls -- "Save the Date" for Saturday, December 18, 9 am Christmas Breakfast. More details and sign-up sheet will be coming.

Night in the Barn has been a tradition of Tabor Church for many years. We would like to continue it this year. As an outdoor activity, we feel it is safe to plan to share this Christmas event. Once again, we are inviting the congregation to participate as desired. We will need volunteers for characters as well as guides. Those who can donate Christmas goodies are also appreciated. We are planning for December 18 & 19 at the farm of Brandon and Kristi Unruh. Please contact Kristi Unruh by phone/text at 345-6867 or email kdunruh97@gmail.com to volunteer.

Attention singers, Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus will be again singing this year after not being able to the last two years. If you would like to join us please contact Donavon Schmidt and sign up today. We are doing a two concert series this year. Our first concert is April 24th at Bethel College and our second concert will be May 1st at Bethany College. So, please, if you have any interest in singing with us let me know and I will get you registered to sing for the 2022 concert season!

Rejoice! The winter issue of the Rejoice! devotional is available for you to pick up from the table in the foyer. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please notify the church office.

Dare to Imagine, Mennonite Church USA's annual Advent at Home worship guide, is now available. It follows the worship theme, can be printed or read from a device, covers Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, is flexible (use all or some of the activities), and is for all ages, children through mature adults. [Download the free guide here.](#) If you would like a paper copy, let Kim know and she can print one for you.

A National Day of Giving: November 30, 2021 is #GivingTuesday, (following #BlackFriday, a National Day of Spending). Representatives of the **Goessel Community Foundation, Bethesda Home, and Mennonite Heritage & Agriculture Museum** will be available from 5 - 7 pm at the Goessel Community Building to accept your year-end donations.

Come Home to the Museum Store for Christmas: Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum, 200 N. Poplar, Goessel. Open Tues - Sat. 12-4pm until Dec 22. Mennonite cookbooks, locally crafted items, gift memberships to the museum, gift certificates.

The Christmas Giving Tree: Goessel Ministerial Alliance and the Crossroads Credit Union are sponsoring a "Christmas Giving Tree" to help families in need. Two tags for each child will be available on the tree at the Crossroads Credit Union on **Tuesday, November 23**. All the gifts will need to be brought back to the Credit Union by **Monday, December 13**. The gifts should be wrapped and the credit union personnel will assist with the "checking in" process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the pastors. For more details, please see the November newsletter.

Do you enjoy a cup of coffee? A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board if you would be willing to help make coffee on Sunday mornings. Volunteering to clean up after Faith Formation is also very much appreciated.

Fiscal Year End: Now is the time to prepare annual reports for the 2021 fiscal year which ends November 30. Reports will be due in December. Thanks you for submitting reports in a timely manner.

Bloodmobile: During this holiday season, share the gift of life by donating blood at Goessel Church between 1:00-6:00 on Monday, December 13. Make a single unit donation or a Power Red donation (double units for those with type O+, O-, A-, or B-) to help meet the critical needs. Sign up for your appointment time online at redcrossblood.org. For more information contact Rosie Reimer 620-367-2418 or Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 1: Last night of Wednesday Evening Children's Programming and Adult Bible Study for 2021 (Please note there will be NO Christmas Eve rehearsals on Wednesday evenings)

Dec. 9: Christmas Coffee and Chat

Dec. 12: Christmas Brass Concert

Dec. 18: Mennonite Women's Christmas Breakfast

Dec. 18 - 19: Night In The Barn

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service

Conference Announcements

Western District Conference: WDC Texas congregations are planning a joint worship service on Saturday, December 4th, at 6:30-8:00pm on Zoom and Facebook live. Worship will include Christmas music, updates from the congregations represented, and a chance to celebrate being together in Christ. To attend - Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/WfpxUjTI>
Zoom link : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81046316079>
[pwnd=djZkUU56RTRDdUN3WnEwRHVGOU8zZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81046316079?pwd=djZkUU56RTRDdUN3WnEwRHVGOU8zZz09)

Mennonite Central Committee: Have yourself a honkin' good holiday, December 17 from 4-6 p.m.! MCC is thrilled to host this drive-thru event again this year. Order your charcuterie box(es) today to enjoy in the comfort of your home, spread Christmas joy and order extra to give as gifts! Suggested donation per box is \$25. We're also collecting items for [MCC hygiene kits](#) at this event. Place your order by 5 p.m. on December 9. [Details and order form are on \[mcc.org\]\(http://mcc.org\)](#). Questions? Please call 316.283.2720.

Camp Mennoscah:

--2022 Summer staff applications are being accepted! Applicants should be 18 years old or older and in agreement with the Camp Mennoscah mission statement. See website for details. [Information and the online application can be found here!](#) Call or email with questions!

--Christmas Gathering on Dec. 18 at 2:30pm! Join us in the Dining Hall at Camp Mennoscah for afternoon fun--bring games to play indoors or out. Camp will provide popcorn and generic pop. (Masks recommended and encouraged for inside activities.)

Hesston College:

--Music and Theatre Present: Home For Christmas, Hesston Mennonite Church, Dec. 4, 7 pm. You are invited to a theatre and music performance that explores what coming "home for Christmas" means for a diversity of people and cultures. All performers fully vaccinated for COVID-19 will perform without masks. Audience members are required to wear masks. No tickets are required, but a free-will offering will be accepted following the performance. Program and livestream available at www.hesston.edu/music.

Bethel College:

--Sat., Dec. 4 – Five Places of Christmas, the annual holiday open house, includes Kauffman Museum and Goerz House on the Bethel College campus, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. No charge for admission. The Bethel College Women's Association (BCWA) is the host at Goerz House, where there will be baked goods and other items for sale. (Other locations: Warkentin House, Harvey County Historical Museum and Carriage Factory Gallery, all in Newton.)

--Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing and mask-wearing indoors for groups of 10 or more people, regardless of vaccination status.

5 Places of Christmas: All bakers and craft makers are invited to make items for 5 Places of Christmas on Saturday, December 4, at Goerz House on Bethel College campus. Bethel College Women's Association will again be selling baked goods, craft items, and poinsettias. Christmas candy, zwieback, peppernuts, poppyseed rolls and cinnamon rolls are always great sellers. Please bring your items to Goerz House on Friday, December 3, from 1:30-4:30pm or Saturday, December 4 from 7-9 am.

UPDATE FROM THE COVID TASK TEAM

Gayle Funk, Duane Duerksen & Erica Stoltzfus

The task force wants you to know that we want to continue the more rigid Covid protocol until the end of the year. If cases haven't increased too much from people gathering at the holidays and those who have received boosters and the children who have decided to get vaccinated have done so by then, maybe we can look at relaxing some of the protocol. For now, we are still encouraging you to use the microphone at the front of the sanctuary for Announcements and Sharing and you can choose to remove your mask. During sharing if you feel more comfortable for a pastor to bring you a mic while in the pew, we ask that you keep your mask on while sharing. Thank You!

NOVEMBER COVID19 PROTOCOL

--Due to the recent increases of Covid cases in the schools represented by Tabor children and the recent increases due to the Delta variant, we will continue to Strongly Encourage mask wearing when in the church building. For Wednesday evening programming we are requesting that all adults, youth, children wear masks indoor, outdoors, and when on outings.

--Passing Offering Bags will continue to encourage giving as we near the end of budget year. Numerous people have expressed concern about this protocol so please carry sanitizer with you and use after passing the offering bags.

--Please keep handshaking to a minimum with greeters and during the service.

--If you test positive after attending a church event, **PLEASE** call one of the Covid Task Team or the church office. **This is important!**

COVID PROTOCOL FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

- 1) Masks are to be worn the entire evening of activities whether you are inside or outside the church building and if you go on outings.
- 2) The only time masks can be removed is while eating the evening meal.
- 3) Sanitizer stations will be made available and please use these frequently.
- 4) PARENTS: **If your children test positive with Covid OR there are Covid cases in your children's classroom at school you are to call, text or email one or all of the Covid Task Team by Tuesday evening.** This will be our gauge of whether we ask a class not to meet the current Wed evening or whether we "call off" all Wed evening activities for the current week.

Please see posted protocols for complete information.

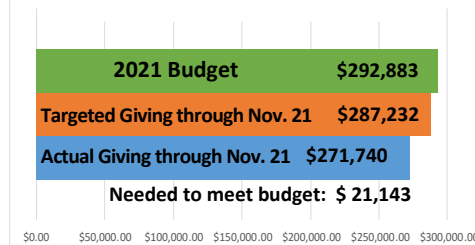
Thank You, The Covid Task Team – Gayle Funk, Duane Duerksen, Erica Stoltzfus

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE November 21, 2021

Offering	= \$16,137.30	Attendance	= 109
Adult FF	= \$ 10.00	Attendance	= 36
Jr. FF	= \$ 5.35	Attendance	= 31

Worship Link Views = 26

Tabor Church Budget



Tabor Mennonite Church

891 Chisholm Trail, Newton, KS 67114

Phone: 620-367-2318

email: tabor@tabormennonite.org

Website: www.tabormennonite.org

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.

Pastor:

Katherine Goerzen

Cell: 316-727-4986

email: kgoerzen@tabormennonite.org

Supply Pastor:

Luke Unruh

Cell: 620-386-4596

email: lunruh@tabormennonite.org

Deacons:

Carol Duerksen
Duane Duerksen

Ruby Graber
Denise Nickel

Emil Schmidt
Lewis Unruh

Pastor Search Committee:

Reece Hiebert, co chr.
Eunice Nickel, co chr.

Nancy Funk, sec.
Lewis Unruh, deacon rep.
Pastor Katherine Goerzen

Larry Goerzen
Sheri Schmidt