

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

December 24, 2023

No. 51



ADVENT 4: CHRISTMAS EVE

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear and celebrate again the “good news of great joy that is for all people.” Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, good will to all!

WORSHIP

- PRELUDE Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Todd Schlosser
- LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP AND RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL
- *CALL TO WORSHIP *from Mary’s Song – Luke 1:46-55*
- *GATHERING HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!” No. 261
- *GATHERING PRAYER
- *HYMN OF PRAISE “Angels We Have Heard on High” No. 249
- *PASSING THE PEACE
The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.
- OFFERING OUR GIFTS
- CHILDREN’S STORY Diane Unruh
- SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20 Adriana Duerksen and Greta Scholle
The Word of God for the people of God. ~ Thanks be to God!
- ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Adriana Duerksen and Greta Scholle
- SERMON Peter Goerzen
- *HYMN OF RESPONSE “O Little Town of Bethlehem” No. 245
- CONGREGATIONAL SHARING & PRAYER Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- *SENDING HYMN “Nun Ist Sie Erschienen” CS No. 52
May be sung in either German or English, depending on what you prefer.
These languages can be sung simultaneously.
- *BENEDICTION
- *POSTLUDE **Please stand if you are able*

Sunday, December 24

Welcome to worship at Tabor Mennonite Church! This is the 4th Sunday of Advent. Come together to worship God and experience God’s love. This morning you were greeted by Duane and Sharon Adrian. A special welcome is extended to all visitors.

10:00 am: Worship

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service)

<https://youtube.com/live/XYdPKYfzYVU?feature=share>

Following worship: Practice for Christmas Eve program in the sanctuary. No regular Faith Formation.

6:30 pm: Christmas Eve Service - Join us at 6:30 for a prelude of Christmas music by many of our children followed by a program with children leading us in song and the Christmas story, Christmas carols, and candlelighting.

Livestream Link: <https://youtube.com/live/v-3luOU7siE?feature=share>

Reflection: *Think of a time or a way that you have shown or have been shown love in an extraordinary way. How did this make you feel? How might God be calling you to show love in this coming week?*

This Week

Bulletin announcements are due on Thursday morning at 8:00 am.

Monday, Dec. 25: Church Offices closed. *Merry Christmas!*

Office hours will be varied and limited this week.

Contact Pastors via cell phones (on back of bulletin) with pastoral concerns.

No TMW Quilting this week.

No regular Wednesday Evening Activities.

Next Sunday, December 31

10:00 am: Next Sunday is Lessons and Carols. Come and join us for the Christmas story and beautiful Christmas music.

Following worship: No regular Faith Formation. Bring Christmas goodies to share in the Hospitality Hall.

Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for :

- ★ Western District Conference: Rejoice in the gift of Emmanuel, God-with-us! Give thanks for the many ways that WDC congregations embody Jesus' presence in the world today.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for peace in the land where Jesus was born more than 2000 years ago. Pray, especially, for partners — Bethlehem Bible College, Nazareth Hospital and Nazareth Village — who faithfully work to peel away the layers of fear and hate that distort Jesus' message of peace, in a time of escalating violence in Israel-Palestine.

Congregational Announcements

Christmas Greetings: There are several cards and letters on the bulletin board from our mission partners and other church friends.

The Trading Post had a record-breaking season this year, thanks to everyone who contributed and purchased at this unique Tabor tradition. It all started when Evie Schmidt wanted to donate jewelry as a fundraiser for the Tabor building project, and we can just see her smiling to hear about this year's total of \$3,825.80 raised for our mission partners and the AV system.

Nursery attendants wanted!

In an effort to offer hospitality to our families and visitors with young children, we'd like to reinstate having attendants in the nursery on Sunday mornings, beginning in the new year. We would like to have 2 adults - or 1 high schooler and 1 adult - available most Sundays to staff the nursery. Nursery attendants will only be assigned one Sunday per quarter. Please let Yvette Nickel know if you are interested in being part of this pool of volunteers. Thank you for considering this important ministry for our youngest attendees. (Safe sanctuary training will be provided as needed.)

Tabor Mennonite Women:

- There will be no quilting on December 25, 27, and January 1.
- Save the date: February 10: Comforter Tying with Alexanderwohl
- A schedule of **upcoming events** for Tabor Mennonite Women is posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to help with an event.

Community and Conference Announcements

The 2024 commemorative 150 Years of the Mennonite Migration calendars have arrived!! These calendars are filled with interesting Mennonite historical tidbits and include event dates for the 150th celebration of Mennonites coming to America. They are great for Christmas gift-giving! Calendars are \$15 plus tax and will be for sale at the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum gift shop. For more information contact 620-367-8200.

The Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum has recently given the **gift shop** a little refresh and would love for you to come check it out! We have several new items for purchase including special 150th celebration merchandise (t-shirts, tea towels, pins and stickers)...and don't forget to purchase some homemade peppernuts for the Christmas season! **Open Tuesday-Saturday 12 to 4pm.**

On the Level : The December edition is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King share stories of people "moving toward Jesus;" meet two women who enjoy cooking and painting with MDS; learn why a retired Army General in Kentucky says, "only God could have made that happen;" and we are now accepting registration for our Annual Celebration in Fresno in February.

Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3v4fpYd>

Bethel College:

-Kauffman Museum at Bethel College invites you to visit during the holidays. Open hours are Tues.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and weekends 1:30-4:30 p.m. (closed Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve).

The permanent exhibits are "Of Land and People," "Mirror of the Martyrs" and "Mennonite Immigrant Furniture," and the museum store is also open during those hours, with books, games, art and other gift items for sale (see kauffmanmuseum.org/museum-store/).

-Sun., Jan. 7 – Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum, "The Western Meadowlark: The State Bird, but Not the Only Exceptional Bird in Kansas," with local birding expert Gregg Friesen, 3 p.m., Kauffman Museum in North Newton.

Hesston College:

-Melva Kauffman Lecture Series: Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery : This year the Melva Kauffman Lecture Series is pleased to host Mark Charles who will present on the topic of Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery.

Charles is the son of an American woman (of Dutch heritage) and a Navajo man. He teaches with insight into the complexities of American history regarding race, culture and faith in order to help forge a path of healing and conciliation for the nation. The public is invited to hear his presentation at Hesston Mennonite Church Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 7 p.m.

-Take a Bible Class at Hesston College: Interested in auditing a Bible course beginning in January? This spring semester Hesston College has opportunities to audit Biblical Literature, Jesus and the Gospels, and Peacemaking and Justice courses. Acceptance is based upon availability of open seating. If you are interested in enrolling in or auditing a Bible course, please contact amber.hett@hesston.edu before Jan. 9 to register. Spring courses are in session Jan. 10 to May 9. Be sure and ask about discounted rates for senior citizens.

Camp Mennoscah:

-Find your work gloves and boots! The Camp Mennoscah board will be contacting volunteers to work on the Retreat Center HVAC project, likely to start early in 2024. Having volunteers help on a daily basis will save a substantial amount in the overall cost. The project includes not only the HVAC system, but also code deficiencies in electrical and plumbing, for example. It's going to be exciting!

-Interviews for the 2024 Summer Staff start over the Christmas/semester break! This allows more in-person interviews, which often are a benefit to the applicant. Complete your application for Summer Staff now, especially those who are usually out-of-town, to give Camp Mennoscah staff the best chance to talk with you while you're in the Newtonish area. Summer staff must be 18 years old or older. The staff leadership positions receiving stipends are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, and office/media. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. The 2024 summer camp season begins with orientation for summer-long positions on June 2 and ends August 4. [The application for 2024 Summer Staff at Camp Mennoscah can be found here.](#)

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp: -

-Jr. High (Jan. 19-21) and Sr. High (Feb. 16-18)

-RMMC Online Trading Post: Still looking for that perfect Christmas gift? Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp has you covered. Check out the online Trading Post at tradingpost@rmmc.org for t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other RMMC items we can ship to you! We would also love to work with you to provide the gift of a summer camp experience for a loved one. Contact RMMC to discuss the options and to receive a coupon to represent your gift. Any gift you give is also a gift to camp and we appreciate your support.

-RMMC Volunteer Opportunities: The ministry at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp is possible because of the dedication of countless volunteers. Camp is still in need of volunteers for our winter programs, including Jr High Snow camp January 19-21, and Sr High snow camp February 18-20. Please visit our volunteer page on the website rmmc.org to sign up!

Mennonite Church USA: Mennonite Church USA's The Corinthian Plan is open for enrollment on Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, 2023, for a Jan. 1, 2024 start date. The Corinthian Plan is a self-funded, health care plan for pastors and church workers, sponsored and owned by Mennonite Church USA. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/open-tcp24

-Mennonite Church USA has relaunched Equipping, a quarterly, resource e-newsletter for pastors and leaders across MC USA. Read the Fall 2023 issue here: mennoniteusa.org/equipping-archive-11-2024. View the PDF here: mennoniteusa.org/pdf/equipping-subscribe

-Menno Snapshots: Jon Carlson, moderator for Mennonite Church USA, reflects on how Mennonite Church USA is better together and how our collective participation in the church shapes us and reflects who we are as a body. Read his reflections here: mennoniteusa.org/where-mc-usa-going

MCC:

-Register now for the MCC South Texas Learning Tour, February 4-9, 2024! This immigration-focused learning tour presents a unique opportunity to engage directly with organizations making a positive impact on our neighbors. You won't want to miss this opportunity. Details and online registration can be found at mcc.org/south-texas-lt. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 20. Please contact Abraham Diaz Alonso with questions, abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org.

AMBS:

Gain peacebuilding skills at AMBS! Prepare for work and scholarship at the cross-section of theology and transformative peacebuilding through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace**

Studies program. Explore a topic of your choice from multiple angles and design a peacebuilding internship in your area of interest. ambs.edu/matps

-The Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation: June 10-24. Participants in this nine-day pilgrimage will trace the route of the U.S. military's 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatomie, Kansas. This intensive AMBS course can be taken for credit, audit or no credit (trip only). Limit: 15 participants. Sign up by May 1. ambs.edu/trail-of-death

The WDC Office and Resource Library will be closed for Christmas and New Years from Dec 23 through Jan 1. We will open again on Tuesday, Jan 2. Be sure to stop by the WDC Resource Library prior to this to pick up books for your kids, your grandkids or yourself to enjoy during the holiday break!



Upcoming Dates:

January 2 - February 4: Pastor Katherine's third month of sabbatical
January 3 - Pizza and Game Night
January 19-21 - Snow Camp at RMMC for Jr. High
February 10 - TMW Comforter Tying with Alexanderwohl Mennonite
February 16-18 - Snow Camp at RMMC for Sr. High Youth
March 4-6 - MCC Comforter Blitz, Yoder, KS

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE
December 17, 2023

Offering = \$ 6,206.00	Attendance = 146
Adult FF = \$ 12.00	Attendance = 34
Jr. FF = \$ 14.50	Attendance = 40

Worship Link Views = 42



Tabor Mennonite Church
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 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	Todd Schlosser
Cell: 316-727-4986	620-960-1718
email: kgoerzen@tabormennonite.org	tschlosser@tabormennonite.org

Deacons:

Carol Duerksen	Denise Nickel	Kristi Unruh
Ruby Graber	Emil Schmidt	