

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIV

December 15, 2024

No. 50



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Jesus' Birth

On this third Sunday of Advent we reflect on the Christmas story of Jesus' birth found in Luke. As we center ourselves on this story for the remainder of the Advent and Christmas season may we experience the hope and purpose Jesus brings to our lives and the deep love our God expresses to all creation.

WORSHIP

- PRELUDE Diane Unruh & Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Nathan Ashley
- LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP AND RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL
- *CALL TO WORSHIP *from Isaiah 9:2, 6*
- *GATHERING SONGS *"Helpless and Hungry/* No. 268/
What Child Is This" No. 267
~led by Youth Worship Team
- *GATHERING PRAYER
- *HYMN OF PRAISE *"Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets"* No. 276
~led by Youth Worship Team
- *PASSING THE PEACE
The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.
- OFFERING OUR GIFTS
- HYMN *"O Come All Ye Faithful"* ~vs. 1 & 3 No. 241
- CHILDREN'S STORY Kara Swartzendruber
- WORSHIP MUSIC Worship Team
- SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 2:1-20* Hannah and Micah Adrian
- LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE
- SERMON Pastor Todd Schlosser
- *HYMN OF RESPONSE *"Away in a Manger"* No. 257
- CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER Pastor Katherine Goerzen

*SENDING HYMN

"Nun Ist Sie Erschienen"

CS No. 52

~may be sung in either English or German simultaneously

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able*

Sunday, December 15

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

9:30 am: Worship

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service)

<https://youtube.com/live/0IyaRL6OBqw?feature=share>

10:45 am: Faith Formation classes

1:00 pm: Tabor leads Bethesda Chapel.

This Week

Bulletin announcements due on Thursday by 9:00 am.

Mon, December 16,

8:30 am - Faithful Fitness

9:30 am - Quilting/Comforter Tying

7:00 pm - Men's Bible Study

Tues, December 17,

9:00 am - Staff Meeting

1:00 pm - Quilting/Comforter Tying

Wed, December 18,

Wednesday Evening Activities:

No Meal served

6:30-8:00 pm - Christmas Choir Practice
- adults and children meet

**Sat, December 21,
& Sun, December 22**

5:00-7:00 pm - Night in the Barn
at Patchwork Farms

Next Sunday, December 22

9:30 am: Next Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Advent. A Christmas Cantata Celebrating Love's Perfect Light "And the Glory Shone Around" will be shared by our Christmas Choir with adults and children directed by Russell Adrian.

Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for :

- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers who are part of WDC congregations and their communities, that they would experience the presence of Christ through the gifts of hospitality and sharing together.

- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the Tanzania Mennonite Church, as they begin three days of Sister Care/Compassionate Care seminars on Wednesday. Church leaders Rev. Esther Muhagachi and Rev. John Wambura ask that we join them in praying for God's spirit to move in powerful ways, to heal trauma and broken relationships.

Thank You

Thank you to the Tabor Wednesday Evening group for coming to sing to us at Bethesda. You were great! Merry Christmas!
~John Koehn

Upcoming Dates

December 21-22 - Night in the Barn at Patchwork Farms
December 22 - Church Choir Program in the morning worship
December 24 - 6:30 pm - Christmas Eve Service
December 31 - No Wednesday Evening activities

Congregational Announcements

Tabor Trading Post : Call it an encore, extension, more shopping, or more creating! Whatever you call it, stop in at the Tabor Trading Post now **through Dec. 22**. There are still many treasures to purchase, and you can still bring something to sell. Proceeds go to Bethesda's Christmas Wish List.

Our Christmas choir will sing in church on December 22. Rehearsal is Dec 18 from 6:30-8 pm.

Tabor, Alexanderwohl, & Goessel churches are **invited to sing "Nun Ist Sie Erschienen"** at the Goessel High School concert on **Monday, December 16** as part of the 150 years celebration. Please arrive at **6:30 pm** for rehearsal, the concert begins at 7 pm.

Les Goerzen's Faith Formation class will meet in the library on December 15 and 22 due to the children practicing for the Christmas Eve program in the sanctuary.

Note for faith formation leaders and parents of children from nursery through junior high: On December 15 and 22, children will meet in the basement first to practice songs and give their offering, and then go to the sanctuary to practice for Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve, children should be at the church by 6:15. If they are playing in the prelude, we will work around that time to get them into their costumes.

The Christmas Giving Tree: See poster on the bulletin board. All the gifts will need to be brought back to the Credit Union by **Mon, Dec. 16**. The gifts should be wrapped. The gifts will then be distributed by the Ministerial Alliance. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the one of the pastors.

Tabor Mennonite Women: A schedule of events has been posted on the bulletin board. Please note programs coming up and sign up for volunteer spots needed. If you have questions, contact Denise Nickel or Diana Schmidt.

Sunday morning greeters: Thank you to all who have shown hospitality here at Tabor Church by welcoming others as Sunday morning greeters this past year! If you would like to be added to the list of people who serve as greeters in the coming year, please let me know by Christmas. Or, if you have served as a greeter but would prefer to be removed from the list, please let me know by then as well. Thank you! --Diana Schmidt

Interested in learning more about food in the Bible?

Beginning **January 8**, Jeff Wintermote will lead a Bible study on Wednesday evenings from **6:15 to 7:15 pm** on food and eating. The study will be interactive and experiential and all are invited to participate.

Community and Conference Announcements

Let **Central Kansas Master Chorale** be a part of your Christmas tradition! Please join us for *Christmas with the Chorale*, a festive concert with CKMC under the direction of Dr. Joel Garber, and featuring the Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble. This free event will be held at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15 at Hesston Mennonite Church**, 309 S Main Street, Hesston, KS. For more information, visit the chorale website at www.centalkansasmasterchorale.org.

[Give the gift of thoughtful commentary and outstanding writing](#) with a **subscription to Anabaptist World**. Your gift recipients will receive a whole year of *Anabaptist World* for just **\$27.00, a 50% saving off the regular price**.

Bethel College: Kauffman Museum at Bethel College invites you to visit during the holidays. The museum is closed Mondays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day; open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve; open regular hours Thursday-Sunday (9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. weekends). The current special exhibit is "Unlocking the Past: Immigrant Artifacts and the Stories They Tell." Permanent exhibits "Of Land and People," "Mirror of the Martyrs" and "Mennonite Immigrant Furniture." The museum store is also open during those hours, with books, games, art and other gift items (including from Ten Thousand Villages) for sale; see <https://www.kauffmanmuseum.org/museum-store>

-Kauffman Museum at Bethel College seeks a visitor service and education coordinator. This is a part-time (50%) position for an organized, detail-oriented, curious and friendly person to work with visitors, school groups, volunteers, student staff, and scheduling. For a job description and to apply, visit <https://www.kauffmanmuseum.org/vsc> For more information, contact Andi Schmidt Andres at asa@bethelks.edu or 316-283-1612.

The **2024-25 Prairie Window Concert Series** welcomes [Rachel Baiman](#) on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 4 p.m. at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. Join us for an evening of great music and delicious food from Crust & Crumb in a prairie garden setting. [Purchase tickets online](#) at dyckarboretum.org or call [620-327-8127](tel:620-327-8127) to reserve your seats.

Music On Site presents *Amahl and the Night Visitors* - Free admission, ticket required. Ticket portal: <https://www.musiconsite.org/2024-season>. Run-time is 50 min. Performance dates/times/locations:

—December 19, 7 pm: McPherson Opera House, 219 S Main St, McPherson, KS
—December 20, 7pm: Whitestone Mennonite Church, 629 Crescent Dr, Hesston, KS
—December 21, 2 pm, Kidron Bethel Village, 3001 Ivy Dr., North Newton, KS
—December 22, 2 pm, Westwood Presbyterian Church, 8007 W Maple St, Wichita, KS

A Celebration of Life Service for Irvin Goertzen, will be held on Friday, December 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church. Innumment will be at the church cemetery at 10:00 a.m. A lunch will follow the service. The family will be greeting friends and loved ones in the Chapel at Bethesda Home, Thursday, December 26, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. ~Arlen Goertzen

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is calling for volunteers to help host the 2025 MDS Annual Celebration February 14-15, 2025, at the Ridgepoint Church, 8000 W 21st St. in Wichita, Ks. MDS is celebrating 75 years of disaster recovery work, which began right here in Kansas. Volunteers are needed to help with meals, welcome and hospitality, driving shuttle vans between hotels and church and helping with meeting room preparations. Please contact Cleo Koop, 316-282-0797, for more details or if interested in volunteering.

MCC SALE: Those planning to make quilts for the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale note that quilts **need to be turned in for the auction by February 14, 2025**. This is three weeks earlier than previous years. Quilts can be brought to the North Newton MCC Resource Center. The KMRS Quilt Committee appreciates all the work that goes into your contributions!

Camp Mennoscah: The 2025 Summer Youth Camp Schedule for Camp Mennoscah is on the website and attached! There has been a change in age groups for the camps. There are two Junior Camps for those going into grades 6, 7 and 8 in the fall of 2025. There is one Junior High Camp for grades 8 and 9. Other age groups remain the same. Registration will open in February 2025. The theme for the 2025 summer is Another Way, looking at how Jesus invites us to re-imagine who we are and to live in another way.

-Not-here-for-Christmas hoodies! Camp Mennoscah will be selling hoodies available early 2025 by order only. An online order form will be available soon.

(Camp Mennoscah, cont.)

-The Board of Directors has written a letter regarding the challenges Camp Mennoscah is facing. [The letter can be found here](#) and is also attached.

-**There are currently materials on hand for 18 of 35 projects remaining on the HVAC renovation at the Retreat Center. Work groups can be of any size (within reason).** Contact Isaac at 316-217-5626 or Olivia at 316-293-7313 to set up a time for you or your group. If you are interested in working on a weekend, advance notice of two weeks is needed. A lack of construction skills should not keep you from helping. Willing hands and the ability to follow directions are the only requirements. (Activities for those under 18 are limited and likely not at the Retreat Center.)

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp: Jr. High (Jan. 24-26) and Sr. High (Feb. 14-16) 2025 Snow Camp – Visit the camp web page (www.mmmc.org) for additional snow camp details and to register!

-**Young Adult Snow Camp (Feb. 14-16)** Young Adult Snow Camp continues to join the Jr. and Sr. High Snow Camp activities and fellowship with participants serving as program assistants AND participants at just the right young adult price . . . free!

-**Scrapbook Retreat, (Jan. 31-Feb. 2)** Lisa Longacher will return as our program resource for the retreat and help facilitate a variety of activities. Register online (www.mmmc.org) and save a space to join in.

Save the Date! The 2025 Western District Conference Annual Assembly will be **Aug 8-9, 2025 at Hesston Mennonite Church, Hesston, KS**. Along with others around the globe, next year at Assembly we plan to celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism. Please add this to your calendar and plan to join us!

Mennonite Church USA: Peaceful Options for Training & Careers, a collaboration between Mennonite Central Committee U.S. and MC USA, presents a pre-recorded webinar resource. In this webinar, hear more about the project from our panelists: Glen Guyton, executive director of MC USA; Joe Roos, chair of POTC and pastor at Peace Mennonite Fellowship; Melissa Atchison, pastor at Manhattan Mennonite Church and a spiritual director, and Titus Peachey, retired peace educator for MCC US and current counselor on the GI Rights hotline. Watch it here: mennoniteusa.org/potc-pre-recorded-webinar

-In recognition and celebration of our 15 years of service, Mennonite Church USA's The Corinthian Plan invites all interested persons who are part of an MC USA congregation to submit a health and/or wellbeing story. Learn more and submit your wellbeing story here: mennoniteusa.org/tcp-wellbeing-stories

Menno Snapshots: Naomi Klassen, a summer 2024 intern with the MC USA Historical Archives, writes about her internship with the MC USA Historical Archives and how she was impacted by the letters written by Lynn Liechty, a Mennonite and World War II non-combatant. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/archives/lynn-liechty

-Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Mennonite Church USA's denominational minister for Peace and Justice, shares God's call for us to be peacemakers in the midst of uncertainty, division and a heated election. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/a-season-of-hope

-Following the 2024 presidential election, Executive Director Glen Guyton calls us to live out our citizenship in heaven with courage and faith. Read his blog here: mennoniteusa.org/glen-guyton-2024-election

AMBS: AMBS Pastors & Leaders 2025: Anabaptism at 500: Looking Back, Living Forward: Feb. 17–20 at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. As we celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism, join us to examine how the values of the early Anabaptists still resonate today and can guide us into the future! Gain intercultural perspectives on how reading the Bible in community can help us connect more authentically in our present and future contexts. Speakers (in order of presentation): John D. Roth, PhD; Kelbessa Muleta Demena, MDiv; and Lesley Francisco McClendon, DMin. Those who cannot attend in person can register to watch via livestream. Register by Jan. 20 and save \$50! ambs.edu/pastors

[-and-leaders](#)

-Thinking about seminary? Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary offers generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and church matching grants for students learning on campus or at a distance, full time or part time. Complete your Admissions Application now so you can be eligible to apply for merit-based scholarships by March 15 and ministry scholarships by April 1. ambs.edu/affordability

Notes



OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE
Dec. 8, 2024

Offering = \$	3,741.00	Attendance	=	118
Adult FF =	\$ 36.00	Attendance	=	45
Jr. FF =	\$ 23.71	Attendance	=	43

Worship Link Views = 33



Tabor Mennonite Church
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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	ttschlosser@tabormennonite.org

Deacons:

Ruby Graber	Emil Schmidt
Denise Nickel	Kristi Unruh