

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIV

December 22, 2024

No. 51



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Christmas Cantata

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear again the wondrous story of Jesus' birth through story and song as the Christmas Choir leads us in worship.

WORSHIP

- PRELUDE Deloris Schmidt
- WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Dale Alderfer
- LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP AND RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL
- *CALL TO WORSHIP *from Luke 2:10-14*
- *GATHERING HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ~vs 1 No. 247
- *GATHERING PRAYER
- *HYMNS OF PRAYER "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ~vs 1 & 4 No. 245
"Silent Night" ~vs 1 & 4 No. 244
- *PASSING THE PEACE
The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.
- OFFERING OUR GIFTS
- CHILDREN'S STORY Carol Duerksen & Doris Unruh

And Glory Shone Around:

A Christmas Cantata Celebrating Love's Perfect Light

by Lloyd Larson and Douglas E. Wagner

performed by the Christmas Choir

Directed by Russell Adrian

Accompanied by Marvene Entz

Readings from Psalm 24:7 & Isaiah 40:3-5 - Leann Toews & Cleo Koop

"Who Is This King of Glory?"

Readings from Haggai 2:6-7; Psalm 130:6-7; & Revelation 22:20

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Readings from Luke 1:26-32, 38 - Krista & Nathan Graber

"Blessed Are You"

Readings from Luke 2:1-7

"A Stable in Bethlehem"

Readings from Luke 2:8-14

"Gloria! To God Sing Gloria!"

Readings from Luke 2:15-19

"No Candle Was There"

Readings from Matthew 2:1-12

"Love's Perfect Light"

Readings from John 1:14 & Isaiah 40:5

"The Glory of the Lord"

Congregational Songs:

"Joy to the World" ~vs 1 & 4 No. 240

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" ~vs 3 No. 241

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ~vs 3 No. 247

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER Pastor Todd Schlosser

*SENDING HYMN "O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" No. 275

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able*

Sunday, December 22

Welcome to worship at Tabor Mennonite Church! Come together to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen. A special welcome is extended to all visitors. Thank you to all who sang in, directed, and accompanied the Christmas Choir.

9:30 am: Worship

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service)

https://youtube.com/live/PSTcoZ_FpSw?feature=share

10:45 am: Faith Formation classes

Children 8th grade and under practice in the sanctuary after singing in the basement.

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

This Week

Bulletin announcements due on Monday, Dec. 23 by 3:00 this week.

**Office hours will be limited and varied this week.
Contact pastors via cell phones (on back of bulletin)
with pastoral concerns.**

Mon, December 23, No Faithful Fitness
No Quilting/Comforter Tying
No Men's Bible Study

Tues, December 24, Church offices closed
6:30 pm - Christmas Eve Program

- ★ Please join us for a prelude of Christmas music by many of our children (beginning approximately 6:30) followed by a program with children leading us in song and the Christmas story, Christmas carols, and candlelighting.

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service)
<https://youtube.com/live/QC3aeYGfgc8?feature=share>

Wed, December 25, **Merry Christmas**
Church offices closed
No Wednesday Evening activities

Next Sunday, December 29

10:00 am: Next Sunday the theme is Lessons and Carols. Come and join us for the Christmas story and beautiful music. There will be no Faith Formation.

Upcoming Dates

December 30 - Faithful Fitness will meet
TMW Quilting will meet

December 31 - No TMW Quilting

January 1 - Wednesday Evening activities

Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for :

- ★ Western District Conference: Give thanks for all WDC congregations as they celebrate the birth of Jesus and share the good news of God's will for peace on earth.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: As we enter the week of Christmas and remember Jesus' birth, millennia ago, in a land crushed by oppression, join Mennonite Mission Network in looking for the surprising ways that the Prince of Peace is being born in our own fractured communities today. Let us continue to pray and act in ways that build peace.

Christmas Greetings on the bulletin board from Ray & Brenda Martin Hurst and KMRS.

Congregational Announcements

Tabor Trading Post : TODAY IS THE LAST DAY! There are still many treasures to purchase. Proceeds go to Bethesda's Christmas Wish List. Please take home any of your items left after Faith Formation.

Les Goerzen's Faith Formation class will meet in the library today 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 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.

Tabor Mennonite Women: The TMW breakfast was well attended this past Saturday. We want to thank everyone involved who helped make this happen: those who prepared the meal, contributed with their music gifts, our children story teller, those who helped with the drinks, those who set up and cleaned up. We enjoyed trying our artistic ventures with the guidance of Susan Bartel, our program speaker. Thank you all!
Diana and Denise

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

MDS: Our December edition of On the Level is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares thoughts and inspiration from a deer stand, and celebrate with family in West Virginia who will be home for Christmas, thanks to MDS volunteers, plus get all the details for the upcoming 75th Anniversary Celebration. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/49FzaWp>

-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!

Mennonite Mission Network invites you to join a Just Peace Pilgrimage this spring. Embark on one of these life-changing learning experiences:

-United States Civil Rights Pilgrimage — Explore the history, significance, and ongoing implications of the civil rights movement in the United States.

- Unique opportunity – Young adults are invited to join Glen Guyton, MC USA executive director, for an enlightening journey. To foster dialog and understanding you are invited to join this pilgrimage with a partner of a different race.

-Christ at the Borders (Calais, France) — Thousands of people migrate to Calais in hopes of crossing the English Channel and entering the United Kingdom to find a better life. Meet those walking alongside the vulnerable who search for a peaceful home and the travelers themselves.

-Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples (Yakima, Washington) — Led by Sarah Augustine. Become better acquainted with Indigenous Peoples, their connection to the land upon which we live, and the consequences of settler colonial history.

- For more information and to sign up, visit MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace or contact Stephanie Weaver at StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net.

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 are "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 for sale (see kauffmanmuseum.org/museum-store/).

Camp Mennoscah: Acck! We had an error in the 2025 Summer Youth Camp Schedule sent out last week. A corrected version is attached and the website should be updated. Thank you for letting us know! 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.

-We are overwhelmed with the support given at the Verenike Casse-role meal this past Saturday! Thank you to everyone who attended and gave so generously, the people who helped with preparations and planning, and those who were unable to attend but held Camp Mennoscah in their thoughts and prayers!

-If you missed the first camper story from the summer staff this past summer, you can find it on the Camp Mennoscah website. These stories tell of the faith formation and relationship building--and fun!--that happens. Keep your eyes out for the next story! (Feeling led to give a gift or volunteer? [Give online](#) or contact olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for assistance.)

-Still projects left to do 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: Volunteers needed at Rocky Mountain! Camp needs your help to assist with Foodservice/Housekeeping for our upcoming Jr and Sr High Snow Camps, January 24-26 and February 14-16. Please visit the camp website at rmmc.org and follow the link to the volunteer information and sign up to join us.

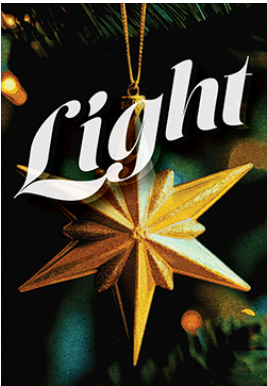
-Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp is host to Colorado Roots Music Camp I (June 1-7, 2025) and Camp II (August 10-16, 2025). We are happy to announce the instructors and classes for the 2025 camps have been selected and are listed on the website. Our instructors are some of the top players in the nation, but they were chosen because they're known by peers and students as great instructors for all levels. For more information and registration, visit the camp website at rmmc.org.

Mennonite Church USA: Subscribe to PeaceMail to receive MC USA's blogs, news and resources in one weekly email. Subscribe to PeaceMail here: mennoniteusa.org/peacemail

Menno Snapshots: A few weeks ago, Matt Pritchard, associate conference minister of emerging communities for MC USA's Central District Conference, read "A Confession of Evangelical Conviction," a non-partisan statement endorsed by more than 300 evangelical pastors, leaders and organizations. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/polarized-times
-Olivia Krall, archives coordinator for the MC USA Archives, provides helpful archival tips for those interested in preserving their family history. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/archival-tips
-Pastor Katerina Gea, a member of MC USA's Women in Leadership Steering Committee, shares about the Community Care and Trauma Healing gatherings her church has been hosting to support Palestinian solidarity. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/healing-and-community-care

AMBS: New *Vision* issue on “Disability” available for free online. The Fall 2024 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — edited by Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, PhD — brings together 15 writers who engage with disability theology as a transformative conversation partner for biblical interpretation, theological reflection, worship leading and preaching, and spiritual autobiography. The issue is designed to be a resource for pastors, churches and disability scholars. ambs.edu/vision

-Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. Encourage someone you know who has gifts for ministry to check out this distance-friendly undergraduate-level program of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Journey helps participants nurture their leadership abilities, grow in spiritual practices, and deepen their understanding of Anabaptist theology and ministry with the guidance of a dedicated pastoral mentor and experienced facilitators. The Spring 2025 cohort begins Jan. 24; applications are due Jan. 8. ambs.edu/journey



OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE Dec. 15, 2024			
Offering =	\$ 12,121.00	Attendance =	138
Adult FF =	\$ 11.00	Attendance =	41
Jr. FF =	\$ 6.75	Attendance =	49
Worship Link Views = 43			



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.

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	Denise Nickel	Kristi Unruh