

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXX

December 21, 2025

No. 51



BE AMAZED: TIDINGS OF JOY¹

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we are invited to be amazed at what God can do as we reflect on the Christmas story told through Scripture and songs. This morning we are led in worship by the Christmas Choir as they sing songs of the season.

WORSHIP

PRELUDE Isaac Swartzendruber

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Todd Schlosser

RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL AND LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Isaiah 9:2, 6*

*GATHERING PRAYER

*GATHERING HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 241

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY
Kaylynn Smith, Marshall Smith, Brody Schmidt, Diana & Jim Schmidt

HYMN "Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets" No. 276

CHILDREN'S DRAMA *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* Part 4
~Diane Unruh, Jim Schmidt, Janna Duerksen, Hannah Adrian

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CHRISTMAS CANTATA Christmas Choir
"Tidings of Joy: A Celtic Christmas Celebration" by Joseph M. Martin
Directed by: Russell Adrian Accompanied by: Phillip Balzer

Song	"A Christmas Invitation"	
Reading	Isaiah 34:1 & Luke 2:10	Carrie Smith
Song	"A Festival Gathering of Carols"	
Reading	Isaiah 11:1-4	Nathan Ashley
Song	"Upon the Wind There Comes a Song"	
Reading	Isaiah 60:1-2, 4-5, 20	
Song	"From the Prophet Comes a Promise"	
Reading	from Luke 1:26-38	
Song	"A Song of Joy"	
Reading	Luke 2:4-7	

Song	"Comfort and Joy"
Reading	Matthew 2:1-2
Song	"Look to the Silver Sky"
Reading	Isaiah 34:1 & Luke 2:10
Song	"Glad Tidings of Great Joy"

HYMN OF RESPONSE "Go, Tell it on the Mountain" No. 252

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER Pastor Katherine Goerzen

*SENDING HYMN "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" No. 247

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE **Please stand if you are able*

¹ Our Worship is based on the Advent and Christmas Resources from MennoMedia's Leader magazine.

Sunday, December 21

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

9:30 am: Worship

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service)
<https://youtube.com/live/erpRc29Ng6c?feature=share>

10:45 am: Faith Formation

Trading Post in the Hospitality Hall: Today is the last Sunday for the Tabor Trading Post, and there are still many treasures to be purchased. Come check it out, do some last minute Christmas shopping for yourself or others, and support the Food Pantry and Camp Mennoscah in the process.

This Week

Bulletins will be printed on Tuesday for the next 2 weeks. If you have announcements, please get them in by 9:00 am on Tuesday. Office hours will be varied during the next 2 weeks.

Mon, Dec 22, No Faithful Fitness or Comforter Tying/Quilting
7:00 pm - Men's Bible Study

Tues, Dec 23, **9:00 am** - Staff Meeting

Wed, Dec 24, **6:30 pm:** Christmas Eve Prelude begins with Program following

Next Sunday, December 28

Next Sunday is the Sunday after Christmas. We will continue with our "Be Amazed" series as we reflect on God Among Us through Lessons and Carols. Worship will begin at 10:00 am.

Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ Western District Conference: Give thanks for all WDC congregations as they celebrate the birth of Jesus and embody the light of Christ in their communities and the world.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Mennonite Voluntary Service and Service Adventure volunteers. Some of these young adults are traveling home for Christmas. Pray for their safety in travel and as they share about their experiences with their home communities. Other participants will celebrate their first Christmas away from their families. Pray that they may experience Jesus coming into this world in a new and deeper way.

Congregational Announcements

Christmas Greetings on the bulletin board from Joseph & Rachel Givens Family, Ray & Brenda Martin Hurst, and Sherwin Frey & Deb Fischer Family.

Faithful Fitness and Quilting Group will not meet on Dec. 22 or 29 and resume on January 5.

Christmas Gifts that Share Joy: This Christmas season, we are partnering with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) to make a difference for families around the world. . At the same time, you'll be choosing gifts that share treasured resources — like clean water, farm animals and funds to help keep girls in school — in communities where they're needed. Learn more through the poster and ornaments we've hung on the tree. Or visit mcc.org/share-joy today!

*****Please take an ornament and give a gift that will make a meaningful difference for someone across the globe. The adult faith formation offerings this fall and winter are also going to help these MCC projects.***

Community and Conference Announcements

MDS On the Level: The December edition of On the Level is now available. In this edition, U.S. Board Chair Wayne Yoder share his observations from the past year, learn how determination brings disaster survivors home in Ohio, and see what volunteers have accomplished this year. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/3YovH9P>

Bethel College: Kauffman Museum at Bethel College invites you to visit during the holidays, with two items of special interest to available to view for a limited time: a 17th-century Bible from the family of the late Jake T. Friesen of North Newton and a medalion made by John P. Klassen to commemorate MCC's war and famine relief in Ukraine in the early 1920s. Both have been at the Ford Conservation Center at the Nebraska State Historical Society in Omaha for restoration and preservation. The Bible is normally at the Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel and is seldom on public display. **Holiday hours: closed Mondays; Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Christmas Day and New Year's Day, closed; non-holiday weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; weekends, 1:30-4:30 p.m.** The two artifacts can be seen (until the first of the year) just inside the museum's front entrance with no admission charge. There is a small fee for non-museum members to see the current special exhibit, "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War," and 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 for sale (see <https://www.kauffmanmuseum.org/museum-store>).

Bluestem U, the lifelong learning program of Bluestem Communities for individuals age 55 and better, is kicking off the new year with three new classes. Courses include: "Life Upon the Wicked Stage: Classics of Western Theatre" taught by Lauren Friesen, "Health, the Human Face of Climate Change" taught by Dwight Krehbiel, and "Biblical Literature (Bib Lit) Crash Course" taught by Kevin Wilder. Courses are \$50 a piece. See bluestemu.org for more information, including dates, times and locations.

Camp Mennoscah: Summer staff applications for the 2026 Summer Camps are open. [The application and further information can be found here](https://www.campmennoscah.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Programs%7CSummer%20Youth%20Camps%3E%3ESummer%20Youth%20Camp%20Staff%20Application) or at the link at the end of this announcement. Summer staff need to be 18 or older, preferably with one year of college, work or volunteering. Contact Olivia at 316-293-7313 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org with questions. <https://www.campmennoscah.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Programs%7CSummer%20Youth%20Camps%3E%3ESummer%20Youth%20Camp%20Staff%20Application>

-Camp Mennoscah is looking for a volunteer to work with the camp website. This would include regularly updating information and potentially a complete overhaul of the website itself. The details of the work would depend on the skills of the volunteer and time they have available. Please contact office@campmennoscah.org or call 620-297-3290 to start the conversation.

-Thank you to everyone who has gifted us wish list items! We would be happy to receive kitchen knives, "restaurant style" hot pads example: <https://www.webstaurantstore.com/choice-10-x-11-terry-cloth-pan-grabber-bakers-pad/160TPH1011WH.html>), replacement ping pong table net with clamps, and plastic cutting boards (no smaller than 12"X18", larger is fine). Office-related items include copier paper, postage stamps, and sticky notes. Toilet paper and kitchen/white paper towels are always welcome!

Contact office@campmennoscah.org with questions.

-Church-specific matching challenges have been formally issued by anonymous supporters of Camp Mennoscah within the Faith Mennonite - Newton, Shalom Mennonite Church, and Lorraine Ave. congregations, with similar challenges being considered at Eden, Bethel College, New Creation, Hope Mennonite, Whitestone, and others. Will YOU be the first to step-up in YOUR congregation? These \$5,000 - \$10,000 matching challenges - if met within their respective congregations - would allow the retreat center to hit its fund-raising goal for project completion by the end of March of next year, and would be a HUGE milestone in the financial stability of Camp Mennoscah. Please contact camp's Director of Development at 620.755.2583 to discuss a match within your church!

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp: Jr. High (Jan. 16-18) and **Sr. High (Feb. 13-15)**, 2026! — Visit the camp web page (www.rmmc.org) for additional snow camp details /to register!

-Young Adult Snow Camp (Feb. 13-15) 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!

Mennonite Mission Network: Just Peace Pilgrimage Calais, France See flier on the bulletin board. Walk with migrants, listen to their stories, and serve alongside organizations bringing hope at the edge of Europe. April 6–18, 2026 - This 13-day pilgrimage will forever change how you see borders, justice, and the gospel call to welcome the stranger. Registration deadline: February 15, 2026 Only a few spots remain! Contact Stephanie Weaver at StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net or visit www.mennonitemission.net/JustPeace

MCC: MCC Christmas Giving - Choose gifts that honor your loved ones and change lives across the globe. MCC has 20 alternative gift options for you to choose from this Christmas season starting at just \$12. Cards and e-cards are available to accompany your gift. Start here mcc.org/christmas and if you have any questions please contact the MCC Central States office at centralstates@mcc.org or 316.283.2720.

-Across the U.S.–Mexico borderlands — and in communities far beyond them — people of courage and compassion are responding daily to the realities of migration. MCC believes that listening to these stories helps us live more deeply into our values of peace, hospitality, and justice. Join us for **Borderlands & Beyond Monthly Charlas**, a new conversation series led by the MCC U.S. Immigration Network featuring MCC partners, community leaders, and borderlands practitioners who will share their work, struggles, insights, and hopes. Each *charla* provides a welcoming space to learn, ask questions, and explore how we can

participate in faithful advocacy and accompaniment. Find out more and register for the Zoom link: mcc.org/events/borderlands-and-beyond-monthly-charlas-mcc.

Date: Every 3rd Thursday of the month (January to December 2026)

Time: 4:00 PM PT / 5:00 PM MT / 6:00 PM CT / 7:00 PM ET

Location: Online via Zoom

-MCC's high school essay contest is now open! The annual MCC U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries essay contest highlights the perspectives of youth on significant public policy issues and promotes the involvement of young people in faithful witness to government authorities. Submissions may be in English or Spanish. (*A continuación véase la información en español.*) The contest is open to Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and other Anabaptist youth of high school age and to all youth who attend Mennonite high schools within the United States, including Puerto Rico. Regional prizes will be awarded, with the top three essays being submitted to the national competition. Regional top prize is \$200 and the national contest grand prize is \$1000. Contest topics, rules and resources can be found at mcc.org/events/high-school-essay-contest. The deadline for submitting entries is February 27, 2026. Essays should be submitted to centralstates@mcc.org, questions can be directed to beckyteiwes@mcc.org.

-The chill of winter is settling in and that means it's time for **MCC's Great Winter Warm-up!** From January to March, the goal is 10,000 comforters to help spread warmth, joy and comfort to people around the world. Start plans now to gather with friends and family to make comforters for MCC this winter! Find inspiring stories and instructions at mcc.org/gwww.

MC USA: MC USA invites you to join the **new Reimagining MC USA initiative** — a denomination-wide process of prayerful reflection and open dialogue about our shared future. Visit the new web portal to watch a four-part video series, download the small-group discussion guide and share your ideas in a survey. Learn more here. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/reimagining/>

Menno Snapshots: In her latest Menno Snapshots blog, MC USA's Rachel Ringenberg Miller shares six practical tips to help congregations nurture meaningful **intergenerational connections** in worship. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/intergenerational-connections/>

-Learn how rest strengthens our capacity to resist oppression, inequity and despair in this Menno Snapshots blog by MC USA's Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, denominational minister for Peace & Justice, featuring **reflections from attendees of MC USA's Women's Summit** in Greensboro, North Carolina. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/reflections-womens-summit/>

-As congregations face rising costs, many are asking how to **sustain meaningful support for their pastors**. In her latest Menno Snapshots blog, Ingrid Friesen Moser names the financial realities and offers practical ways congregations can continue to show care —

even when budgets are tight. Read her blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/pastor-wellbeing/>

-Read more in Executive Conference Minister Stanley Green's Menno Snapshots blog and accompanying sidebar to learn how Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference is following Jesus, including its **commitment to be an "apartheid-free" conference**.
<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/following-jesus-psmc/>

AMBS: AMBS Pastors & Leaders 2026: "Resistance, Resilience, Rest": Feb. 23–26. How can we best prepare ourselves to accompany our communities through challenging times with courage and conviction? We need rested, resilient pastors and leaders who can lead resistance against the many forms of oppression and violence that exist around us. At this conference of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, we'll gain resources to care for ourselves and each other, looking to Scripture for wisdom, strength and inspiration. Speakers: Drew G.I. Hart, PhD; Dan White, Jr., MA; and Tonya White. Join the event in person or watch via livestream. Register by Jan. 26 to save \$50! ambs.edu/pastors-and-leaders

-Webinar series: Find your way at AMBS! How can faith speak to issues that matter? Gain inspiration and insight from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary faculty in these webinars geared toward young adults. The webinars will be held from **8 to 8:30 p.m. ET** on the following Tuesdays: **Jan. 20: Find Hope in the Midst of Despair**, with Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, PhD; and **Feb. 17: Find Meaning in Life**, with Sunghyun Lee, PhD. Attend either or both! Register to receive the link: ambs.edu/find-your-way

-Online Short Course: Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: Jan. 28–March 10. Study how 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture — as compared with Catholics and other Protestants — and consider those similarities and differences in light of today. This six-week online short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary will be taught by Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 7 to save \$50. ambs.edu/short-courses

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

Dec. 14, 2025

Offering =	\$ 4,723.00	Attendance =	150
Adult FF =	\$ 11.00	Attendance =	54
Jr. FF =	\$ 9.75	Attendance =	48

Worship Link Views = 37

Upcoming Dates

December 21: Night in the Barn

December 21: Tabor Trading Post last day

December 24: Christmas Eve program

December 24, 25, 26, 27: Tabor's time to serve at New Hope Shelter

December 28: Worship at 10:00 am; no Faith Formation

January 4: Finger Food Fellowship; No children's Faith Formation

Vote on the Revised Constitution & Bylaws directly after the worship service

January 7: Wednesday Evening Programming resumes (youth Christmas party)



Tabor Mennonite Church

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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

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Deacons:

Nancy Funk Larry Goerzen

Nathan Graber Denise Nickel Kristi Unruh