

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXX

December 7, 2025

No. 49



BE AMAZED:

PEACE IN THE VALLEY OF BONES¹

On this second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to "Be Amazed" at what God can do. This morning we reflect on Ezekiel's vision of old, dry bones in the desert. In this miraculous vision, God breathes life into the bones so that they may live again.

WORSHIP

PRELUDE Worship Team
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Joshua Schmidt
RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL AND LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP
*CALL TO WORSHIP *from John 11:25-27*
*GATHERING PRAYER
*GATHERING HYMN *"It Came upon a Midnight Clear"* No. 248
*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY
Sierra Janzen, Steve & Bonnie Janzen
HYMNS *"What Child Is This/Helpless and Hungry"* No. 267/268
OFFERING OUR GIFTS
CHILDREN'S DRAMA *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* Part 2
~Marcene Entz, Jim Schmidt, Janna Duerksen, Hannah Adrian
WORSHIP MUSIC *"Come and Be Light for Our Eyes"* Worship Team
SCRIPTURE READING *Ezekiel 37:1-14* Jim Schmidt
SERMON Pastor Katherine Goerzen
HYMN OF RESPONSE *"We Come"* No. 225
CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER Pastor Todd Schlosser
*SENDING HYMN *"Unexpected and Mysterious"* No. 229
*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 7

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

9:30 am: Worship

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service)

<https://youtube.com/live/cm7ESCR7S34?feature=share>

10:45 am: Faith Formation

Trading Post in the Hospitality Hall: The money you spend goes to the Tabor Food Pantry and Camp Mennoscah. This will continue every Sunday until Dec. 21.

This Week

Bulletin announcements due by 9:00 am on Thursday.

Mon, Dec 8, **8:30 am** - Faithful Fitness
9:30 am - Comforter Tying & Quilting
7:00 pm - Men's Bible Study
Tues, Dec 9, **9:00 am** - Staff Meeting
Wed, Dec 10, **5:45 pm:** Fellowship Meal - Soup
6:30 pm: Leave for Caroling at Bethesda Home
6:30-7:30 pm: High School will meet to work on Night in the Barn
7:30-8:30 pm: Church Choir
Thurs, Dec. 11, **9:30 am** - Coffee with the Pastors at Hesston Bakery & Café
Sat, Dec. 13, **9:00 am** - Women & Girls Breakfast and Program

Next Sunday, December 14

Next Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Advent. We will continue with our Advent "Be Amazed" series. The scripture focus is from John 1:1-18. Pastor Todd will be preaching.

GMA sponsored McPherson Brass and Elbiata Singers at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church at 7:00 pm.

Prayer Requests

- ★ Praise God for the faithful and generous giving of the Tabor congregation that allowed us to meet the fiscal year budget. Thanks be to God for the ministries of Tabor Mennonite Church and the benevolent causes that also are supported through the budget.

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ Western District Conference: Give thanks for musicians, artists, poets, prophets, pastors and preachers whose gifts enrich WDC congregations' worship and witness during the Advent season.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Joseph and Rachel Givens and their two sons, who are serving with Mennonite Mission Network, are on the front lines of ministry to people fleeing persecution and death. Pray that the Givens will receive the spiritual and financial resources they need to continue sharing Christ's love through food and shelter at the Maria Skobtsova House, in Calais, France.

Congregational Announcements

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. Through MCC Christmas giving, you can honor the values and pastimes of your loved ones. 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.***

Tabor Mennonite Women: December 13 at 9:00 a.m. is the Christmas breakfast. **Please sign up by December 7.** Guests are welcome! **If you signed up for muffins/coffee cake, please bring them to the church by Friday evening.**

Paula Eigsti will share *Legacy...Shoes Tell The Story*. If the men and women of the Bible wore shoes from our time in history, what shoes might they wear?



Let's send HOLIDAY GREETINGS to our mission partners, the GIVENS family (Joseph, Rachel, Elijah, and Micaiah). There is a gift bag in the foyer for Christmas cards for them. You could share your family Christmas traditions. Please bring cards by December 14.

Community and Conference Announcements

New Hope Shelter Open House: Today, December 7 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm

We're excited to welcome you and share what we've been working on. Come meet the team, tour our facility, and enjoy some refreshments. See flyer on the bulletin board.

Blood Drive: "Give something that means something!" Donate blood on December 8, between 1:00-6:00 pm at Goessel Church. Sign up at redcrossblood.org to donate a single or double unit. For more information contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081.

Christmas Giving Tree: The Goessel Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring this. The tags will be available on the tree at the Citizens State Bank. All the gifts will need to be brought back to the Bank by **Monday, December 15**. The gifts should be wrapped and the bank personnel will assist with the "checking in" process. The gifts will then be distributed by the Ministerial Alliance.

TREBLE CLEF ANNUAL VESPERS: The Newton Treble Clef Annual Vespers will be Sunday, December 7, 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 900 Columbus, Newton. The prelude will begin at 2:45 featuring The Schrag Siblings. The program will include: Treble Clef Chorus, Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble, and Hearts 4 Him — A freewill offering will be taken for the scholarship fund that will be awarded to high school seniors who are pursuing a music major. We invite you to be our guest and begin your Christmas Season.

Eden Mennonite Church invites you to our production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson. In this hilarious Christmas play, a couple struggling to put on a Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids- probably the most inventively awful kids in history. Admission is free for this funny and heart-warming telling of the Christmas Story on Saturday December 13th at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) and Sunday December 14th at 2:00 p.m. (doors open at 1:30 p.m.) at Eden Mennonite Church; 401 18th Ave. Moundridge.

Camp Mennoscah: Progress on the retreat center at Camp Mennoscah continues to be made thanks to your support! With the drains, ladders, and grates addressed in the basement egress pits, we are moving on to inside painting, exterior concrete pads, and ceiling grids getting hung for the suspended ceiling in the basement, all of which we expect to have done within the next two weeks. This work is possible only through a combination of your on-going support, and funds from our financial reserves which were utilized to get the project started. Any organization's financial reserves are vital to long-term health of a non-profit, so if you are in a position to help us re-build those reserves with your year-end giving, please text "RESERVES" to 6207552583 to discuss your giving options with our Director of Development.

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp: [Jr. High \(Jan. 16-18\)](#) and [Sr. High \(Feb. 13-15\)](#) Snow Camps are coming again in 2026! – The time has come to start planning to enjoy the beauty and chill of RMMC in the winter once again. Come play in the snow and on the ice and then be ready to come inside for good food, fellowship and worship together. Visit the camp web page (www.rmmc.org) for additional snow camp details and to register that you're headed to the Colorado Rockies to start the new year!

-Young Adult Snow Camp (Feb. 13-15) 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. 30-Feb.1) Register online (www.rmmc.org) and save a space to join in.

Bethel College: Sun., Dec. 7 – 40th annual Lighting of the Green, 8 p.m. on the Bethel College campus

-Mon., Dec. 8 – Reception for Senior Art Exhibit I, "Forms of Nature," and Abby Chappell Deckert, 6-8 p.m., Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College. The exhibit of ceramics and ceramic sculpture closes Fri., Dec. 12. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.

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.

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.

Mennonite Mission Network: Live your faith in action!

Mennonite Voluntary Service is accepting applications now for August 2026–July 2027. Adults 20+ are invited to serve for one year (renewable up to three) alongside nonprofits tackling poverty, immigration, education, health, and more. You'll live intentionally with other MVSers in a unit house, be supported by a local Mennonite church, and join a worldwide movement for peace and justice. Ready for a year that could change everything? **Visit MennoniteMission.net/MVS** to explore placements and apply today!

Mennonite Church USA: Advent is underway, and MC USA invites you to deepen your worship at home with our 2025 **Advent at Home** guide. This year's theme, "Be Amazed," follows MennoMedia's Leader magazine and offers weekly reflections and practices for individuals, families and households of all ages. The guide is free to all MC USA congregations and is available now as a downloadable PDF. (*Spanish translation coming 11/26*)

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/advent-at-home-2025/>

-The MC USA Executive Board recently shared a **letter to all MC USA constituents** regarding a recent decision by Mennonite World Conference. The letter expresses the Executive Board's deep concern and reaffirms MC USA's ongoing commitment to unity and peacemaking within the global Anabaptist community. Please read it here in English <https://bit.ly/3JUKeGT>

and en español: <https://bit.ly/4iizLBA>.

-Mennonite Church USA invites you to a 90-minute **webinar on navigating pastoral transitions** led by Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister for Ministerial Leadership, on Mon., Jan. 12 at 4 p.m. PST/7 p.m. EST. This session will offer guidance for congregations navigating or anticipating a pastoral change, with practical tools for discernment and visioning. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3XisPLk>

-There's still time to join **The Great Menno Give!** MC USA staff, Mennonite Mission Network, and MennoMedia are coming together during this season of giving for a special initiative: The Great Menno Give. We invite you to join with others across our church family in a collective act of generosity that empowers mission, education and faith formation. Please give here: <https://bit.ly/4ohMber>

-Big changes are coming to the health coverage market in 2026. Are you ready? Watch MC USA's recorded webinar, "**Navigating Change: Health Coverage in 2026**," about what's ahead and how it could affect your premiums. The first half is a broad overview of market shifts in 2026 and the second half focuses on The Corinthian Plan, MC USA's healthcare plan for pastors and church workers. View it here: <http://bit.ly/4qv8jV5>

-Mennonite Church USA is **seeking a Human Resources/Finance Assistant (.5 FTE)** to support a wide range of HR and financial functions for the MC USA Executive Board. Experience and knowledge in accounting are preferred, with a minimum of a two-year Business degree or equivalent experience. MC USA is committed to diversity among staff and welcomes people of diverse backgrounds and abilities to apply. The application deadline is January 5, 2026. Learn more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/employment>

AMBS: Employment openings at AMBS: Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, is accepting applications for a Director of the Church Leadership Center (full time) and a Development Associate for Canada (half time, with an anticipated start date of January 2026 or Spring 2026). Please share about these openings with people you know who may be interested! See the job descriptions: amb.edu/jobs

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

Nov. 30, 2025

Offering =	\$ 7,401.00	Attendance =	126
Adult FF =	\$ 21.00	Attendance =	30
Jr. FF =	\$ 5.50	Attendance =	48

Worship Link Views = 38

Upcoming Dates

December 13: Tabor Mennonite Women and Girls Breakfast

December 14 & 21: Tabor Trading Post

December 14: Christmas Brass/Elbiata at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

December 17: Christmas Choir Rehearsal

December 20 & 21: Night in the Barn

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



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

Cell: 316-727-4986

620-960-1718

email: kgoerzen@tabormennonite.org

tschlosser@tabormennonite.org

Deacons:

Nancy Funk Larry Goerzen

Nathan Graber Denise Nickel Kristi Unruh