

# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIII

July 16, 2017

No. 29



Parable of the  
Unmerciful Servant

## Welcome!

Welcome to worship! We are glad you are here as we continue our journey into the mystery and meaning of belonging to the kingdom of God. Today our parable astounds us with an extraordinary act of forgiveness and challenges us to do likewise. Praise the Lord for His mercy of the and grace toward us!

## Gathering Music

Karen Unruh

## Welcome

Delbert Peters

## Opportunities for Celebration and Service

(Please sign, pass, and return the friendship registers.)

## Call to Worship

(from *Bread for the Journey*, ed. Ruth Duck)

Leader: Come, let us gather in the awareness of God's love.

**People: God's love has brought us to this place; it has made of us a church.**

Leader: We can live with confidence and hope, in the assurance that we are forgiven and accepted by a power greater than ourselves.

**People: Because we are forgiven, we too can forgive.**

**All: Let us praise this God of endless grace, and offer our heart's true worship.**

## Invocation

## Instrumental Call to Worship

Karen Unruh

*Gather Us In* ~Behnke

## \*Hymn of Praise

*Here in This Place*

HWB 6

## Scripture Reading

Psalm 103:1-12, 20-22 NIV

Suzanne Meier

## Hymn of Prayer

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

HWB 170

## Morning Prayer

Linda Peters

## Worship Music

*Hills and Valleys* ~Tauren Wells

Bryant and Chrystiana Miller

Karen Unruh, accompanist

## Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

**Offertory** *All Creatures of Our God and King* ~Busarow Karen Unruh

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Caleb Yoder

## Children's Story

(for children through grade 3)

Amy Flaming

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:21-35 NIV

Suzanne Meier

**Message** "Forgiven and Forgiving" Pastor Linda Ewert

## **The Lord's Supper**

(All who have decided to follow Jesus, regardless of denomination, are welcome to participate.)

## **Litany of Release for Sabbatical**

**\*Sending Hymn** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* HWB 478

**\*Benediction** Pastor Linda

**\*Postlude** Karen Unruh

\*All who are able are invited to stand.

## **TODAY**

**A Supervised Nursery** is available for children ages 3 and under during worship. Attendants are Nicole Hein and Beth Yoder.

**Song Leader:** Renae Peters

**Visual Arts:** Shari Wiens

## **PRAYERS FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

- ❖ Attending Camp Mennoscah July 16-22: Logan Sterk, Eddie Gaedert, Elizabeth Schmucker, Caiden Duerksen, Bane Spurlin
- ❖ For blessing and renewal for Pastor Linda as she is on sabbatical.
- ❖ May God's Spirit guide Pastor Caleb, lay leaders and the church to carry on God's work with energy and purpose.
- ❖ For our aging members who are experiencing diminishing health in mind and body and those who care for them.
- ❖ For those who are experiencing health concerns, awaiting tests and their results, recovering from surgery, receiving physical therapy, or other medical treatments. May the healing power of God sustain and strengthen each one and grant them peace on the journey.

## **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

### **Monday, July 17**

9:00 am Staff Meeting

### **Thursday, July 20**

Bulletin items and announcements due at noon in church office

### **Sunday, July 23**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

Message: Youth sharing about service trip

Nursery: Aileen Esau and Madeline Meier

7:00 pm Family Swim Night, Hillsboro Pool

## **COMING EVENTS**

**Aug 4-6** Goessel Threshing Days

**Aug 4-6** WDC Annual Assembly, Arlington, TX

**Aug 9-11** Serve at New Hope Shelter

**Sept 3** Teacher Dedication and First Grade Bibles

**Sept 15** Senior Coffee and Conversation

**Sept 24** Community Service Day

**Oct 1**

Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sabbatical** – Alexanderwohl offers a full-time pastor a three-month sabbatical leave after completion of four years of service. Pastor Linda was eligible for one in 2015. Due to other pastoral transitions at the time, it did not happen. Pastor Linda will take a 6-week partial sabbatical beginning July 17 and returning August 28. The remainder of the sabbatical leave will be taken in 2018. The purpose of the six-week sabbatical will be for rest and renewal (physically and spiritually). During this sabbatical leave the deacons will assist Pastor Caleb with care and crisis needs. The Worship Board will work with Pastor Caleb on worship planning. Members of our congregation will provide the message on two Sundays in August.

**Everyone is invited to the Hillsboro swimming pool for a Family Swim Night on Sunday, July 23, 7:00-9:00 pm for FREE swimming!** Invite your friends and neighbors for an evening of water fun and visiting. Watermelon will be provided. You are welcome to bring other snacks to share too. See you there!

**The Garden Sharing Table** is located in the south lobby. Everyone is welcome to stop by. If you have any questions, contact Megan Duerksen ([cheland@mtelco.net](mailto:cheland@mtelco.net)).

**Friends, family, and guests will be coming to Goessel for Threshing Days!** Would you help us (The Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum) feed them on Saturday, August 5? Bakers, servers, and cashiers are needed. Please see the volunteer sheet in your mailbox and respond by July 23. For further questions, contact Aileen Esau (367-2358 or [daesau@gmail.com](mailto:daesau@gmail.com)). Thank you!

**The Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum will be hosting a South Bloomfield School Reunion and “homecoming” of the school's stage curtain on Sunday, August 6 at 2:00 p.m., as part of Country Threshing Days.** The celebration will be in the South Bloomfield School on the museum grounds, where the recently donated curtain will be on display. This event is open to the public, and refreshments will be served. Former students are especially invited to come to this time of reminiscing. The museum would like to record stories from students that attended the South Bloomfield One-Room School. Any pranks you remember? Any memorable events? What did you have for lunch? What was recess like in the dead of winter? Consider interviewing a grandparent and submit their memories. Please send memories to The Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum, P.O. Box 231, Goessel, KS 67053, or email the museum at [mhmuseum@mtelco.net](mailto:mhmuseum@mtelco.net).

### **Address Correction:**

Kyle and Justine Unruh  
414 Olivette  
McPherson KS 67460

## *Our Purpose Statement for 2017*

This year we will...

- ❖ Be rooted in Jesus' way
- ❖ Renew relationships with each other
- ❖ Listen with respect to one another
- ❖ Relate to our community in loving ways
- ❖ Reclaim our *Gospel* hope over fear

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### **Last Sunday, July 9**

Attendance:	Sunday School	161
	Worship	190
Offerings:	Sunday School	\$88.79
	First Fruits Giving	\$7,969.01

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**Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.**  
1304 K-15 Hwy, Box 8  
Goessel Kansas 67053  
Office: (620) 367-8192  
email:  
[alexmenno@mtelco.net](mailto:alexmenno@mtelco.net)  
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**Pastors:**  
Caleb Yoder  
(319) 930-7754  
[alexcaleb@mtelco.net](mailto:alexcaleb@mtelco.net)  
Linda Ewert  
H – (620) 367-3882  
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**Deacons:**  
Judy Goertzen  
Delbert Peters  
Linda Peters  
Brian Stucky  
James Voth  
Tim Voth

If you would like a visit or a phone call from one of the pastors or deacons,  
please feel free to contact us.

## **Litany of Release for Sabbatical for Pastor Linda Ewert**

**Leader:** God has declared a time of rest for God's children and for all of creation. The Alexanderwohl congregation seeks to honor this Biblical concept by providing for you, Pastor Linda, a period of sabbatical. Rest and renewal are essential elements for successful ministry and for a fruitful life of service to Christ.

**Congregation:** **Pastor Linda, we have been blessed by your many gifts for ministry. Our call for your continued ministry among us is strong. We release you for this sabbatical so that your spirit might be renewed and strengthened.**

**Leader:** We release you knowing that our own community of faith will be strengthened as you return to us renewed and rested.

**Congregation:** **We grant you the freedom to disengage from the many people, projects and activities for which we know you care deeply. We release you from pastoral duties and responsibilities during this time of sabbatical.**

**Leader:** God has blessed our congregation with many strong leaders and faithful workers who will assist Pastor Caleb in carrying out the essential aspects of ministry during Pastor Linda's absence. May the Holy Spirit guide and sustain each of us during this sabbatical time.

**All:** **For the ministries taking form within us and for all the callings yet to be, we praise your name, O Lord! Amen.**