

**Welcome!**

In this online service we continue our worshipful study of the "seven deadly sins" and the "seven holy virtues." Today we open ourselves to perceiving how envy prevents us from finding contentment, and how true contentment comes from embracing all of life as a gift of our God who truly loves us.

So the **last** will be **FIRST**,  
and the **first** will be **LAST**.

Matthew 20:16, NRSV



**GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

**Welcome** – Pastor Lois Harder

**Call to Worship**

(Psalm 73:1-9, 21-26)

Truly God is good to the upright,  
to those who are pure in heart.

**But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled;  
my steps had nearly slipped.**

**For I was envious of the arrogant;  
I saw the prosperity of the wicked**

For they have no pain;  
their bodies are sound and sleek.  
They are not in trouble as others are;  
they are not plagued like other people.

**Therefore pride is their necklace;  
violence covers them like a garment.  
Their eyes swell out with fatness;  
their hearts overflow with follies.**

They scoff and speak with malice;  
loftily they threaten oppression.  
They set their mouths against heaven,  
and their tongues range over the earth.

**Invocation**

**Instrumental Call to Worship**

*Simple Gifts* ~Held  
(lighting of the peace lamp)

Karen Unruh

**Gathering Hymn**

*There is a place of quiet rest*

HWB 5

There is a place of quiet rest,  
near to the heart of God,  
a place where sin cannot molest,  
near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet,  
near to the heart of God,  
a place where we our Savior meet,  
near to the heart of God.

**Refrain:** O Jesus, bless'd Redeemer,  
sent from the heart of God,  
hold us, who wait before Thee,  
near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release,  
near to the heart of God,  
a place where all is joy and peace,  
near to the heart of God.

**Children's Story**

Ann Hiebert

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Lois

**Worship Music**

*Praise Him! Praise Him!* arr. Mark Hayes

Lucia Unrau

### **NAMING THE SIN**

**Scripture Reading**

Genesis 4:1-10

Lynel Unrau

**Reflection**

Pastor Caleb Yoder

**Hymn of Confession**

*God of grace and God of glory*

HWB 366

God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour thy power;  
crown your ancient church's story,  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

Cure thy children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore.  
Let the gift for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

### **ORIENTED TOWARD GOD'S LOVE**

**Spiritual Practice**

Pastor Lois

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance**

Gracious God, we confess our temptation to envy. We see what others have, and wish it was ours. We compare ourselves to others, and feel we don't measure up. Forgive us, generous God. Open our eyes to see your bounty in our lives. Open our imaginations to realize how we can join with your Holy Spirit in reflecting your love.

Be content; in God we have more than enough.

### **EMBRACING THE VIRTUE**

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 20:1-16

Lynel Unrau

**Reflection**

Pastor Caleb

**Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings**

First Fruits Giving

**Song of Response**

*How clear is our vocation, Lord*

HWB 541

1-How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
when once we heed your call:  
to live according to your word,  
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all,  
and will not let us fall.

if worldly pressures fray the mind,  
and love itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care,  
our inward life repair.

2-But if, forgetful, we should find  
your yoke is hard to bear;

3-We marvel how your saints become  
in hindrances more sure,  
whose joyful virtues put to shame  
the casual way we wear your name,

and by our faults obscure  
your pow'r to cleanse and cure.

4-In what you give us, Lord, to do,  
together or alone,

in old routines and ventures new,  
may we not cease to look to you,  
the cross you hung upon -  
all you endeavored done.

**Benediction**

Pastor Lois

**Postlude**

*God of Grace ~Ashdown*

Karen Unruh

+ The peace lamp serves as a visual reminder for us that we follow Jesus the Prince of Peace and believe in uncertain times that God's shalom will prevail.

Special thanks to Marcia Brubaker, Lynel Unrau, Karen Unruh, Elroy Wiens, Ann Hiebert, Lucia Unrau, Steve Unruh, and Delton Voth for their help with making this online worship service possible.

**Questions for Reflection** (Genesis 4:1-10, Matthew 20:1-16)

1. Do these passages or Caleb's reflections change your understanding of envy and contentment?
2. How do you motivate or feed yourself for spiritual growth without using shame as a motivator?

***We look forward to another outdoor, drive-in service next Sunday, August 2 at 9:00 in the shade.***

**Scripture readings for Next Sunday:**

- Greed: 1 Kings 20:1-16
- Generosity: Matthew 6:19-34

## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We give thanks for the frequent and gentle rains we've had in the last couple of weeks.
- ❖ Thank you, God, for the gift(s) of music! It's wonderful to hear Lucia Unrau play this morning. She offers her music as a birthday gift to her dad, Glen Unrau, whose 90<sup>th</sup> birthday was in June.
- ❖ We are grateful for Rod Peters' successful knee replacement surgery last week; we ask God's continued presence with Rod as he heals and regains strength.
- ❖ We give thanks for Duane and Agatha Duerksen as they celebrate 50 years of marriage today (26<sup>th</sup>).
- ❖ We pray for Margie Young as she undergoes an outpatient procedure on Friday, July 31.
- ❖ We pray for students, parents, teachers and administrators as the struggle continues in decision-making about the opening of schools.
- ❖ We pray for parents of young children as they make decisions about daycare as the number of Covid-19 cases rises.

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Marilyn Unruh Flaming  
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Cindy Hastings  
Bryant Miller  
Jim Schmidt

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

## Coming Events

Today, Sunday, July 26		Online Worship Service
	11:15 am	Congregational Sharing on Zoom
Monday, July 27	2:00 pm	Prayer Team
Wednesday, July 29	6:30 pm	Wednesday Prayer Meeting on Zoom
Saturday, August 1		Western District Annual Assembly Online
Sunday, August 2	9:00 am	Outdoor Service (weather permitting)
Monday, August 3	7:00 pm	Board of Christian Education
Wednesday, August 5	6:30 pm	Wednesday Prayer Meeting on Zoom
	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees
Sunday, August 9		Online Worship Service
	11:15 am	Congregational Sharing on Zoom

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Update on in-person worship from the AMC COVID-19 Task Force:** Based on the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in the area, the task force believes it would be prudent to push back the date of in-person worship. Worship will continue as it has throughout summer, with a mix of online and outdoor services. The task force has nearly completed the re-opening plan for Alexanderwohl that we will use to guide us when the time is right for in-person worship in the sanctuary. We will update the congregation as we continue to monitor the situation.

**Use of building for meetings:** The COVID-19 task force continues to allow the church building, specifically the Chapel, to be available to boards/committees to use for in-person meetings if they so choose. Zoom continues to be an option for meetings, as well. If meetings happen in person, the following guidelines should be followed: maintain 6 feet distance throughout the meeting, masks should be worn and please limit the use of bathrooms to the ones on the main level of the church. Meeting organizers should be sure to communicate with the church office so that custodial staff are aware of spaces that need cleaning.

**Dig into the book "White Fragility" by Robin Diangelo!** The Board of Mission & Service and the Peace Committee are inviting everyone in the congregation to join us in finding out why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism. Books can be ordered through Ruth in the church office by **Monday morning, July 27, for \$11.20/book** (thanks to a discount offered to us by Faith & Life Bookstore). Please make checks out to AMC. We will aim to meet for our first discussion about the book on Wednesday, August 12 in the evening. More details to come.

Pastor Lois will be on vacation from Friday, July 31 through Thursday, August 6.

**Read! The church library is open!** Come see what's new and find adventure while staying close to home. Please call the church office to "schedule" your time in the library if you don't have access to the building with a key or keypad number. When you bring books back, please place them in the designated tote.

**We invite you to a weekly Zoom prayer meeting Wednesday at 6:30 pm** using the *Take our Moments and Our Days: an Anabaptist Prayer Book*. This format includes scripture readings and guided prayer, while offering space for inserting our own specific prayers. The prayer guide will show up on screen, but we also will share it as a PDF. The link to our next Wednesday prayer meeting will be sent by email.

**Current and upcoming devotionals** (*Upper Room, Rejoice!, Purpose*) are available in the NE entryway for purchase.

Pastor Caleb is continually updating our **Faith Formation** resource page (<http://alexanderwohl.org/resource-page/> or click the button from home page). Feel free to make suggestions of resources you are finding helpful.

**The Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum will have a benefit Bierock Carry-out Meal Saturday, August 1, 11 am to 1 pm (while supplies last).** The meal is a free-will donation or \$10 suggested donation. New Year's Cookies will also be available by the half dozen and dozen. Suggested donations: \$5 and \$10, respectively. Look for the arrows to direct traffic past the museum's Prep School, 200 N. Poplar, Goessel. No reservation needed.

## CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

### Western District Conference

Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower and guide WDC's online gathering for Annual Assembly next weekend, as we engage the theme "Living in Exile."

### Mennonite Mission Network

July 31 is Stanley W. Green's last day as Mennonite Mission Network's executive director after 27 years of faithful service. Pray for Stanley and his wife, Ursula, as they settle in California where Stanley will work as conference minister for the Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference. Ask God's wisdom for Michael J. Sherrill as he becomes executive director on August 1.

## COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Blood Drive in Goessel

**Red Cross blood drive – Aug. 10, 1-6 pm, at Goessel Mennonite Church.** For a limited time, the Red Cross is testing ALL donated blood for COVID-19 antibodies. Donors will be notified of their results, which will indicate if they have been exposed to the COVID-19 and therefore developed antibodies. (Red Cross is not testing to diagnosis illness.) In addition to the extra need for blood during this pandemic, 25% of the nation's blood supply helps people receiving treatments for cancer. Every minute 5 units of blood are needed to help someone going through cancer treatments. Sign up to donate at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call Rosi (356-2418) or Nancy (367-2610) for assistance.

### Camp Mennoscah

**You are welcome to visit!** Camp Mennoscah is open to families, individuals, and groups for days and overnights. The number of groups on campgrounds is limited and each family/group will have their own bathroom. Canoes are available for use; paddles and lifejackets are checked out and disinfected after use. Contact us at [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) or 620-297-3290. Spend some time at the river, on the trails, or simply enjoying this sacred space!

**Camp in a Box from Camp Mennoscah--**The vast majority of Camp in the Boxes and tee shirts have been distributed. If you have not received yours (and we have not been in touch), please contact Camp Mennoscah at [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) or 620-297-3290. We'll get it figured out!

**The annual Camp Sing scheduled for August 8 has also been cancelled.** Staff will continue to brainstorm options for events that can be done safely!

### Western District Conference

**Living in Exile WDC Assembly Scriptures:** Please read and pray over Jeremiah 29:4 and following and 1 Peter 2:11-12, our Assembly scriptures. Ponder what God might be telling us about how to live out the good news in times of trial, injustice, and fear. There will be chances to talk together during live webinars and during the 3:30 pm Zoom conversation with Danny Carroll R on August 1. <https://mennowdc.org/2020-wdc-annual-assembly/>

**WDC Assembly Video Snapshots: Have you gone to WDC Assembly 2020 on YouTube yet?** There are some great stories about WDC churches and the ministries of our various commissions, stories of following Jesus today. You'll learn things and be inspired. [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6aO7e884ZT5d9gHzyrfAucccOFYYd\\_M5](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6aO7e884ZT5d9gHzyrfAucccOFYYd_M5)

**Save the date for WDC Fall Reference Council:** All members of WDC Executive Board, the four Commissions, Gifts Discernment Committee and staff are invited to WDC Reference Council scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2020. (The format - electronic and/or in-person will be determined closer to the date). This will be a time for introductions, orientation and review of WDC's work, and collaboration to implement WDC's mission and ministry together. Watch for more information in the future!

**Looking forward to the Women and Girls Retreat at Camp Mennoscah?** The Annual Spring Supper? Help make these events possible by joining the Western District Women in Mission Executive Council! There are nine open positions including: vice president, secretary, treasurer, one position on the Women and Girls Retreat Committee, two positions on the Communications Team, and three positions on the Nominating Committee. A wide variety of openings

means we have a place for you and your unique talents and interests. You can help ensure the future of WDWM programming by volunteering for one of these positions. If you are interested in supporting the mission of WDWM by filling one of these roles, please email [westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com](mailto:westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com).

## **Mennonite Church USA**

**Check out these Everence webinars that are available:**

(English): <https://www.everence.com/everence-events/national-advisors-and-representatives/recorded-webinars-past>

(Spanish): [www.everence.com/everence-articles/core-markets/national-advisors-and-representatives/webinars/20200528-presentacion-sobre-bienestar-financiero](http://www.everence.com/everence-articles/core-markets/national-advisors-and-representatives/webinars/20200528-presentacion-sobre-bienestar-financiero)

**Mennonite Church USA has put together** a collection of laments, **written by pastors, leaders, lay people and students, on the recent and persistent violence of racism.** You are invited to pray and lament along with them: <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/lament-violence-of-racism/>

**Menno Snapshots:** In “**Reflections on protesting and faith,**” two members of Pasadena Mennonite Church – a Guatemalan mestizo immigrant and a white university professor – discuss the cost of following Christ. Read more: <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/reflections-protesting-and-faith/>

**Menno Snapshots:** Tobin Miller Shearer, co-founder of the Damascus Road Anti-Racism Process, stresses the importance of working together in racially integrated settings in his blog, “**The discipline and practice of white caucusing.**” <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/white-caucusing/>

## **Mennonite Central Committee**

MCC is hosting *virtual* alumni gatherings for four of the world regions where MCC works: Latin America and Caribbean, Asia, Europe & Middle East and Africa. And you are invited! Join us for this special time to hear updates from Area Directors about current programming, share stories of service experiences and engage in small group discussions to connect with your MCC friends or meet others who served in the same world region. Find out specific dates, times and register at [mcc.org/virtual-alumni-gatherings](http://mcc.org/virtual-alumni-gatherings). Questions? Please contact [heidhuber@mcc.org](mailto:heidhuber@mcc.org) or call 316.283.2720.

## **MDS Opportunity**

MDS is opening a project in the small town of Willow, Alaska, where a wild fire destroyed their homes. This disaster did not receive a presidential disaster declaration so individual assistance was not available. Many took the first steps to build foundations, but now face a shortage of resources and time to build a safe place to live. Winter is fast approaching when temperatures drop and this area could get snow by mid-Sept. So we need to act now! Willow is about 70 miles from Anchorage. Alaska is open to travelers and is one of the first MDS projects since the pandemic, having a very low number of infections. Volunteers will get a COVID-19 test before they leave and then while on location. Because of the closed border between Canada and the U.S. only volunteers from the U.S. will be able to participate. Volunteers will be staying at LaDaSa Camp in Willow.