

**Welcome!**

In our outdoor service today, we begin a new series. The book of Revelation is a mysterious one, filled with numbers and symbols that can be confusing and even scary! But it was written in a time of crisis as a message of encouragement and hope for followers of Jesus - something relevant and useful for us now!



**GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

**Gathering Music**

Prairie Heirs

**Welcome**

Pastor Lois Harder

**Call to Worship and Invocation**

Revelation 1:7-8

Leader: Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;

**People: and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.**

Leader: I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come,

**All: the Almighty.**

**Gathering Song**

*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord*

SWJ 48

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord! Sing,  
O ye people, gladly adore  
Him; Let the mountains  
tremble at His Word, let the  
hills be joyful before Him.  
Mighty in wisdom, boundless  
in mercy, Great is Jehovah,  
King over all.

Zion, herald the story. Sin and  
death, His kingdom shall  
destroy, all the earth shall sing  
of His glory; Praise Him, ye  
angels, ye who behold Him  
robed in His splendor,  
matchless, divine.

heav'n we join the happy  
strain, when we cast our bright  
crowns before Him. There in  
His likeness, joyful awaking,  
there we shall see Him, there  
we shall sing.

Praise Him, praise Him, shout  
aloud for joy! Watchman of

King eternal, blessed be His  
name! So may His children  
gladly adore Him; when in

**Refrain:** Holy, holy, holy is the  
Lord, let the hills be joyful  
before Him.

**Children's Story**

Ben Schrag

**Hymn of Praise**

*Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing*

HWB 110

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great  
Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and  
King, the triumphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to  
proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy name.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids  
our sorrow cease, 'tis music to the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.

Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever  
giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church  
in earth and heav'n.

He speaks, and list'ning to his voice new life the  
dead receive, the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Caleb Yoder

**Worship Music**

Prairie Heirs

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Reading**

Revelation 1

Bryant Miller

**Sermon**

The Alpha and the Omega

Pastor Lois

**Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings**

First Fruits Giving

## Hymn of Response

*Lord, I am fondly, earnestly*

HWB 514

Lord, I am fondly, earnestly longing into thy holy likeness to grow, thirsting for more and deeper communion, yearning they love more fully to know.

**Refrain:** Open the wells of grace and salvation, pour the rich streams deep into my heart. Cleanse and refine my thought and affection, seal me and make me pure as thou art.

Dead to the world would I be, O Father, dead unto sin, alive unto thee. Crucify all the earthly within me, emptied of sin and self may I be.

I would be thine, and serve thee forever, filled with thy Spirit, lost in thy love. Come to my heart, Lord, come with anointing, showers of grace send down from above.

## Benediction

Pastor Caleb

+ 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 Prairie Heirs – Eric Schrag, Gayle Voth and Rick Woelk; and to Ben Schrag, Bryant Miller, Steve Unruh, Delton Voth, Dwight M. Flaming, Brendon Nafziger, Marlin Janzen, and David Esau for their help with making this outdoor worship service possible.

## Questions for Reflection (Revelation 1)

1. How have you understood the book of Revelation? Did you hear or learn anything new this morning?
2. What are some ways you can begin to think about incorporating this message of hope into your life?

**Next Sunday** Pastor Caleb will continue the study of Revelation. Focus passage: Revelations 2:1-7

We encourage you to read along through the whole book of Revelation. For next week read, Revelation Ch. 2-3.

## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We give thanks for the rain this last week.
- ❖ We pray for Darla Banman as she continues to recover after a procedure a week ago to put in an implantable defibrillator.
- ❖ We pray for the work of Core Communities (formerly Circles) and Mark Rogers, as Mark leads a Getting Ahead class in Hillsboro for members of several neighboring communities, including Goessel.
- ❖ We pray for Leona Schroeder as her family grieves the passing of her sister's husband, Ed Thode on September 7 in Hutchinson.
- ❖ We are grateful for teachers and their commitment to learning new ways of doing things.
- ❖ Thanks be to God for the diagnosis Lee Suderman received while at Mayo Clinic. See the bulletin announcement for details.
- ❖ We pray for the family of Irvin H. Boese as they remember and celebrate his life on Sunday, September 20, 2020.
- ❖ We pray for those whose lives have been upended due to uncontrollable fires, storms and other disasters.
- ❖ We pray for people around the world who are suffering from displacement and poverty.

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Sandy Banman  
Marilyn Unruh Flaming  
Ruth Goertzen  
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

Sunday, September 13	10:00 am	Outdoor Worship Service
Monday, September 14	2:00 pm	Prayer Team
	7:00 pm	Church council
Tuesday, September 15	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Wednesday, September 16	7:00 pm	Book discussion of <i>White Fragility</i> – Ch. 11-12
Sunday, September 20	10:00 am	Outdoor Worship Service (weather permitting)
Sunday, September 27	10:30 am	Church retreat at Camp Mennoscah
Monday, September 28	2:00 pm	Prayer Team
Sunday, October 4	10:00 am	World Communion
Wednesday, October 7		Faith Formation for ages 3 through grade 12
Sunday, October 25		Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Taskforce update

The Alexanderwohl Covid taskforce continues to meet bi-weekly. We are planning on continued outdoor services through October 4, on which day we will celebrate communion with elements in separate disposable containers. We are aiming to begin in-person indoor worship services beginning October 11 with a hybrid approach that will include live streaming. Our goal is for services to be as safe as possible for those desiring to attend. We will look primarily at the number of new local virus cases and the percent positive rate of local counties in deciding whether to move forward. Services will include music, but will begin without singing. We will inform the congregation of what to expect prior to the first indoor service. Plans are going forward for faith formation activities to start on Wednesday evening, October 7 for ages 3 through senior high in spaces allowing for social distancing.

As we take a cautious approach, we believe we are not dependent on a church building to be a church. We have had the privilege to continue worshipping and fellowshiping together with new patterns over these past months. We believe we can embrace an opportunity to be counter-cultural by doing all we can to protect one another as our call to love our neighbors. There isn't one right way to do this, and we always appreciate your input.

**Pastor Lois will be away** from Thursday through Monday, September 17-21. She'll return to the office on Tuesday.

**Check out the garden produce on the table at the south end of our seating area.** Please bring your extra produce to share with others.

**Calling all moms!** *Risen Motherhood* is a book written by Emily Jensen and Laura Wifler who host a podcast by the same name. Their goal is to help moms apply the gospel to everyday problems "so you can connect your Sunday morning faith to the Monday morning tantrum". If you would be interested in reading this book and doing a book study, or have any questions, contact Laura Unrau ([lauraelaine25@gmail.com](mailto:lauraelaine25@gmail.com)) by September 27. Meeting time and location will be dependent on the number of people interested. Thanks!

Thank you so much for your past support of our spring & summer children's offering project for Camp Mennoscah. Beginning with the fall quarter, the children will be collecting an offering for Bethesda Home. If your child(ren) wish to participate, please bring money (cash or check) in an envelope marked "**Children's SS Offering**" and place it in the offering container following the worship service.

**The sixth and final session study/discussion of "White Fragility" is Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 p.m.** Bring your book, your questions and ideas and your chair so we can sit outside in the shade. We'll look at Ch. 11 & 12 this week.

**Church Retreat 2020:** After much discussion, the Board of Worship decided to move ahead with plans for Alexanderwohl's biennial retreat at Camp Mennoscah. Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 27! An outdoor worship service will begin at 10:30 and include the baptism of Elizabeth Schmucker in the river. The service will be recorded for those who are unable to attend. You are invited to bring your own picnic lunch, as we will not be using the dining hall or the kitchen. Sanitized restroom facilities will be accessible. The camp grounds are reserved until 4:00pm for those who want to enjoy the river, walk the trails, or play frisbee golf (bring your own gear). Unlike previous retreats, there will not be an opportunity to stay overnight as a group. Camp Mennoscah adheres to social distancing and mask guidelines.

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

"God can do anything, you know--far more than you could ever imagine or guess in your wildest dreams!"  
Ephesians 3:20 *The Message*

**WOW--how true! Mayo's tests on Tuesday indicated that Lee does NOT have constrictive pericarditis** and will NOT be having open heart surgery after all! The doctors are recommending a different protocol to resolve his heart issues. We will be gratefully returning home at the end of the week. Thank you for all of your uplifting support and love! Lee and Di Suderman

**A Celebration of Life Service for Irvin H. Boese** will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2020, at 4:00 pm at the Wheat Building on the museum complex. You are invited to attend. Fasma will be served following the service. Please follow safety guidelines by wearing masks and social distancing.

## CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

### Western District Conference

Pray for the Holy Spirit's wisdom, guidance and joy for Lois Barrett, as she begins serving as the new moderator for WDC.

### Mennonite Mission Network

Join Mennonite Mission Network in praising God that no students, staff, or faculty of the Near East School of Theology were injured when last month's explosion rocked Beirut, Lebanon. Pray for wisdom for George Sabra, the school's president, and for the necessary resources to repair the extensive damage done to the eight-floor building. Pray also for all who have lost loved ones and homes.

## COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Camp Mennoscah

A few openings for Scrapbook and Crafts Retreats! Camp Mennoscah's retreats with limited numbers are October 30-Nov. 1 and Nov. 6-8. Participants will stay in the Retreat Center with their own bathroom and scrapbook/crafts tables will be set up in the dining hall to provide more space and better ventilation. Register at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org)! Call 620-297-3290 for more information.

Camp Mennoscah's annual meeting is September 27. Details regarding the meeting will be shared as soon as possible.

The weather is great! Where are you? Camp Mennoscah's facilities are open to guests/groups for overnight stays and day visits. Spend time on the trails, go canoeing, have a campfire cookout, and enjoy the open spaces of the tallgrass prairie and the Ninnescah River! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 to make a reservation and to inquire about use of facilities. We can't wait to see you!

### Western District Conference

**The WDC Garden September/October/November 2020 issue** is now available for viewing at: <https://mennowdc.org/wdc-garden-september-october-november-2020/>. Learn about WDC connections and collaboration during this time of Covid-19, hear reflections on the first-ever virtual Assembly, read a testimony about how the WDC Hope Fund blessed a church, and more!

**From the WDC Historical Committee:** Anabaptist History Today, a collaborative storytelling web site, invites individuals, congregations, schools and organizations to tell their stories of living during the remarkable historical, biological and social events of 2020. Contributors may share their experiences through a variety of media, including videos, audio recordings, photos, journal entries, artwork, poetry and personal reflections. An online form guides

contributors through the process. Created by Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Archives and Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, AHT is the first large-scale, collaborative digital project of its kind in the Anabaptist community. The Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel College is one of 16 participating Anabaptist archives and history organizations. Please visit the web site to learn more. <https://aht.libraryhost.com/s/archive/page/Welcome>

**Office space available** for rent in WDC's building on North Main in North Newton, KS. Contact John at: 316-258-5389.

**Preschool Story Hour** at the Conference Resource Library returns this fall with VIRTUAL LIVE story hours full of stories, rhymes, and craft ideas on Tuesdays at 10:00am and Thursdays at 3:30pm. Tuesday and Thursday sessions will be different, join us for one or both sessions each week. Story Hour will start Tuesday, September 8 and be geared toward ages 3-5. Story Hour will be led by Library Director Jennie Wintermote and will be shorter than our Summer Story Hour. Register at <https://forms.gle/vpk7DXRwwHAbSo5A7> and contact Jennie with any questions at [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org).

**The Israel Palestine Relations Task Force** of Western District Conference/Mennonite Church USA is sponsoring a webinar on September 21, UN's International Day of Peace entitled *Racial Justice from US to Palestine*. The Webinar features Jonathan Kuttub, Alex Awad and Sarah Thompson Nahar. Call the church office for more information.

### **Mennonite Church USA**

**Wurst Fundraiser Ever:** You're invited to a German-themed drive-through carryout meal fundraiser to benefit Mennonite Central Committee Sept. 26 held at Shalom Mennonite Church in Newton, Kan. Tim and Heidi Huber's family will be offering bratwurst, sides, dessert and drinks, with an RSVP deadline of Sept. 19 or 300 reservations at <https://forms.gle/ASndjK9AQP3BLRS7> or by calling 316-217-1932. Hope to see you there!

### **Mennonite Central Committee WDC/SCC Women's Retreat 2020:**

**Celebrate with us!** Mennonite Central Committee invites you join **Celebration 2020: MCC at 100**, a livestreamed event commemorating a century of MCC's ministry on Saturday, Oct. 17, starting at 6:50 p.m. (EDT). The event will feature photos, videos and storytelling that highlight MCC's work over the years. Former MCC leader and pastor Leonard Dow of Philadelphia will inspire participants to walk boldly into the next century of MCC's ministry while talented musicians will lead in prayer and thanksgiving. You can find more information about MCC's centennial and log in for the livestreamed event at [mcc.org/celebration-2020](http://mcc.org/celebration-2020).

**Register NOW for the MCC Flatlander Bicycle Ride!** Due to COVID-19, the ride is a "virtual" event this year and open to EVERYONE. Riders may register any time until September 29. [Register online at Bikereg.com](http://Bikereg.com). Join us in raising money for MCC to fund the construction of new wells and repair existing water and sanitary systems at schools in Nicaragua. With these improvements, students will have safe water to drink and wash their hands. In this global pandemic, access to clean water is more essential than ever. Donations from non-riders are welcome! Checks to MCC Flatlander Bike Ride may be sent to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117.

### **Bethel College**

**Sunday, Sept. 13** – KIPCOR, the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution at Bethel College, will kick off its **annual film series** *virtually*. KIPCOR will host a **Zoom call, starting at 2 p.m., featuring *Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot***, the story of a group of Alabama students and teachers who nonviolently resisted a century of Jim Crow in a segregationist state to win voting rights for African Americans. Included is a **talk-back session with Larry Burks Sr., president of the Wichita branch of the NAACP**. Register for the Zoom link at <http://kipcor.org/>

**Bethel College Women's Association has worked to raise money for Bethel for many years.** This August we are opening our first online store, [www.bca\\_marketonline.com](http://www.bca_marketonline.com). We invite you to help us support Bethel by checking this online market for crafts, jewelry, Bethel-themed items and much more. Our inventory will change over time so please check in to find that special gift or item for your home. If circumstances allow, on September 1 we will begin accepting orders for baked goods to be picked up on Fall Fest weekend, October 1-3. Please check the website for updated information.

**Now in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College: work by three seniors from the Class of 2020, Georgia Anderson, Blayne Stump and Anna Wiens.** Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Receptions will be individual and by invitation only. *Face masks must be worn on the Bethel College campus.*

### **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**

**AMBS course: Somatic Spiritual Practices in the Time of COVID.** Explore the link between spirituality and our material bodies while considering how Christian spirituality is practiced in and through embodiment. Leah Thomas,

Ph.D., teaches this one-credit AMBS videoconference course on Thursdays, Sept. 10 – Oct. 22, 6:30–8:30 p.m. ET. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first course for credit! Sign up at: [ambs.edu/onecourse](https://ambs.edu/onecourse)

**Join AMBS's Virtual Bible Reading Colloquium!** No matter how strong or dusty your Biblical Hebrew is, you are invited to join us in reading the Hebrew Bible together in Hebrew on Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m. ET via videoconference (Sept. 9 – Dec. 9; no meeting Oct. 28). The Bible Reading Colloquium is a judgment-free zone and a great way to keep your knowledge of the Bible languages alive. Contact Safwat Marzouk, Ph.D.: [ambs.edu/academics/people/749240/safwat-marzouk](https://ambs.edu/academics/people/749240/safwat-marzouk)

### **Newton Et Cetera Shop hiring clothing sorter & receiver**

Join a vital downtown thrift shop working in the clothing department, helping on our sales floor, receiving donations and contributing to our vision to share God's love with all creation—inside our thrift shop, in the community and around the world! We value community partnership; welcoming all ages, cultures, races and languages; stewardship and economic justice; and care for our earth. This position reports to the Production Manager, and will also be trained and directed by other managers.

**Full-Time Equivalent:** 0.5 FTE (20 hours/week)

**Schedule:** M-F 2:30-6:30 plus occasional Saturdays 10-5:30

**Wage:** \$11.02/hour

**Applications due:** September 21, 2020, submitted to the general manager in person or to [generalmanager@newtonetceterashop.com](mailto:generalmanager@newtonetceterashop.com)

**Benefits:** 2 weeks paid vacation, paid holidays and sick time and paid maternity/paternity leave

**Everence will host its popular workshop, *Make Medicare an easy step***, as a webinar on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about the various Medicare plans and what they cover; plans that supplement Medicare; and enrollment details and deadlines. This webinar is free. Please register by contacting our office at 877-467-7294, 316-283-3800 or [central.kansas@everence.com](mailto:central.kansas@everence.com).