

Welcome!

In our outdoor service today, we consider the role of greed in our individual lives and in our culture. We want to grow in becoming a community that practices generosity in a time of much uncertainty as a witness to God's generosity that we know through the way of Jesus.



Matthew 6:21

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Oh, How I Love Jesus* Kevin Gaeddert
Welcome Pastor Caleb Yoder

Call to Worship and Invocation

Leader: Seek the Lord while he may be found.

**People: Seek the Lord in the empty places,
seek the Lord in the wilderness of your life,
seek the Lord among those who also seek him.**

Leader: Seek the Lord, and he shall be found.

All: And it will be enough.

Peace Prayer (lighting of the peace torch) Jacob Schrag

Gathering Song *Come, now is the time to worship* SWJ 75

Come, now is the time to worship One day every tongue will confess Willingly we choose to surrender
Come, now is the time to give your You are God, our lives,
heart One day every knee will bow. Willingly our knees will bow.
Come, just as you are to worship Still, the greatest treasure remains With all our heart, soul, mind and
Come, just as you are before your for those who gladly choose strength we gladly choose you
God, Come. you now. now.

Children's Story Karl Brubaker

Morning Prayer Bryant Miller

Worship Music *Amazing Grace* Kevin and Bea Gaeddert

NAMING THE SIN

Scripture Reading 1 Kings 21:1-16 Duerksen family

Reflection Pastor Caleb

ORIENTED TOWARD GOD'S LOVE

Spiritual Practice Pastor Caleb

Prayer of Confession

Generous God, we are a people who always want more; more money, more things, more stuff, more.

God, we confess that we try to fill the emptiness within with outside things, but they never satisfy.

We confess that we are a people who can never have enough—there is always something missing, there is always something better than what we have.

God of abundance, forgive us.

Help us to notice the abundance that surrounds us. Soften our hearts and lead us to a place where we can share out of that abundance.

Words of Assurance

“Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?’” (Matt 6:25).

Song of Faith

When the poor ones

(Sing the Journey 69)

When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving;
when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;
when the wounded offer others strength and healing:

When compassion gives the suffering consolation;
when expecting brings to birth hope that was lost;
when we choose love, not the hatred all around us:

We see God, here by our side,
walking our way;
we see God, here by our side,
walking our way.

We see God, here by our side,
walking our way;
we see God, here by our side,
walking our way

EMBRACING THE VIRTUE

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:19-34

Duerksen family

Reflection

Pastor Caleb

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

Song of Response

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

HWB 324

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you.
Seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia!

Song of Benediction

The Lord lift you up

SWJ 46

The Lord lift you up,
the Lord take your hand,
the Lord lead you forth,
and cause you to stand,

secure in God’s Word,
seeking God’s face,
abounding in love,
abiding in grace.

+ 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 Kevin, Bea, and Eddie Gaeddert, the Duerksen family, Karl Brubaker, 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 (1 Kings 21:1-16, Matthew 6:19-34)

1. What changes for you if greed is not just wanting more and more, but holding too tightly onto what we already have?
2. How can we work at the heart issue of becoming freed for generosity of our money, time, and gifts?

Next Sunday our service will be online. We will hear sharing from our delegates to the online Western District Assembly and you are invited to watch the worship service from Annual Assembly featuring music, a testimony from first-generation immigrant Sue Park-Hur and a sermon from Old Testament scholar Danny Carroll R, who reflects on the Bible and immigration. We will still have our congregational sharing Zoom call at 11:15.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We give thanks for the online Western District Assembly that took place yesterday. We pray for sensitivity to the Spirit's leading among the churches that make up the conference.
- ❖ Thank you, God, for the positive medical report received this week by Gene Hastings! Tests show that his cancerous lung nodule continues to shrink; the immunotherapy for Gene has had encouraging results!
- ❖ We celebrate with Alice Jantz as her family comes this weekend to "close out" her duplex at Bethesda – this has been an especially long process given the unusual circumstances we're living in these last weeks and months. Alice is feeling both grateful for her family as they do the work to clear her duplex, grateful for such a wonderful place as Bethesda to live and also a bit sad that she can't participate and be with her family this weekend. She welcomes prayers.
- ❖ We give praise for the birth of Savannah Rose, born to Nicole and Josh Hein on July 29. Savannah weighed 9 lbs 11.5 oz and is 20 inches long. She is welcomed into the world by her siblings Jaxson, Rebecca, and Allyssa and grandparents Tim and Judy Goertzen.
- ❖ We pray for those in our congregation and community who have tested positive with the virus and are recovering, as well as all of us who live with anxiety about ourselves or a family member contracting the virus.

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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

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
Monday, August 10	4:30 pm	Alexanderwohl Covid Taskforce meeting
	5:45 pm	Board of Mission and Service
	7:00 pm	Church Council
Wednesday, August 12	TBA	First book discussion of <i>White Fragility</i>

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you have extra garden produce? Bring it to church on Sunday and share with others! We'll have a table set up towards the south end of our meeting space under the trees. Megan will be there to help you select produce and put it in a bag for you. Bring your own bag.

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.

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.

Braxton Church Update: Braxton had a successful medical procedure completed on July 8th at Boston Children's Hospital. During additional exploratory surgery, the medical team discovered some new pulmonary findings and are now evaluating their course of action with this information in mind. The plan is for Braxton to return to Boston Children's Hospital for another routine surgery at the end of the year. Your continued prayers for Braxton and his family are much appreciated! For more information on Braxton and his medical conditions, check out the Braxton's Warrior Club Facebook page at fb.me/BraxtonMChurch.

CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

Western District Conference

Give thanks for a spirit of sharing and fellowship in WDC, as congregations and members join together today in online worship as part of 2020 Annual Assembly.

Mennonite Mission Network

Michael J. Sherrill begins his ministry as Mennonite Mission Network's executive director this month. Pray for him as he relates to partners and workers, conferences, and congregations "to equip and empower the church to engage their culture and world with the whole gospel."

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Environmental sustainability at AMBS. AMBS offers an Environmental Sustainability Leadership concentration in its Master of Divinity and Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies programs. Students take part in a 15-week residency at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center to build skills in community development. ams.edu/academics/partnership-merry-lea

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 or call Rosi (367-2418) 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 or 620-297-3290. Spend some time at the river, on the trails, or simply enjoying this sacred space!

Western District Conference

The WDC Assembly Virtual Delegate Session is this weekend - August 1, 9-11 am. Registered delegates have been emailed the delegate session Zoom link. Others may join the delegate session via Facebook Live, and also can participate in the afternoon webinars, and the conversation with Danny Carroll Rodas. See instructions on how to participate in all of these things at: <https://mennowdc.org/2020-annual-assembly-how-to-connect-to-a-virtual-assembly/> For technical assistance with Zoom before August 1, email Ryan at ryan.goertzen@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you online!

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

Mennonite Church USA

Consider being an MVS participant for the 2020-2021 MVS year! Join a community, serve, and plug into your neighborhood and local congregation. Visit MennoniteMission.net/MVS to learn more and apply!

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. Questions? Please contact heidihuber@mcc.org or call 316.283.2720.

Support MCC and celebrate MCC's centennial with a new shirt, hoodie, tea towel, bag or hat! Check out this online store set up by the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale to place your order today (pssst, it's never too early to start Christmas shopping!). Visit wearatomic.com/product-category/mcc/ and start shopping to support MCC!

Everence to hold Social Security and retirement income planning webinar

Everence will host a *Social Security and retirement income planning* webinar, on Tuesday, August 11 at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about Social Security strategies, risks that can impact retirement savings and strategies to help income last throughout retirement. The workshop is free. Register soon by contacting our office at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.

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