

**Welcome!**

Welcome to the Alexanderwohl church grounds! It is so good to be together! Today we learn about sloth and the virtue of diligence. Though "sloth" is not a word we use often, any of us can be tempted in the midst of overwhelm, boredom, or depression to stop caring. Sloth is a failure to act for good. May our hearts be open to how the Spirit may speak to us.



**GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

**Gathering Music**

Jesus help us live in peace,  
From our blindness set us free,  
Fill us with your healing love,  
Help us live in unity.

*Unity (SWJ 18)*

Many times we disagree  
O're what's right or wrong to do,  
It's so hard to really see  
From the other's point of view.

Kevin Gaeddert and Eric Schrag  
How we long for power and fame  
Seeking every earthly thing,  
We forget the one who came  
As a servant, not a king.

Pastor Lois Harder

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship and Invocation**

(lighting of the peace torch)

The God who created our universe, who acts through history to save our world, who reveals God's love through Jesus and through ongoing intervention in our lives, calls us to the holy task of partnership in building God's kingdom.

***Come, let us draw near in worship. Let us be energized by our incredible calling!***

**Presentation of Bibles to First Graders** (Rebecca Hein, Lauryn Voth, Mason Voth)

**Gathering Song**

*I'm Pressing On the Upward Way*

I'm pressing on the upward way,  
New heights I'm gaining every day;  
Still praying as I'm onward bound,  
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

My heart has no desire to stay  
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Though some may dwell where those abound,  
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.

I want to live above the world,  
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;  
For faith has caught the joyful sound,  
The song of saints on higher ground.

I want to scale the utmost height  
And catch a gleam of glory bright;  
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,  
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

**Refrain:**

Lord, lift me up and let me stand,  
By faith, on Heaven's tableland,  
A higher plane than I have found;  
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

**Children's Story**

Laura Voth

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Lois

**NAMING THE SIN**

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 27:11-26

Denise Duerksen

**Reflection on Sloth**

Pastor Caleb Yoder

**Song of Confession**

*Longing for light*

SWJ 89

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

## Chorus

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

## ORIENTED TOWARD GOD'S LOVE

### Spiritual Practice

Pastor Caleb

### Prayer of Confession

(Adapted from *Leader*, Summer 2019, p. 46)

Some days, God, it's easier to do nothing.  
It's easier to wait for things to come to me,  
opportunities, wealth, ambition.  
Between apathy and cynicism, we sit on our  
cushioned chairs with eyes glazing over  
from mind-numbing programming, waiting,  
letting time tick on.  
In a world where we're overwhelmed with  
injustice, sitting still in despair and not  
adding to the world's problems sometimes  
seems the right thing to do.

But that is not who you have called us to be.  
We confess that sometimes it's easier to not  
care, to not participate, to not engage, and  
to avoid the world.  
But your love demands participation, your love  
demands engagement.  
Forgive us when we take the easy way out,  
when we choose to love ourselves over  
loving our neighbors.  
When our hearts and minds yearn for escape,  
call us back to you and your love.

### Words of Assurance

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt 11:28-30).

## EMBRACING THE VIRTUE

### Scripture Reading

Micah 6:6-8

Denise Duerksen

### Reflection on Diligence

Pastor Caleb

### Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

### Song of Response

*Beyond a dying sun*

HWB 323

Beyond a dying sun I saw  
a vision on the sea  
of golden sails full billowed on the wind.  
And echoing above the waves  
a voice called after me,  
"God's dwelling place is with you  
till the end."

For God at last shall wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye.  
The sting of death shall pierce the heart no more.  
When grieving turns to laughter  
all the pain from us shall fly,  
and former ways lie bleached upon the shore.

*I see a new world coming  
when everyone is free!  
And all shall be God's people  
in justice, love and peace.*

Though hatred rages on the wind  
and wars defile the land,  
I see those golden sails still coming strong,  
for through the eyes of faith still shines  
the vision of the Lamb,  
and o'er a weary earth there rings this song.

## 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 Kevin Gaeddert, Eric Schrag, Denise Duerksen, Laura Voth, 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 (Matthew 27:11-26, Micah 6:6-8)

1. What did you learn about sloth or acedia? Are these old and forgotten concepts applicable today?
2. What is God calling you to be or do at this time? What is a God-given purpose for your life that you need to keep in sight?

### Scripture reading for Next Sunday:

- Wrath: Mark 15:15-20, 27-32
- Love: Ephesians 3:14-19

## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We pray for Lee and Diores Suderman, former pastor here at Alexanderwohl. They will travel to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN on Sept. 7 where it will be determined if Lee is eligible for an invasive open heart surgery to remove the sack around his heart. He suffers from a condition in which this sack is thickening, which constricts his heart function. This is a high-risk procedure and Lee and Di value our prayers. Cards can be sent to them at 21 Lakewood Circle, North Newton, KS 67117.
- ❖ We pray for Susan Voth at the death of her sister, Mary Richert, on Tuesday, August 25 - Susan's birthday. May God grant Susan and her family comfort and safe travel as she returns from Denver after time spent with son Mike and family.
- ❖ We pray for the families of the two young, black men who have recently been shot by police; Jacob Blake in Kenosha, WI and Trayford Pellerin in New Lafayette, LA. Lord, in your mercy, comfort these families and through your Spirit bring peace with justice.
- ❖ We pray for those affected by Hurricane Laura; may there be quick and compassionate responses to those in need.
- ❖ We continue to pray for rain here in Kansas.
- ❖ We pray for the health of our planet. Help us and all people to give attentive care and to be careful stewards of the earth.
- ❖ Be with all teachers and students as students begin classes here in Goessel this coming Wednesday; grant your courage, wisdom and blessings.
- ❖ We pray God's blessings on Emily Flaming and her family as Emily publicly professes faith in Christ and is baptized this evening at Grace Community Fellowship in Hillsboro.

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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

Today, August 30	9:00 am	Outdoor Service
Monday, August 31	2:00 pm	Prayer Team
Sept. 2 – 4		Prepare food for New Hope Shelter
Wednesday, Sept. 2	7:00 pm	Book discussion of <i>White Fragility</i> – Ch. 7-8
Sunday, Sept. 6	9:00 am	Outdoor Worship Service (weather permitting)
	11:15 am	Congregational Sharing on Zoom
Monday, Sept. 7		Labor Day – Church offices closed
Tuesday, Sept. 8	4:30 pm	Covid Task Force meets
	7:00 pm	Board of Christian Education
Wednesday, Sept. 9	7:00 pm	Book discussion of <i>White Fragility</i> – Ch. 9-10
Sunday, Sept. 27	10:30 am	Church retreat at Camp Mennoscah

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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.

**During the month of September, we would like to take advantage of a beautiful time of year by having services outdoors each week,** as we have been doing every other week, weather permitting. In the case of bad weather, we will make a recording available. We will still offer a congregational sharing Zoom call next week at 11:15 am. We also encourage adult SS groups to consider finding times to connect outdoors this fall.

Thank you so much for your past support of our spring & summer children's offering project for Camp Mennoscah. This Sunday, begins the fall quarter and the children will now begin 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.

**Join us! The fourth of a six-session study/discussion of "White Fragility" is Wednesday, September 2, 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. 7 & 8 this week. See you there!

**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.

**It's not too late!** You may still view the Marie and Martha Wheat Marquetry Art Show at the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum until the end of September. Over 25 larger works (both paintings and wheat art) and many smaller items and greeting cards are on display. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

## CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

### Western District Conference

Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for WDC as we seek to understand more deeply the structural racism of our own church life and history, and to be faithful to God's vision for justice in today's world.

## **Mennonite Mission Network**

Thank God for how the youth of the Barcelona Mennonite community in Catalonia are flourishing in their spiritual growth despite pandemic restrictions. Pray for Alisha and Joshua Garber, serving with Mennonite Mission Network, as they explore best practices to mentor and teach online.

## **COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Family History and Genealogy Group Meeting**

**An outdoor meeting is planned for the Second Monday Family History & Genealogy Group at the Goessel Mennonite Church Cemetery on Monday, September 14, 2020, 6:45 p.m.** (Please note the earlier meeting time.)

The cemetery is located on Alamo Road, 1/2 mile north of Goessel's Main Street.

Les Wedel, church trustee, will share history and stories relating to the cemetery. Several historical sketches of individuals who are buried in the cemetery will also be read. Again, please note the time change, allowing for early sunset.

Suggested items to bring: An outdoor chair, mosquito spray, flashlight, and a camera if you wish to take pictures of any tombstone that interests you. So far we anticipate that the day will be "rain free." However, the meeting will be canceled in case bad weather develops.

The meeting is free and open to the public. For further information, please call either the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum (620-367-8200) or Anna Beth (620-367-8135). If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining us, please feel free to invite them.

### **Camp Mennoscah**

**Mental Health Spiritual Retreat at Camp Mennoscah will be a one-day event on Monday, September 7.** This retreat is for those affected by mental illness, including friends and family. Activities will be outside. We will follow social distancing and mask guidelines. Please bring a mask with you. Those interested in attending the retreat should contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290.

**Limited number of openings!** Camp Mennoscah's Scrapbook and Crafts Retreats will take place on Oct. 30-Nov. 1 and Nov. 6-8. Masks and physical distancing guidelines will be followed and the facility used has been changed. More spaces will be opened as determined safe and feasible, so put your name on the waitlist! Register online at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org)! Call 620-297-3290 for further information.

**Camp Mennoscah welcomes guests!** Camping areas and cabins are open to guests/groups for overnight stays and day visits. Spend time in the river, 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 additional facilities. We can't wait to see you!

### **Western District Conference**

**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).

**WDC Fall Reference Council:** All members of WDC Executive Board, the four Commissions, Gifts Discernment Committee and staff are invited to WDC Reference Council on the morning of Saturday, September 26, 2020 via zoom video-conference. This will be a time for introductions, orientation and review of WDC's work, and collaboration to implement WDC's mission and ministry together. More details and registration information will be sent to participants closer to the date.

### **Mennonite Church USA**

**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.

Curious about church planting or re-planting? Join the next Sent Network cohort and learn how to explore, equip, and be sent to spread the word of God! Visit [MennoniteMission.net/SentNetwork](http://MennoniteMission.net/SentNetwork) to learn more and save your spot!

## **Mennonite Central Committee**

**Mennonite Central Committee is accepting donations to support people in need of food and other assistance in Beirut, Lebanon.** A massive explosion on Aug. 4 destroyed the country's main port and silos filled with grain and worsened an existing economic crisis. You can donate online at [mcc.org/beirut-response](http://mcc.org/beirut-response), by calling (888) 563-4676 or by sending a check earmarked for "Beirut response" to MCC, 21 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St., Akron PA 17501.

**MCC is in need of school kits to fulfill requests from our partners around the world!** Complete kits and/or supplies (find a full list of items at [mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits)) can be shipped to MCC Central States (121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St. North Newton, KS 67117) or dropped off in the 24-hour donation room at MCC. If you would like help unloading, please contact Kate at ([katemast@mcc.org](mailto:katemast@mcc.org), (316) 804-8432) to schedule a drop off time. Thank you for your continued support of MCC!

## **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. You must register to participate** at <http://kipcor.org/>

**Now at Kauffman Museum (through Nov. 29) – "Sorting Out Race: Examining Racial Identity and Stereotypes in Thrift Store Donations."** Regular hours are Tues.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 1:30-4:30 p.m., closed Mondays and major holidays, but with ever-changing COVID-19 protocols, you are advised to check the museum website, [kauffmanmuseum.org](http://kauffmanmuseum.org), or Facebook page or call 316-283-1612 before planning a visit.

The 2020 issue of *Mennonite Life*, Bethel College's online journal, is live at [ml.bethelks.edu](http://ml.bethelks.edu), with articles and reviews by Alain Epp Weaver, Ben Nobbs-Thiessen, Ben Woodward-Breckbill, Cheryl Denise, Christopher Reed, Emma Beachy, Jason Schmidt, Joanne Lehman, Joyce Zuercher, Julia Kasdorf, Keith Sprunger, Lisa Schirch, Marc Gopin, Melanie Zuercher and Raylene Hinz-Penner.

For the health and safety of participants and the wider community, **Life Enrichment at Bethel College is canceled for the fall 2020 semester.**

**The Bethel College Women's Association (BCWA) is now online!** See [bcwamarketonline.com](http://bcwamarketonline.com)