



**Welcome!**

**We welcome** all who are joining us in worship at Alexanderwohl in a variety of ways! November is Mission month and last Sunday and today we explore what it means to join God's mission sharing the light of Christ in the Goessel community and beyond. This morning we welcome Michelle Armster, Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee, Central States teaching from the book of Hebrews.

**GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

**Prelude** *No Greater Love* ~arr. Tornquist Mary Schmidt

**Welcome** Pastor Lois Harder

**Opportunities for Celebration and Service**

**Call to Worship and Invocation** (lighting of the peace lamp) (from *Sing the Story* 199)

Leader: For all the saints who went before us who have spoken to our hearts and touched us with your fire,

**People: we praise you, O God.**

Leader: For all the saints who live beside us whose weaknesses and strengths are woven into our own,

**People: we praise you, O God.**

Leader: For all the saints who live beyond us who challenge us to change the world with them,

**All: we praise you, O God. Amen!**

**Hymn of Praise** (instrumental) *We praise thee, O God* HWB 99

We praise thee, O God, for the Son of thy love, for Jesus who died, and is now gone above.

We praise thee, O God, for thy Spirit of light, who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night.

Revive us again, fill each heart with thy love. May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.

**Refrain:** *Hallelujah! Thine the glory, hallelujah! Amen! Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.*

We praise thee, O God, for the joy thou hast giv'n to thy saints in communion, these foretastes of heav'n.

**Children's Story** Ben Schrag

**Morning Prayer** Pastor Caleb Yoder

**Congregational song** (instrumental) *All who love and serve your city* HWB 417

All who love and serve your city, all who bear its daily stress, all who cry for peace and justice, all who curse and all who bless.

In your day of loss and sorrow, in your day of helpless strife, honor, peace, and love retreating, seek the Lord, who is your life.

Risen Lord, shall yet the city be the city of despair? Come today, our Judge, our Glory, be its name, "The Lord is there!"

## Worship Music

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

#### Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11 selected verses

Rod Peters

#### Message

"We've Come this far by Faith?"

Michelle Armster

### SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

#### Song of Response

*Strong Son of God, immortal Love*

HWB 488

Strong Son of God, immortal Love, whom we,  
that have not seen thy face, by faith, and  
faith alone embrace, believing where we  
cannot prove.

trust it comes from thee, a beam in  
darkness; let it grow.

We have but faith – we cannot know, for  
knowledge is of things we see, and yet we

Let knowledge grow from more to more, but  
more of rev'ence in us dwell, that mind and  
soul, according well, may make one music  
as before.

#### Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings Prayer of Dedication

First Fruits Giving  
Pastor Caleb

#### Benediction

Pastor Caleb

#### Postlude

*All Creatures of Our God and King* ~arr. Tornquist

Mary Schmidt

+ 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 Michelle Armster, Mary Schmidt, Rod Peters, Ben Schrag, Tina Schrag (visual arts), Steve Unruh, Jim Schmidt, Delton Voth, and the AMC Covid Task Force,

**Next Sunday** is the first Sunday of Advent! Scripture Reading: Mark 13:24-37 with Pastor Caleb preaching.

## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We pray for recovery for those contracting COVID-19 and for resolve in our community to slow the spread.
- ❖ We pray for Dwight and Tammy Flaming as they navigate stress and find a way forward after the fire at their farm.
- ❖ We rejoice with Chase Flaming (son of John and Paula Flaming) and Lanna Wagner as they were married this past Sunday, November 15 in Hesston. They originally planned to be married at a later date, but because of COVID, decided to have a very small and informal wedding. We pray God's blessings on Chase and Lanna in their new life together!
- ❖ We pray for Jolynn and Tim Voth and for Kim, after Jolynn has experienced a new health concern.
- ❖ We give thanks for Ron Dirksen's successful surgery and that he was able to return home this week to recover.
- ❖ We pray for those living in the path of Hurricane Iota, that minimal damage would be done and they would receive the help they need in the clean-up process. We pray for Central Americans that have been flooded out of their homes, including in the neighborhood where Pastor Caleb lived.
- ❖ Thank you, God, for our volunteer fire fighters and first responders who have been working long hours recently.
- ❖ Thank you, God, for those who helped with meat canning yesterday and Friday; bless their efforts and those who receive the meat.

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Deacons:  
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, Sunday, November 22 | 10:00 am       | Worship Service with guest speaker, Michelle Armster |
| Tuesday, November 24       | 7:30 pm        | Board of Deacons Zoom meeting                        |
| Thursday, November 26      |                | Thanksgiving Day – Church Offices Closed             |
| Friday, November 27        |                | Church Offices Closed                                |
| Sunday, November 29        |                | First Sunday of Advent                               |
| Monday, November 30        | 4:00 pm        | Prayer Team  |
| Monday, December 14        | 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Goessel Blood Mobile                                 |

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We are so thankful for the many individuals who so willingly give of their time and talents to enrich our worship services each week.** The worship board welcomes additional people to consider sharing their gifts, especially those who are energized by creating a visual focus for our worship space, as well as those who find fulfillment in reading scripture during the service. We are also always open to those interested in presenting children's features or offering music during worship. Please contact one of the pastors or Karen Unruh, worship board chair, if you feel the nudge to explore any of these opportunities!

**The Board of Deacons is deeply appreciative of the freezer meals** that have been contributed – thank you! More are always welcome!

Due to the uncertainty around COVID-19 there will be **NO Thanksgiving Day** service this year.

**Christmas Giving Tree -- The tags will be available on the tree at the Citizens State Bank on Monday, November 23.** Although the bank lobby will be closed, staff will open the door if you would like to come in to select a Giving Tree tag. Or, you may ask an employee to choose a tag and give it to you at the drive-through window. All gifts will need to be brought back to the Bank by **Monday, December 14**. The gifts should be wrapped and the bank personnel will assist with the "checking in" process. The gifts will then be distributed by the Ministerial Alliance. If you have any questions, please check with one of the pastors.

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

**Shop Local:** The Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum gift shop is open this holiday season. Open Tuesday -Saturday 12-4:00pm until Dec. 19. Closed Thanksgiving Day. The Marie and Martha wheat marquetry exhibit will end on November 30. There will be a special Christmas exhibit "Toys through Time" featuring toys on loan from Lavina Schroeder, Nelson and Clarice Voth, John Koehn, and Fern Bartel.

**Bloodmobile:** As you make plans for the holidays, include sharing the gift of life by donating blood at Goessel Church between 1:00-6:00 on Monday, **December 14**. Over half of the slots are already filled, so go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to get the time you want.

## CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

### Western District Conference

Give thanks for the gifts of leadership, vision, prayer, financial support, and volunteer time that WDC members have shared to support WDC's ministry this year.

### Mennonite Mission Network

In many North American Indigenous cultures, every day is Thanksgiving Day. For the Onondaga People around Lake Ontario, the morning begins with the Thanksgiving Address, known as the "Words that Come Before All Else." Join Mennonite Mission Network in thanking God for the good gifts that sustain us even in difficult times.

## COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Mennonite Disaster Service

When Hurricane Delta (the 5<sup>th</sup> storm to hit Cameron, Louisiana in mid October) left much destruction, it is a great testament to MDS that 27 of the 30 homes they built between 2007-2012 in that area were still standing. Some interiors will need to be gutted, but the structures survived. MDS is recruiting volunteers for week-long stints through mid December to clean up debris, cut trees, muck out, and prevent mold. Call 1-800-241-8111 for more details if you can help out, or talk to Steve and Rosi 367-2418.

### Camp Mennoscah

We're thinking s'mores and socially distanced activities. The Camp Mennoscah Christmas Gathering is tentatively being planned as an outdoor event on Saturday, December 12 at 2:30pm. **Registration required.** Call 620-297-3290! Plans may change depending on coronavirus case rates and the desire to keep everyone safe. Bring your mask!

**Camp Mennoscah is a wonderful place for family gatherings of whatever size!** A variety of facilities fit any number of family groupings. Or maybe you only need a space during the day for walking the trails or playing disc golf. There is plenty of outdoor space! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) to reserve! You are welcome here!

### Western District Conference

**Giving Tuesday is December 1** – Western District Conference invites you to join this global giving initiative! Share a gift with WDC during this season, to help our congregations Witness & invite others to faith in Jesus Christ, Dwell in just & loving relationships, and Connect to God's mission in the world. You may make an online contribution **HERE** or send a check to Western District Conference, PO Box 306, North Newton KS 67117. Thank you for your generosity!

### Bethel College

**Now on display in the Regier Art Gallery, Luyken Fine Arts Center, at Bethel College: "Noir + More," recent work by Denise Brueggeman.** Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri. *Please note that face coverings must be worn and physical distancing observed on the Bethel campus.*

**Bethel College Women's Association (BCWA) is looking for Newton-area bakers to help support the college by supplying baked goods for this year's "5 Places of Christmas" on Dec. 5.** Follow this link for sign-up options: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BABAFA2EA4FDCF8-baked>

### Mennonite Church USA

Order Christmas goodies and gifts at Bethel College Women's Association online market. Find hand made crafts, and one-of-a-kind items, and fresh homemade treats including peppernuts, zwieback, cinnamon rolls, poppyseed rolls, and candies at Place your order by December 1, and pick up at Bethel College Mennonite Church south entrance from 10:00am to noon Saturday, Dec 5. This event is part of the annual Five Places of Christmas, sponsored by Newton Chamber of Commerce, and all proceeds will support Bethel College. And, if you are not local, most items can be shipped including peppernuts! Christmas shopping and supporting Bethel at the same time doesn't get much better than that.

**Mennonite Voluntary Service is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 service term.** Two units are still accepting applications for *this year!* Serve, learn, and grow in faith with a community of your peers! Visit [MennoniteMission.net/MVS](http://MennoniteMission.net/MVS) to learn more!

**Service Adventure is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 service term!** Grow in leadership and faith as you spend a year serving and living in community with others your age and with unit leaders. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure](http://MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure) to learn more!

**Giving Tuesday is coming up on December 1.** Your contribution to Mission Network will help us Be the Gospel through our valued partnerships, ministries, and resources. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/Donate](http://MennoniteMission.net/Donate) to give on or before December 1.

### Mennonite Central Committee

**Have yourself a honkin' good holiday at MCC in North Newton!** This drive-thru event on Dec. 11 from 4-6 p.m. is a unique way to safely enjoy some delicious Christmas cheer while supporting the worldwide work of Mennonite Central Committee. Each charcuterie box is composed of seasonal artisan meats and cheeses, olives, fruit, mixed nuts and seasonal treats with crackers served on the side. A box serves two generous appetizer portions. **RSVP by 5 p.m. on December 4** to reserve yours! Share your Christmas joy by ordering extra boxes to deliver to family and friends. Take a

moment and treat yourself this holiday season! Suggested donation per box is \$25. Email [centralstates@mcc.org](mailto:centralstates@mcc.org) to reserve your charcuterie box today! Find more information and photos at [mcc.org/honkin-holiday](http://mcc.org/honkin-holiday).

**MCC asks for support for Central American hurricane recovery.** Not one, but two hurricanes within two weeks have caused extensive flooding in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Hurricanes Eta and Iota have destroyed crops and forced people from their homes. MCC is working with churches and community organization to provide emergency food, hygiene supplies and cleanup support. Join us as we help these communities recover. You can donate online [mcc.org/eta-iota-relief](http://mcc.org/eta-iota-relief), by phone (888) 563-4676 or by mail at MCC, 21 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St., PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501.

**Join MCC for a series of “MCC and me” webinars to hear more about service opportunities.** Are you ready to step out and into service? To gain new skills and experiences while working for relief, development and peace in the name of Christ?

MCC is working to adapt our programming as the situation with COVID-19 develops. All sessions relate to anticipated service needs, though timing and some other details may be subject to change.

- December 9 at 7 p.m. EST: Serving and Learning Together (SALT)
- January 13 at 3 p.m. EST: Summer Service leadership program
- February 25 at 10 a.m. EST: Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) summer staff
- February 25 at 8 p.m. EST: International service worker
- March 6 at 12 p.m. EST: International service worker
- March TBD: Mobile Meat Canner

For more information and to register: [mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities](http://mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities)