

# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVII

September 12, 2021

No. 38



## Welcome to Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church.

Over the next few months, we are exploring the essentials of our Anabaptist Christian faith. We want to go deeper in exploring who we are and who God is calling us to be going forward. Jesus is the center of our faith. Our faith is about having beliefs, experiencing God, finding forgiveness, belonging to a body, and most especially following Jesus in daily life. This morning we'll look at interpreting scripture through Jesus.

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

### Gathering Music

DJ Freeman

### Welcome and Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Pastor Lois Harder

### Call to Worship

Psalms 119: 33-40

L: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

**C: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

L: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

**C: Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!**

L: Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.

**C: Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared.**

L: Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good.

**All: Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!**

### Prayer of Invocation

### \*Gathering Hymns

*The Word of God Is Solid Ground*  
*God of the Bible*

VT 399

VT 420

### Children's Story

Karl Brubaker

### Worship Music

Kevin Gaeddert and Emmalyn Gaeddert

### Morning Prayer

Pastor Caleb Yoder

### Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

#### Offertory

*Lead Me, Guide Me* (VT 601)

Mary Schmidt

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Caleb

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:17-48

Marilyn Unruh Flaming

### Message

"Jesus' teaching alters the Law"

Pastor Lois

### Responding to the Gospel

(Open sharing)

## SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### Song of Response

*O God, We Read the Holy Law*

VT 571

### \*Benediction

Pastor Lois

### \*Sending Song

*Rejoice, Rejoice Forevermore*

VT 402

### Postlude

*For We Are Strangers No More* (VT 409)

Mary Schmidt

**\*Please stand if able**

**Song Leader:** Kyle Unruh

**Greeters:** North – DeAlan and Alma Unrau; South – Josh and Nicole Hein Family

**Nursery Staff:** Laura Unrau and Maryanne Esau

**Visual Arts:** Amy Sterk

**Worship Technology:** Myron Goertzen, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth, Steve Unruh

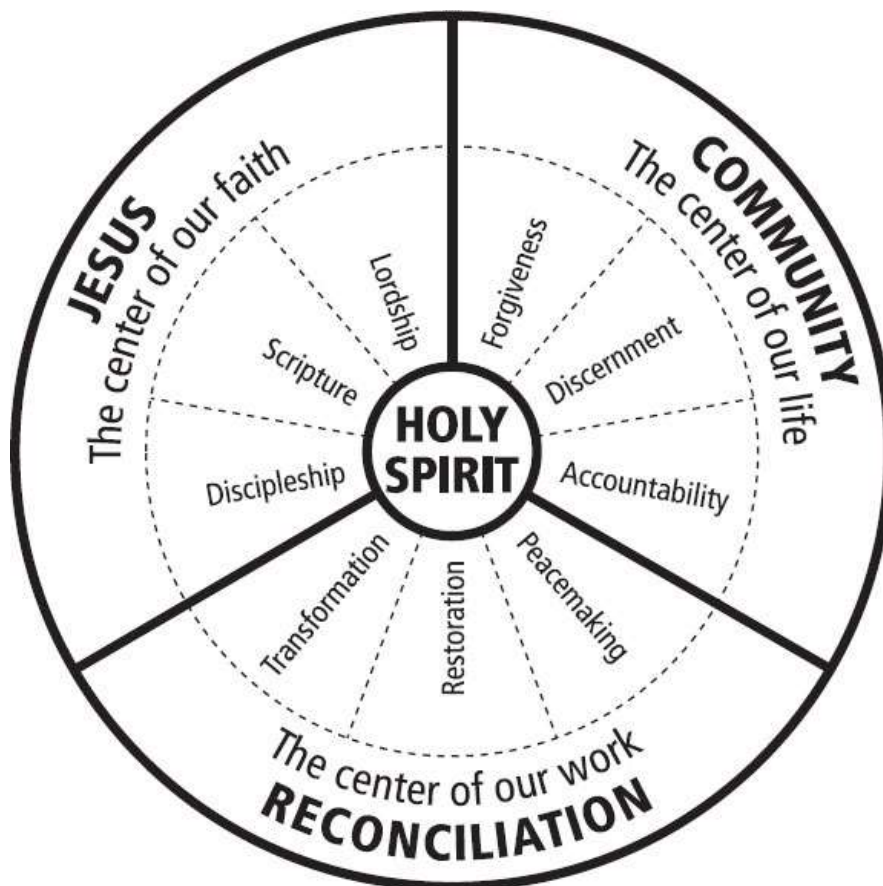
**September 5 attendance:** 124 in person; 10 Zoom households

+ 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.

**Questions for Reflection – Matthew 5:17-48**

1. *What problems or issues have been raised for you by differing approaches to Biblical interpretation?*
2. *What does it mean to prioritize Jesus and his life/teachings in how we read the Bible?*
3. *What parts of the Bible are most difficult for you to understand? In what ways does a Jesus-centered approach help (or not help) understand the Bible?*

**Anabaptist Essentials:** Next Sunday we will proclaim, "Jesus is Lord!" What does that proclamation mean for how we live our lives? Our scripture reading will be Philippians 2:5-11. If you are reading *Anabaptist Essentials* by Palmer Becker, we encourage you to read chapter 3.



## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ O God, make your presence known within the division and disagreements in our churches, our communities, our nation and our world. Grant wisdom and your Spirit of care for “the least” to be made manifest in your people’s lives and actions.
- ❖ We pray for those who are currently sick and/or recovering from illness or dealing with pain. Be with those who continue under doctors’ care in dealing with long-term illnesses.
- ❖ On this 20th anniversary of 9/11, we lament the tragedy of that day and in the lost lives of soldiers and civilians in the wars that have followed since. We give thanks for the heroism and unity witnessed in our country on that day, and we pray for God’s peace in the ongoing violence and tragedy in our world.
- ❖ We pray for students as they continue with classes, sports, and activities. We pray for growth, learning, skill-building, relationship-building, and for all to stay healthy.
- ❖ We pray for Peter Wintermote, who is the social worker at Bethesda, as he has begun to experience intense unexplained pain in multiple areas of his body that is making daily life a challenge. We pray for doctors to find the cause and for encouragement for Peter and his family.

### Coming Events

Today, Sunday, September 12	9:30 am	Sunday School for all ages
	10:30 am	Worship Service in person or on Zoom
Monday, September 13	2:00 pm	Prayer Team
	4:30 pm	Covid Task Force
	5:45 pm	Board of Mission and Service
	7:00 pm	Church Council
Friday, September 17	10:00 am	Senior Fellowship
Monday, September 20	7:00 pm	Board of Worship
Wednesday, September 22	6:30 pm	Children’s Ministry Team
Thursday, September 23	7:30 pm	Board of Deacons
Sunday, September 26		Community Service Day followed by noon meal
	1:30 pm	Harvest Giving Walk – begin at Goessel Church
Monday, September 27	2:00 pm	Prayer Team
	5:30 pm	Board of Christian Education
Wednesday, September 29		Midweek Staff Orientation
Sunday, October 3		World Communion
Wednesday, October 6	6:30 – 7:30 pm	Midweek begins

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Midweek begins on Wednesday, October 6!** Information was emailed to families of children and youth. Register online by Sunday, September 19, at the following link: <https://forms.gle/V5Z27cBRfF6YkkgMA>. Stay tuned for more information about music and Bible study options for adults.

**We need you!** We are looking for teachers, helpers, and small group leaders to come join our Children’s Midweek team and work with a choice of 3 different age groups--preschoolers, kindergarten-1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades. We are excited to announce that we will be using the new “Detectives of Divinity” curriculum, written by local authors--Susan Nafziger, Carol Duerksen, Katherine Goerzen, and Amy Nissely Stauffer. Please contact Nicole Hein, Aileen Esau or Susan Nafziger for more information or to say YES!

**The Board of Christian Education is looking for someone to teach junior high midweek for this year.** Midweek begins October 6. If you are interested in teaching, please contact Gretchen Schrag or Pastor Caleb. Thank you for considering this important ministry!

**Needed** – High School Sunday School Teachers. Please call/email Rachael Burkholder, [316-706-6174](tel:316-706-6174) / [rburk@mtelco.net](mailto:rburk@mtelco.net), for details. This would be for 1 or 2 times a month depending on how much interest

we get. Thank you so much for prayerfully considering the opportunity to get to know our High Schoolers and to be a part of their faith journey!

If you would like to contribute to the **Hartvickson/Harris** family, you may give through the Citizen's State Bank, making the check out to "*Robyn Hartvickson/Ethan Harris Fire Fund.*" There also is a Go Fund Me page at this link: <https://gofund.me/81f04684>

**There is a signup sheet in the south lobby for you to sign up to help with the New Year's Cookie Booth for Fall Festival at Bethel College.** This will be on Oct. 2, 2021. Or you can email Bonnie Gaeddert at [gaeddertb@gmail.com](mailto:gaeddertb@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thanks so much for your help.

**Senior Fellowship** -- Mark the third Friday of each month on your calendars and plan to attend!

- Friday, September 17 – Chris Allen – “Every Quilt Tells a Story”
- Friday, October 15 – Jennifer Speer (Newton Medical Center) – end of life decisions
- Friday, November 19

**We are in the process of updating our list of college students.** Please help us by calling the church office or emailing the name of your student(s) and where they are attending. We'll compile a list for the bulletin boards. Thank you!

**Building Update:** The south office door is unlocked from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday during office hours.

**The annual Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk is 2 weeks away.** This year's route (between 1 and 6 miles) will begin at Goessel Church on Sunday, September 26 at 1:30 p.m. Find a donation envelope on the literature table at the back of the sanctuary and start your fundraising today! Or find a participant and generously sponsor them. Donations this year will go towards MCC's efforts to provide emergency support and supplies to those affected by the recent Haiti earthquake as well as the local Tabor Church Food Pantry.

Thank you for praying for Tim and our family! Also, thanks to the guys that came out on Monday to build a ramp to our front door. We really appreciate it. After two weeks in the hospital from breaking his hip, Tim came home from Newton Medical Rehab on Tuesday and will begin out-patient rehab this coming week. Please continue to pray for us as we make adjustments to our home and routines. Tim would love to visit with anyone who wants to stop by! - Kim, Tim & Jolynn Voth

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Pastors: Caleb Yoder 319.930.7754 ([alexcaleb@mtelco.net](mailto:alexcaleb@mtelco.net)) Lois Harder 316.617.3497 ([alexlois@mtelco.net](mailto:alexlois@mtelco.net))  
Deacons: Sandy Banman, Marilyn Unruh Flaming, Ruth Goertzen, Bryant Miller, Jim Schmidt

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## CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

### Western District Conference

Pray for Western District Women in Mission, as they host their annual women's retreat at Camp Mennoscah this weekend.

### Mennonite Mission Network

Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer's family is together on the North American part of their two-way mission — between Ecuador and the United States — through Mennonite Mission Network. Pray for God's leading, as health issues and logistical problems, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have caused many changes to their plans.

## COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Camp Mennoscah

**September 26 is a Camp Mennoscah Combo! It's the Hymn Sing-Dessert Auction and Annual Meeting all in one!** There are still details to be determined, but plan on some hymn singing (masked & distanced), bidding on delectable desserts, and information about Camp Mennoscah's year. We'll keep the details coming your way!

**There are volunteer opportunities for you!** Camp Mennoscah has year-round work to support the maintenance and upkeep of the campus and facilities. We can accommodate every group size, skill set and length of project you would like to tackle. Check out these ways to **Get Involved!** Email [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) or call 620-297-3290 to volunteer.

**There is only one Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat. Register at [www.campmennoscah.org](http://www.campmennoscah.org)!** Lodging will be in the Retreat Center and cropping/crafting will be in the Main Camp dining hall. Space heaters will be available for both areas since the repairs for the furnaces will not be complete by the beginning of November. Fees for the Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat have increased to \$150 to meet higher costs and the use of multiple facilities. For those who find the increase prohibitive, there is an option to receive up to \$25 in scholarship funds per person as part of the registration process.

### Western District Conference

**As of August 25, 2021, the WDC office, located at 2517 North Main, in North Newton, KS, has updated their office hours: 8 am – 4:30 pm. The office is normally open through the lunch hour.**

**Check out the Resource Library's new Reading Challenges through the Beanstack platform. Find out more at [mennowdc.beanstack.org](http://mennowdc.beanstack.org) or find the Beanstack App in the Apple or Google Play Store.**  
**For the fall**

Ages 12 and up can participate in the "10 to Try Challenge" (Try reading books from the Resource Library in 10 categories).

Ages 0-12 can participate in the "Bullying Prevention Month Challenge" during September and October.

Ages 0-5 can participate in the "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge."

We look forward to the new opportunities to engage with you through these challenges as we grow in faith together. Please contact the library with any questions.

### Bethel College

**TODAY (Sunday, Sept. 12) – KIPCOR Film Series** resumes *live*, with *The Prison Within*, a film by Katherin Hervey, **2 p.m.**, *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College*. Individuals incarcerated in San Quentin Prison, charged with murder, take a journey of redemption through participation in a restorative justice program. Audience discussion with Hervey, film director, producer and writer, and Leonard Rubio, executive director of Insight Prison Project, live via Zoom. *Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require mask-wearing indoors, and physical distancing to the extent possible, regardless of vaccination status.*

**Thursday, Sept. 16 – Artist reception for Rick McNary and "Doing Good with Wood," 6-8 p.m.**, *Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College*. Exhibit closes Friday, Sept. 17. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, 2-4 p.m. *Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require mask-wearing indoors, and physical distancing to the extent possible, regardless of vaccination status.*

**Thursday, Sept. 30 – KIPCOR Peace Lecture with Mark McCormick, "Peace: It's a Choice," 7 p.m.**, in Memorial Hall. McCormick is a former columnist for the *Wichita Eagle* and former executive director of The Kansas African American Museum in Wichita, and is currently director of strategic communications for the ACLU of Kansas. *Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require mask-wearing indoors, and physical distancing to the extent possible, regardless of vaccination status.*

**Bethel College's Fall Festival is Sept. 30-Oct. 3, with most activities taking place Saturday, Oct. 2, on campus.** Features include music, food, class reunions, football, the comedy *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, and the STEM Symposium honoring Professor Emeritus of Chemistry Richard Zerger. See <https://www.bethelks.edu/alumni/events/fall-festival> for the complete schedule.

### Save the Date – IBA Burrito Benefit Sale

The annual Hispanic Ministries – IBA Burrito Benefit Sale will take place Friday, October 15, 2021.  
ORDER TO GO (Drive thru pick up)

First Mennonite Church – 429 East 1st St., Newton

For any inquires contact Violeta Ajquejay Suastegui at: [VioletaA@MennoniteEducation.org](mailto:VioletaA@MennoniteEducation.org) or call 316-281-4342.

### **Kansas MDS Learning & Service trips**

The Kansas MDS (Mennonite Disaster Service) Unit is sponsoring two Learning and Service trips to McAllen Tx. The dates are Oct. 16-23, 2021 and Feb. 19-26, 2022. Participants will leave on Saturday morning traveling to San Antonio Tx., staying over night, visiting San Antonio Mennonite church on Sunday morning, then traveling to McAllen Tx. for the MDS project. Cost will be two nights lodging and meals on the two weekends while traveling. MDS is covering the remainder of the expenses. To make your reservations or for more information contact Cleo Koop at [cleohkoop@gmail.com](mailto:cleohkoop@gmail.com) or call 316-282-0797.

### **Mennonite Central Committee**

**Join MCC in prayer and support for those suffering in our world.** MCC has prepositioned relief materials in Haiti for immediate use. Earlier this month an additional shipment of supplies was sent to Haiti and is expected to arrive in September. MCC continues to respond to needs around the world in Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Congo and other crisis areas. We greatly appreciate your [monetary donations](#) to keep current projects going and to help with extra expenses due to recent disasters; and we could use your help in replenishing our supplies of [relief kits and hygiene kits](#). Questions can be directed to 316.283.2720 or [centralstates@mcc.org](mailto:centralstates@mcc.org).

**Mennonite Central Committee has a variety of service opportunities all around the world and the following opportunities are especially important to fill at this time.** Please contact Heidi Huber with questions at [heidihuber@mcc.org](mailto:heidihuber@mcc.org) or 316.283.2720.

#### **Organizational development and Racial Equity Director**

This role will lead MCCs in the US (four regional entities and a national team) in racial equity work through organizational development and change management, toward the goal to reflect the full participation of our diverse constituents in every aspect of our mission, programs, policies and practices. This role will inspire, mobilize and coordinate practical and professional equipping to remove barriers and move MCCs in the US forward to more fully reflect God's desire for God's people. **For more information or to apply, visit:** <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/organizational-development-racial-equity-director>

#### **MCC Representative for Haiti**

Are you interesting in providing leadership and programmatic direction to MCC's work in Haiti? This role maintains relationships with MCC partners and is responsible for providing team leadership and support for MCC workers in Haiti. **For more information or to apply, visit:** <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/mcc-representative-haiti>

#### **Seed Community Development Worker**

MCC's Seed program has positions available now in Bolivia! The Seed program is perfect for young adults (18-30) who value service, community, and cultural exchange addressing systemic issues like food insecurity and climate change through grassroots, community-based initiatives. **For more information or to apply, visit:** <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/seed-community-development-worker-bolivia>

#### **Canner Operator**

Are you a traveler? Do you like to meet new people? Do you like to serve others? Every year MCC's Mobile Meat Canner travels across the United States and Canada meeting volunteers who prepare cans of turkey, beef, chicken and pork to be sent around the world. More than 30,000 people a year volunteer to fill, weigh, wash and label every can. Apply to be a canner! **For more information or to apply, visit:** <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/canner-operator-4>

*The Word of God Is Solid Ground*

VT 399

1 – The word of God is solid ground, our constant firm confession, no source of freedom more profound, no purer a profession. All steadfast strength, all breadth and length of truth, from God's word springing shall we employ to speak our joy, this world our witness bringing.

2 – What powers can our faith constrain? What iron-clad restrictions? No self-deceiving rule can chain our conscience and convictions. Our God alone is on the throne, and we are subjects willing. Our lives obey God's higher way; our love God's law fulfilling.

3 – What God-word brings, may we embrace; success and suffering greet us; confronting evil face to face, as scorn and anger meet us. For freedom's sake we bend, we break, a sign to ev'ry nation that we have found a solid ground; God's word our sure foundation.

*God of the Bible*

VT 420

1 – God of the Bible, God in the gospel, hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come, you are our center, daylight or darkness, freedom or prison, you are our home. (Refrain)

2 -- God in our struggles, God in our hunger, suffering with us, taking our part, still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit, feeding sustaining, from your own heart. (Refrain)

3 – Those without status, those who are nothing, you have made royal, gifted with rights, chosen as partners, midwives of justice, birthing new systems, lighting new lights. (Refrain)

4 – Not by your finger, not by your anger will our world order change in a day, but by your people, fearless and faithful, small paper lanterns, lighting the way. (Refrain)

5 – Hope we must carry, shining and certain through all our turmoil, terror and loss, bonding us gladly one to the other, till our world changes, facing the cross. (Refrain)

*Refrain: Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change. Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.*

*O God, We Read the Holy Law*

VT 571

1 – O God, we read the holy law to shape our ways of living like those who first in fear and awe received it with thanksgiving. These laws that Jesus knew he summarized with two that capture best the whole: "With heart, mind, strength, and soul, love God, and love your neighbor."

2 – All people born of God above will live as Jesus taught us: God's chosen children practice love, for God in love has sought us. We know love never fails; and through love, good prevails. When all else turns to dust, in this we place our trust: God's love endures forever.

3 – So let our love for God be known in how we treat creation – true love in word and action shown to ev'ry tongue and nation. If we would heed this call and offer love to all, then we must surely praise our source of love always: to God alone be glory!

*Rejoice, Rejoice Forevermore*

VT 402

1 -- Rejoice, rejoice forevermore, all Christians ev'rywhere, for now in nations far and wide rings out God's mighty word.

2 – O people ev'rywhere, accept the truth that Scripture brings. Abandon self-made ways; rely on God the faithful guide.

3 – O Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our friend, the living Word, don't let us turn away from you, but from this tempting world.

4 – Praise God, praise God forevermore, all Christians ev'rywhere. The word of Love has spread abroad. We trust that Love alone.

5 – God's word will stand eternally; in that we are secure. So now we all sing joyfully: Amen! God's love is sure.