



GIVEN FOR YOU

Welcome to Alexanderwohl! Forgiveness is one of the essentials of our Anabaptist Christian faith. We strive to forgive because of the great forgiveness God has offered us. As we celebrate communion along with many other Christians on World Communion Sunday, we become a body of forgiven people, forgiven by God in Christ and bearing with one another in the grace of forgiveness.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *We Are People on a Journey* (VT 464) – Manuel Dávila (Nicaragua) Karen Unruh
By the Waters of Babylon (VT 695) – Jamaican traditional, arr. Clemens
Cantai ao Senhor (VT 113) – Brazilian traditional, arr. Clemens
Sing Praise (VT 842) – Israeli traditional, arr. Helvey
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (VT 474) – Canadian/USA, Dunstan/Moore

Welcome and Opportunities for Celebration and Service Pastor Lois Harder

Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation (Based on Colossians 3:11-15)

Leader: Come to worship today with Christ as our host! Come in your new set of clothes as God's holy and beloved people.

North: Clothes of compassion and kindness

South: Clothes of humility, gentleness and patience

All: Clothes of love, which ties them all together in perfect unity.

Leader: Bear with each other and forgive one another.

People: We forgive as the Lord forgave us.

Leader: Here there is no Gentile or Jew, slave or free, because Christ is all and is in each one of us.

All: The peace of Christ now rules in our hearts, as members of one body.

***Gathering Song** *Together* VT 389

Peace Prayer+ Oihane Lechuga and Octave Barbe

Children's Story Laura Voth

Congregational Song *I Know Not Why God's Wondrous* (v. 1-3) VT 590

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings First Fruits Giving

Offertory *Adoro te Devote* – French, arr. Organ Karen Unruh

***Song of Dedication** *God, Whose Giving* (v. 1) VT 745

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading Colossians 3:12-17 Chrystiana Voth

Message "Forgiven" Pastor Caleb Yoder

Responding to the Gospel (Open sharing)

Congregational Song *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* VT 474

Communion Pastors Caleb and Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending** *Renew Your Church* (v. 1, 2, 4) VT 717

***Benediction**

Pastor Caleb

Postlude *Oh, How Good is Christ the Lord* – Puerto Rican traditional, arr. Clemens Karen Unruh

***Please stand if able**

Song Leader: Kyle Unruh

Guitar: Kevin Gaeddert

Greeters: North – Jared & Laura Unruh; South – Tim & Judy Goertzen

Nursery Staff:

Visual Arts: Lois Harder

Worship Technology: DJ Flaming, Jim Schmidt/Levi Schrag, Delton Voth, Steve Unruh

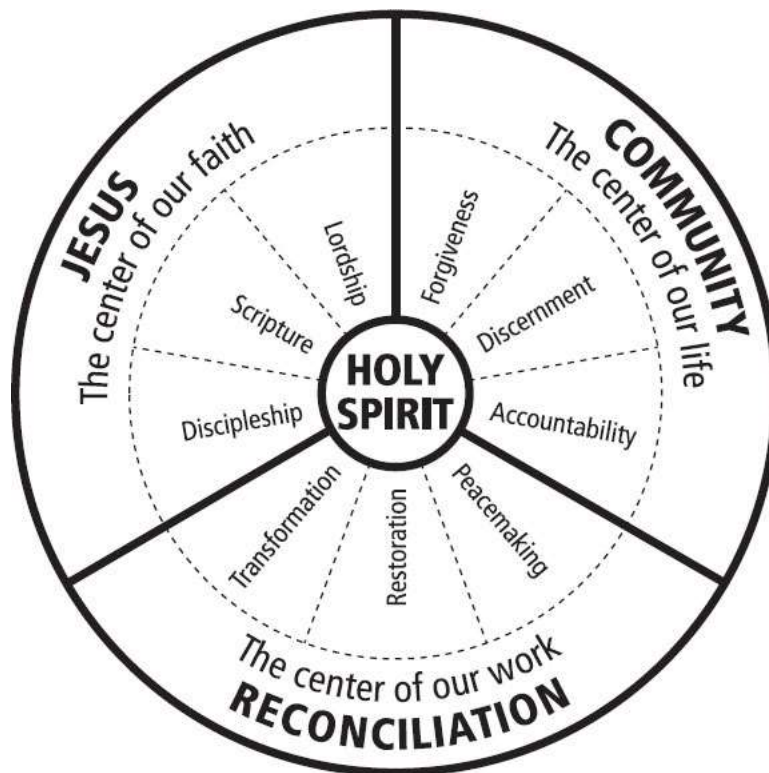
September 19 attendance: 134 in person; 10 Zoom households

+The Peace Prayer is offered by Oihane Lechuga and Octave Barbe; it's number 1038 in VT. Our prayer for peace this morning was written by Oscar Romero whose work and words for peace with justice led to his assassination on March 24, 1980 as he celebrated mass in his home country of El Salvador.

Questions for Reflection – Colossians 3:12-17, Forgiveness

1. Can we separate vertical forgiveness from God from horizontal forgiveness between one another? Why or why not?
2. How does God's forgiveness change us so that we are able to journey toward forgiving others?
3. What broken relationship have you experienced? Why is it so hard to confess wrongdoing and accept forgiveness?
4. How do we "bear with one another" or forgive when we honestly don't perceive a situation the same way?

Anabaptist Essentials: Next Sunday, join us for our final outdoor service of the year. We will ask what it means to discern God's will and to interpret the Scriptures in community. Our scripture reading will be Acts 15:1-35. If you are reading *Anabaptist Essentials* by Palmer Becker, we encourage you to read chapter 5.



Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We're grateful for the opportunities to serve in the community last week. Thanks be to God for service offered and fellowship shared!
- ❖ We pray for healing and relief from pain for Judy Unruh as she recovers from hip replacement surgery.
- ❖ Thank you, God, for Brooke Nafziger as she celebrates her birthday and continues to adjust and "settle in" to her year of Service Adventure.
- ❖ We pray for your blessing, God, on the four young men who will receive baptism in the Ninnescah River next Sunday afternoon: Caiden Duerksen, Eddie Gaeddert, Jacob Schrag and Timothy Schrag. Be with them, their mentors and families and our congregation as they take this step of declaring their faithfulness to following Jesus.
- ❖ We extend our love and prayers to Jeremy, Maggie, Brody, Emma, Mallory and the broader Schroeder family as they grieve the loss of Jeremy's mother, Debbie, who passed away September 22. Debbie's service celebrating her life took place at the church on September 25.
- ❖ We pray for Jenny and John Fast and the Friesen family as they grieve the loss of Jenny's mother Carol Friesen, who passed away on September 18.

Coming Events

Today, Sunday, October 3	9:30 am 10:30 am	Sunday School for all ages Worship Service in person or on Zoom World Communion
Monday, October 4	4:30 pm	Covid Task Force
Wednesday, October 6	6:30 – 7:30 pm 7:00 pm	Midweek begins Board of Trustees
Sunday, October 10	9:30 am 10:30am 3:00 pm	Sunday School Worship Service outdoors – weather permitting Baptisms at Camp Mennoscah
Monday, October 11	1:00 – 6:00 pm 5:45 pm 7:00 pm	Goessel Community Blood Drive at Goessel Church Board of Mission and Service Church Council
Sunday, October 17	7:00 pm	Peace Committee's TED Talk – Climate Change
Sunday, October 24	5:00 pm	Mentor/Mentee Gathering w/activities & light supper

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All written and signed responses to the pastoral review questions are due today, Sunday, October 3. You may place your comments in Marilyn Unruh Flaming's church mailbox located in the south lobby or email djfmf@mtelco.net.

Children's Midweek Kick-off Night—Wednesday, October 6, 6:30 p.m. Ready to solve a mystery? Our special guests will be inviting the children ages 3 through 5th grade to become "detectives of divinity"-- looking for God's presence in and among us!

The Service Adventure support group invites you to help Brooke Nafziger celebrate her 20th birthday! It's coming up quick (this Thursday, October 7), so send her a text or a card of well-wishes! Brooke is working with young children in a Montessori School. Her mailing address is: Brooke Nafziger, 1808 Truman St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110.

Come one, come all! NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 3:00-5:00 p.m. – Service of Baptism beginning at 3:30 at Camp Mennoscah. Come to give witness, to fellowship, to support and celebrate this important step with Caiden, Eddie, Jacob and Timothy.

From the AMC Peace Committee: Dr. Katharine Hayhoe says, "Having a real discussion (about climate change) is to connect over shared values like family, community and religion." Hayhoe is the climate ambassador for the

World Evangelical Alliance, an atmospheric scientist and an evangelical Christian. She was born in Canada, earned a BS in physics and Astronomy at the University of Toronto and PhD in Atmospheric Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana. She is now a professor of Atmospheric Science and Political Science at Texas Tech University. Hayhoe co-authored the book, *A Climate for Change: Global Warming Facts for Faith-Based Decisions*. She is known for her outreach efforts to Christian communities and has been very effective as she delivers lectures that are rooted in scripture and focus on the benefits of collective action to mitigate the effects of climate change. Please join us to hear her TED Talk on this subject and for a continued discussion about this topic on **Sunday evening, October 17 at 7 pm**.

Mentor/Mentee Fall Gathering will be Sunday, Oct. 24 @ 5pm. We will meet at the shelter house for outdoor activities and supper. **Please bring a lawn chair.** You'll find information in your mailboxes today, including an order form for a boxed meal, of your choice, from Subway. The forms **MUST** be placed in the blue box in the *south* lobby by **Wed. night, Oct. 20** if you want food.

The **Alexanderwohl COVID-19 task force** continues to meet and discern what is best when our congregation gathers together for worship and fellowship. Our recommendations remain the same for the time being. We appreciate your willingness to wear a mask at church. Our decisions are based on Jesus' teaching to love our neighbor as well as the latest science and local case numbers, hospitalizations and cases in area schools. We hope that our current recommendations are temporary and we expect to ebb and flow with the COVID-19 reality in our area.

Pastor Caleb, Pastor Lois, and Ruth (AMC office) have new email addresses:

- amc@alexanderwohl.org
- calebyoder@alexanderwohl.org
- loisharder@alexanderwohl.org

We will still continue to receive emails at the previous addresses ending in mtelco.net, but encourage you to use these new emails.

Needed – High School Sunday School Teachers. Please call/email Rachael Burkholder, [316-706-6174](tel:316-706-6174) / brburk@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!

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

- Friday, October 15 – Jennifer Speer (Newton Medical Center) – end of life decisions
- Friday, November 19

Thank you -- We want to express our sincere appreciation for everyone who has helped in some way during the passing of our mother and grandmother, Debbie Schroeder. We are grateful to everyone for all of your prayers and concern during her sickness and passing, Pastor Lois, Pastor Caleb, Ruth Goertzen, Kevin Gaeddert, and all of those behind the scenes helping with video, audio and maintenance. The ladies who prepared and served the family meal, Seekers & Sojourners Sunday school class for the prayers, meals and flowers. To anyone else who attended the service in person or via zoom, we appreciate all of you! We feel very blessed to call Alexanderwohl home. ~Jeremy, Maggie, Brody, Emmalyn, Emma & Mallory

Thank you to all who participated in the Community Service Day activities. ~The Board of Mission and Service

Thank you Alexanderwohl Church, for your donation of the freezer meals which were prepared on your Service Sunday for Tabor Food Pantry clients. These are always very much appreciated by the people that receive them. They are wonderful meals!

In addition, thank you to everyone who participated in the Harvest Giving Walk and for the food items which were contributed to the Food Pantry. The percentage of money raised which the Food Pantry receives is also appreciated. ~Kim Funk, on behalf of the Tabor Food Pantry

Thank you for your prayers and all the ways you've blessed us. Healing is slow, but steady. God is good!
~Tim and Jolynn Voth

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Pastors: Caleb Yoder 319.930.7754 (calebyoder@alexanderwohl.org) Lois Harder 316.617.3497 (loisharder@alexanderwohl.org)
Deacons: Sandy Banman, Marilyn Unruh Flaming, Ruth Goertzen, Bryant Miller, Jim Schmidt

CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

Western District Conference

Pray for WDC congregations and pastors in the midst of pastoral transition, as they seek God's guidance for healthy endings and new beginnings.

Mennonite Mission Network

Alisha, Josh and Asher (5) Garber of Mennonite Mission Network have moved into the newly renovated Barcelona Anabaptist Center, which now houses 16 residents. Pray that the center will encourage solidarity in their neighborhood and that the Garbers will model servant leadership in Catalonia (a region where allegiance to Spain vies with voices calling for independence).

COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camp Mennoscah

There are volunteer opportunities for you (and a Wish List)! 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 or call 620-297-3290 to volunteer. **See the Wish List for other ways to support Camp Mennoscah!**

Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat, November 5-7, at Camp Mennoscah! Register now! There is only one Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat. 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. There is an option to receive up to \$25 in scholarship funds per person as part of the registration process. To maximize protection from COVID variants, CDC guidelines recommend wearing masks inside buildings.

Bethel College

The 2021 Worship and the Arts Symposium at Bethel College, "Joining Voices Together," originally scheduled for Nov. 5-8, has been postponed due to COVID precautions. The symposium will be rescheduled for fall 2022, with a new date to be announced soon. The "Voices Together" art exhibition will still take place as planned, with original artwork from the *Voices Together* hymnal on display Oct. 29-Nov. 19 in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center on campus.

Weds., Oct. 6 – Bethel College Wind Ensemble concert, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. *Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing and mask-wearing indoors regardless of vaccination status.*

In the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College: "Roots and Wings: Our Gift from Mother Nature," a group exhibition by the Springdale Art & Nature Center of Halstead, featuring sculpture by Beth Vannatta, through Oct. 22. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun, 2-4 p.m. *Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing and mask-wearing indoors regardless of vaccination status.*

MDS Opportunities

MDS needs volunteers with a heart for service and an attitude of flexibility with safety precautions and schedule changes as COVID-19 cases fluctuate. There are units in Paradise, CA; Jennings, LA, and McAllen, Tex. Call 1-800-241-8111 or go to www.mds.org.

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC in North Newton currently has over 800 sets of comforter tops and backs that need to be tied, as well as kits of fabric that can be sewn into more tops. MCC's partners all around the world value these handmade comforters as useful, beautiful and tangible expressions of love. If you or your sewing group would be interested in tying or sewing for MCC, or if you have questions and are curious about how to make a comforter, please contact Kate Mast at the MCC Material Resources Center at katemast@mcc.org, or 316-283-2720.

Take action to advocate for Haitian asylum seekers by urging President Biden to immediately halt deportation flights to Haiti. Following the biblical call to welcome the stranger, MCC is asking that all deportation flights to Haiti be halted immediately and is seeking respect for basic human rights at the U.S./Mexico border. [Take action today!](#)

Together

VT 389

1 – I will sing with you, my fam'ly; will you sing with me? I will sing with you, my fam'ly; will you sing with me: The notes won't always come out as I'd like, but I will learn to see the log in my own eye. God, I'll surrender. Bring us together, bring us together.

2 – I will sing with you, my neighbor; will you sing with me? I will sing with you, my neighbor; will you sing with me? My words will be imperfect, but I'll try. Bringing my assumptions to the light, I'll pray, God, I'll surrender. Bring us together, bring us together.

3 -- I will sing with you, my rival; will you sing with me? I will sing with you, my rival; will you sing with me? Diff'rence is a place where God is found. In seeking peace, we're walking onto holy ground. God, we surrender. Bring us together, bring us together.

4 – We will sing our song together; sing in harmony. We will sing our song together, whether two or three. Jesus feels our pain; he sets us free. The Spirit's given us this song of hope to sing: God, we surrender. Bring us together, bring us together. Bring us together, bring us together.

I Know Not Why God's Wondrous

VT 590

1 – I know not why God's wondrous grace to me is daily shown, nor why, with mercy, Christ in love redeemed me for his own. (Refrain)

2 – I know not how this saving faith to me he did impart, nor how believing in his word wrought peace within my heart. (Refrain)

3 – I know not how the Spirit moves, convincing us of sin, revealing Jesus through the Word, creating faith in him. (Refrain)

Refrain: But "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day."

God, Whose Giving

VT 745

1 – God, whose giving knows no ending from your rich and endless store – nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door – gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise. Thankful songs shall rise forever, gracious Donor of our days.

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

VT 474

1 – All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. (Refrain)

2 – All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest. Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.

3 – All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.

Refrain: Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Renew Your Church

VT 717

1 – Renew your church, its ministries restore, both to serve and adore. Make it again as salt throughout the land, and as light from a stand. 'Mid somber shadows of the night, where greed and hatred spread their blight, O send us forth with pow'r endued. Help us, God, be renewed.

2 – Teach us your word, reveal its truth divine; on our path let it shine. Tell of your works, your mighty acts of grace; from each page show your face. As you have loved us, sent your Son, and our salvation now is won, O let our hearts with love be stirred. Help us, God, know your word!

4 – Teach us to love with heart and mind and soul. You, O Christ, be our goal. Break down old walls of prejudice and hate. Leave us not to our fate. As you have loved and giv'n your life to end hostility and strife, O share your grace from heav'n above. Teach us, Christ, how to love!