

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVII

November 14, 2021

No. 46



Welcome to worship at Alexanderwohl! We have been celebrating God's mission of reconciliation - reconciliation with God, with one another, and lastly, reconciliation in the world. Through Christ, God has broken down the walls that divide people. Living out our faith in Christ is inseparable from peacemaking, and our relationship to Christ is the reason we can pursue peace.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Christ Has No Body Here but Ours* (VT 568) Mary Schmidt
To Leave the Stones Unthrown (VT 580)
Christ Has Broken Down the Wall (VT174)

Welcome and Opportunities for Celebration and Service Pastor Lois Harder

Call to Worship *from Isaiah 52:7; 57:19; 11:6, 9; 2:3, 4, NIV*

Leader: How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation:

People: "Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD.

Leader: The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

People: They will neither harm nor destroy on all God's holy mountain,

Leader: They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

All: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD!

Prayer of Invocation

***Gathering Song** *Mountain of God* VT 11

Peace Prayer+ Lee and Mary Alice Hertzler

Congregational Hymn *We Are People of God's Peace* VT 797

Children's Story Laura Voth

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings First Fruits Giving

Offertory *Gothic Minuet on "Kingsfold" ~arr. Walicke* (VT 536) Mary Schmidt

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Caleb Yoder

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading Ephesians 2:11-22 Julianna Schrag

Message "Breaking Down the Dividing Wall of Hostility" Pastor Caleb

Song of Response *Christ Has Broken Down the Wall* VT 174

Responding to the Gospel (Open sharing)

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Sending Song** *Sing a New World into Being* VT 809

***Benediction**

Pastor Caleb

Postlude

This is My Father's World ~arr. Parks

Mary Schmidt

***Please stand if able**

+ 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.

Song Leader: Renae Peters

Guitar: Kevin Gaeddert and Eric Schrag

Greeters: North – Jeremy & Maggie Schroeder; South – Dwight & Tammy Flaming

Visual Arts: LaNae Unruh

Nursery Staff: Laura Unrau, Kim Voth, Levi Schrag

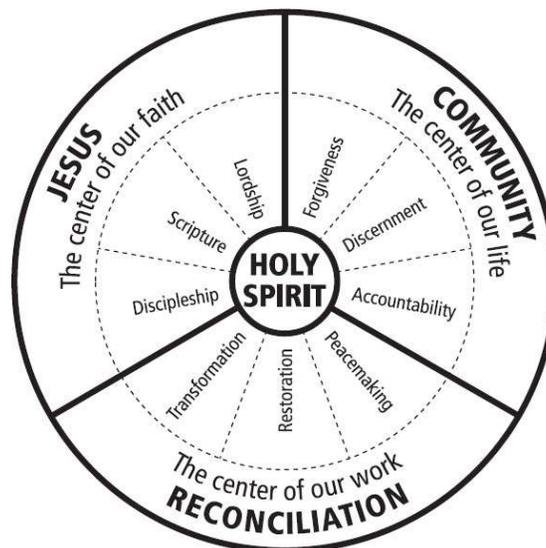
Worship Technology: Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth, Steve Unruh

November 7 Attendance: 140 in person; 12 households on Zoom

Questions for Reflection – Ephesians 2:11-22, Reconciliation in the world.

1. Do you conceive of Christian mission and peacemaking separately or as going together?
2. How does peacemaking on the large scale (with regard to war or large-scale conflicts) relate to peace, justice, and restoration at the micro level in our relationships and community?
3. Why is it important to find the peace of Christ within ourselves in order to live out that peace externally?

Anabaptist Essentials: Next Sunday we conclude our *Anabaptist Essentials* series with the final essential of the Holy Spirit. Our scripture reading will be Luke 3:21-22, 4:1-2, 14-19. If you are reading *Anabaptist Essentials*, you may read chapter 10 and the conclusion of chapter 11.



Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ Our sympathy and prayers go out to Janine Peters, Dorlee (DJ) Freeman, and their extended family with the unexpected death on November 6 of Harry Koehn, who was married to their sister Linette.
- ❖ We pray for Lois Janzen and her extended family as they grieve the death of Ralph's sister, Mary Rodriguez. She died on November 8.
- ❖ We pray for the Church family as Braxton's procedures at the Boston Children's Hospital had to be rescheduled to February 2022.

- ❖ We're grateful, God, for the opportunity our youth had to attend the special event at the Hillsboro High School this past Wednesday evening.
- ❖ We give thanks for the drive-thru Community Thanksgiving Meal which will take place afternoon.

Coming Events

Today, Sunday, November 14	9:30 am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship Service in person and on Zoom
	5:00 – 6:00 pm	Goessel Community Drive-Thru Thanksgiving Meal
Monday, November 15	4:30 pm	Covid Task Force
	7:15 pm	Board of Worship
Wednesday, November 17	6:30 pm	Midweek Activities
	6:30 pm	Junior High Christmas Eve program recording in the sanctuary
Friday, November 19	10:00 am	Senior Fellowship
Sunday, November 21	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Goessel Community JH Event at Tabor Park
Wednesday, November 24		NO Midweek Activities
Thursday, November 25	10:00 am	Thanksgiving Day Service
Thursday, December 2	7:30 pm	Board of Deacons
Saturday, December 4	9:30 am	Daughters of Grace Christmas program/fellowship time
Sunday, December 12	7:30 pm	Christmas Brass Concert at Goessel High School

Thank you for the continued generous support of local church ministries through your First Fruits offerings. During October, your First Fruits gifts provided \$49,000 for our local church ministries. This is double what we have been receiving each month. With your continued generosity during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, we look forward to being able to fully fund our 2021 local church ministries spending plan. Thank you for your generosity.

Please note: Beginning Monday, November 15, the church security system will be disarmed at 8:00 am and reset at 10:00 pm. The south office door will be unlocked Monday through Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. After office hours or on weekends you may enter the church building between 8:00 am – 10:00 pm with your key or keypad number. Please be aware that a breach of the security system may result in alarms being triggered. If you need to enter the church building before 8 am, contact the church office or one of the trustees to make arrangements.

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

- **Friday, November 19** – Brian Stucky will share about his recently published book, *Alexanderwohl Names 1622 – 2020*. Plan to join us!
- Friday, December 17
- Friday, January 21

Junior High Event: All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from the Goessel community are invited to a fall afternoon of human foosball, outdoor games, and s'mores on Sunday, November 21 from 2-4 pm at the Tabor Church Park. This is the first event of the year with more coming in the spring/summer. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Christmas Giving Tree - Jesus' love was the greatest gift that God has ever given to humanity. That love continues to inspire us to gift each other with God's grace and love. The Goessel Ministerial Alliance and the Crossroads Credit Union are sponsoring a "Christmas Giving Tree" to do just that. This tree invites us to help with some of the expenses of Christmas for families in our community. Anyone who is aware of needs for children is welcome to fill out an application. List each child by name, age and gift suggestions with clothing sizes. Applications are available at the Goessel Elementary and High School offices, the Goessel City Office, the Crossroads Credit Union and the Citizens State Bank. Applications need to be turned in by **Friday, November 19** to the Elementary School office or in a sealed envelope marked "Christmas Giving Tree" at the Credit Union. Each child will get 2 tags on the tree with their age, gender and gift description; the names of the children will not be on the tags. The tags will be available on the tree at the

Crossroads Credit Union on **Tuesday, November 23**. All gifts need to be wrapped and returned to the Credit Union by **Monday, December 13**. The gifts will be distributed by the Ministerial Alliance. We hope everyone has a blessed and happy Christmas, both givers and receivers. We encourage each of our congregations to join in this ministry opportunity. If you have questions, contact one of the pastors.

Thank you to all who contributed your time and money to help with MCC relief meat canning! Your participation made it a success!

Thank you -- The Tabor Mennonite Men would like to thank all those who donated to our mission projects by purchasing meals from our annual chicken barbeque fundraiser.

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church
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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

Give thanks for WDC's online book discussion this Thursday, focusing on *The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*, and pray for wisdom as we reckon with the legacy that continues to have devastating effects on Indigenous Peoples around the globe.

Mennonite Mission Network

Severe funding cuts are hampering the functions of Kalonda Bible Institute, where many Mennonite church leaders are trained in Congo. Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the professors and their families, who have lost their incomes, and for Bercy Mundedi, the director, who has an ardent desire to see the next generation of church leaders prepared for God's work.

COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camp Mennoscah

We are grateful for you! We continue to get calls from volunteers and receive gifts of items off the Wish List. These items and projects help with the faith formation that happens at Camp Mennoscah. The list has more wishes and there are more projects to do. We can accommodate every group size, skill set and length of project you would like to tackle. Check out these ways to Get Involved! and support camp's ministry. Email office@campmennoscah.org or call 620-297-3290 to volunteer. See the Wish List for other ways to support Camp Mennoscah!

Bethel College

All bakers and craft makers are invited to make items for 5 Places of Christmas on Saturday, December 4 at Goerz House on Bethel College campus. Bethel College Women's Association will again be selling baked goods, craft items, and poinsettias. Christmas candy, zwieback, peppernuts, poppyseed rolls, and cinnamon rolls are always great sellers.

Please bring your items to Goerz House on Friday, December 3 from 1:30-4:30pm or Saturday, December 4 from 7:00-9:00am. Thank you for your support of Bethel College!

Sun., Nov. 14, 2 pm – KIPCOR Film Series: *A Home Called Nebraska*, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College. Emily Haverkamp, an immigration and asylum lawyer from Wichita, will lead the discussion following the screening.

Last week to view "Voices Together," a display of the original artwork featured in the new *Voices Together* hymnal, through Fri., Nov. 19, in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. --Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing and maskwearing indoors for groups of 10 or more people, regardless of vaccination status.

Mon., Nov. 22 – Bethel College Wind Ensemble Winter Concert, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing and mask-wearing indoors with groups of 10 or more.

Hesston College

Keyboard Festival – Nov. 20; Finals recital at 3 p.m. at Hesston Mennonite Church. Area piano and organ students are invited for a day filled with competition rounds and workshops. Categories open for Elementary, Junior, and Senior divisions. Schedule and registration information at www.hesston.edu/keyboardfest. The finals recital is open to the public in person or at www.hesston.edu/livestream

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp

Snow Camps are back for 2022! Jr. High (Jan. 21-23) & Sr. High (Feb. 18-20) The time has come to enjoy the beauty and chill of RMMC in the winter once again. Come play in the snow and on the ice and then be ready to come inside for good food, fellowship and worship together. For Jr. High, Sarah Neher will be sharing on the theme "Filling Your Toolbox" of spiritual practices. Guidelines similar to the summer camping programs will be in place for safety in gathering together. Visit the camp web page (www.rmmc.org) for additional details and to sign-up that you're headed to the Colorado Rockies to start the new year!

RMMC relies on the help of volunteers to keep the ministry going. Your help with any camp tasks is greatly appreciated! If you have interest in volunteering, call (719-687-9506) or email info@rmmc.org RMMC. Long-term volunteers: help in Food Service, Maintenance, and Housekeeping. Service term can be for up to a year if so desired.

Western District Conference

Miracle on the Kwilu: Shalom Mennonite Church (800 East 1st St, Newton), will host a presentation and discussion with Leonard & Antoinette Kiswangi from the Congo DRC along with Charles Buller of AIMM on Friday, **November 19th at 7:00 pm.** Fresh from their recent retreat with the Africa Leadership Coaching Network along the banks of the Kwilu River, they seek to re-imagine leadership among Anabaptist communities in Africa. Also planning to join us by zoom will be Bruce Yoder, Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission's new co-director who will share an update on AIMM's recent gathering of its international partners in Kikwit, Congo. Questions about this event can be directed to Charles Buller at 574.238.9659 or Shalom Mennonite Church at 316.283.7395

Mennonite Church USA

As part of the Mennonite Church USA and MennoMedia's Common Read initiative, Sara Wenger-Shenk discussed her book "TongueTied," in which she investigates the reasons why people who claim the name of Christ are so reluctant to talk about him. Watch and share the webinar recording here: mennoniteusa.org/commonread-webinar

Poverty is present in our communities, even when it's hidden. In their blog, "Poverty in Harvey County, Kansas," Hesston College's Del and Michele Hershberger share how under-employment, natural disasters and depopulation have caused people in their community to struggle silently with poverty, often leaving those around them oblivious to their financial difficulties. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/poverty-harvey-county>

Mountain of God

VT 11

1 – Come, let us go to a place that is pure, to learn about love and wipe away tears; to melt swords of steel and hearts made of stone, set pris'ners free and give strangers a home.

Refrain:

So come, come as you are, oh, come, from near and far, oh, come, salvation we'll taste as we climb the mountain of God.

2 -- From each corner and end of the earth, we'll gather together to sing of your worth, of blind who can see and weary who rest, good news for the poor, freedom for oppressed. (Refrain)

3 -- New life awaits for all who believe; all who love mercy, do justice, walk humbly. With Christ as our guide united we'll be; living the kingdom, secure in God's peace. (Refrain)

Text: Phil Campbell-Enns (Canada) © 2016 Phil Campbell-Enns

We Are People of God's Peace

VT 797

1 -- We are people of God's peace as a new creation. Love unites and strengthens us at this celebration. Sons and daughters of the Lord, serving one another, a new covenant of peace binds us all together.

2 -- We are heralds of God's peace for the new creation, and by grace the word of peace reaches ev'ry nation. Though we falter and we fail, Christ will still renew us. By the Holy Spirit's pow'r, God is working through us.

3 -- We are children of God's peace in this new creation, spreading joy and happiness through God's great salvation. Hope we bring in spirit meek, in our daily living. Peace with ev'ryone we seek, good for evil giving.

4 -- We are servants of God's peace of the new creation. Choosing peace, we faithfully serve with heart's devotion. Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, confidence will give us. Christ the Lord is our defense; Christ will never leave us.

Text: based on Menno Simons (present-day Netherlands), *Reply to False Accusations*, 1552; stanzas 1, 3, 4 vers. David Augsburg (USA), 1978; adapt. Esther Bergen (Canada), 1990; stanza 2 by Mennonite Worship and Song Committee, 2017 © Mennonite World Conference

Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

VT 174

1 -- Christ has broken down the wall, Christ has broken down the wall. Let us join our hearts as one, Christ has broken down the wall!

2 -- We're accepted as we are, we're accepted as we are. Through God's love all is reconciled, we're accepted as we are.

3 -- Cast aside your doubts and fears, cast aside your doubts and fears. Peace and love, freely offered here; cast aside your doubts and fears.

4 -- We will tear down the walls! We will tear down ev'ry wall! God has called us, one and all; Christ has broken down the wall!

Text: Mark A. Miller (USA) © 2011 Chorister's Guild

Sing a New World into Being

VT 809

1 -- Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful theme. Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lend your voice and dare to dream: dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong. Sing a new world into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song.

2 -- Sing a new world into being where each gender, class, and race brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace; where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind. Sing a new world into being: risk transforming heart and mind.

3 -- Sing a new world into being where the homeless find a home; where no children ever hunger, but are filled with God's shalom; where all people work for justice; where all hate and vengeance cease. Sing a new world into being: raise the harmonies of peace.

4 -- Sing a new world into being. Join the ancient prophet's cry for a time of health and plenty when all tears have been wiped dry; when compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve. Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle (USA), © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.