

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

January 16, 2022

No. 3

I am
the
vine;
you
are
the
branches.
John 15:5

Welcome to worship at Alexanderwohl! Surely God doesn't have any need for the church? Why does God choose to work through flawed individuals and groups of human beings? None of us can bear substantial fruit unless we are connected to the vine, who is Jesus Christ, so that Christ might be present in and through us.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Marcia Brubaker

Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices ~Burkhardt, Weber

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ~Wood

Holy, Holy, Holy! ~Leavitt

Welcome

Karl Brubaker

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship

L: As we gather to worship in Jesus' name today, hear the word of the Lord addressed to all people of God:

P: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. *Jn 1:4*

L: You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens and members of God's family. In Christ you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. *Eph 2:19, 22*

P: "I know you by name. My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." *Exo 33:17, 14*

L: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love." *John 15:9*

All: "I will make a covenant of peace with you; I will put my dwelling place among you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people." *Eze 37:26-27, Lev 26:11-12*

Invocation+

*Gathering Hymns

*Here in This Place
God is Here Among Us*

VT 10
VT 62

Children's Story

Laura Unrau

Morning Prayer

Jim Schmidt

Worship Music

Julianna Schrag and Alyssa Burkholder

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

Offertory *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* ~Carter

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Caleb Yoder

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

John 15:1-17

Message

"Why church?"

Pastor Caleb

Song of Response

May You Be Rooted and Grounded

VT 396

Responding to the Gospel

(Open sharing)

Pastor Caleb

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Song of Sending

Longing for Light (v. 1, 2, 5)

VT 715

***Benediction**

Pastor Caleb

***Postlude**

Marcia Brubaker

*All who are able are invited to stand.

+ 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

Greeters: North – Delton and Janice Voth

South – Matthew and Laura Voth

Visual Arts: Anita Boese

Nursery Staff: Laura Unrau, Kim Voth

Worship Technology: Steve Unruh, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth

January 9 Attendance: 97 In Person; 16 Zoom households

Questions for Reflection – John 15:1-17

1. Why do you believe that God chooses to work through the church?
2. What are ways the church might make space for God's healing presence or be a sign of God's reign?
3. How do you remain connected to the "vine"? How does church help you do this?

Next Sunday we ask, "How shall we be the church?" Our primary scripture will be from Acts 2:42-47.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for Leona Schroeder as she continues to recover at Moundridge Hospital and anticipates surgery this coming Friday, January 21. We pray also for Norman in his concern for Leona.
- ❖ We pray for families with young children, particularly kids ineligible for vaccination, with the unique challenges this stage of the pandemic brings.
- ❖ We pray for students, parents, teachers, and staff at Goessel Schools as Covid cases interrupt classes and activities.
- ❖ We pray for those whose homes and belongings burned in the apartment building fire in New York City, many of whom were immigrants from Gambia and did not have much to begin with. Be with them and with those who are working to help them.
- ❖ We pray for those in western Kansas who are trying to put their lives back together after the devastating grass fires a few weeks ago.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, January 17

5:30 pm Board of Worship on Zoom

Tuesday, January 18

9:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 19

NO Midweek Activities

Sunday, January 23

9:30 am Sunday School -- Budget Q & A – Sanctuary or Zoom

10:30 am Worship Service in person or on Zoom

COMING EVENTS

Jan 30 Congregational Annual Meeting

Goessel Community Junior High Event at Goessel Church

Feb 18 Senior Coffee (postponed from January 21)

Preparing for our Annual Meeting -- Church Council met on Monday, Jan. 10 to prepare for the Annual Meeting. In light of the increased COVID numbers, we are faced with the challenge of how to share information and conduct a meeting while keeping everyone safe. We have identified the following steps to prepare for our Annual Meeting. 1) On Sunday Jan. 23 we will host a Q & A with Dwight Flaming our treasurer during the SS hour in the Sanctuary. This presentation will be on Zoom with the recording made available to any church member unable to attend the Q & A in person. To receive the link, simply contact the church office and Ruth will send you the link. 2) We will be unable to host a meal between the worship hour and the Annual Meeting on Jan. 30th. Therefore, the regular worship hour on Jan. 30 will be modified to allow the Annual Meeting to be incorporated into our worship time (10:30-12:00) and finishing by 12. The same zoom link covering the worship hour will also cover the Annual Meeting. 3) Voting on the Spending Plan will be done in person by those present that morning and if you will be attending via Zoom, please request your ballot from the church

office prior to the meeting. Those joining by zoom may send in their ballot provided it is postmarked by Monday, the 31st. We appreciate your patience and flexibility to make these accommodations work. We hope we can encourage your participation by providing alternative channels. John Fast, Chair

Pastor Lois is participating in a weekend training hosted by the Newton Community for Racial Justice. She will gladly share what she learned with anyone interested.

Senior Coffee, scheduled for Friday, January 21 has been postponed to next month, February 18.

The AMC Library is being updated! The Library Committee has sorted, cleaned, dusted and worked; many books have been removed to create space for new books and resources. Come and browse to see which of these old treasures you might like to have in your personal collection. The culled books are in the Fellowship Hall through January 30. If you'd like to make a donation for any books you take, those funds will go towards purchasing the *Believer's Church Bible Commentary* series for our Library.

It's time for another Goessel Community Junior High event! On Sunday, January 30 from 4:30-7:30 all 6th-8th graders are invited to Goessel Church for a pizza and game night. We'll be making individual pizzas and will have a variety of games ready to play! RSVP's are encouraged to Laura (lauraelaine25@gmail.com) or Michelle (michellerunruh@gmail.com).

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.
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