

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

February 27, 2022

No. 9



The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

We have spent the month of February focusing on how to love and be loved by God. Today we consider what it looks like when we follow Jesus' example of boundary-crossing love.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Holy, Holy, Holy* ~Burkhardt Karen Unruh
 All People That On Earth Do Dwell ~Burkhardt

Welcome Judy Goertzen

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation (VT 857)

*Holy God, you call us together
to reflect on your Word and our life in your world.
Be with us now as we sing and pray together,
that we may hear your voice and understand your way.
This we pray through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.*

***Gathering Song** *Summoned by the God Who Made Us* (v. 1, 3, 4, 5) VT 1

Children's Story Rosi Reimer

Worship Music *Come, Thou Fount* ~arr. Boersma Handbell Choir
 This is My Father's World ~arr. Kratzer

Morning Prayer Pastor Caleb Yoder

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings First Fruits Giving

Offertory *All Creatures of Our God and King* ~Burkhardt

***Prayer / Song of Dedication** *Grant Us, God, the Grace* VT 746

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading Matthew 15:1-28 Judy Goertzen

Message "Jesus' boundary-busting Love" Pastor Lois Harder

Responding to the Gospel (Open sharing)

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

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Sending Song

Christ is King! Let Earthly Powers

VT 410

***Benediction**

Pastor Lois

***Postlude**

Karen Unruh

*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: Braden Unruh

Greeters: North – Steve and Sandy Banman

South – Brody and Emmalyn Schroeder

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Nursery Staff: Laura Voth, Liz Schmucker, Kim Voth

Worship Technology: DeAlan Unrau, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth, Steve Unruh

February 20 Attendance: 144 In person, 10 Zoom households

Questions for Reflection –

1. Which traditions at AMC or in your own background are most important to you? Why?
2. In the call to be God's people in the world, what are boundaries we can cross while maintaining our sense of "holiness" or piety/focus on Jesus?
3. In what ways does the story of the Syrophenician woman cause us to (re)consider our own perceptions of those who are different than us?

Next Sunday will be the First Sunday in Lent. Our primary scripture will be Luke 4:1-13 about Jesus' temptations in the desert.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We give thanks for Dwight M. Flaming's safe travels and the service he was able to be part of in McAllen, TX with MDS this past week.
- ❖ We pray for the people of Ukraine in this time of war, human tragedy, and fear. God, grant peace among the nations.
- ❖ We pray for leaders – local, national and international – that they would make compassionate and thoughtful decisions that care for the welfare and provide for the needs of all people.
- ❖ We pray for courage and wisdom for ourselves to be peacemakers in our own lives.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, February 28

9:00 am Prayer Team

4:30 pm Covid Task Force

Tuesday, March 1

9:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 2 – Ash Wednesday

6:15-7:40 pm Child Care – Nursery

6:30-7:00 pm Lenten activities in regular classrooms (Preschool & Kdg in Foundation Room / Grades 1-5 in Fellowship Hall)

6:30-7:00 pm Junior High Midweek – Shelter House

6:45-7:00 pm High School Youth – Youth House

6:40-6:50 pm Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

7:00-7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary (1st Grade-Adult)

No Adult Bible Study

7:45-8:30 pm Handbell Choir – Chapel

Sunday, March 6 – First Sunday of Lent

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

COMING EVENTS

Mar 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins

From the Pastors and the Visioning Team: There will be two more opportunities for conversation on **"What is the Church?" "Why church?" and "How shall we be church?"** for anyone who has not had an opportunity to participate in these conversations that Sunday school classes are having. These sessions will consolidate the three topics with focused conversation.

- **TODAY -- February 27 at 9:30 a.m. --** We will meet in the **Shelter House** with Pastor Caleb leading the conversation.
- **Next Sunday, March 6, in the sanctuary after the worship service.** This is for anyone whether you have been part of these conversations or not. Contact the church office if you would like to see the discussion guide or would like to participate via a Zoom option.

AMC Library Update – New books that have been purchased for the library are on display for check out in both lobbies. Come browse, pick a book, complete the information on the check-out form, and take the book home for some good reading. Books are due back in 3 weeks. If you are looking for a good read or resources, you may stop by the library anytime during office hours (8:30 am – 4:00 pm). The library is located at the front of the church across from the church offices. Come check us out!

Registration for Summer Camps are Now Open -- The Board of Education at Alexanderwohl is offering a \$100.00 scholarship to each camper who calls Alexanderwohl their home congregation. This is for all children Grade 3 – Grade 12 (fall of 2022). Register at www.campmennosch.org for Camp Mennoscah and www.RMMC.org for Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. As soon as you have your child(ren) registered and have received your confirmation from camp, *let the church office know what dates your child(ren) will be attending camp.* You will then be reimbursed \$100.00 per child from the Board of Education. We would also like to know if you are planning to

volunteer as a director, cook, counselor, nurse to other staff position and the dates you will be volunteering. If you have question, please contact Janine Peters at petersjd@mtelco.net or 316-284-4170.

Ash Wednesday and Lent -- In the Christian church **Lent** marks the **40-day period before Easter** when we remember Jesus' time of fasting and prayer in the wilderness before he started his public ministry. It's a time of repentance and preparation for Easter, humbling ourselves before God. In ancient times it was a sign of penitence to wear sackcloth and be sprinkled with ashes as a reminder of our humanity and our need for God. That's why we have ashes put on our forehead or hand at the **Ash Wednesday service, March 2 in the sanctuary from 7:00-7:30 p.m.** Nursery care will be provided for this service for ages 0-2 years. There will be alternate activities for children pre-school and Kindergarten in the Foundation Room. All other children and their families are welcome to attend the service. If you would like to utilize Lenten resources for at-home devotionals and activities there are some hard copies available in the lobbies. They can also be downloaded here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/lent-at-home/>

Our worship table (thanks to LaNae Unruh) will include dark cloth, purple candles, stones and sticks – visual reminders of the dryness and brokenness of our earthly lives, the humanity that Jesus embodied, for our sake, and the humility that he showed us how to manifest.

Braxton Church had two specialized surgeries on February 14 at Boston Children's Hospital. The surgeries went well and plans are to return in August for another round of surgeries. While Braxton acts and behaves like a normal 5-year-old, his chronic medical conditions continue to present daily challenges that must be monitored on a regular basis. The family would like to extend their thanks for all the prayers and support throughout their medical journey with Braxton!

Thank you -- My surgery to have a pacemaker put in my heart went very well. I had a good doctor (Layne Reusser). The whole staff was wonderful. Thank you for all your prayers and thoughts for me. ~Lois Janzen

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