

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

March 20, 2022

No. 12



"IF IT BEARS
FRUIT NEXT
YEAR, FINE!
IF NOT,
THEN CUT
IT DOWN."

LUKE 13:9, NIV

Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

On this third Sunday in Lent, we'll hear about humble repentance being a way of life rather than a one-time event. Joy and freedom can be found as we relinquish control, proclaim God's goodness and then work in hopeful anticipation of the coming of God's kingdom. Even when the plant seems dead, we're called to prune and probe, water and weed, fertilize, feed and forgive, trusting God to make it fruitful.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* ~Hayes Jason Peters
Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart ~Hayes

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

People: humbling ourselves to receive God's mercy.

Leader: We crave the security of knowing God's presence

People: but we want to be able to predict and control it.

Leader: God, who has made us, knows what we need.

People: We, who are God's creatures proclaim God's greatness.

Leader: As we worship, let us receive God's abundant gifts.

All: Let us praise God and sing for joy!

***Gathering Songs**

Come, We That Love

VT 31

Come Away from Rush and Hurry

VT 9

Children's Story

Laura Voth

Morning Prayer

Pastor Caleb Yoder

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Leader: Holy One, we seek you while you may be found.

People: We call upon you while you are near.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, for our thoughts are not your thoughts and our ways are not your ways.

People: Forgive us for working so hard to try to earn and control your care for us.

Leader: With the Holy Spirit's guidance, open our hearts to receive your grace

All: and follow your way more faithfully.

(silence, extinguish candles, words of assurance)

Song of Response	<i>Christ Calls to Me</i>	VT 542
Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings		First Fruits Giving
Offertory		Levi Schrag
*Prayer of Dedication		Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading	Luke 13:1-9	Megan Duerksen
Message	"From hubris to humility"	Pastor Lois
Song of Response	<i>Beautiful Things</i>	VT 551
Responding to the Gospel	(Open sharing)	

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Sending Song	<i>How Firm a Foundation (omit vs. 4)</i>	VT 592
*Benediction		Pastor Lois
*Postlude	<i>How Firm a Foundation</i> ~Burkhardt	Jason Peters

*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.

This service made use of resources and ideas from *Leader*, Winter 2022.

Song Leader: Renae Schmidt Peters

Greeters: North – Arlin and Maretta Buller; South – Craig and Jody Schmidt

Visual Arts: LaNae Unruh

Nursery Staff: Aileen Esau, Cambry Duerksen, Laura Voth

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

March 13 Attendance: 134 In person, 10 Zoom households

Questions for Reflection – Luke 13:1-9 | Living humbly, receiving grace

1. What are the most challenging things or situations for you to relinquish control over?
2. What is one thing we as a congregation could let go of and ask God to produce good fruit from it?
3. Can you identify times in your life when you were like the unproductive fig tree?

During the season of Lent, our Scripture passages will challenge us to change our way of thinking to begin to see the world and ourselves a little closer to how God sees. Next Sunday, our primary scripture is from Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32, the parable of the prodigal son.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We thank you, God, for the safe and happy arrival of Felicity Strider Peters to Brady and Karyn in Hyatsville, MD. Congratulations to grandparents, Rod and Linda, and the extended Peters family!
- ❖ We pray for Elroy Wiens at the loss of his brother, Arlen on Wednesday morning. Elroy and Loretta were able to be with Arlen and his family when he died. He lived in Bartlesville, OK.
- ❖ We pray for Rick, DJ and Luke Freeman at the loss of Rick's father, Ron Freeman, who died on Monday morning.
- ❖ We continue to pray for the Ukrainian people. Lord, have mercy.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, March 21

- 2:00 pm Prayer Team
- 4:30 pm Covid Task Force
- 7:30 pm Board of Worship

Tuesday, March 22

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 23

- 6:15-7:40 pm Child Care – Nursery
- 6:30-7:30 pm Children's Midweek – Foundation Room / Fellowship Hall
- 6:30-7:30 pm Junior High Midweek – Shelter House
- 6:45-8:00 pm High School Youth – Youth House
- 6:45-7:30 pm Chancel Choir – Sanctuary
- 7:40-8:20 pm Adult Bible Study – Chapel

Thursday, March 24

- 7:30 pm Board of Deacons

Sunday, March 27 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Worship Service
- Noon Fundraiser Meal for students attending Mennonite colleges

COMING EVENTS

- Mar 26 MCC Verenike Making – Hillsboro (sign up online)
- Apr 2 MCC Bohne Berroggi Making – Moundridge (sign up online)
- Apr 3 Congregation-wide Sunday School discussion
- Apr 3 Linda Deasy Memorial Service, 2:00 pm
- Apr 3 Worship at Bethesda, 4:00 pm, Pastor Lois
- Apr 7 Maundy Thursday Service
- Apr 8-9 Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale – Hutchinson
- Apr 10 Palm Sunday
- Apr 11 Goessel Blood Drive

Apr 24 Mennonite Education Sunday
Junior High Noon Fundraiser at Goessel High School, Camp 412

--Today (March 20) – Dwight M. Flaming will share about his recent experiences with MDS in McAllen, TX. Join the Board of Mission and Service and the Peace Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 3:00 p.m. Bring your own mug or cup. Treats will be provided.

--Plan now for a delicious takeout meal next Sunday, March 27. The menu will be BBQ beef sandwiches, baked beans, homemade potato salad, and a bar cookie. Donations will be accepted for the Mennonite College Student Scholarship fund. Thank you in advance!

--Mennonite Church USA is holding a Special Session of the Delegate Assembly in Kansas City on May 27-30. It is not being held in conjunction with a convention. If you would like to be considered as a delegate, please contact John Fast, moderator, by April 10. Church Council will discern the delegates to represent our church. We hope to appoint delegates soon so they can begin preparing by reading materials and participating in webinars and education sessions about the resolutions to be presented. Delegate resources for the Special Session can be found at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/special-delegate-session-22/>. Financial assistance for delegates is available from our church.

--The Vision Team (Pastors Caleb and Lois, Laura U., Myron S., Matt V., and Kris S.) have spent time reading and discussing the many notes we received from SS classes and groups about "What is the church? Why Church and How will we be church?" We have a *one sheet summary* that we believe captures much of what we heard. Copies of the summary will be available in the lobbies. On **Sunday, April 3** during the Sunday School hour, the Pastors and Vision team members will facilitate discussion open to anyone in the Fellowship Hall (coffee and light refreshment served).

--It is hard to learn about the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine, and we all feel a desire both to pray and to do what we can to help. Amanda Voth is asking the congregations of the Goessel community to discern if our community might sponsor one or more refugee families (see <https://mcc.org/community-sponsorship>). If you have interest in learning more about this potential opportunity and what might be involved for our community to sponsor a family, contact Amanda (amandagvoth@yahoo.com).

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.
1304 K-15 Hwy, Box 8
Goessel Kansas 67053
Office: (620) 367-8192
amc@alexanderwohl.org
www.alexanderwohl.org

Pastors:
Caleb Yoder
(319) 930-7754
calebyoder@alexanderwohl.org

Lois Harder
(316) 617-3497
loisharder@alexanderwohl.org

Deacons:
Marilyn Unruh
Flaming
Ruth Goertzen
Jim Schmidt
Kris Schmucker
Sandy Banman