

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

September 4, 2022

No. 36

Welcome to Alexanderwohl! We believe that Jesus lives through the church. The church has established and maintained certain practices to help us live out our understanding of discipleship. Today we'll look at the practices of foot washing, discipline in the church, ministry/leadership and orderliness.



GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering *Flourish* ~ Douglas Wagner Jared Janzen

Welcome Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Dedication of Teachers – A Blessing for Teachers and Learners

Presentation of Bibles to First Graders Braxton Church, Allyssa Hein

Call to Worship (taken from VT 856) High School students

Invocation VT 857

All: 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 Songs** *Jesus Calls Us* VT 30

The Church's One Foundation VT 397

Peace Prayer Craig and Jody Schmidt family

Children's Story Laura Voth

Morning Prayer Bryant Miller

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings First Fruits Giving

Offertory *Arioso* ~ Bach, arr. Wolff Jared Janzen

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 2:1-4 Justine Unruh

Message "How the Church functions" Pastor Lois

Song of Response *In Christ There Is No East or West* VT 390

Responding to the Gospel (Open sharing)

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending** *Renew Your Church (omit vs. 3)* VT 717

***Benediction** Pastor Caleb

***Postlude** *Ricercare on "At. Anne" ~ Gordon Young* Jared Janzen

*All who are able are invited to stand.

+ The peace lamp is as a visual reminder that we follow Jesus the Prince of Peace and believe in uncertain times that God's shalom will prevail.

Song Leader: Marcia Brubaker

Greeters: N: Suzanne & Greg Meier; S: Evan & Maryanne Esau

Visual Arts: LaNae Unruh

Nursery Staff: Tina Schrag, Levi Schrag, Liz Schmucker

Worship Technology: Dwight J. Flaming, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth

August 28 Attendance: Sunday School - 106; Worship - 124 In person, 12 Zoom households

August 28 Offerings: Sunday School - \$45.11; First Fruits - \$3,516.00

Summary Statements ++

13. We believe that in **washing the feet** of his disciples, Jesus calls us to serve one another in love as he did. Thus we acknowledge our frequent need of cleansing, renew our willingness to let go of pride and worldly power, and offer our lives in humble service and sacrificial love.
14. We practice **discipline** in the church as a sign of God's offer of transforming grace. Discipline is intended to liberate erring brothers and sisters from sin, and to restore them to a right relationship with God and to fellowship in the church. The practice of discipline gives integrity to the church's witness in the world.
15. We believe that **ministry** is a continuation of the work of Christ, who gives gifts through the Holy Spirit to all believers and empowers them for service in the church and in the world. We also believe that God calls particular persons in the church to specific leadership ministries and offices. All who minister are accountable to God and to the community of faith.
16. We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is **one body** with many members, ordered in such a way that, through the one Spirit, believers may be built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Questions for Reflection

1. In what ways has the church felt like a foretaste of God's reign? How has the church fallen short?

Confession of Faith
in a Mennonite
Perspective



2. How can we replenish the life of the church through the presence and grace of God rather than needing to see ourselves as “better than”?

Next Sunday, we will continue with the topics of (17) Discipleship, (18) Life in the Spirit, (19) families, and (20) truth-telling. Pastor Caleb will preach primarily from Matthew 5:27-48.

++ You can find the entire text of the *Confession of Faith* here:

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/who-are-mennonites/what-we-believe/confession-of-faith/> Let the office know if you would like a print copy.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We are grateful, God, for those in our midst who are gifted and willing to offer Christian Education to our children, youth and adults.
- ❖ We pray for the people directly impacted by extreme weather conditions – heat, drought, and flooding, particularly where extreme poverty is part of the situation. For people in Pakistan, Mississippi, China...
- ❖ We pray for Steve Banman as he continues to recover at home after his hospitalization last weekend, and anticipates one more chemo treatment this next week before a break.

THIS WEEK...

Today, September 4

4:00 pm Bethesda Chapel – Pastor Lois

Monday, September 5 – Office Closed

Tuesday, September 6

9:30 am Staff Meeting

4:30 pm Prayer Team

Wednesday, September 7

7:00 pm Trustees

Sunday, September 11

9:30 am Sunday school,

10:30 am Worship Service

5:30-7:30 pm Outdoor Concert and fundraiser

COMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Sept 15 Health Ministries Mobile Unit at Goessel Church
- Sept 16 Senior Coffee – Bring your Collections 2.0. We had such a good time learning about each other’s collections that we’re going to do it again!
- Sept 18 Teacher Appreciation - noon meal
- Sept 18 Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk, 1:30 pm, Tabor Church
- Sept 21 Peace Committee guest speaker Laurie Hesed will present “Political Idolatry and the Rise of the Religious Right”
- Sept 24-25 AMC Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscah

Sept 28 Midweek Staff Orientation – Fellowship Hall
Oct 5 Midweek Begins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Caleb and his family are on **vacation** this weekend, Sept. 3-6.

Outdoor Concert - You're invited! Come-and-go to an evening of lively music, great fellowship and home-made ice cream! Next Sunday evening, **September 11** on our east church yard from **5:30-7:30 p.m.** three musical groups will play including Kevin Gaeddert, Eric Schrag and friends, and the Flannelbacks. Ice cream will be brought to you by Bill and Sherry Unruh and will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and/or a blanket, and your checkbook! Along with all the fun, **this is a fund-raiser for the new MDS cabinet-making shop.** Hope to see you there! ~AMC Board of Mission and Service

Children's Midweek Staff Needed: 1 Bible story leader and 1 activity leader are needed for the elementary midweek. These positions involve planning and leading activities during the midweek season for 5 times and assisting with special activities. Midweek runs from October 5 to March 29. Contact Nicole Hein, Aileen Esau or Susan Nafziger.

Bell Choir: Do you want our bells to ring again? We would like to have a full bell choir this year! If you can read music, you can be a valued member! Please consider joining our bell choir for an enriching musical experience. Visit with Mary Schmidt soon!

The Teacher Appreciation Meal is September 18. Remember to sign up in the south lobby, or email Janine Peters, if you plan to attend.

Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscah will be the weekend of September 24-25 (2:00 on Saturday to 2:00 on Sunday). We anticipate a great time of fellowship, laughter, and spiritual renewal! The retreat is funded by First Fruits giving, so there will not be a registration fee. See Friday email or office for registration information.

Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscah - Survey for Saturday Night: The Saturday evening activity is "Family Fueled" (like Family Feud), accenting that the church is "fueled" as we gather together. A survey is in your mailbox to assist with this effort. Each member of your family may complete a survey. Please return to the designated lobby box by September 18th.

The 2022 Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk will take place at Tabor Mennonite Church on Sunday, September 18 at 1:30 p.m. It is not too late to pick up a donation envelope on the literature table or find someone who is participating and generously support the Tabor Food Pantry and MCC's Ukraine crisis response efforts. Walkers are also invited to bring an item for the Tabor Food Pantry on the day of the event.