

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

September 11, 2022

No. 37

Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

We believe that Jesus calls us to discipleship. With the empowerment of the Spirit, we seek to follow Jesus' challenging teachings. These include marital fidelity, truth-telling, and commitment to non-violence.



GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering

I Sing With Exultation ~Lehman

Marcia Brubaker

Blessed Assurance ~Hobby

How Firm a Foundation ~Cherwien

Welcome

Pastor Caleb Yoder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+

(Matthew 5:3-12; VT 295)

Leader: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

People: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Leader: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

People: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Leader: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

People: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Leader: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

People: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Leader: Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

People: Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*Gathering Song

Let Us Build a House

VT 36

Children's Story

Karl Brubaker

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois Harder

Hymn of Praise

I Sing with Exultation

VT 444

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

Offertory

'Tis the Gift to Be Simple ~Behnke

Marcia Brubaker

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Lois

Worship Music

Calm Me, Lord [VT 680]

Mary Schmidt, violin

Be a Sower [VT 789]

Karen Unruh, piano

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:27-48

Megan Duerksen

Message

"But I say to you"

Pastor Caleb

Song of Response

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

VT 283

Responding to the Gospel

(Open sharing)

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Song of Sending

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

VT 443

*Benediction

Pastor Caleb

*Postlude

Marcia Brubaker

*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: Kyle Unruh

Greeters: North - DeAlan & Alma Unrau; South - Josh & Nicole Hein

Visual Arts: LaNae Unruh

Nursery Staff: Myron Hiebert, Ann Hiebert, Nicole Hein

Worship Technology: Myron Goertzen, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voht

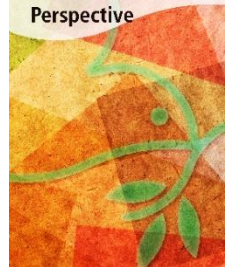
September 4 Attendance: Sunday School - 100; Worship - 132 In person, 11 Zoom households

September 4 Offerings: Sunday School - \$59.62; First Fruits - \$11,275.53

Summary Statements ++

17. We believe that Jesus Christ calls us to **discipleship**, to take up our cross and follow him. Through the gift of God's saving grace, we are empowered to be disciples of Jesus, filled with his Spirit, following his teachings and his path through suffering to new life. As we are faithful to his way, we become conformed to Christ and separated from the evil in the world.
18. We believe that to be a disciple of Jesus is to know **life in the Spirit**. As the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ takes shape in us, we grow in the image of Christ and in our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is active in individual and in communal worship, leading us deeper into the experience of God.
19. We believe that God intends human life to begin in families and to be blessed through **families**. Even more, God desires all people to become part of the church, God's family. As single and married members of the church family give and receive nurture and healing, families can grow toward the wholeness that God intends. We are called to chastity and to loving faithfulness in marriage.

Confession of Faith
in a Mennonite
Perspective



20. We commit ourselves to tell the **truth**, to give a simple yes or no, and to avoid the swearing of oaths.

Questions for Reflection

1. What is your impression of Jesus' teaching? Does it feel burdensome or liberating? Why?
2. How have you understood being "perfect"?
3. What is (are) the goal(s) of Jesus' teaching?

Next Sunday, we will continue with the topics of (21) stewardship, (22) peace, (23) allegiance. Pastor Caleb will preach.

++ 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 pray for Velma Hiebert who is receiving treatment for congestive heart failure, and for Merlin as he cares for her.
- ❖ We pray for God's peace to be with Gene and Cindy Hastings as Gene approaches end of life.
- ❖ We pray for Steve and Sandy Banman as Steve recovers from his final chemo treatment and they both recover from Covid. As they rest, email and cards are a good way to show our care. God, grant your healing and comfort to both Steve and Sandy in the coming days and weeks.
- ❖ We pray for Gloria Yoder (pastor Caleb's mom) who will have surgery tomorrow, September 12.
- ❖ We pray for the Hope Mennonite congregation as well as for the family and friends of Pastor Dave Stevens as they grieved his loss and celebrated his life at a memorial service yesterday. Grant all who are grieving your comfort and healing, O God.
- ❖ We thank you God for the ways we can see how to model our own lives following the life and teachings of Jesus.

THIS WEEK...

Today, September 11

5:30 – 7:30 pm Outdoor Concert and Fundraiser

Monday, September 12

5:45 pm Board of Mission and Service

7:00 pm Church Council

Tuesday, September 13

9:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 14

7:00 pm Board of Deacons

Thursday, September 15

1:30 – 4:30 pm Health Ministries Mobile Unit at Goessel Church

Friday, September 16

10:00 am Senior Coffee – Bring Your Collections 2.0

Sunday, September 18

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

Noon – Teacher Appreciation Meal

1:30 pm Harvest Giving Walk – Begins at Tabor Church

COMING EVENTS

Sept 21 Peace Committee guest speaker Laurie Hased 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 1 Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum’s Heritage Lecture

Oct 5 Midweek Begins

Oct 21 10 am Senior Coffee – Deputy Kaylin Miles from the Marion Co. Sheriff’s Office will bring us a presentation on scams, particularly those directed at the senior citizen population.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY – 5:30 – 7:30 pm You’re invited! Come-and-go to an evening of lively music, great fellowship and home-made ice cream! 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 fundraiser for the new MDS cabinet-making shop.** Hope to see you there! ~AMC Board of Mission and Service

Senior Coffee! This coming Friday, September 16 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall we will again share collections. Please contact Pastor Lois or Ruth to let us know what collected items you will bring to share so that we can have enough tables set up. We’ll hear about when you began collecting, why this particular collection, why it holds meaning or significance for you, etc. Come for coffee and fellowship – hope to see you there!

First Fruits and Local Church Ministries Update -- With 2/3 of the year behind us, the expenses for our local church ministries remain within the budget of our spending plan. However, the money from our First Fruits offerings to fund these ministries is running behind budget. **For the year to date, the amount coming in is short by \$25,750 to meet all of our expenses.** Thank you to those that have faithfully been supporting our local church ministries with your First Fruits offering. Everyone is encouraged to consider how to respond during the next 4 months so that we can meet all of our expenses by the end of the year. Thank you.

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

The AMC Peace Committee invites you!

- **Laurie Hesel**, peacemaker and member at Shalom Mennonite will be the guest speaker of the Alexanderwohl Peace Committee on **Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. She will present a teaching sermon that she gave at Shalom some weeks ago called "Political Idolatry and the Rise of the Religious Right". Come to listen and learn, to dialogue and discern.
- Professor Dwight Krehbiel of Bethel College, will bring a presentation on climate changes and Earth care. Zach Kennell, student of Dr. Krehbiel, will share about his senior project on the En-ROADS climate simulator. **Sunday, October 30.** Stay tuned for more details.

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.

Midweek begins on Wednesday, October 5! Registration information was emailed to families of children and youth last week. Please register your child(ren) by **Wednesday, September 14**, on our church website (www.alexanderwohl.org)

Midweek Meals: Midweek begins Wednesday, October 5. Fellowship meals will be served. We would like to get a count of how many plan to eat these meals. Please sign up on the lobby bulletin boards, online through the church email, or call the church office – 620.367.8192. RSVP by Monday, September 26 to be included in the count for the fall semester.

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.

AMC Library Notes -- Thank you to everyone that participated in the AMC Summer Reading Program, **Reading Colors Your World**, from June thru August. It was a HUGE success!! How many participants took part in the reading program? -- 35 participated. How many AMC Library books were read this summer for the reading program? -- 219 books

Greyson and Lillian Voth won the prize for the Preschool-Kindergarten age group. Both tied for the same number of books read.

Celia Peters was the prize winner for the 1st-5th grade.

No readers for the 6th-8th grade group

Ruth Goertzen was the prize winner for the High School & Adult group.

Congratulations to the prize winners! Please stop by the library after the church service to pick up your prize.

The 2022 Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk will take place at Tabor Mennonite Church on **Sunday, September 18** at 1:30 p.m. 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.

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