

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

October 30, 2022

No. 44

Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Jesus taught profound truth in the form of parables that still challenge us centuries later. Today we look at a parable about a widow whose prayerful persistence finally wore down the apathy of an unjust judge.

The Parable of the Persistent Widow



GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering

Let All Things Now Living ~Weber
I Love to Tell the Story ~Hobby
For All the Saints ~Held

Marcia Brubaker

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+

adapted from Psalm 146

L: Praise the Lord!

P: Praise the Lord, O my soul! We will praise the Lord as long as we live; we will sing praises to our God all our lives long.

L: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help...

P: Happy are those whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

L: The Lord sets the prisoners free, the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous... he upholds the orphan and the widow.

All: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

*Gathering Hymn

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

VT 182

Children's Story

Renae Peters

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

Offertory *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* ~Diemer

Marcia Brubaker

*Song of Dedication *Now Thank We All Our God* VT 114 (vs. 1-2)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Luke 18:1-8

Judy Goertzen

*Song of Confession

God, Give Me Time

VT 144

Message "Prayer, Persistence and Faith" Pastor Lois
Worship Music *Beauty for Brokenness* [VT 712] Chancel Choir
Responding to the Gospel

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending** *Sword into a Plowshare* VT 798

***Benediction** adapted from VT 1058

O God, stir in us restless discomfort, holy anger, the gift of tears, and enough foolishness to move us to love deeply, work for justice and freedom, walk with others in their pain, and do, by God's grace, what others believe cannot be done. Amen.

***Postlude** *Rain Down* ~Cortez Marcia Brubaker

*All who are able are invited to stand.

+ The peace lamp is a visual reminder 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 – Alan & Sharon Boese; South – Denise Duerksen

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Nursery Staff: Aileen Esau, Cambry Duerksen, Nicole Hein

Worship Technology: DeAlan Unrau, Levi Schrag, Delton Voth

October 23 Attendance: Sunday School – 98; Worship -- 132 in person, 10 Zoom households, 12 YouTube views

October 23 Offering: Sunday School – \$30.04; First Fruits – \$1,776.81

Questions for Reflection

1. What does this parable tell us about the character of God?
2. What do we do when it seems our prayers are not answered?
3. What do we do while we're waiting for justice?

Next Sunday, we continue with the parable of the dishonest steward (Luke 16:1-13). Pastor Caleb will preach.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for the family of Marvin Voth as they grieve his loss and celebrate his life. Marvin's service was held here yesterday.
- ❖ We pray for Norman Schroeder as he continues to heal from a broken leg sustained this past Monday, October 24. God, please give Norman and Leona patience and wisdom through this process.
- ❖ We pray for young people in college, trade school, or beginning their work careers as each explores their life direction and primary calling.
- ❖ We pray for people who experience poverty or oppression as they wait for justice.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 30

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Noon – Mennonite College Student Ministry fundraiser takeout meal

7:00 pm – Climate Change-Earth Care presentation

Tuesday, November 1

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

4:30 pm – Prayer Team

Wednesday, November 2

Midweek Activities

Saturday, November 5

Daylight Saving Time Ends – Set clocks BACK 1 hour before bed

Sunday, November 6

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

5:30 – 6:30 pm Bethesda Pillar's Banquet – Tabor Church

COMING EVENTS

Nov 6 5:30-6:30 pm – Bethesda's Annual Pillars drive through meal

Nov 9 Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum's Wednesday night fundraiser
pizza meal

Nov 13 5-6:30 pm – Goessel Community Thanksgiving Meal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting Follow Up -- The Church Council along with the Board of Deacons would like to thank everyone who participated in the congregational meeting last Sunday. Discerning our church leadership for the coming years is a vital step in shaping our faith journey for all who attend Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church. The church affirmed the calling to Pastor Caleb at 98.9% and for Pastor Lois at 96.9%. We look forward to hearing their response. John Fast

Pastor Caleb and his family are away for the weekend. Pastor Caleb will return to the office on Tuesday.

Today -- Mennonite College Student Fundraiser Meal – Plan to take home a delicious meal and give generously to a good cause!

Today at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall – 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.

Adult Bible Study led by Pastor Caleb will continue this Wednesday, as we delve deeply into one of Jesus' parables. We will gather in the conference room at 7:50, just after the dismissal of choir. You may also join on Zoom.

"Bucket Of Thanks" -- Let's show our gratitude to God and help give hope to others by participating in MCC's "Bucket of Thanks." The Board of Mission and Service is encouraging the Alexanderwohl congregation to bring essential hygiene items (as many or as few as you want) to church by Sunday, November 20. MCC anticipates needing approximately 24,000 relief kits in the coming year. The goal for this Thanksgiving season is 1800 kits. Relief kits will be sent to places such as Ukraine, Iraq, and Syria. Working through MCC is a terrific intergenerational project; our children's Sunday school classes are gathering items and offerings this fall for school kits! See the list of items on the announcement sheet or bulletin boards.

Bethesda Pillars Banquet – November 6 at Tabor Mennonite Church – Drive Thru event from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. A delicious homemade meal will be cooked by Elaine Unruh, Lynette Duerksen and Laura Unrau. All proceeds will go towards new linens and towels for the residents. Our goal is to raise 10% more than we did last year! Help us reach \$61,000!! Call 620-367-2291 for reservations. **Reservation deadline is Monday, October 31.** Thanks for your support of Bethesda Home!

Menno Brothers Pizza is back! Please join the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum's board and staff for a fundraiser meal on Wednesday, November 9, from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Along with pizza, there will be fresh tossed salad, delicious cookies, and, of course, your good company! Your contributions will be gratefully accepted and will provide a boost to our general operating budget as we finish the year.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner! The Goessel Ministerial Alliance is planning a sit-down Thanksgiving Dinner in the Elementary school gym on **Sunday, November 13 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.** It takes a community to make a community dinner happen! Please check the church bulletin board for food sign ups as well as sign ups to help with other tasks. If you are donating a turkey or ham, they are needed by Sunday, November 6.

Sunday, November 20 our worship service will center around the theme of gratitude and thanksgiving. There will not be a separate service on Thanksgiving Day.

Expecting Emmanuel: Eight Women Who Prepared the Way is a new Advent devotional book by Joanna Harader, pastor of Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence. Pastor Lois will offer an **Advent Retreat on Saturday, November 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** using this resource. Sign up on the south bulletin board if you would like to participate.