

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

November 13, 2022

No. 46



When
you give a feast,
invite the poor, the crippled,
the lame, the blind,
and you will be blessed.
Luke 14:13-14, ESV

Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Today we listen to one more parable of Jesus: the parable of the Great Banquet. Here we see a great reversal: the first guests invited reject the invitation, so the host does the unexpected, inviting the outcast and outsiders.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering *Be Thou My Vision* ~arr. Hopson Handbell Choir

Welcome Pastor Caleb Yoder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+ (Based on Isaiah 29:6, 8; Luke 14:15-24)

Leader: The LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine — the best of meats and the finest of wines.

People: Come, for everything is now ready!

Leader: Come, without making excuses,

People: Come, with the poor, crippled, blind, and lame!

Leader: Come, alongside enemies and political opposites,

People: God will swallow up death forever.

All: The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces!

***Gathering Hymns** *Come, Let Us All Unite* (v. 1, 2, 4) VT 7
What Is the World Like (v. 1-2, 4-5) VT 298

Children's Story

Worship Music *Canon of Grace* ~arr. Lamb Handbell Choir

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois Harder

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings First Fruits Giving

Offertory *Intermezzo, Op. 118, No. 2* ~Brahms Karen Unruh

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading Luke 14:15-24 Beth Yoder

Message "Making excuses" Pastor Caleb

Song of Response *Let Us Build a House* (v. 1-4) VT 36

Responding to the Gospel (open sharing)

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending**

We Dream of a Turning

VT 209

***Benediction**

Pastor Caleb

***Postlude**

Karen Unruh

*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: Marcia Brubaker

Guitar: Kevin Gaeddert

Handbell Choir Director: Mary Schmidt

Greeters: North – Jeremy & Maggie Schroeder
South – Dwight & Tammy Flaming

Visual Arts: Anita Boese

Nursery Staff: Tina Schrag, Levi Schrag, Laura Voth

Worship Technology: Myron Goertzen, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth

November 6 Attendance: Sunday School – 117; Worship -- 142 in person, 9 Zoom households, 22 YouTube views

November 6 Offering: Sunday School – \$28.13; First Fruits – \$3,761.84

Questions for Reflection

1. What does this parable say about God?
2. Is the focus of the parable on receiving God's invitation or extending the invitation? Or both?
3. What does it look like to accept the invitation or to refuse?
4. Who might God include that we fail to include?

Next Sunday our service theme will focus on gratitude and thanksgiving. Pastor Lois will preach. There will not be a service on Thanksgiving Day.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for the GMA Community Thanksgiving Dinner this evening; we ask for your presence and blessings on this event, God, that the community can come together for good food and fellowship.
- ❖ We thank God for the care and medical attention that Dan Bergen has received this week at the Newton Medical Center. We pray for continued guidance and wisdom for the doctors and peace for Dan.
- ❖ God we are grateful for the healing and rehabilitation that Norman Schroeder has had. We pray for your continued wisdom and guidance with Norman and Leona in the coming days and weeks.
- ❖ We pray for peace in our nation and around the world after this Armistice/Veteran's day. We pray for all whose bodies, minds, and spirits carry the wounds of the ravages of past wars. We pray for families who

have lost loved ones, both soldiers and civilians in the war in Ukraine and other conflicts around the world. We pray for inspiration to make sacrifices in order to work for peace.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 13

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

5:00 – 6:30 pm GMA Thanksgiving Meal at Goessel Elementary School

Monday, November 14

5:45 pm – Board of Mission and Service

7:00 pm – Church Council

Tuesday, November 15

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

4:30 pm – Prayer Team

Wednesday, November 16

Midweek Activities

Friday, November 18

10:00 am -- Senior Coffee

Sunday, November 20

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

COMING EVENTS

Nov 24-25 – Church Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

Nov 26 Advent Retreat with Pastor Lois – Shelter House

Nov 26 Erin Brubaker | Dylan Slabach Wedding in Virginia

Nov 27 First Sunday of Advent

Dec 3 Lucas Hiebert | Michelle Schrag Wedding

Dec 4 AMC hosts the Newton Community Children's Choir Concert

Dec 11 7:00 pm -- Christmas Brass Concert at AMC

Dec 16 2:00 pm – Senior Coffee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Bible Study led by Pastor Lois will continue this Wednesday. We will gather in the conference room at 7:50, just after the dismissal of choir. You may also join on Zoom.

As you consider bringing items for the Buckets of Thanks, here's a note from MCC -- MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory: An MCC kit cannot be shipped until every single item for the kit is assembled, but some supplies are so low that kits cannot be processed for shipping. You can help by helping to fill the following needs: New infant onesies and sleepers (3-12 month sizes); shampoo (20 oz or more), thin sanitary pads (28 count minimum) and dark colored bath and hand towels. Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring item to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome. Please contact katemast@mcc.org or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at mcc.org/kits.

Budget Support Update -- Your First Fruits offerings continue to support the ministries of our local church. Local Church ministries expenses continue to run at or under budget. Income from offerings is running behind budget. It will take \$97,000 during November and December to meet our 2022 giving goal. Thank you for your continued support as we finish out the year 2022.

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.

The Daughters of Grace Christmas Brunch will not be happening in December this year. However, stay tuned for details of an event in the next few months. To organize this event and/or future events we do need additional help! Please talk to Tammy Flaming or Beth Yoder if you are interested!