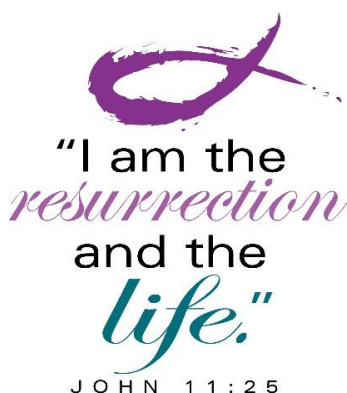


# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

March 26, 2023

No. 13



**Welcome to our service of worship!**  
We're approaching Jerusalem on our journey with Jesus. This is the fifth Sunday in the season of Lent. In our texts this morning we are called to life - to first believe and then to show with our whole lives that Jesus IS the resurrection and the life, sent by God to redeem the world!

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

**Gathering**      *O When Shall I See Jesus* ~arr. Prins      Handbell Choir  
(Oh, when shall I see Jesus, and reign with him above?  
And from the flowing fountain drink everlasting love?)

**Welcome**      Pastor Lois Harder

## Opportunities for Celebration and Service

**Call to Worship**      (*Melody Zimmerman, The Soil and the Seed Project*)

**Leader:** We breathe in **(inhale)** Your breath of life **(exhale)**

**People:** **Open our eyes to see you at work.**

**Open our ears to hear your voice.**

**Open our mouths to speak life.**

**Leader:** We breathe in **(inhale)** Your breath of life **(exhale)**

**People:** **We hope in you, Jesus, the resurrection and the life.**

**Leader:** We breathe in **(inhale)** Your breath of life **(exhale)**

## Prayer of Invocation

**\*Gathering Hymn**      *Holy Spirit, Come with Power*      VT 57

**Children's Story**      Emma Schroeder

**Worship Music**      *Wondrous Love Was There* ~arr. Eithun      Handbell Choir

**Old Testament Reading**      Ezekiel 37:1-14      Gretchen Schrag

**Prayer of Confession**      Pastor Caleb Yoder

**All:**      ***We place our hope in you. Amen***

**Hymn**      *I Sought the Lord*      VT 161

## Morning Prayer

**Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**      First Fruits Giving

**Offertory**      *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* ~Hayes      Jason Peters

**\*Prayer of Dedication**      Pastor Lois

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

<b>Gospel Reading</b>	John 11:1-44	Gretchen Schrag
<b>Message</b>	<i>Unexpected Love and Life</i>	Pastor Lois
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>I Am the Bread of Life (omit vs.3)</i>	VT 480

## SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

<b>*Benediction</b>	Pastor Caleb
<b>*Postlude</b>	Jason Peters

\*You are invited to stand in body or in spirit.

+ 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.

This service made use of resources from *Leader*, Winter 2022-23; and *The Soil and The Seed Project*, Vol.6.

**Song Leader:** Renae Peters

**Handbell Choir Director:** Mary Schmidt

**Greeters:** North – Kris and Blake Schmucker

South – Lynell and Vickie Hiebert

**Visual Arts:** LaNae Unruh

**Nursery Staff:** Brody Schroeder, Emmalyn Schroeder, Rosie Gaeddert

**Worship Technology:** DJ Flaming, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

**March 19 Attendance:** Sunday School – 101; Worship -- 134 in person, 11 Zoom households

**March 19 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$41.37; First Fruits – \$3,299.30

### Questions for Reflection (John 11:1-44)

1. How does it feel when our expectations of Jesus are not met?
2. Have you experienced a life-giving act of God that has changed your perspective?

**Next Sunday** is Palm Sunday. Palms will be distributed to young children and their families as they come in to the sanctuary so that they can come to the front with their palm branches as the congregation sings. Anyone else who would like to join in the procession is welcome!

Pastor Caleb will preach from Matthew 21:1-11 (the triumphal entry).

## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We ask for your blessing, God on those who are struggling with ill health, medical appointments, procedures or treatments.
- ❖ We pray for Norma and Dennis Duerksen as Norma has been a patient at NMC Health (Newton Medical Center) this past week undergoing tests and working to lower her blood pressure. We pray for healing and a strong sense of peace for Norma and Dennis.

- ❖ We pray for our friends and loved ones who are residents at Bethesda, Kidron-Bethel, Paramount, Schowalter or other retirement communities as Covid is real and present. We ask for healing and relief from symptoms. We pray also for those who work with and care for these loved ones.
- ❖ We thank you God for all who are working hard towards making the MCC Relief Sale happen. Bless the efforts of so many people as preparations are made.
- ❖ We pray for Steve and LaNae Unruh as they grieve the passing of his father, Jack Unruh. Jack died on Wednesday. Services are pending.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **Sunday, March 26**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Noon – Mennonite College Student Fundraiser Meal

### **Monday, March 27**

3:00 pm – Prayer Team

7:00 pm – Daughters of Grace Exec Team

### **Tuesday, March 28**

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

4:00 pm – Anabaptist Bible Study Group – Conference Room

6:00 pm – Board of Christian Education

### **Wednesday, March 29**

5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal

Midweek Activities (Final session this spring)

### **Friday, March 31**

6:30 pm – Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum's Heritage Dinner

### **Sunday, April 2**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

## **COMING EVENTS**

- |           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Apr 6     | Maundy Thursday Service             |
| Apr 7     | Good Friday – Church Offices Closed |
| Apr 9     | Easter Sunday                       |
| Apr 10    | Goessel Community Blood Drive       |
| Apr 14-15 | Kansas MCC Sale – Hutchinson        |

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Join us for lunch today!** The fundraiser meal to support our 8 students attending Mennonite colleges will be in the fellowship hall. Come for great food and fellowship and to support a worthy cause!

**The children's midweek staff will be hosting a closing celebration party on Wednesday, March 29**, with a hayrack ride out to John and Jenny Fast's pasture. Supper and outdoor activities will be part of the fun! Children should meet the hayracks at **6:00 pm** at the church's southeast drive from 130th . We will return around 7:45-8:00 pm. Remember to bring your signed consent

form and wear warm clothes and closed-toe shoes. If the weather is inclement, the supper and activities will be moved indoors to the Foundation Room and will take place from 6:00-7:45pm. We look forward to a great time together!

**The memorial service for Jim Dunn** will be held Saturday, April 1, 3 pm at Whitestone Mennonite Church. It will also be live streamed via YouTube Live through Whitestone's account.

**The Board of Deacons will host a soup and bread supper on Maundy Thursday, April 6**, as we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. This event will include singing, scripture, prayer and taking communion together, and will be held in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30 pm. Please sign up on either bulletin board by Sunday, April 2 or call the church office. Child care will be provided.

**Easter lily plants may be shared on Easter Sunday** morning in memory of a loved one. These plants will be part of the Easter display in the sanctuary on April 9. Please call or email the church office by **Tuesday, April 4**, with the name of the loved one that you are remembering.

**Register for summer camps!** As soon as you have your child(ren) registered and have received your confirmation, let the church office know what dates your child(ren) will be attending. You will be reimbursed from the Board of Education. If you have questions, please contact Janine Peters at [petersjd@mtelco.net](mailto:petersjd@mtelco.net) or 316-284-4170.

**Reserve your tickets for the Museum Heritage Fundraiser Dinner at the Tabor Mennonite Church on Friday, March 31, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** Check the website [www.goesselmuseum.com](http://www.goesselmuseum.com) or Facebook page for details. Reservations are due Monday, March 27. Phone 620-367-8200 or email [goesselmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:goesselmuseum@gmail.com).

**Stop by the library and check out the new books** that have been added!

**Many thanks for the meals that have been put into the freezer!** This is an ongoing need and more meals are always welcome. ~Pastors and Deacons