

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

April 16, 2023

No. 16



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

On this second Sunday of Easter we will continue to celebrate Jesus' risen presence with us! We hear the story of the frightened disciples gathered behind locked doors, their experience of receiving the Holy Spirit - and the Peace of Christ.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing* ~Burkhardt Marcia Brubaker
Lift High the Cross ~Weber
Crown Him with Many Crowns ~Behnke

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

***Songs of Praise** *The Strife is O'er* VT 350
Holy Spirit, Come with Power VT 57

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Psalm 16:1-9

Leader: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

All: I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

Leader: As for the holy ones in the land, they are noble, in whom is all my delight. Those who chose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

All: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

Leader: I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

All: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

Song of Faith

Joys Are Flowing like a River (omit vs.3)

VT 375

Children's Story

Chrystiana Miller

Morning Prayer

Karl Brubaker

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

Offertory *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* ~Carter

Marcia

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Epistle Reading

I Peter 1:3-9

Nathaniel Schmucker

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

Message

"This time of fear and peace"

Pastor Lois

Song of Response

The Risen Christ

VT 345

Responding to the Gospel

(Open sharing)

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Litany of Release for Sabbatical for Pastor Lois

Leader: God has declared a time of rest for God's children and for all of creation. Our congregation seeks to honor this Biblical concept by providing for you, Pastor Lois, a period of sabbatical.

Cong: *We are blessed by your gifts for ministry. Our call for your continued ministry among us is strong. We release you for the upcoming three weeks of sabbatical – as well as the other weeks yet to come – so that your spirit might be renewed and strengthened.*

Lois: *During this sabbatical time, I look forward to seeing more clearly how God is at work in my life, bringing me new insights that I may share with you.*

Leader: We release you from your pastoral roles and activities. We release you knowing that our church will be strengthened as you return to us renewed and rested.

Cong: *We will remember you in prayer, praying that God will refresh you in body, renew you in mind, and refill your heart with God's love.*

Lois: *I will also remember you all in prayer, praying that God will bless you, Pastor Caleb, and the congregational leaders with creativity and compassion as you carry on in my absence.*

Leader: We acknowledge that God has blessed our congregation with strong leaders and faithful workers who will assist Pastor Caleb in carrying out the essential aspects of ministry during your time away. May the Holy Spirit guide and sustain each of us during this sabbatical time. Amen.

Sending Song

We Walk by Faith

VT 588

***Benediction**

Pastor Lois

***Postlude**

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done ~Kerr

Marcia Brubaker

*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.

Song Leader: Renae Peters

Greeters: North – Bryant and Chrystiana Miller Family
South –

Visual Arts: LaNae Unruh

Nursery Staff: Maryanne Esau, Myra Peters, Liz Schmucker

Worship Technology: DJ Flaming, Levi Schrag, Delton Voth

April 9 Attendance: Sunday School – 96; Worship -- 170 in person, 8 Zoom households

April 9 Offering: Sunday School -- \$27.28; First Fruits – \$4,041.37

Questions for Reflection (I Peter 1 and John 20)

1. How can you imagine your life being different if you could see Jesus in everyone?
2. Was there a time in your life when you were particularly aware of the presence of Jesus with you?
3. The writer of John draws a close connection between Jesus' resurrection and the work of The Church. Are there ways we could show that connection more clearly here at Alexanderwohl?

Next Sunday is the third Sunday of Easter. Pastor Caleb will preach from Luke 24:13-35.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for Marilyn Schmidt as she recovers from heart valve repair surgery this past Wednesday.
- ❖ We pray for First Mennonite Church in Hillsboro as they bid farewell to Pastor Tom Harder this afternoon following his retirement.
- ❖ We remember the family of Anton "Tony" Klassen who passed away April 11. The funeral service will be held at Eden Mennonite Church on April 17. He is a brother of Ruben Klassen.
- ❖ We're grateful for the success of the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale. We thank you God, for the time and effort of so many that went into making the Sale happen!

+This week pray for: Bob and Nancy Becker, Alyssa Burkholder, Duane and Agatha Duerksen, Mary Jantz, Jayce Schmidt

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 16

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

1:00 pm – Bethesda Chapel Service with Pastor Lois

4:00 pm – Julianna Schrag Senior Recital, Bethel College Admin. Bldg.

Tuesday, April 18

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

4:30 pm – Prayer Team

Wednesday, April 19

4:30 pm – Anabaptist Scriptures Study Group

7:00 pm – Vacation Bible School Staff Training

Friday, April 21

10:00 am – Senior Coffee

Sunday, April 23

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

COMING EVENTS

Apr 26 Daughters of Grace Spring Salad Supper

May 21 Bethesda's "Welcome Summer" Fundraiser at White Owl Barn

May 26-29 Goessel Community Junior High at Camp Tawakoni

June 5-9 Goessel Community Vacation Bible School at Alexanderwohl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out the photos being shown on the screen before worship today! The trustees have been busy with a number of projects around the church campus over the past few months. Out in the cemetery, more

concrete runners have been installed and the gate has been fixed, painted and re-installed. There are two benches near the carport, making the space more welcoming. A small group, with the support of the trustees, is conducting an energy audit of the church and their first action step has been to insulate the door to the attic to improve the energy efficiency in the attic. Thank you to the volunteers who have helped the trustees complete these projects!

Pastor Lois is on sabbatical April 17 - May 7.

The Alexanderwohl Peace Committee in collaboration with the Board of Mission and Service invites you to a book study. Beginning on Wednesday, May 31 and meeting each Wednesday through the month of June from 7:00-8:30 p.m. we will read and discuss Raylene Hinz-Penner's new book, *East of Liberal: Notes on the Land*. The book is a memoir that includes research on genealogy, geology, history, farming, theology and more. **Sign up by Sunday, April 30** if you'd like us to order you a book for about \$20. Get your copy and start reading; come prepared for lively and meaningful discussions!

The **Peace Committee** also invites you to check out this event at **Bethel College tomorrow, April 17**, brought by the President of the Land Institute, Rachel Stoer, as she speaks about the future of food. She'll be the speaker at the 11:00 a.m. Convocation and again at 7:00 p.m., both in Krehbiel Auditorium. Click this link to read more: <https://www.bethelks.edu/article/land-institute-president-speak-future-food>

The total amount given in our Coin Buckets this year was \$297.31.

Thank You to all who gave! Also, another big Thank You to all the volunteers from our church, no matter what job you did to make the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale a success!

There is a list of new library books on the tables in the lobbies. Feel free to take one and get ready for your summer reading!

Amanda Castro and her mother Lorna Hakes have been busy growing all sorts of blooming things at the **Firebranch Farm**. They will be our presenters at **Senior Coffee on Friday, April 21 at 10:00 a.m.** They'll bring a few of their plants and tell us "The Story and Dreams of Firebranch Farm". You're invited!

Handicapped parking update - The trustees are happy to see that people are finding the concrete parking area to the south of the church a safe and useful area. However, to be welcoming to those with limited mobility, we will be placing "reserved for handicapped" parking signs in front of several stalls. No handicapped placard is necessary. The trustees ask that everyone work together to share these limited spaces with those that have the greatest need. Thank you!