

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

May 7, 2023

No. 19



Welcome to our worship service at Alexanderwohl!

This morning we go back to the Genesis story of the tree of life. God has blessed humanity with abundance when we don't hoard our resources. Eating in a way that promotes life is central to our relationship with God.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering *You Are Holy, You Are Whole* [VT 61] Mary Schmidt
 Planets Humming as They Wander [VT 175]
 We Dream of a Turning [VT 209]
 We Come [VT 225]

Welcome Bryant Miller

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship (excerpts of Psalm 104, adapted from VT 185)

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys,
giving drink to every wild animal.

***You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate.***

You bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine and bread to strengthen the human heart.
The trees of the field are watered abundantly.

***O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all.***

The earth is full of your creatures; they all look to you to give them their
food in due season.

***When you send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the
face of the earth.***

Prayer of Invocation

Gathering Hymns *For the Beauty of the Earth* VT 120
 God of the Fertile Fields VT 750

Peace Prayer+ Laura Voth

Children's Story		Erica Stoltzfus
Worship Music		Eric Schrag
Morning Prayer		Marilyn Unruh Flaming
Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings		First Fruits Giving
Offertory	<i>Andante Cantabile</i> ~Parks	Mary Schmidt
*Hymn of Dedication	<i>We Plow the Fields and Scatter</i> (vs. 1, 3)	VT 747

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading	Genesis 1:27-2:9, 2:15-17	Laura Voth
Message	<i>"The Tree of Life: Food for Life"</i>	Erica Stoltzfus
Song of Response	<i>Taste and See</i>	VT 467

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Benediction		Marilyn Unruh Flaming
*Postlude	<i>Christ Has Broken Down the Wall</i> [VT 174]	Mary Schmidt

*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: Marcia Brubaker

Greeters: North – Brian and Rachael Burkholder

South – Eric and Gretchen Schrag

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Nursery Staff: Tina Schrag, Levi Schrag, Tammy Flaming

Worship Technology: DeAlan Unrau, Colby Nafziger, Delton Voth

April 30 Attendance: SS – 113; Worship -- 155 in person, 8 Zoom

April 30 Offering: Sunday School -- \$45.72; First Fruits – \$5,890.92

Next Sunday, we will celebrate the dedications of Cody John Unrau and Mia Noel Unruh-Siebert and their parents. Pastor Caleb will offer a reflection on 2 Timothy 1:1-14.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for Pastor Lois as she concludes her first sabbatical period and prepares to rejoin congregational life this coming week.
- ❖ We pray for our congregation as well as Pastor Caleb and his family as we approach this pastoral transition.
- ❖ We pray for those who are navigating the challenges, limitations, and sense of loss with changes in health and the realities of aging.
- ❖ Pray For Our VBS Families: Lord, thank you for the families that will be a part of VBS. For those families who do know you, we pray their love for you would be strengthened at VBS. For those families who don't know you, we pray their lives will be transformed at VBS and that their hearts

will become on fire for you. Let relationships strengthen and grow with you at the center. We pray each family finds community and a place to belong. Thank you for families that will continually seek you above all else.

+*This week pray for: Rick and Sheryl Duerksen, Brady, Karyn and Felicity Peters, Andrea Schmidt, Dennis and Jan Schmidt, Jim and Connie Wiens*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 7

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Monday, May 8

5:45 pm – Board of Mission and Service

7:00 pm – Church Council

Tuesday, May 9

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Sunday, May 14

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship | Dedication of Children and Parents

COMING EVENTS

- May 19 Senior Coffee
- May 21 Bethesda's "Welcome Summer" Fundraiser at White Owl Barn
- May 26-29 Goessel Community Junior High at Camp Tawakoni
- May 31 Book Study begins
- June 5-9 Goessel Community Vacation Bible School at Alexanderwohl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Caleb is on a short vacation from May 4-9. Pastor Lois returns from the first portion of her sabbatical tomorrow, May 8. Contact one of the deacons for pastoral needs for the days prior to Lois' return.

We have received Caleb Yoder's letter of resignation as pastor at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church effective August 3, with his final Sunday at Alexanderwohl to be July 30. The church leadership is consulting with Western District Conference as we discern plans for pastoral transition. We will update you as we have more information to share, and ask for your prayers during this time of discernment. ~John Fast, Church Chair and Marilyn Unruh Flaming, Deacon Chair

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. Plan to join us!

The sign-up sheet is posted in the south lobby for volunteer service at New Hope Shelter, May 14-16. Meals will be delivered by the Young Adults, Route 15 and Friends and Followers Sunday school classes. The current needs list include: Teaspoons—used are fine, milk, pancake syrup, lunch meat, salad dressing, aluminum foil, toilet paper, saran wrap, sandwich bags, mayonnaise & Miracle Whip. Bring your items to the large box in the south lobby. Thank you for your support.

New Children's Bible: The Board of Christian Education will be purchasing the new children's story Bible produced by MennoMedia, *The Peace Table*, for the children's Sunday School classes and each family with preschool and elementary age children. *The Peace Table* includes stories that will correspond with the preschool/elementary Shine Sunday School curriculum for the next several years. The discounted price is estimated to be around \$30. If you would like to order a book, sign up on the sheets in either lobby **today (Sunday, May 7)**. Payment arrangements will be coordinated with individuals following this date.

AMC Library: Check out the display for **Author Spotlight of the Month, Lisa Wingate**, on the library table in the lobbies. Please consider purchasing and donating one of the books to the library that is listed on the title slips OR select a book from the title slip and place in suggestion box with your monetary donation (\$15 suggested amount) and the book will be purchased for you. Thanks for supporting the AMC Library!

In 1821, the Santa Fe Trail became America's first great international commercial highway, and for nearly sixty years thereafter was one of the nation's great routes of adventure and western expansion. Retired teacher **Janet Armstead**, education chairman of the Santa Fe Trail Association, will share her knowledge of the trail at **Senior Coffee, Friday, May 19, 10:00 am**. Plan to join us!

Bethesda is hosting its 2nd Annual Fundraiser at the White Owl Barn (2861 Comanche Rd) on **Sunday, May 21** from 5:00-7:00 pm. The evening features a silent auction, lawn games and a pulled pork meal. Suggested donations are \$15/plate for adults and \$8/plate for children 12 and under.



Get ready to launch into a VBS Adventure!

WHEN: June 5-9, 2023 from 8:30-11:30 am.

WHERE: Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church
in partnership with Goessel Church

WHO: All Children age 4 (by September 1)
- Current 6th Graders

There are many ways to volunteer and support Vacation Bible School this year! Please take a few moments to look at the opportunities listed below or **talk with** **Chrystiana** (chrystianamiller@gmail.com), **Bri** (briannaunrau@gmail.com), or **Raechel** (raechelboese@gmail.com) if you have questions.

SIGN-UP AND INVITE OTHERS!

Register online today at www.alexanderwhol.org, <https://vbspro.events/p/goesselvbs2023>. You can also fill out a paper registration form and return it to the box on the VBS table.

Pray for our leadership team and volunteers as they prepare materials and plan to welcome new faces. Look for more information soon about specific ways you can pray!

DONATIONS

Financial donations are a great way to be a part of VBS if you are not able to serve in person this year. Please head to the VBS table located at the back of the sanctuary to see specific ways you can donate today!

Please pay with cash or check (payable to Alex. Menn. Church marked for VBS) in the donation box at the back of the sanctuary, in the church office, or visit www.alexanderwohl.org and click on the "donate" button on the home page.

Volunteer Opportunities

We're still looking for the following volunteers- could you fill one of these positions?

- 2nd/3rd Grade Crew Leader
- 4th/5th Grade Crew Leader
- Childcare (age 23+)
- Substitute (do you have one or two days you would be available during the VBS week to fill planned or last minute staff absences?)
- Provide transportation in the church van for children to and from Goessel

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!