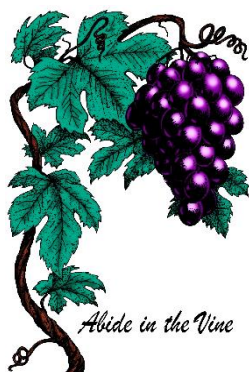


# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

May 21, 2023

No. 21



Welcome to our service at Alexanderwohl! This morning we focus on the letter to the Colossians. The writer reminds these early Christians to remember what they've learned about following Jesus together. As we recognize and celebrate with our graduates today, it's a great reminder for all of us!

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

### Gathering Music

Marcia Brubaker

*And I Will Raise You Up* ~Hobby [VT 641]  
*Sing Praise to God* ~Helman

### Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

### Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Vote of Affirmation for Sheryl Duerksen on the Board of Christian Ed

### Call to Worship and Invocation+

Psalm 105:1-5

**All: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Leader: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

**People: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

Leader: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

**People: Remember the wonderful works he has done,**

Leader: his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered.

**All: O give thanks to the Lord!**

### \*Gathering Hymn

*God of the Bible*

VT 420

### Children's Story

John Fast

### Morning Prayer

Pastor Caleb Yoder

### Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

#### Offertory

*When Peace Like a River* ~Hayes

Marcia Brubaker

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Caleb

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scripture

Colossians 2:1-8; 16-19

Colby Nafziger

### Reflection

"Remember what you've learned"

Pastor Lois

### Hymn

*Today We Sing with Thankfulness* (omit vs. 2)

VT 535

## Graduate Recognition

**\*Congregational Response**

VT 955

**Worship Music**

*Be Thou My Vision* [VT 549]

Youth

### **SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**\*Sending Song**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

VT 606

**\*Benediction**

VT 1068

**\*Postlude**

Marcia Brubaker

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* ~Jordan

\*All who are able are invited to stand.

+ The peace lamp serves as a visual reminder for us that we follow Jesus the Prince of Peace and believe in uncertain times that God's shalom will prevail.

**Song Leader:** Kyle Unruh

**Greeters:** North – Tim & Judy Goertzen; South – Sandy Duerksen

**Visual Arts:** Tina Schrag

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

**Worship Technology:** Myron Goertzen, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth

**May 14 Attendance:** Sunday School – 101; Worship -- 153 in person, 6 Zoom Households

**May 14 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$41.76; First Fruits – \$4,611.51

#### **Questions for Reflection –**

1. What are the core beliefs that give your life meaning and from which you take your identity?
2. What did you learn as a child about faith in Jesus that has stayed with you and contributed to your continued growth?

Next Sunday is Pentecost! Pastor Caleb will preach from Acts 2:1-21.

## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We pray for graduates in our church and community passing the milestones of completing 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school, college, or Master's work. May God empower each to continue to grow in their gifts and discover their vocation for the next season of life.
- ❖ We pray for the Jr Hi youth as they go to Camp Tawakoni next weekend. We're grateful for each student, for the counselors and especially for Laura Unrau and Michelle Unruh who have given faithful and excellent leadership to this ministry since 2015.
- ❖ VBS Prayer For Our Community: Lord, thank you for where you have placed us and allowed our roots to grow. We pray that our VBS will bring unity throughout the community. We pray our community will be transformed by your goodness and mercy. May the good news learned

at VBS extend beyond our church walls and reach the families in our community. Don't let the good news end after VBS ends, but be carried throughout our region for all the days to come. Allow our VBS to bring families, friends, co-workers, and kids closer together and closer to you.

*+This week pray for: Tim and Emily Boese family, Rodney and Martha Duerksen, Steve Goertzen and Rosemary Reimer, Marlin and Sheri Janzen, Delbert and Janine Peters*

## THIS WEEK

### **Sunday, May 21**

- 9:30 am – Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Worship | Graduate Recognition
- 1:00 pm – Bethesda Chapel with Pastor Lois
- 5:00–7:00 pm – Bethesda's fundraiser at White Owl Barn

### **Tuesday, May 23**

- 9:30 am – Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, May 24**

- 4:30 pm – Prayer Team, Conference Room

### **Friday, May 26**

- 12:00 pm – Junior high kids leave for Camp Tawakoni

### **Sunday, May 28**

- 9:30 am – Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Worship
- 11:45 am – Memorial service in the cemetery

## COMING EVENTS

- May 29 Church Offices closed for Memorial Day
- May 31 Book Study begins (Preface through Chapter 4) - Chapel
- June 5-9 Goessel Community Vacation Bible School at Alexanderwohl
- June 16 Senior Coffee

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We recognize and celebrate our 2023 graduates –**

### **High School:**

Caleb Burkholder  
Emma Schroeder  
Mallory Schroeder  
Jake Wiens

### **Exchange Student:**

Karl Raddatz

### **College:**

Julianna Schrag  
Luke Wiens

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Natalie Church  
Eli Gaeddert  
Jayley Schmidt

### **Graduate School:**

Jason Peters – Master's of Science in Education – emphasis in Math  
Jody Schmidt – Master's in Educational Administration

**Today -- May 21 -- Bethesda is hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraiser** at the White Owl Barn (2861 Comanche Rd) from 5:00-7:00 pm. The evening

features a silent auction, lawn games and pulled pork meal. Suggested donations are \$15/plate for adults and \$8/plate for children 12 and under.

**Goessel's Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum is busy making plans for 2024 to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1874 immigration of the Mennonites to the Goessel area.** The committee is kicking off the celebration this Memorial Day by honoring and thanking our ancestors for their Faith, Courage and Action by placing a flag on each of the immigrant's graves. There will be over 400 flags in the Alexanderwohl cemetery alone and many in the Goessel and Tabor cemeteries. We will be reusing the flags next year for Memorial Day and again in September or October so look forward to visiting the cemeteries to see them all aflutter.

With Kim Funk's retirement at Tabor Mennonite Church, there is a need to gather a team of folks (at least one person from each of the three local congregations) to help administer the Food Pantry. This would involve being available at specified times during which folks could come to pick up food boxes, helping to stock the shelves as donations are brought, and doing minimal record keeping. Required time will be kept to a minimum and shared between the three team members. Please talk to one of the pastors if you are interested or have questions.

### ***Memorial Services***

*Alexanderwohl Mennonite Cemetery – Sunday, May 28, 11:45 am*

*Goessel Cemetery – No service*

*Tabor Mennonite Cemetery – Monday, May 29, 10:00 am*



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** is an important outreach ministry in our community. This summer's VBS will take place June 5-9. You can make a difference in the lives of our children this summer. Please take a few moments to look at the opportunities listed below. **Talk to Chrystiana, Bri, or Raechel if you have questions.** Your help, donations, and prayers are appreciated very much!

## **PRAYER**

Your prayers are especially appreciated and a big encouragement to everyone involved with VBS. Will you cover this ministry in prayer?

## **MONETARY ASSISTANCE**

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 to see specific ways you can donate today!

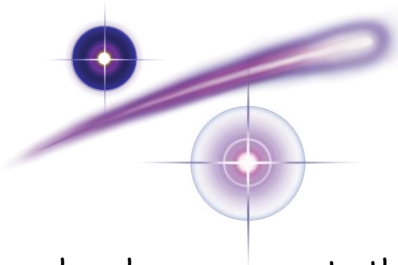
Please pay with cash or check (payable to Alex. Menn. Church marked for VBS) in the donation box at the back of the sanctuary, in the church office, or visit [www.alexanderwohl.org](http://www.alexanderwohl.org) and click on the "donate" button on the home page.

# God Sightings



We are encouraging congregation members to look for and report *God Sightings* along with the children and staff at Stellar VBS!

God Sightings are everyday clues that God is **present, passionate, and powerful**. When you look for them, you will discover that you catch sight of **God's love and goodness** every single day in **unexpected, powerful ways**.



In the weeks leading up to Vacation Bible School, notice *God Sightings* throughout your week. Then, anytime you're at church, you can go to the back of the sanctuary, **pick up a paper star, write your God Sighting, and stick it on the starry night sky**.

It will become a collection of testimonies of all the ways **God is working and present in our lives!**

Contact a VBS Director with questions!