

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

May 28, 2023

No. 22

*"I will pour out my Spirit
on all people."*

Joel 2:28, NIV



Welcome to Alexanderwohl as we celebrate Pentecost! We remember Pentecost as the birth of the church, but Pentecost is an ever-repeating pattern of discovering new life and fresh breath from God's Spirit, who is poured out without distinction upon all kinds of people. We have to be prepared to discover God's presence where we don't expect and hear God's voice from people we might not expect.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Holy, Holy, Holy* ~Burkhardt Karen Unruh
As the Wind Song Through the Trees ~Burkhardt

Welcome Pastor Caleb Yoder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+

Leader: God of wind and wings, gather us in this space.

People: Light up our hearts for you.

Leader: God of flames and fire, emblaze us with your passion.

People: May your presence burn within us.

Leader: God of resurrection, raise us from the ashes.

People: We live now as people born anew, discovering life where there was once death.

***Gathering Hymn** *Could It Be That God Is Singing* VT 42
Spirit of the Living God VT 740

Children's Story Karl Brubaker

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois Harder

Worship Music *Restless* Peters family
 ~Audrey Assad & Matt Maher [VT 741]

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* ~Wasson Karen Unruh

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Acts 2:1-21 Bryant Miller

Message "Unexpected new life" Pastor Caleb

Song of Response *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

VT 56

Responding to the Gospel (open sharing)

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Sending Song**

We Praise Thee, O God

VT 91

***Benediction**

Pastor Caleb

***Postlude**

Karen Unruh

*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: Renae Peters

Greeters: North – Marvin & Rosalie Duerksen
South – Delbert & Janine Peters

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Nursery Staff: Janice Voth, Emma Schroeder, Laura Voth

Worship Technology: Steve Unruh, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

May 21 Attendance: Sunday School – 101; Worship -- 145 in person, 8 Zoom Households

May 21 Offering: Sunday School -- \$29.55; First Fruits – \$5,770.00

Questions for Reflection – Acts 2:1-21

1. What story do you have of hearing the Spirit speak through someone you didn't expect?
2. What story do you have of finding new life where there once was death?
3. What does it look like to open ourselves to the movement of the Spirit?

Next Sunday we begin a worship series called "Seeking Peace Together" that will follow the same themes that the children and junior high youth are learning in their Sunday school classes. The first dimension of biblical shalom is peace with God. Pastor Caleb will preach from John 3:1-21.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We give thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit, celebrated in the life of The Church on Pentecost.
- ❖ On this Memorial Day weekend, we thank you God for the "great cloud of witnesses" that surrounds us. We remember our friends and loved ones who have died and we give thanks for their life and love.
- ❖ We remember and give thanks for those who have given their lives in the pursuit of peacemaking.
- ❖ We pray for Ilene Franz as she spends some time at Bethesda Home receiving services that will help regain her strength.

- ❖ We pray for the residents in Uvalde, TX who are observing the one-year mark of the shooting death of 19 children and 2 teachers.
- ❖ Prayer For Our VBS Kids: Thank you for all the children who will walk through our doors for VBS. May their hearts be open to hear what it is you would have for them. Let their love for you grow. Let this be a place in which they feel comfortable, safe, and heard. Give them the courage to ask questions. Let them leave with an understanding of who you are and the love that you have for them. Give them the boldness to share this good news with their families and friends after VBS!

+*This week pray for: Jim Boese, Denise Duerksen, Evan and Maryanne Esau family, Peter and Katherine Goerzen family, Madeline Meier*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 28

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

Monday, May 29

Church offices closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 30

- 5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday, May 31

- 9:30 am – Staff Meeting
- 5:00 pm – Board of Deacons Meeting
- 7:00-8:30 pm – Book Study *East of Liberal* in the Chapel (Read Preface through Chapter 4)

Friday, June 2

- 1:30-4:30 pm – Health Ministries Mobile Unit in Goessel

Sunday, June 4

- 9:30 am – Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Worship

COMING EVENTS

- June 5-9 Goessel Community Vacation Bible School at Alexanderwohl
- June 12 Goessel Blood Drive, 1:00 – 6:00 pm at Goessel Church
- June 16 Senior Coffee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sheryl Duerksen was unanimously affirmed for the Board of Christian Education position last Sunday. Thank you, Sheryl, for your willingness to serve!

Reading Under the Stars! AMC summer reading program June 1 – August 31 for preschool through adult. How many AMC library books can you read this summer? Let's see who reads the MOST books in each age group to qualify for a grand prize! Look for a flyer in your mailbox with more information. Questions? Contact DeLora Funk 316.727.9763.

Blood Drive: Start your summer with plans to donate blood on June 12, between 1:00-6:00 pm at the Goessel Church. June is a busy month, so extra effort will be needed for a successful drive. Make a single unit donation or a Power Red donation to help meet the needs. Sign up online at redcrossblood.org for an appointment. For more information contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081 or Rosi Reimer 620-367-2418

Goessel's Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum is busy making plans for 2024 to celebrate the 150th 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.

Memorial Services

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

Goessel Cemetery – No service

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

We Remember...

Marlin Ratzlaff – July 25, 2022

Gene Hastings – September 9, 2022

Marvin Voth – October 22, 2022

Dan Bergen – December 19, 2022

Milton Duerksen – December 22, 2022