

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

July 9, 2023

No. 28



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Living in peace with creation is connected to our well-being and relationship with God. How can we return to God's original intention for our relationship to creation? Today we also hear reflections from those who were involved in different facets of the Mennonite Convention this past week.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Jason Peters

God Who Touches Earth with Beauty [VT 550]

Touch the Earth Lightly [VT 145]

God of Wonders [VT 178]

Welcome

Pastor Caleb Yoder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+

One: In worship God bends down to the dust, and we are formed anew.

Many: We breathe in the divine breath and remember that we are living beings.

One: In worship we give thanks for the wonders of God's creation:

Many: flowing waters and fruit-filled trees, animals of the field, and birds of the air.

One: In worship we gather with each other,

Many: our helpers and partners in this life of faith.

One: Let us give thanks for this time of worship.

Many: Let us receive God's breath of life.

*Gathering Hymns

Morning Has Broken

VT 495

Like a Rock

VT 63

Children's Story

Eric Schrag

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois Harder

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Sharing about Convention

Cambry, Natalie, Eli, and Colby

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Worship Music *En bateau* ~Debussy

Jason and Renae Peters

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Lois

Sharing about Convention Kris Schmucker, Nathaniel Schmucker
Scripture Genesis 2:4-9, 15-23 Brendon Nafziger
Reflection "Taking Care of God's Garden" Pastor Caleb
Song of Response *The Garden Needs Our Tending Now* VT 788
Responding to the Gospel (Open Sharing)

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Sending Song** *At the Dawn of Your Creation* VT 179
***Benediction** Pastor Caleb
***Postlude** *Earth and All Stars* ~Johnson Jason Peters

*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.

This service used resources from *Current: Seeking Peace Together* from the Shine Curriculum, written by Joanna Harader.

Song Leader: Renae Peters

Greeters: North – David and Aileen Esau
 South – Steve and Sandy Banman

Visual Arts: Anita Boese

Nursery Staff: Tina Schrag, Levi Schrag, Beth Yoder

Worship Technology: DJ Flaming, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

July 2 Attendance: Sunday School – 104; Worship -- 129 in person, 6 Zoom Households

July 2 Offering: Sunday School -- \$40.10; First Fruits – \$6,299.84

Questions for Reflection – Genesis 2

1. What is a small step you can take to better care for God's earth?
2. What gives you anxiety when it comes to ecological concerns or climate change?
3. What gives you hope?
4. (Share joys and concerns in your own life)

Next Sunday we will continue the theme of peace with creation. Pastor Caleb will preach from Isaiah 55:6-13.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We give thanks for a renewing and transforming week at convention.
- ❖ We pray for Delany Duerksen as she goes to Camp Mennoscah this week and for Darla Banman and other summer staff as they work at Camp.

- ❖ We grieve the damage being done to the Earth by climate change; we ask for wisdom and the will to make needed changes.
- ❖ We give thanks for the wheat harvest and for the growing fall crops.

+*This week pray for: Sheryl Dunavan, Kevin and Bonnie Gaeddert family, Lynell and Vickie Hiebert, Dennis and Annette Quiring, Craig and Jody Schmidt family*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 9

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

Monday, July 10

5:45 pm – Board of Mission and Service

Tuesday, July 11

9:30 am – Staff Meeting
5:45 – Board of Christian Education
7:00 pm – Children’s Ministry Team, Conference Room

Sunday, July 16

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

COMING EVENTS

July 21 Senior Coffee – See announcement for details
July 19-22 Serve at New Hope Shelter, Newton
July 28 AMC Library Children’s Reading Night
July 30 Pastor Caleb’s farewell Sunday | Noon potluck meal
Aug 11-13 WDC Annual Assembly at Tabor Mennonite Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the month of July children ages 3 years through high school will meet all together at the shelter house for Sunday school for a time of inter-generational learning. The 2-year olds will meet for Sunday School in Room 18 as usual.

We need evening volunteers to help at New Hope Shelter July 19 - 22. The sign-up sheet is in the south lobby. The meals will be served by Upper Room, Route 15, Seekers & Sojourners and Young Adult Sunday school classes. Thank you for helping others in need.

The Alexanderwohl Board of Christian Education is looking for someone to head up our Mentor/Mentee Program. The Mentor/Mentee Program Coordinator helps to match up junior high youth with adult mentors and provides overall support to all mentor/mentee pairs. There are many resources available to draw from in the coordinator book that will be passed on to the next coordinator, including timelines, previous forms used, and activity ideas. At the same time, in this role, there is freedom to shape the program as you would envision it! Contact Gretchen Schrag or anyone on

the Alexanderwohl Board of Christian Education if interested. We hope to have this position filled by September.

The garden sharing table is in the south lobby. Everyone is welcome to bring extra garden produce to share with others - just leave it on the table when you come each Sunday morning. See Megan Duerksen for more information.

Our guests for Senior Coffee on Friday, July 21 will be Doug Neufeld and Loren Balzer. They will be sharing about the origins of the Harvest Brigade and the custom harvesting industry in the Inman/Buhler area. Plan to join us at 10:00 am for a great morning!

Reading Under the Stars! AMC summer reading program June 1 – August 31 for preschool through adult. Keep reading!

Friends, family, and guests will be coming to Goessel for Country Threshing Days! Would you help us (The Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum) feed them on Saturday, August 5? Bakers, servers, and cashiers are needed. Please see the volunteer sheet in your mailbox and respond by July 23. The posters in the lobbies also share more ways to help. For further questions, contact Aileen Esau (367-2358 or daesau@gmail.com). Thank you!

Tabor Food Pantry: The purpose of the Tabor Church Food Pantry is to provide food at no cost to families in need in the Goessel Area. This is a ministry supported by the Goessel area churches and community. With the retirement of Kim Funk, with the support of the Goessel Ministerial Alliance, a bit of restructuring has happened. A team has been formed to assist with the food pantry. Team members are Sara Hiebert, Lindsey Lightner, Elaine Unruh, Janice (Delton) Voth and Pam Abrahams. General hours for pick-up will be: 1st Thursday of the month, 9am-11am and 4th Tuesday of the month, 5pm-7pm. Please call Tabor Church to set up a time to get your food. 620-367-2318.