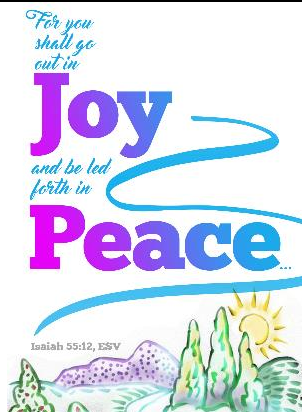


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

July 16, 2023

No. 29



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Today we remember that we are deeply connected to the natural world, and that God's promises are for all of creation. We rejoice with creation as we seek to live in peace with creation and with hope in times of climate uncertainty.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *When Morning Gilds the Skies* ~Hobby Marcia Brubaker
All Things Bright and Beautiful ~Held
This Is God's Wondrous World ~Hobby

Welcome

Pastor Caleb Yoder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+

One: Let us seek God, who can be found.

Many: Let us call upon God, who is near.

One: As the thirsty soil receives rain from heaven,

Many: let us receive the word of God offered in this place.

One: Let us praise God joyfully with a loud voice!

Many: For if we are silent, the stones would shout out.

One: Let us burst into song with the mountains

Many: and clap our hands with the trees.

All: Let us worship God together with joy.

***Gathering Hymn** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High* (vv. 1,2,4,7) VT 81

Children's Story

Bonnie Gaeddert

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois Harder

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *How Great Thou Art* ~Carter Marcia Brubaker

***Hymn of Dedication** *For the Beauty of the Earth* (vv. 1-2) VT 120

Scripture

Isaiah 55:6-13

Glen Unrau

Message

"Rejoicing with creation"

Pastor Caleb

Song of Response

Touch the Earth Lightly

VT 145

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Responding to the Gospel (Open Sharing)

***Sending Song** *You Shall Go Out with Joy*

VT 847

***Benediction**

Pastor Caleb

***Postlude** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High* ~Rice Marcia Brubaker

*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: Kyle Unruh

Greeters: North – DJ and Marilyn Unruh Flaming
South – Anita Boese

Visual Arts: Shari Wiens

Nursery Staff: Brody Schroeder, Emmalyn Schroeder, Rosie Gaeddert

Worship Technology: Myron Goertzen, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth

July 9 Attendance: Sunday School – 97; Worship -- 131 in person, 7 Zoom Households

July 9 Offering: Sunday School -- \$31.46; First Fruits – \$3,203.00

Questions for Reflection – Isaiah 55

1. What does it mean to you to say that God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts?
2. What does it look like to remember that we are a part of God's creation, not separate, and to feel the joy present in creation?
3. (Share joys and concerns in your own life)

Next Sunday the theme will be "Celebrating the Harvest; peacemakers share the bounty of the earth" from Leviticus 23:33-43 and Deuteronomy 16:3-15, with Pastor Lois preaching.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for Jaxson Hein, Myra Peters and Rosie Gaeddert as they go to Camp Mennoscah this week and for all camp staff as they guide campers in their faith formation.
- ❖ We pray for the family of James Harmon (married to Adella Nikkel) who passed away on July 4 at the Cheney Golden Age Home. James is a brother-in-law of Ted and Kermit Nikkel.
- ❖ Congratulations to Aimee and Jake Smucker on the birth of their son, Elias Daniel Smucker, born on July 5. Grandparents are John and Paula Flaming and Barb Goering and Joe Smucker.

- ❖ We are grateful for the time that Braxton, Amanda and Natalie Church spent at the Colorado Children's Hospital this past week. They received some answers for medical questions and are grateful for prayers and support. Please continue to pray as they now navigate new diagnosis and what that means for Braxton's life and continued frequent follow-up with medical team members.
- ❖ We continue to pray for Ronda Lee's daughter, Maty, as she recovers from surgery.
- ❖ We pray for those who are traveling in these summer weeks.
- ❖ We pray for Tim Goertzen and his crew as they work with MDS in Dawson's Creek, KY this month.
- ❖ We pray for the residents in Vermont who have experienced devastating flooding this past week.

+This week pray for: Kendall Hiebert, Lucas and Michelle Hiebert, Kris and Blake Schmucker, Cameron Stultz, Elizabeth Summerlot

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 16

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Monday, July 17

5:00 pm – Board of Deacons

Tuesday, July 18

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Friday, July 21

10:00 am – Senior Coffee

Sunday, July 23

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 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 4-6 | Goessel's Country Threshing Days |
| Aug 11-13 | WDC Annual Assembly at Tabor Mennonite Church |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for Senior Coffee on Friday, July 21, at 10:00 am. Our guests 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.

Our farewell for Pastor Caleb and Beth, Austin and Josiah on July 30th will include a potluck meal. Everyone is invited to participate. As we also anticipate extra guests joining us for this special time, please bring generous portions of a main dish and either a salad or dessert.

For the remainder of July and continuing through the first three Sundays of August, 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. The children will begin regular fall classes on August 27.

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 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.

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!

Reading Under the Stars!

The AMC summer reading program continues through August 31. Several new books have been added to the library; stop by and check out a book by your favorite author and add to your list of books read!

- Lisa Wingate, *The Language of Sycamores (Tending Roses Series)*
- Charles Martin, *Where the River Ends*
- Rachel Hauck, *Sweet Caroline*
- Cynthia Ruchti, *A Fragile Hope*
- Amy Sorrells, *Lead Me Home & Then Sings My Soul*
- Marlena Fiol, *A Journey Home: The Inner Turmoil of a Mennonite Hero*
- C. W. Anderson, *The Billie and Blaze series (Junior Fiction)*
- Todd Hafer, *Easter A to Z (Children's)*
- Sonia Sotomayor, *Just Ask! Be different, Be brave, Be you (Childrens)*
- Mary Schertz, *Luke (Commentary)*

The Board of Mission and Service would like to thank the congregation for the great response to our Midweek Meal Survey. Your responses will help us plan, allocate resources, and make Wednesday night meals possible. Thanks again for taking time to respond.

Thank you for the donations for CORE Community! The items that were brought are helpful to the "Getting Ahead" students and their families.