

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

July 23, 2023

No. 30



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Today we reflect on the ancient Hebrew tradition of Sukkot or the Festival of Booths. This 7-day celebration of the harvest was, and still is, one of the three main festivals for the Israelites. It celebrates God's abundant provision.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *St. George's Windsor* ~Payne Mary Schmidt
Improvisation on "Old Hundredth" ~arr. Jordan
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come ~McDonald

Welcome Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+

One: Let anyone who is thirsty come!

Many: We come to receive the living water.

One: Let anyone who is hungry come!

Many: There is enough food for all.

One: Let anyone who is tired come!

Many: God calls us to a time of holy rest.

One: Let anyone who is grateful come

Many: and join this celebration!

One: Thirst and hungry, tired and grateful,

All: we come together now in worship.

***Gathering Hymns** *Uyuai mose (Come All You People)* VT 2
Come, Ye Thankful People (vv. 1, 2) VT 123

Children's Story Delbert Peters

Morning Prayer Karl Brubaker

Worship Music Jill Siebert and Braden Unruh

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Pastorale* ~arr. Wolff Mary Schmidt

***Hymn of Dedication** *Sing to the God of Harvest* (vs. 1) VT 122

Scripture Deuteronomy 16:13-15; Leviticus 23:33-43 Noah Schrag

Message "Celebrating the Harvest" Pastor Lois
Song of Response *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* VT 747

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Responding to the Gospel (Open Sharing)
***Sending Song** *Rain Down* VT 703
***Benediction** Pastor Lois
***Postlude** Mary Schmidt

*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: Braden Unruh

Greeters: North – Bob Boese
South – Garrett and Brittany Hiebert

Visual Arts: Shari Wiens

Nursery Staff: Ann Hiebert, Natalie Church, Laura Voth

Worship Technology: Steve Unruh, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth

July 16 Attendance: Sunday School – 100; Worship -- 129 in person, 8 Zoom Households

July 16 Offering: Sunday School -- \$279.89; First Fruits – \$11,734.44

Questions for Reflection – Deuteronomy 16:13-15; Leviticus 23:33-43

1. What are the special "Festival" days that you and your family observe?
2. How do they help to honor the sacredness of every day?
3. (Share joys and concerns in your own life)

Next Sunday the theme will be "Your Kingdom Come" from Matthew 6:5-13, with Pastor Caleb preaching.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for DJ and Marilyn Unruh Flaming and her family at the passing of her mother Elva Unruh early on the morning of Wednesday, July 19, at Kidron-Bethel. We thank God for her long and full life and that Marilyn and her sister Sondra were able to be at her bedside when she died.
- ❖ We pray for Noah Schrag as he goes to Camp Menno'scah this week and continue to pray for the staff at camp.
- ❖ We pray for Pastor Caleb, Beth, and the boys as they travel and spend time with family in Iowa. We pray especially for Galen and Gloria, Caleb's parents, as evidence of cancer has reappeared for Gloria and she anticipates more treatment.

- ❖ We pray for others who are traveling in these days and weeks. Grant safety, rest and relaxation.
- ❖ We pray for Ilene Franz as she recovers at Bethesda.

+*This week pray for: Chase Flaming, Mark and Janice Nikkel, Jason and Renae Peters family, D. John Schroeder, Kyle and Justine Unruh family*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 23

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Tuesday, July 25

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Friday, July 28

8:00 pm – Reading Under the Stars! Children's Reading Night --

Sponsored by our library

Sunday, July 30

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship – Pastor Caleb's farewell

Noon Potluck Meal

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Aug 4-6 | Goessel's Country Threshing Days |
| Aug 7 | Goessel Community Blood Drive |
| Aug 11-13 | WDC Annual Assembly at Tabor Mennonite Church |
| Aug 18 | Senior Coffee |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Caleb, Beth, Austin and Josiah have taken a trailer load of belongings to Caleb's folks in Iowa for storage. They'll spend some days there with family and Caleb will return to the office on Thursday, July 27.

The AMC library is inviting all children to a twilight outdoor story time on July 28 at 8pm. Meet at the covered driveway for stories, crafts & snacks under the stars. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Questions? Contact Sandy Duerksen at 620-386-4434.

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.

The intergenerational Sunday school classes for children and youth will continue through August 20. *Snacks are needed* for July 30, August 6, August 13 and August 20. Please contact Pastor Lois if you're able and willing to provide a snack for any of these dates. The 2-year olds will meet for Sunday School in Room 18 as usual. The children will begin regular fall classes on August 27.

Join us for the WDC Annual Assembly! It's not just for church leaders! It's for everybody! **August 11-13, 2023 at Tabor Mennonite Church**, Newton, KS. We'll worship, work, eat great, local food, enjoy local music, connect with new and old friends, experience faith formation for all ages, and have many choices of great workshops. We hope you'll agree Annual Assembly is a great place to learn about and grow in faith in Christ, care for the broader church, and worship our God of love and justice with God's people in Western District Conference! If you would like to be a delegate for Alexanderwohl, contact Pastor Lois.

The garden sharing table is in the south lobby. Everyone is welcome to bring extra garden produce to share with others.

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? The bakers have been lined up, but **we still need volunteers for the food service times in the Elementary School and the Preparatory School.** Please see the volunteer sheet in your mailbox and respond by this Sunday, 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!

Blood Drive: Between your summer activities and vacations, please make time to donate blood on August 7, between 1:00-6:00 pm at the Goessel Church. Give a single unit or Power Red double unit donation. Help those who can't take a vacation because of health reasons. Sign up at redcrossblood.org. For more information contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081.

The worship schedule for the month of August will be:

- **Sunday, August 6** – Gail Graber will bring the message from Genesis 26:12-33 about Isaac and his neighbors. The theme is, "Peacemakers sometimes walk away from conflict".
- **Sunday, August 13** – ElRoy Wiens will bring the message from Genesis 9:12-16 and Revelation 22:1-5 about focusing on the beauty that surrounds us. The theme is "look for beauty to find hope. God has promised us beauty now and in the afterlife".
- **Sunday, August 20** – Pastor Lois will bring the message from I Samuel 25:1-35, the story of Abigail and David. The theme is "Peacemakers act creatively to prevent violence".
- **Sunday, August 27** – Eric Schrag will bring the message from 2 Kings 6:8-23. This is the story of Elisha and the soldiers. The theme is "Peacemakers eat with their enemies".