

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

July 30, 2023

No. 31



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Today we celebrate Pastor Caleb, Beth, Austin, and Josiah's final Sunday with us. We remember God's faithfulness as we reflect on the prayer that Jesus taught, which envisions all dimensions of peace.

CELEBRATION OF PASTOR CALEB'S MINISTRY

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* ~Manz Karen Unruh
 From All That Dwell Below the Skies ~Michael Burkhardt
 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow ~Burkhardt

Welcome Pastor Caleb Yoder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+ (from Psalm 141:1-2)

One: We call upon you, O God.

Many: Come quickly!

One: Let our prayers rise up as incense before you.

Many: Let our lifted hands be a sacrifice to you.

One: Holy One in heaven,

Many: We praise your name.

One: We pray for your reign to come.

All: We offer our worship.

***Gathering Hymn** *Come, Thou Fount* VT 563

Children's Story Julianna Schrag

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois Harder

Song of Prayer *O Lord, Hear [Our] Prayer* VT 685

Worship Music *Nothing is Lost* [VT 653] Caleb and Beth Yoder

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Karen Unruh

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord ~Behnke [VT 547]

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Matthew 6:5-13 Denise Duerksen

Message "Praying for God's kingdom" Pastor Caleb

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE**Remembering Our Life Together****Words of Appreciation** Myron Hiebert, John Fast, Marilyn Unruh Flaming**Litany of Release** Heidi Regier Kreider
Western District Conference Minister***Sending Song** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* VT 419***Benediction** Pastor Caleb***Choral Blessing** Vocal Ensemble
The Lord Bless You and Keep You ~Lutkin [VT 846]***Piano Postlude** *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* [VT 840] 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.

This service used resources from *Current: Seeking Peace Together* from the Shine Curriculum, written by Joanna Harader.**Song Leader:** Marcia Brubaker**Vocal Ensemble:** Jill Siebert, Justine Unruh, Lois Harder, Chrystiana Miller, Karen Unruh, Laura Unrau, Kyle Unruh, Travis Duerksen, Braden Unruh, Bryant Miller, DeAlan Unrau**Greeters:** North – Craig and Jody Schmidt
South – Arlin and Maretta Buller**Visual Arts:** Shari Wiens**Nursery Staff:** Janice Voth, Emma Schroeder, Kim Voth**Worship Technology:** DeAlan Unrau, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth**July 23 Attendance:** Sunday School – 85; Worship -- 119 in person, 5 Zoom Households**July 23 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$20.10; First Fruits – \$23,377.11**Questions for Reflection – Matthew 6:5-13**

1. What line of the Lord's Prayer most intrigues you? What have you missed before because of its familiarity?
2. What ways of praying are most meaningful to you or help you feel connected to God?
3. What is your prayer for Alexanderwohl at this time?

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for all those busy preparing for Threshing Days this coming weekend. May they have energy and stamina for the tasks at hand.

- ❖ We continue to pray for Ronda Lee as she travelled to the Boston, MA area on Friday to be with her daughter, Maty, who continues to recover from major surgery. We also lift up Maty's baby, August, and her husband and mother-in-law who have tested positive for Covid.
- ❖ We pray for college students anticipating moves to campus in these next weeks, and especially for families adjusting to being "empty nesters".
- ❖ We pray for Pastor Caleb, Beth, Austin, and Josiah in the midst of big life changes in the coming days and weeks.
- ❖ We pray for those whose lives are imperiled because of the heat. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

+*This week pray for: Roy and Karen Monroe, Nicholas Peters, Kent Peters, Susan Voth, W. Jay and Beverly Wilbeck*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 30

9:30 am – Sunday School
 10:30 am – Worship
 Noon Potluck Meal

Monday, July 31

Pastor Caleb's final day in the office

Tuesday, August 1

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Sunday, August 6

9:30 am – Sunday School
 10:30 am – Worship – Gail Graber will preach

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
Aug 27	Regular fall Sunday school classes begin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Lois will be out of the office August 4-11. She will return to the office on Monday, August 14. Gail Graber will be the pastor on-call for emergency situations. For other pastoral care needs, contact a deacon or the church office.

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”.

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

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.

Hello friends at Goessel Community VBS – Thank you so much for your generous VBS donation! Your generosity is going to enable kids who couldn't afford camp be able to attend. What a special gift! It is our prayer that God blesses you as you have blessed us and our campers! Love, the Echo Ranch Bible Camp Staff (PO Box 210608, Auke Bay, AK 99821).

Last minute preparations are underway for Goessel's Country Threshing Days this coming weekend! A few workers are still needed for serving food and cashiering in the Preparatory School at the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum on Saturday, August 5. If you could help, please contact Aileen Esau TODAY (367-2358 or daesau@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Litany of Release and Blessing for Pastor Caleb Yoder
Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church – Goessel, KS
July 30, 2023**

Conference Minister: Today we give thanks for the ministry of Caleb Yoder and bless him for the journey ahead as he concludes his role as Pastor at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church. This is a time of mixed emotions: gratitude for ministry well done and good memories created, sadness at the ending of a pastoral relationship, and uncertainty in a time of change. In the midst of this, we are grateful for God's constant and unending faithfulness and love.

Pastor Caleb: It has been a great privilege to serve Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church as your Pastor. I give thanks for ways God has worked among us, and the opportunities we have had to grow in faith together.

Conference Minister: God has provided for this congregation through Caleb's ministry. As Caleb ends his role as Pastor, do you as members of Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church now release him from his pastoral responsibilities and relationships?

Congregation: With the help of God, we do. We give thanks for faithful and fruitful ministry together. We have shared together in joys and sorrows, in celebration and in struggle. God has been good.

Conference Minister: Caleb, do you release the congregation from its loyalty to you as pastor? Do you release the members from turning to you and depending on you to provide the pastoral ministries they seek?

Pastor Caleb: With God's help, I do. When I meet congregation members in the future, it will be not as their pastor, but as a brother and friend in Christ. I pray that all of us will be filled with the knowledge of God's will through the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that we may live lives worthy of Christ and pleasing to God in every way, bearing fruit in every good work.

Conference Minister: Now, may God guide you and your family, Caleb, as you follow the leading of the Spirit on the next steps of your journey. And may God guide you, the congregation and leaders of Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church in the days to come.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, and God our Creator, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

Amen.