

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

August 13, 2023

No. 33



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

This morning we'll focus on the beautiful signs that God provides that give us hope for the future. ElRoy Wiens will bring the message as he helps us to think about how to be aware of God's beauty that surrounds us.

(Photo Credit: Amy Wiens)

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Jason Peters

All Creatures of Our God and King ~arr. Kartsonakis

How Majestic Is Your Name ~arr. Hayes

I Will Enter His Gates / This Is the Day ~arr. Hayes

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+

One: O God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Many: You have set your glory above the heavens. You established the moon and the stars. (Ps. 8)

One: Your voice is over the waters; your voice is powerful and full of majesty.

Many: Your voice flashes forth flames of fire and shakes the wilderness. (Ps. 29)

One: We praise you God, with our whole heart!

Many: We give thanks for your steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 138)

One: The heavens tell of your glory!

Many: And the earth proclaims your handiwork.

All: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. (Ps. 19)

*Gathering Hymns

Like a Rock

VT 63

For the Beauty of the Earth (vv. 1, 2, 5)

VT 120

Children's Story

Aileen Esau

Morning Prayer

Jim Schmidt

Worship Music

Millers and Unruhs

Put Peace into Each Other's Hands [VT 485]

My Life Flows On [VT 605]

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Genesis 9:12-16; Revelation 22:1-5 Justine Unruh

Message "Beauty" ElRoy Wiens

Song of Response *God Who Touches Earth with Beauty* VT 550

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Prairie Sunrise* ~Leavitt Jason Peters

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

***Sending Song** *Oh, Have You Not Heard* VT 668

***Benediction** Pastor Lois

***Postlude** *Great Is the Lord* ~arr. Ham 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.

Song Leader: Kyle Unruh

Greeters: North – Myron and Ann Hiebert

South – Kris and Blake Schmucker

Worship Music: Bryant and Chrystiana Miller, Kyle and Justine Unruh

Visual Arts: Shari Wiens

Nursery Staff: Aileen Esau, Cambry Duerksen

Worship Technology: Myron Goertzen, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

August 6 Attendance: Sunday School – 83; Worship -- 106 in person, 8 Zoom Households

August 6 Offering: Sunday School -- \$21.53; First Fruits – \$3,644.84

Questions for Reflection – Genesis 9:12-16; Revelation 22:1-5

1. *Why do you think God set in place beautiful items, people and objects for us to appreciate?*
2. *Why do you think Jesus began so many of his teaching messages with "Heaven is like..."?*

Next Sunday the theme will be "Abigail and David" from I Samuel 25, with Pastor Lois preaching.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for Matthew, Laura, Lillian and Greyson Voth as they adjust to life without the physical presence of Matthew's mother Linda Coons Voth whose celebration of life service was held yesterday.

- ❖ We're thankful for the Western District Assembly that has gathered this weekend and for the fellowship, education, and worship that has taken place.
- ❖ We're grateful for the success of Threshing Days last weekend! For all who came to participate and for all who worked hard to host and bring it to fruition.
- ❖ We thank you God for the ministry of our church camps. Thank you for the campers and the staff who, together, open channels for receiving your Holy Spirit's Love and Life.
- ❖ We pray for students, parents, teachers and support staff who will enter or return to school this week.
- ❖ We pray for those who have lost their lives or are experiencing other losses from wildfires, especially in Maui this past week.
- ❖ We pray for individuals and nations who are in turmoil because of political unrest. We think of Ecuador, Israel/Palestine, Pakistan and other places around the world.

+This week pray for: Marty and Jan Howe, DeAlan and Alma Unrau, Frances Wistrom, Caleb, Beth, Austin and Josiah Yoder, Margie Young

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 13

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Tuesday, August 15

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Friday, August 18

10:00 am – Senior Coffee

Sunday, August 20

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

COMING EVENTS

Aug 18	Senior Coffee
Aug 27	Discussion/Potluck in Shelter House - Youth ministry at AMC
Aug 27	Regular fall Sunday school classes begin
Sept 4	Church offices closed for Labor Day
Sept 10	Teacher Dedication and First Grade Bibles
Sept 10	Noon Teacher Appreciation Meal
Sept 24	Community Service Day
Oct 15	Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for Senior Coffee on Friday, August 18, at 10:00 am when Nancy Stucky will present a program about the history of the church membership records, and share stories about work to digitize the current membership and cemetery records.

BREAKFAST POTLUCK on Sunday, August 27 for High School youth, their parents, teachers and anyone who is interested in the faith formation of our youth! **Come to the Shelter House at 9:00 a.m.** with your breakfast treats to share. **We'll meet until 10:15** to sing, pray, talk about what we feel God calling us to do and be as a youth group in this congregation. We'll discuss leadership, (both youth and adult) ideas for midweek youth group, hopes and goals for youth ministry in our setting, shape and scope of our times together, the gifts and passions brought by each one at this time and in this place, etc. Come with yummy food, "out-of-the-box ideas" and mostly open hearts and minds. Contact any Board of Christian Education member or Pastor Lois with questions.

It's time to update our group subscriptions to the magazine **Anabaptist World**. The cost for each subscription is \$39. If you have been part of our group subscription and wish to continue or if you would like to participate as a new reader, please return to Dwight M. Flaming a completed form (found in the lobby and also attached to the church email on Wednesday) plus your check of \$39 payable to Alexanderwohl by **August 27, 2023**.

The worship schedule for the remainder of August will be:

- **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.

Praise the Lord for the cooler temperatures for Country Threshing Days last weekend, and most importantly, for all our volunteers! More than 70 persons from ages five to in their nineties helped to prepare food, transport it, serve and cashier in the food lines, clean tables, haul trash, clerk in the store, set up and clean up for the event and more. Threshing Days could not have happened without you! Thank you! ~The Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum