

# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

September 3, 2023

No. 36



## Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

This morning we'll be introduced to a new series using a resource called the Narrative Lectionary. This is a way of reading the Bible that gives us a look at the larger Biblical story (the narrative) and God's work in the world and through His people.

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

<b>Gathering Music</b>	<i>Chanson</i> ~Wagner	Jared Janzen
	<i>Consecration Hymn</i> ~arr. Wilson	
<b>Welcome</b>		Pastor Lois Harder
<b>Opportunities for Celebration and Service</b>		
<b>Call to Worship and Invocation+</b>		VT 915
<b>*Gathering Hymns</b>	<i>We Praise the Word of God</i>	VT 404
	<i>Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken</i>	VT 405
<b>Peace Prayer</b>		Aileen Esau
<b>Children's Story</b>		Karl Brubaker
<b>Morning Prayer</b>		Marilyn Unruh Flaming

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

<b>Scripture</b>		Nancy Stucky
<b>Video</b>	<i>"The Story of the Bible"</i>	The Bible Project
<b>Message</b>	<i>"The Big Picture"</i>	Pastor Lois Harder
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>God of the Bible</i>	VT 420

## SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

<b>Responding to the Message</b>	(Open Sharing)	
<b>Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>Antiphon</i> ~Young	Jared Janzen
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		Pastor Lois
<b>*Sending Song</b>	<i>I Love to Tell the Story</i>	VT 761
<b>*Benediction</b>		Pastor Lois

**\*Postlude**

*Trumpet Tune ~Young*

Jared Janzen

\*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:** Marcia Brubaker

**Greeters:** North – Steve Goertzen and Rosi Reimer  
South – Myron and Ruth Goertzen

**Visual Arts:** Shari Wiens

**Nursery Staff:** Bri Combs, Janice Voth

**Worship Technology:** DJ Flaming, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth

**August 27 Attendance:** Sunday School – 106; Worship -- 132 in person, 7 Zoom Households

**August 27 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$39.85; First Fruits – \$5,146.99

### Questions for Reflection –

1. *What is it about the Bible that's the most confusing or even frustrating for you?*
2. *What is your favorite scripture text? Why?*

Next Sunday the text will be Genesis 2:4b-25, the Garden of Eden. Pastor Lois will preach.

## *Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We pray for Jenny and John Fast and their family as they grieve the passing of Jenny's father, Walt Friesen, on Saturday, August 26 at Schowalter Villa. A service will be held at a later date.
- ❖ We pray for David and Aileen Esau and their family as they grieve the passing of David's mother, Zola Esau, on Thursday, August 31 at Kidron Bethel. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, September 9, at 11:00 am at Emmaus Mennonite Church, rural Whitewater.
- ❖ We continue to pray for Norman Schroeder and others who live at Bethesda. Thank you for the opportunity for Leona to live in the duplexes now that she's moved in and getting settled.
- ❖ We thank you God for the healing that Steve Unruh has experienced this week after his hip replacement. We pray for continued healing for him.
- ❖ We're grateful for the ideas, suggestions and enthusiasm that came from last Sunday's gathering. We continue to pray for guidance as we seek youth leaders for midweek.
- ❖ We pray for those suffering from storms, floods, fires or other disasters that the earth is experiencing.

+*This week pray for: Erin Brubaker and Dylan Slabach, Carol Eck, John and Paula Flaming, Carmelita Goossen, Steve and LaNae Unruh*

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, September 3

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

1:00 pm – Worship Service at Bethesda with Pastor Lois leading

### Monday, September 4

Church offices closed for Labor Day

### Tuesday, September 5

9:00 am – Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, September 6

4:30 pm – Prayer Team, Conference Room

7:00 pm – Board of Trustees, Conference Room

### Sunday, September 10

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Teacher Dedication, First Grade Bibles and Peace Table Bibles

Noon Teacher Appreciation Meal

## COMING EVENTS

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Sept 15 | Senior Coffee                                     |
| Sept 20 | Children's Midweek Staff Orientation, 7:00 pm     |
| Sept 24 | Community Service Day (no regular church service) |
| Oct 1   | Worldwide Communion                               |
| Oct 4   | Midweek Begins                                    |
| Oct 1-4 | Serve at New Hope Shelter, Newton                 |
| Oct 7   | Goessel Harvest Festival                          |
| Oct 15  | Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk                  |
| Oct 29  | Mission Sunday                                    |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Teacher Appreciation Lunch – September 10** following the worship service. Deadline to sign up is **today**, September 3.

**Community Service Day September 24<sup>th</sup>** -- If you have a suggestion that you'd like to propose for a community service project, please fill out a submission form found in both the north and south lobbies. Turn the form into Judy Goertzen, Board of Mission and Service Chairperson, or to the church office by **Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

**Planning is underway for Wednesday night meals!** We are so thankful for everyone who indicated they would be willing to help! Now it's time for you to sign up for dates that will work best for you. There are sign-up sheets in the south lobby with possible dates and time slots. Thank you so much!

**We would like to get a count of how many plan to eat the Wednesday night fellowship meals.** Please sign up on either lobby bulletin board or call the church office – 620.367.8192. RSVP by Monday, September 25 to be included in the count for the fall semester.

**You can now return church library books** in either lobby in specially marked book return slots in the mailboxes. Thank you—AMC Library Committee

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

### **Introduction to the Narrative Lectionary--**

Next Sunday, September 10, we'll begin using the Narrative Lectionary as the resource for sermons. This link will take you to a website that describes it well. <https://www.workingpreacher.org/narrative-faq> This "big-picture" way of reading and understanding the Biblical stories can offer us ways of seeing God's creativity and interaction with Creation. This, in turn, can offer ways for us to connect with God and find ourselves within God's Story as we identify patterns and responses (both divine and human) across time and cultures. Pastor Lois will kick off the series next Sunday and then Pastor Rosie Jantz, formerly on the pastoral team at Tabor Mennonite Church, will continue on September 17. We'll have our Community Service Day on September 24. In October Pastor Tim Schrag will continue the series, preaching on October 1 (also World Communion Sunday), 8, 15 and 22. October 29 will be Mission Sunday; Tim Goertzen, Dwight M. Flaming and Delbert Peters will share about various missional projects and experiences. In November we'll hear from Pastor Brett Klingenberg as he continues the Narrative Lectionary series. November 26 will be our Thanksgiving Sunday. Pastor Lois will plan and lead worship services this fall as we "hang our hats" on this new lectionary structure and hear from these gifted preachers! Join us for this time of Spirit-led worship and learning together!