

# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

September 10, 2023

No. 37



## Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

We begin hearing the Biblical stories in some new ways as we look for the over-arching message of who God is, who humanity is and how God has created and interacted, loved and been tested by his creatures. God is faithful! Today we return to The Garden.

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

### Gathering Music

Sherie Klassen, Kristin Shaffer, Karen Unruh  
*Flute Duets* ~arr. John F. Wilson  
*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*  
*Arioso Psalm 19 (The Heavens Declare)*

### Welcome

Marilyn Unruh Flaming

### Opportunities for Celebration and Service

### Call to Worship and Invocation+

VT 884

### \*Gathering Hymns

*Praise to the Living God* VT 204  
*Breathe on Me, Breath of God* VT 737

### Children's Story

Laura Unruh

### Teacher Appreciation | Bible Dedication

### Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois Harder

### Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

*Offertory Sonata in A minor* ~Telemann Sherie and Kristin  
**\*Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scripture

Genesis 2:4b-25 Marilyn Unruh Flaming

### Message

"Back to The Garden" Pastor Lois

### Song of Response

*Creating God, Your Fingers Trace* VT 427

## SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### Responding to the Message (Open Sharing)

### \*Sending Song

*Morning Has Broken* VT 495

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Lois

**\*Postlude**

*The Lord Lift You Up* ~Patty Shelly

Karen Unruh

(Patty Shelly passed away September 4, 2023 after a 3-year struggle with cancer)

\*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:** Braden Unruh

**Greeters:** North – DeAlan and Alma Unruh

South – Duane and Karen Unruh

**Visual Arts:** Shari Wiens

**Nursery Staff:** Kim Voth, Rosie Gaeddert

**Worship Technology:** Myron Goertzen, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth

**September 3 Attendance:** Sunday School – 86; Worship -- 118 in person, 14 Zoom Households

**September 3 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$81.38; First Fruits – \$7,875.34

### Questions for Reflection –

1. *Did you hear anything new in this story today?*
2. *What is our (humanity's) current role as God's Creatures on Earth?*

Next Sunday the text will be Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7. Pastor Rosie Jantz will preach.

## *Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We pray for David and Aileen Esau and family as they continue to grieve the loss and celebrate the life of David's mother, Zola Esau, following her memorial service yesterday.
- ❖ We pray for the family and wide circle of friends who are grieving the death of Patricia Shelly. We are grateful for Patty's expansive giftedness which she shared generously with her friends and family as well as the wider church.
- ❖ We pray for those who are healing from illness or injury - in body, mind or spirit.
- ❖ We pray for leadership for our youth.
- ❖ We are grateful for cooler temperatures and the possibility of rain in the forecast. We confess our complicity in the warming of the planet and we ask for wisdom and willingness to make life-giving changes.

+*This week pray for: Laird Goertzen, Eldon S. and Betty Schmidt, Elizabeth Schmucker, Eulalia Schroeder, James and Janice Schroeder*

## THIS WEEK

### 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

### Monday, September 11

5:45 pm – Board of Mission and Service, Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm – Church Council, Conference Room

### Tuesday, September 12

9:00 am – Staff Meeting

### Friday, September 15

10:00 am – Senior Coffee – See Announcement for details

### Sunday, September 17

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

## COMING EVENTS

- 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 1-3 Serve at New Hope Shelter, Newton
- Oct 7 Goessel Harvest Festival
- Oct 15 Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk, 1:30 pm
- Oct 29 Mission Sunday

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We extend a warm welcome to Laurien Berger** from Magdeburg, Germany! Laurien is staying with Karl and Marcia Brubaker and is a junior at Goessel High School.

**Today - Teacher Appreciation Lunch** following the worship service.

**Midweek begins on Wednesday, October 4!** Registration information was emailed to families of children and youth last week. Please register your child(ren) by Sunday, September 17 on our church website ([www.alexanderwohl.org](http://www.alexanderwohl.org)). Click on the "Midweek Registration" button. You may also register via the QR code located on the posters in the lobbies.

**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. ~AMC Library Committee

**Plan to join us for Senior Coffee on Friday, September 15, at 10:00 a.m.** Delbert and Janine Peters will show pictures from Glacier National Park and Hells Canyon from a vacation this summer. This bus trip also included stops at landmarks educating about the Oregon Trail, and the tensions this caused with the Plains Indians. There were surprising stops at a contaminated copper mine, Mormon tabernacle, historic railroad spots and several museums. Come enjoy some photos and conversation!

**The memorial service for Walter Friesen, father of Jenny Fast, will be Saturday, September 23 at 11:00 a.m.** at Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston. It will also be live streamed at [www.whitestonemc.com](http://www.whitestonemc.com). Family visitation will be Friday, September 22, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Whitestone.

**Update for Norman and Leona Schroeder** – Norman is in skilled nursing at Bethesda. Leona is at P.O. Box 37, #407 E. Marion Ave. Her phone number is the same.

**We need volunteers to sign up to serve at New Hope Shelter on October 1-3.** The meals will be served by Seekers & Sojourners, Route 15 and Friends & Followers Sunday school classes.

**The Summer Reading Program “Reading Under the Stars” has been completed** and was a GREAT success with 30 participants and a total of 217 books read!

Lillian Voth won the prize for the Preschool – Kindergarten age group.

No readers for 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade group.

Myra Peters won the prize the for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade group.

Pat Schmidt won the prize for the High School and Adult group.

Congratulations to the prize winners! Please stop by the library after the church service to pick up your prize. Thank you for supporting the AMC Library!

## Litany for September 10, 2023 – Education Sunday

**Leader:** God sent Jesus into the world to show us how to live as God's people.

**Children:** Who will tell us about Jesus?

**Teachers | Parents:** We will tell you about Jesus! We want to share the stories of Jesus with you, so that as we worship, pray and learn about Jesus you might be inspired to love him and live like him!

**All:** As we hear and share God's story together, may our hearts be opened to love Jesus.

**Leader:** We are all created, known, and loved by God, and each person's faith journey is unique. The Bible offers guidance for this journey, revealing God's work in the world and how to be part of the ongoing story of the people of God.

**Aileen:** Our denomination has recently released a new Storybook Bible called *The Peace Table*. Many people in our church gave money so that each family with young children could have a copy of this beautiful new Bible in their home – it's for the whole family to share and read together!

**Bonnie:** It tells about the creation of the earth – the seas, the land, plants, animals and people. It gives rules for living at peace with God and each other. This Bible doesn't just have stories and rules. It has songs that express many feelings – sadness, anger, doubt, fear and joy. It even has a love song! Much of this storybook Bible is about Jesus, who was sent by God into the world. Jesus healed people. He taught and told many stories. He even did amazing miracles!

**Janine:** When our students become first graders, we present this Bible to them so that they have a Bible of their very own. It's called the *Adventure Bible* and it's designed for children, to help them learn how to read and use the Bible in their daily lives. We have two first graders this year – Lillian Voth and Ellie Unrau. This Bible also teaches about the 10 Commandments – the rules God gave people for how to live together peacefully. It shows you some verses to read when you feel a certain way... like worried, sad, angry or lonely. It also has a part that tells you about love – God's love for us, and how God wants us to love other people. It tells you things that Jesus taught about and where to read about them. And it even has a list of famous children in the Bible! This Bible also has a timeline of Jesus' life, and where to read about each event. We hope and pray that this Bible will help you to spend time reading and learning about Jesus.

**Teachers | Parents:** As we teach and guide our children in their faith formation we will study God's Word together and talk about how it connects to our lives.

**All:** We thank God for those who teach! We will pray for our teachers and parents as they prepare lessons, nurture relationships and open their hearts to the wisdom of God's Spirit.

# **Christian Education Teachers and Leaders 2023-2024**

## **Adult SS Class Teachers**

**Friends & Followers:** Steve Banman, Karl Brubaker, Aileen Esau, John Fast, Ann Hiebert, Delbert Peters

**Co-Workers of Faith:** Norma Duerksen, Marj Shoemaker, Matt Voth, Delbert Peters, Lynel Unrau, Pastor Lois

**Route 15:** Arlin Buller, DJ Flaming, Mary Schmidt, Gary Lyndaker

**Seekers & Sojourners:** Class Members

**Upper Room:** Brendon Nafziger, Lynell Hiebert

**Young Adults:** Renae Peters, Tim Goertzen

## **Elementary SS Class Teachers**

**Two's:** Susan Nafziger, Janice (Delton) Voth,  
Helper: Alma Unrau

**Three's & Four's:** Sandy Duerksen, Maryanne Esau, Laura Voth  
Helper: Radene Unruh

**Kindergarten:** Pat Schmidt, Janine Peters

**First – Fourth Grade:** Chrystiana Miller, Justine Unruh, Kara Burkholder  
Helper: Alyssa Burkholder

## **Junior High SS Class Teachers**

Karl Brubaker, Eric Schrag, Matthew Voth

## **High School SS Class Teachers**

Sandy Banman, Brian & Rachael Burkholder, Ann Hiebert, Brody & Emmalyn Schroeder, Pastor Lois

## **Children's Midweek Teachers**

**Preschool/Kindergarten:** Susan Nafziger, Emmalyn Schroeder, Maggie Schroeder

**1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Aileen Esau, Ann Hiebert, Suzanne Meier, Laura Unrau, Jade O'Neill

**Kid's Praise Leaders:** Kevin Gaeddert, Jason Peters, Eric Schrag, Nathaniel Schmucker, Emmalyn Schroeder, Delton Voth

**SonShine Singer Leaders:** Bryant & Chrystiana Miller, Kyle & Justine Unruh

**Nursery Child Care:** Kim Voth, Loretta Wiens, Janice (Delton) Voth

**Children's Midweek Coordinators:** Maryanne Esau, Chrystiana Miller, Justine Unruh

## **Junior High Midweek**

Kevin and Bonnie Gaeddert

## **High School Midweek**

Nathaniel Schmucker and others

## **Adult Bible Study**

Pastor Lois Harder, Tim Schrag

## September 24<sup>th</sup> Community Service Day, 9 am- 12 noon

Listed below are the Community Service Day projects that have been identified for this year. Sign-up sheets are available in the back of the sanctuary, in the same order as listed. There are also sign-up sheets for childcare and for providing cookies for the noon meal. A meal will be provided in the Shelter House beginning at 11 am and will be available until everyone returns from their project. Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the meal.

**As part of our Community Service Day, we would like to support Camp Menno's M & M Project. Any funds over expenses for the meal will be donated to the matching gift fund-raising project.**

**Everyone is welcome to eat and fellowship together, whether or not you are involved in a service project.**

1. Cut wood - leader Rod Peters
2. Mulch at Bethesda Butterfly Garden - Nancy Stucky
3. Help with childcare infant - 3 yr olds - Kim Voth
4. Help with children's activities 4 yr olds - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade - Lizzie and Nathaniel Schmucker, Nate Huie
5. Yardwork, home in Goessel. Clean gutters, home in Goessel - Brendon Nafziger
6. Yardwork, home in Goessel. Removal/disposal of dead tree, rural Goessel - Dwight M. Flaming
7. Paint gazebo at Bethesda - Tim Goertzen
8. Worship Service at Bethesda - Lois Harder
9. Prepare freezer meals in church kitchen - Janice Funk Voth
10. Tie comforters for MCC and other MCC projects - Alma Unrau & Janine Peters
11. Gutter cleaning, brush removal, yard mowing, tree trimming, painting shutters & porch posts at a home in Goessel - Matt Voth
12. Mowing and trimming yard, trimming trees, guttering cleaning at a home in Goessel - Matt Voth
13. Prep and serve lunch at Shelter House - Judy Goertzen & Jody Schmidt
14. Childcare sign-up
15. Provide cookies for noon meal