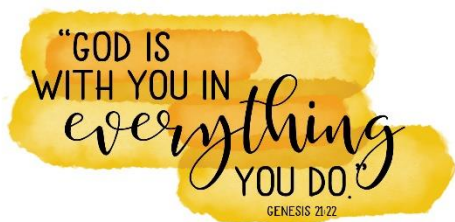


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

September 17, 2023

No. 38



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

We welcome Pastor Rosie Jantz this morning who will help us to hear a familiar story in some new ways. Abraham and Sarah encounter some other-worldly visitors and receive a gift that was beyond their wildest imaginations.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *There Are Many Gifts* [VT 374] Mary Schmidt
 Joys Are Flowing like a River [VT 375]
 All the Room Was Hushed and Still [VT 493]
 How Can I Say [VT 388]

Welcome Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+ Psalm 95:1-7 [NRSV]

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

Many: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

One: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

Many: let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

One: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Many: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

One: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

Many: O come, let us worship and bow down,

One: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

Many: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

***Gathering Hymns** *Here I Am to Worship* VT 227
 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens VT 529

Children's Story Chrystiana Miller

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois

Worship Music *Waterfall* VT 763

Jr Hi Class and Eric Schrag

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Be Thou My Vision* ~arr. Tonioli Mary Schmidt
***Prayer of Dedication** *You Are All We Have* VT 701

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Genesis 18:1-15 and 21:1-7 Gretchen Schrag
Message Pastor Rosie Jantz
"Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac: The Promise Fulfilled"
Song of Response *The God of Sarah Praise* VT 190

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Responding to the Message (Open Sharing)
***Sending Song** *Go, My Children* VT 830
***Benediction** Pastor Lois
***Postlude** *The Lord Lift You Up* [VT 832] 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.

Song Leader: Renae Peters

Greeters: North – Delbert and Janine Peters
South – Brian and Rachael Burkholder

Visual Arts: Shari Wiens

Nursery Staff: Ann and Myron Hiebert

Worship Technology: DeAlan Unrau, Colby Nafziger, Delton Voth

September 10 Attendance: Sunday School – 108; Worship -- 144 in person, 9 Zoom Households

September 10 Offering: Sunday School -- \$34.59; First Fruits – \$5,807.00

Questions for Reflection –

1. *Why was the story of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac remembered?*
2. *What was the Good News for them and the Old People of God?*
3. *How does this story impact or intersect with your story? What's the Good News for us today?*

Next Sunday is our Community Service Day – don't forget to sign up today (if you haven't already) for the project you'd like to help with! We'll enjoy lunch together after the projects are completed.

Welcome, Pastor Rosie Jantz! Here's her bio:

I moved to Kansas from a small farm in Central Illinois when I came to Hesston College in 1970. I am in the middle of six children. My parents, Milton J. and Barbara Briskey Beachey, worked hard on our small farm in order to put us all through at least one year of college. The rest was up to us. After graduation, I began working in Hesston's admission department. Before I left the College (38

years later in 2013), I had married my late husband, Kent Jantz, and we had raised 2 wonderful boys of our own. During my working career at Hesston College, I experienced a sense of call into pastoral ministry. I give some credit to mentors who encouraged me and gave me opportunities to lead Biblical Literature study groups and eventually help teach the class. I fell in love with teaching and learning, which began a whole new perspective of God in the Old Testament and the connections to the stories of Jesus in the New Testament. This fueled my desire to accept the invitation to join Tabor Mennonite Church's pastoral team, and to take the necessary training and mentoring toward ordination two years later. I love experiencing the Bible as a Story of God's relentless love and pursuit to create a People out of all peoples. I Love to Tell The Story!

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We are grateful for the recent rains.
- ❖ We pray for those who are making difficult life decisions and transitions, whether it's young parents making decisions for their children, college graduates looking for jobs, or elderly people managing the changes that life demands. We pray for your guidance and peace, God.
- ❖ We pray for those whose lives have been upended by disasters - earthquakes, hurricanes, fires or political upheaval. May your Spirit of comfort and care be present and may we all have awareness of ways we might be helpful and attentive.

+This week pray for: Ryan and Patricia Blankenship family, Chelan and Megan Duerksen family, Drew Lindeman, Brody and Emmalyn Schroeder, Bane Spurlin

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 17

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Monday, September 18

4:00 – Prayer Team

5:15 pm – Board of Deacons, Conference Room

Tuesday, September 19

9:00 am – Staff Meeting

5:30 pm – Board of Worship, Chapel

Wednesday, September 20

7:00 pm – Children's Midweek Staff Orientation, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 24

9:00 – 12:00 – Community Service Projects (no regular church service)

11:00 am – Lunch served in the Shelter House

COMING EVENTS

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 20 Senior Coffee
Oct 22 Fundraiser Meal for Mennonite College Student Ministry Team
Oct 29 Mission Sunday
Nov 19 GMA's Goessel Community Thanksgiving Meal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come to the Children's Midweek Kickoff, Wednesday, October 4. Special guest will be Denise Duerksen, cycle enthusiast, sharing her faith story, "Biking Across Kansas: Mission Impossible—God Possible!" Activities will start with singing: ages 3 through Kindergarten in Room 15 and Grades 1 through 5 in the Chapel. Parents and others are invited to join us in the Foundation Room to hear Denise at 6:45. Children will be dismissed from the Fellowship Hall at 7:45 p.m.

Midweek begins on Wednesday, October 4! Please register your child(ren) as soon as possible on our church website (www.alexanderwohl.org). Click on the "Midweek Registration" button. You may also register via the QR code located on the posters in the lobbies.

Wednesday night meals – If you are willing to bring dessert, help serve or clean up sign up in the south lobby for dates that work for you.

If you 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 fall semester.

We need volunteers to sign up in the south lobby 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. You can also bring current need items to the large box in the south lobby by **October 1**. These items include: paper towels, milk, napkins, bathroom cleaner, Pine-sol/All purpose cleaner, plastic food storage bags, sandwich bags, hand dish washing soap, 55 gallon trash bags, and 30 gallon trash bags.

The annual Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk is less than a month away. This year's route (between 1 and 6 miles) will begin at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church on Sunday, **October 15 at 1:30 p.m.** Find a donation envelope on the literature table in the foyer or from Karl Brubaker and start your fundraising today! Donations this year will go to support MCC and the local Tabor Church Food Pantry.

Thank you to Sandy Duerksen for providing the wonderful bulletin board display in the elementary hallway. It is very much appreciated !

Thank you to all who shared produce at our Garden Sharing Table this summer. Additionally, thank you to those who picked up produce each week. We'll do it again next year!

Thank you to Shari Wiens who has provided us with beautiful, fresh flowers each Sunday morning in August and September!