Volume LXIX November 12, 2023 No. 45



Welcome to Alexanderwohl! And welcome back to Pastor Brett! This morning we will delve into the prophet Hosea. Hosea's prophetic task was to remind the people that Yahweh God was their only God. Hosea wanted to "apply that word to the life of his people in a time when its meaning had been virtually lost." (Hosea introduction NRSV)

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music Air ~ Gordon Young Jared Janzen

A Festive Trumpet Tune ~Douglas Wagner

Welcome Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+ Excerpts from Psalm 145

One: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever

and ever.

Many: Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

All: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

One: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Many: The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

One: The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

Many: The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who

Many: The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

All: My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

*Gathering Hymns We Sing to You, O God VT 80

To God Be the Glory VT 84

Children's Story Renae Peters

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

ScriptureHosea 11:1-9Matthew VothMessage"A Living Message"Pastor Brett

Song of Response Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

VT 518

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Beautiful Savior ~arr. John Wilson Jared Janzen

*Prayer of Dedication

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Song of Sending O God, Our Help in Ages Past (vs. 1,2,3,6) VT 203

*Benediction Pastor Lois
*Postlude Album Leaf ~Gordon 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: Kyle Unruh

Greeters: North – Jeremy and Maggie Schroeder South – Dwight and Tammy Flaming

Visual Arts: Anita Boese

Nursery Staff: Maryanne Esau and Myra Peters

Worship Technology: Myron Goertzen, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth **November 5 Attendance**: Sunday School – 88; Worship -- 156 in person;

9 Zoom Households

November 5 Offering: Sunday School -- \$28.75; First Fruits - \$5,601.66

Next Sunday Pastor Brett will preach from the prophetic book of Isaiah chapter 5:1-7; 11:1-5, "Isaiah's Vineyard Song" in which Israel is pictured as a vineyard. God looks for the fruit of righteousness but finds only injustice. God promises a faithful king who will judge with righteousness.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- We pray for Hesston College faculty, staff and students as the Board of Directors has recently announced institutional shifts.
- We pray for our church board members and for the Church Council as they discern and invite new members, shape the budget for 2024, and give attention to the transition of a new pastor coming in January.
- We pray for DJ and Marilyn Unruh Flaming as well as for Justine Unruh and her parents, Scott and Cindy Erb, as they travel to attend the celebration of life services for family members (Moses Lake, WA and Shickley, NE respectively).

- We pray for Judy Goertzen as she receives chemo treatments over the coming weeks to lower the risk of recurring breast cancer.
- We thank you for creating us with bodies that heal! Thank you for the healing that Lois Janzen has experienced in the last couple of weeks.
- +This week pray for: Josh Hein, Donna Beth Ingersoll, LeRoy and Tina Schmidt, Marj Shoemaker, Delton and Janice Voth

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 12

9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship

Monday, November 13

5:45 pm - Board of Mission and Service

7:00 pm - Church Council

Tuesday, November 14

9:00 am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 15

5:45 pm - Fellowship meal served

Midweek Activities

Friday, November 17

10:00 am - Senior Coffee with Nora and Forrest Miller

Sunday, November 19

9:30 am - Sunday School

10:30 am - Worship

5:00-6:30 pm – GMA's Community Thanksgiving Meal

6:00 pm – HS Youth bowling at Bluejay Lanes in Hillsboro

COMING EVENTS

| Nov 23-24 Nov 26 | Church Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Service (no Thanksgiving Day service) |
|---------------------|---|
| Dec 3 | First Sunday of Advent |
| Dec 3 | Newton Community Children's Choir Concert at AMC |
| Dec 6-9 | Serve at New Hope Shelter |
| Dec 9 | Daughters of Grace Christmas Brunch |
| Dec 10 | A Service of Lessons and Carols |
| Dec 10 | Christmas Brass and Elbiata Community.Concert |
| Dec 15 | Senior Coffee at 3:00 pm |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plan to join us for Senior Coffee on Friday, November 17, at 10:00 am when Nora and Forrest Miller from Newton will share their "Harvey County Road Adventure" with us. Come for food and fellowship!

Attention high school youth, gear up for a fun night of bowling, Sunday, November 19 at Bluejay Lanes in Hillsboro! Meet at the youth house at 6 pm. Bring \$5-10 for snacks and we'll be back around 9 pm. As always, bring your friends for a fun night of strikes, spares and gutter balls! Community Thanksgiving Meal -- Sunday, November 19 between 5:00-6:30 pm at the Goessel Elementary gym. There are signup sheets on the bulletin board in both lobbies to help bring food and to be a worker.

Daughters of Grace are planning a Christmas brunch on December 9 and are looking for volunteers to decorate a Christmas-themed table for that morning. If you are willing to share your creative talents in this way, please sign up in the south lobby.

During the Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 31, there will be a time of fellowship with donuts and cider. Children will be invited to pick up their snacks and go to their SS classes. Junior high, high school, college age and adults are invited to mingle and fellowship during this hour.

The preschool through 5th graders enjoyed our Midweek Fall Harvest Party on Wednesday, October 26! Thank you to Bryant Miller & Brendon Nafziger for a beautiful hayrack ride view of the countryside! Many thanks to the Junior High Students for planning and leading fall activities for us in the Shelter House, like a Pumpkin Matching Game, We "Whale" Love Jesus fishing game, Jesus is Purrrfect cat-themed ball toss game, We Are Glowing with Jesus' Love glow stick ring toss game, and a Throw Your Love at Jesus candy corn-themed corn hole game. The kids had a blast! Thank you also to the High School students for their assistance, our adult Midweek staff members for their enthusiastic help all evening, and Kevin & Bonnie Gaeddert for their leadership!

The 2024 commemorative 150 Years of the Mennonite Migration calendars have arrived! These calendars are filled with interesting Mennonite historical tidbits and include event dates for the 150th celebration of Mennonites coming to America. They are great for Christmas gift-giving! On November 12 & 19, there will be a table in the south lobby following the worship service to purchase your calendars for \$15 plus tax. Calendars will also be for sale at the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum gift shop. For more information contact Sandy Duerksen 620.386.4434.

The Christmas Giving Tree

Jesus' love was the greatest gift that God has ever given to humanity. That love continues to inspire us to gift each other with God's grace and love. The Goessel Ministerial Alliance and the Citizens State Bank are sponsoring a "Christmas Giving Tree" to do just that. This tree endeavors to help with some of the expenses of Christmas for those families in need. We invite all parents who feel they could use a little help to fill out an application listing their children by name, age, and some gift suggestions with clothing sizes. Besides parents, other people that are aware of needs for children should also fill out the application form.

Applications will be available at the Goessel Elementary and High School offices, the Goessel City Office, the Crossroads Credit Union and the Citizens State Bank. All applications will need to be turned in by Friday, November 17 to the Elementary School office or in a sealed envelope marked "Christmas Giving Tree" at the Citizens State Bank. Each child's name turned in will get 1 tag on the tree with their age, sex and gift description. The names of the children will not be on the tag.

The tags will be available on the tree at the Citizens State Bank on Tuesday, November 21. All the gifts will need to be brought back to the Bank by Monday, December 11. The gifts should be wrapped and the bank personnel will assist with the "checking in" process. The gifts will then be distributed by the Ministerial Alliance.

It is our goal that everyone has a blessed and happy Christmas, both the giver and the receiver. We hope that each of our congregations may enter into this ministry opportunity.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the one of the pastors.