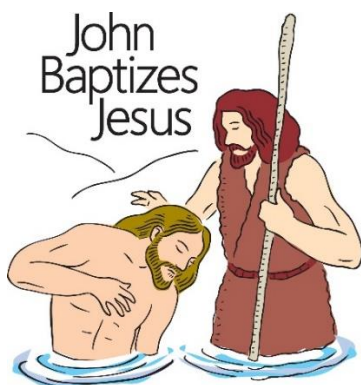


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXX

February 18, 2024

No. 7



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Today is the first Sunday in Lent. This year the Lectionary uses the gospels of Mark and John to tell about this part of Jesus' journey. Today we'll hear about his baptism, his time in the wilderness and the beginning of his public ministry. We'll also take Communion together.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* ~Wood Marcia Brubaker
The King of Love My Shepherd Is ~Behnke

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer+

based on Psalm 25:1-10

One: Teach us your pathways, O God – our eyes and our souls are trained on you.

Many: **For you are the greatest guide, and your map is always good.**

One: Other paths have left us lost; other ways have left us confused.

Many: **You guide us along the trail of your mercy, drawing sinner and saint down this well-worn way.**

All: ***All your paths are love, made smooth by your steadfast presence. We are led into your truth by following the tread of your feet.***

***Gathering Hymn**

God Is Here Among Us

VT 62

Children's Story

Chrystiana Miller

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois

Worship Music

Psalm of Hope ~Ramsey

Chancel Choir

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *I Know God Loves Me* ~Behnke (*Gott ist die Liebe*) (VT 158)

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Mark 1:9-15

Megan Duerksen

Prayer of Confession

One: God, on Ash Wednesday, we remembered our humanity, our fragility, our limits, our sinfulness, our need for repentance. Today, we come to you with this fresh on our minds as we continue our Lenten journey.

Many: Be with us in this wilderness.

One: We so often focus on the difficulty of our walk with Christ.

Many: Forgive our self-focused minds.

One: Forgive us, Lord, when on our journey, we forget your extensive, covenantal love for the world.

Many: May we partner with you and your church to remember.

All: We are all beloved.

Song of Response

Spirit of God! Descend (vs. 1, 4, 5)

VT 557

Service of Communion

Pastor and Deacons

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Song of Sending

I Know Not Why God's Wondrous
(vs. 1, 3, 4)

VT 590

***Benediction**

Pastor Lois

***Postlude** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* ~Behnke (VT 812) Marcia Brubaker

*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: Julianna Schrag

Chancel Choir Director: Renae Schmidt Peters

Greeters: North – Carol and Donley Duerksen

South – Steve Goertzen and Rosi Reimer

Visual Arts: LaNae Unruh

Nursery Staff: Susan Nafziger, Laura Voth

Worship Technology: DeAlan Unrau, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

February 11 Attendance: Sunday School – 92; Worship -- 140 in person; 17 Zoom Households

February 11 Offering: Sunday School -- \$18.53; First Fruits – \$2,467.21

Next Sunday is the second Sunday in Lent. Open Road, the men's ensemble from Bethel College, will lead us in worship with their music and **join us for a potluck lunch.** Our High school youth will also participate in the service. Pastor Lois will preach, focusing on Mark 8:31-38; Jesus is teaching his disciples about the cost of discipleship.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

❖ Thank you, God, for this season of Lent when we are called to reflect and remember our humanity/humility in relation to your sovereignty and

steadfast love. Grant us wisdom as we strive to follow Jesus' examples of bringing your kingdom here to earth, as it is in heaven.

- ❖ We pray for Colby Nafziger as he attends Snow Camp at Rocky Mt. Mennonite Camp this weekend. May he and the others have a meaningful, fun and safe weekend.
- ❖ We give thanks and offer prayers for wisdom and safety for those who work the earth as springtime begins to hint at its arrival.

+This week pray for: Myron and Mary Franz, Jason and Racquel High family, Loren and Betty Parsons, Brian and Cheryl Pyle, Eldon L.R. and Deloris Schmidt, Larry Voth

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 18 – First Sunday of Lent

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship with Communion

3:00 pm -- Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum program – “Fifty-three years in the Russian Empire: The Context for Mennonites in the Years 1821-1874” by Dr. Mark Jantzen

5:00 pm – HS Youth Supper and Game Night at Tim & Judy Goertzen

Tuesday, February 20

9:15 am – Staff Meeting

5:30 pm – Board of Worship

Wednesday, February 21

5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal Served

Midweek Activities

Saturday, February 24

7:45 am – Noon – Leadership Retreat

Sunday, February 25

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Noon Potluck with Open Road and guests

COMING EVENTS

Feb 18-20	Serve at New Hope Shelter
Mar 3	Camp 412 Fundraiser at the HS cafeteria beginning at 11:30 am
Mar 13	No Midweek – Spring Break
Mar 20	Final Midweek Session
Apr 12-13	Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale, Hutchinson, KS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leadership Retreat - Saturday, February 24, from 7:45 a.m. - noon in the Fellowship Hall. Rolls and coffee served at 7:45 am. Pastor Luann will lead us focusing on questions and conversation for where we are now as we look toward a Pastoral Search. Please call or email the church office by Wednesday morning, February 21, if you plan to attend.

Don't miss out on the potluck next Sunday, February 25! Please bring enough for yourself/family plus some extra so we can host the Open Road

singers and their families or guests. Tableware and drinks will be provided. Come to enjoy the delicious food and to fellowship and welcome guests.

Exploring The Immigration System

The Peace Team will lead four Sunday afternoon sessions beginning on March 3rd in which we will explore and discuss various aspects of immigration and migration. The format of the first three sessions will be to view two 10 to 15-minute videos, each followed by an open discussion. The legal, human, and structural challenges of our national immigration system are complex and frustrating. This series is an attempt to more fully understand what is really happening, in hopes that our attitudes and actions will be most appropriate. Each session will be from 4:00 – 5:30 pm with faspas.

On March 6th, the Elem., JH, and HS Midweek classes will be working on several joint service projects, one of which is making care packages for our college students as they prepare for finals season. We are asking for donations of money and shoe boxes. Money will be used for purchasing snacks, gas gift cards, and other goodies. If you would like to contribute, students will be in each lobby February 18 and 25. Shoeboxes can be placed in Sunday School Room #14. Thank you for your support!

Any current 7th or 8th graders in the area interested in a fun weekend out in nature with good food and fun, we will be traveling to Camp Tawakoni on May 24 through the 27th for Camp 412. This has been a long time tradition and we are excited to keep this going! We hope you can make it. More details will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

Registration for Summer Camps Are Now Open -- The Bd of Ed is offering a \$125 scholarship to each camper who calls Alexanderwohl their home congregation. This is for all children Grade 3 – Grade 12 (fall of 2024). Register at www.campmennosch.org for Camp Mennoscah (look for the **Register on Line** button at the top of the page) and www.RMMC.org for Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. When you have your child(ren) registered and have received your confirmation from camp, let the church office or Janine know what dates your child(ren) will be attending. You will then be reimbursed \$125 per child. We would also like to know if you are planning to volunteer in any staff position and the dates. If you have questions, contact Janine Peters at petersjd@mtelco.net or 316-284-4170.

Many thanks to the women who helped tie 11 comforters for MCC Relief this past Saturday at Tabor Church. It was a treat to have our Alexanderwohl sisters join us in tying comforters and to visit with!

Thank you for your attendance and generosity at our pizza fundraiser meal on February 7! Donations of almost \$1,100 were received on behalf of the Menn Heritage & Ag Museum and will be used as vital operating funds. It's an exciting year as we celebrate our 50th year and the 150th anniversary of the migration of the Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church group to this community. We are also grateful for the continued support of the congregation through your First Fruit Gifts. Your contributions financially and through volunteer time are deeply appreciated. ~Aileen Esau, Treasurer