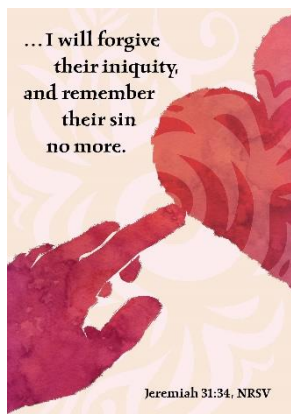


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXX

March 17, 2024

No. 11



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

On this fifth Sunday in Lent, we hear from Jesus about the New Covenant. He tries to explain to his disciples that those who build the kingdom of God are like seeds that must go into the ground and die in order to produce new life.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Prelude in F ~Bach
Reminiscence ~Grieg

Jared Janzen

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer+ Based on Jeremiah 31 and John 12

One: "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. No longer will they teach their neighbors, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord!' because they will all know me, from the least to the greatest."

Many: This new covenant is being offered to us.

One: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

Many: Death must come before resurrection.

A seed fallen to the soil and broken open can become life for many.

**All: This new covenant is being offered to us:
to lay down our life and follow.**

One: The life-giving ways of God have been placed within our minds and written on our hearts.

Many: We are forgiven and our sins remembered no more.

All: We are God's people and God is our God.

*Gathering Hymns

All People That on Earth Do Dwell
God, Be the Love

VT 5
VT 43

Children's Story

Bonnie Gaeddert

Worship Music

Kevin Gaeddert and Eric Schrag

Morning Prayer

Jim Schmidt

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33 Matthew Voth

Message Pastor Lois

Prayer of Confession

One: O God, we gather before you, seeking your mercy.
Hear us, we pray.

Many: We confess that we sin against you.

One: O God, wash us, make us clean. Create in us a new spirit.

Many: Stay close to us, restore to us your truth,

All: so that we can cry out with joy, cleansed in your abundant mercy.

Song of Response *Unless a Grain of Wheat* VT 302

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Berceuse ~Ilyinsky* Jared Janzen

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending** *We Praise the Word of God* VT 404

***Benediction** Pastor Lois

***Postlude** *Postlude ~Wagner* 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.

Leader Worship Resources will be used throughout the Lenten season.

Song Leader: Kyle Unruh

Greeters: North – Rick and Sheryl Duerksen
South – Arlin and Maretta Buller

Visual Arts: LaNae Unruh

Nursery Staff: Ann Hiebert, Natalie Church

Worship Technology: DeAlan Unrau, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

March 10 Attendance: Sunday School – 72; Worship -- 102 in person;
10 Zoom Households

March 10 Offering: Sunday School -- \$16.28; First Fruits – \$8,664.63

Next Sunday, join the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, the path that will lead to the crucifixion of Jesus. Pastor Luann will bring the message from Matthew 21:1-11 holding the tension of the humanity and the divinity of Jesus as King.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ Thank you, God, for the beauty of your creation as we've experienced it this past week.
- ❖ Thank you for the many ways you bring life out of death - ways we often don't even see or tend to. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the movement of your Spirit all around us.
- ❖ Thank you for the learning and bonding experiences of those in the Hesston and Bethel College choirs who've just been on choir tour.
- ❖ We pray for health and healing for those we know and love who are suffering in body or in spirit.
- ❖ Bless all who are faithful in the Abrahamic traditions who are observing Holy Days in this season.

+This week pray for: Terry and Erna David, Anthony Esau, Eddie Gaeddert, Tom and Susan Krehbiel, David and Ruth Persels, Rod and Linda Peters, Ron Schroeder, Tom and Jonna Showalter

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 17 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

4:00-5:30 pm – Exploring the Immigration System, Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 18

5:45 pm – Board of Mission and Service

7:00 pm – Church Council

Tuesday, March 19

9:15 am – Staff Meeting

5:00 pm – Board of Worship, Conference Room

5:30 pm – Mennonite College Student Ministry Team, Chapel

Wednesday, March 20

5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal Served

Midweek Activities -- Final Session

Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

4:00-5:30 pm – Exploring the Immigration System, Fellowship Hall

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Mar 28 | Maundy Thursday Service, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm |
| Mar 29 | Good Friday |
| Mar 31 | Easter |
| Apr 5 | Heritage Dinner at Tabor Church – Fundraiser for Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum |
| Apr 7 | KMMC Concert, 4:00 pm, Memorial Hall, Bethel College |
| Apr 12-13 | Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale, Hutchinson |
| Apr 17 | Daughters of Grace Spring Salad Supper |

Apr 19 Senior Coffee
Apr 21 KMMC Concert, 4:00 pm, Tabor College

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (March 17) will be the third in the migration/immigration series hosted by the Peace Team and the Mission Board. We'll watch a couple more TED Talks and discuss how our faith impacts what we learn from the presentations. **Next Sunday, March 24** will be our final event. **Peter Goerzen will be our guest speaker.** He will offer perspectives on the historical, biblical and theological significance of Israel/Palestine. Come to learn and participate - and have faspas! 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The families of Norman and Leona Schroeder request a card shower in celebration of the couple's 20th wedding anniversary on March 20. Please send well wishes to: PO Box 37, Goessel, KS 67053.

The Board of Deacons will host a soup and bread supper on Maundy Thursday, March 28, as we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. This event will include singing, scripture, prayer and taking communion together, and will be held in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30 pm. Please sign up on either bulletin board by Sunday, March 24, or call the church office. Child care will be provided.

Easter lily plants may be shared on Easter Sunday morning in memory of a loved one. These plants will be part of the Easter display in the sanctuary on March 31. Please call or email the church office by **Tuesday, March 26,** with the name of the loved one that you are remembering.

There is a collection container in the south lobby for "Bags to Benches". See poster for more information.

Join museum supporters for the Heritage Dinner, April 5, 6:30 pm, at Tabor Mennonite Church, after which Mayleen Thiesen Vinson will share an entertaining and insightful portrayal of Fru Schmidt's dilemma—what to pack for her family? Each adult ticket-holder was allowed to pack 27 cubic feet of baggage and freight. Consider that the Schmidts have ten children! Would you have packed a waffle iron, an anvil, or corncobs? Come find out! Tickets are on sale now! Contact the museum by April 1 (620.367.8200 or email goesselmuseum@gmail.com) to reserve your tickets for the Low German sausage meal catered by Goessel Grocery & Deli. Prices are \$75 per person, ages 12 and under are \$15, and first-time attenders are \$40. This event will be recorded, but not live streamed.