

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Scripture Psalm 1:1-6; Luke 18:15-17 Tammy Flaming

Message *The Gifts of Nurturers, Babies and Mumbler* Pastor Lois

***Song of Response** *Guide My Feet* VT 816

Recognition of Graduates

8th Grade Promotion – Delaney Duerksen

Goessel High School - Cambry Duerksen, Javin Schmidt, Noah Schrag

Tabor College – Jerah Schmidt (Health Sciences, Biology and Psychology degrees)

Litany of Blessing adapted from *Words for Worship 2*

Leader: God, you have created us in your image, with minds to think, hearts to hear, and hands to create. We give you thanks.

People: We give thanks for these graduates who have studied, learned, questioned, grown, and finished their work. Bless them!

Grads: We give thanks for those who have supported, encouraged, loved, and taught us. Bless our teachers, families and friends.

Leader: God, you have come to us in Christ and accompany us by your Holy Spirit. Guide us in the way of truth and life.

People: Walk with these graduates. Grant them wisdom and courage, strength and patience, hope and grace.

Grads: Guide us in all knowledge and truth. Sharpen our minds and soften our hearts. Widen our vision and deepen our faith. Guard us from all danger and keep us close to you.

All: We entrust ourselves to you – our past and our future, our memories and our dreams. Bless and keep us, we pray. Amen.

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Be Thou My Vision* ~arr. Krentz-Organ Karen Unruh

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending** *I Saw a Tree by the Riverside* VT 514

***Benediction** Pastor Lois

***Postlude** *The Lord Lift You Up* ~Patty Shelly Karen

*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 – Verney and Janice Voth
South – Myron and Pat Schmidt

Visual Arts: Anita Boese

Nursery Staff: Susan Nafziger, Laura Voth

Worship Technology: DJ Flaming, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth

May 5 Attendance: Sunday School – 110; Worship -- 146 in person;
15 Zoom Households

May 5 Offering: Sunday School -- \$21.61; First Fruits – \$5,103.82

Next Sunday we celebrate Pentecost; the coming of the Spirit of truth, sent to us by Jesus as our Advocate and the Guide for our lives. Pastor Lois will preach from John 15 and 16.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We thank you, God, for our graduates and all of our students and teachers, faculty and staff as they, together, wrap up another school year. Bless their learning and growth.
- ❖ We pray for Braxton and his family as they return to Colorado Children's Hospital.
- ❖ We pray for Karen and Duane Unruh and the Hesston College students who will go to Europe on choir tour this week. We pray particularly for safety for Karen, Duane and the others who will be driving the vans.
- ❖ We pray for Steve and Sandy Banman and their family as Steve continues to walk this difficult journey of cancer, treatments and decisions.
- ❖ O God, be with us as we try to be attentive and responsive to the needs around us. From those in our midst to those around the globe who don't have enough, who live with fear and violence, who need life's sustenance - the Love of the Prince of Peace.

+This week pray for: Darren and Jacey Anderson family, Robert and Cheryl Ellis family, Isaac Fast, Steve Goertzen and Rosi Reimer, Dallas and Melinda Hageman family, Marlin and Sheri Janzen, Delbert and Janine Peters, Casson and Kacie Schmidt family, Amy Wiens

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 12

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship (Parent/Child Dedication and Graduate Recognition)

Monday, May 13

5:45 pm – Board of Mission and Service

Tuesday, May 14

9:15 am – Staff Meeting

10:30 am – Stay Strong Stay Healthy class in the Chapel

Wednesday, May 15

5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education

Thursday, May 16

10:30 am – Stay Strong Stay Healthy class in the Chapel

Friday, May 17

10:00 am – Senior Coffee - Justina Neufeld will be our guest presenter on “Becoming a Refugee in WW II: Escaping from Ukraine”

Sunday, May 19

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

7:00 pm – Final informational meeting for youth service trip

COMING EVENTS

May 24-27 Junior High to Camp Tawakoni
May 26 Heritage Talk – “Talking Tombstones Tour”
May 29 Bethesda Home’s Annual Meeting
June 2 Bethesda Fundraiser at White Owl Barn
June 2-9 HS Youth Summer Service Trip
June 3-7 Vacation Bible School
June 9 Heritage Talk – “Roots & Fruits”
June 17-Aug 11 Sabbatical time for Pastor Lois
June 21 Senior Coffee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the recommendation of the Board of Deacons, and as part of the transitional work of the congregation, Pastor Lois will take the remainder of her sabbatical time this summer that was not completed last summer. She will be on sabbatical for 8 weeks beginning June 17 through August 11. The Board of Deacons has secured pastoral coverage for this time with Robert Yutzy agreeing to serve with us at .5 FTE. Pastor Luann will continue with us in her Transitional Pastor role, also at .5 FTE.

Braxton Church and his family will be traveling to Children's Hospital of Colorado May 18-24 for multiple specialist appointments for Braxton's ongoing GI and airway disorders. They will also be meeting with a general pediatric surgeon to discuss surgery options as Braxton continues to struggle with severe abdominal pain & feeding issues. Please be in prayer for the Church family as they travel, as well as Braxton's medical team as they continue to care for him.

The Board of Mission and Service is offering a service opportunity through the Kansas Food Bank in Wichita. New Life Church, 1156 N. Oliver, Wichita, distributes food boxes once a month and needs a group of 6-10 people from our church **to help with food box distribution on May 24th.** Five people from our group will need to be able to carry boxes of produce. Our group should arrive at 3:00 pm on May 24th to help with unloading and sorting. Distribution begins at 4:45 pm and runs till about 6:00 pm or a little later. Sign up is in the south lobby.

Vacation Bible School – Scuba Diving into Friendship. June 3-7 from 8:30 – 11:30 am; Preschool – 5th grade; 6th grade – Serve & Learn. Hosted by Alexanderwohl Mennonite and Goessel Church at Alexanderwohl.

The Board of Christian Education is requesting your help in providing snacks for the summer Sunday School program. The elementary children through high school will be meeting together in the shelter house during the Sunday School hour for the months of June, July and August. There could be a total of 30 children/youth/adults. There is a sign up sheet in the south lobby. *Because of allergies, please do not bring anything with peanuts.* Thank you for your help!

Attention students planning on attending a Mennonite College next school year: Applications for the Alexanderwohl Church Mennonite College Scholarship are now open. Please consider filling out an application now before summer activities and travel can make it less convenient. Return completed applications to the church office or Carol L Duerksen, Treasurer before July 1, 2024. (The form can be found on the AMC website, resources, bulletins & links.)

MCC Kit Blitz Follow-Up: The Board and Mission and Service would like to thank everyone for their contributions towards the MCC Kit Blitz. Brocia Mueller, MCC Volunteer Coordinator in North Newton, thanked our church with the following message, "The timing of your donations were spot on! Here are the numbers of items your church donated: 116 Infant sleepers, 110 Hand towels, 110 Bath towels, 94 Shampoo, 139 Laundry soap, 250 Notebooks. Thank you again! This was the perfect way to start off my week!"

Bethesda Home's Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m. in Bethesda's Chapel. An update of Bethesda, election of board members, financial report, AND a piece of pie – you won't want to miss! It's a time to celebrate the ministry of Bethesda. We hope you can join us!

Mark your calendars for Bethesda's Annual Summer Fundraiser which will be held from 5p-7p on Sunday, June 2, 2024 at the White Owl Barn. We will be serving pulled pork sandwiches with all the fixings, including homemade ice cream. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy an evening by the creek. Flier located on bulletin board for more details.