

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

September 1, 2024

No. 35



Welcome!

Welcome to worship here at Alexanderwohl! Join in as we glean wisdom from the parable of the bridesmaids as we realize it can be hard to show up as we "live unto the end of the age."

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Reverie* ~ Schumann Jared Janzen

Welcome EIRoy Wiens

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

(raise your hand for the microphone or come to the front)

Call to Worship | Opening Prayer

Leader: New every morning is God's love for us.

People: New every day is our opportunity to practice gratitude for what we have.

Leader: To seek ways to heal the world.

People: And to draw closer to our Creator.

All: So let us worship God.

~written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog "hold Fast to What is Good"

Peace Prayer+ Ronda Lee

***Gathering Hymn** *My Life Flows On* VT 605

Children's Story Ann Hiebert

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois Harder

Hymn *The Church's One Foundation* VT 397

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture EIRoy Wiens

Matthew 25:1-13

Message *In the Long Wait* Pastor Luann

Song of Response *The Garden Needs Our Tending Now* VT 788

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *My Tribute* ~ Andrae Crouch Jared Janzen

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending** *Called by Earth and Sky* VT 806

***Benediction** Pastor Luann

***Postlude** *Le Coucou* ~ 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 that God's shalom will prevail.

Song Leader: Renae Peters

Greeters: North – Steve Goertzen & Rosie Reimer

South – Evan & Maryanne Esau

Visual Arts: Anita Boese | Shari Wiens

Nursery Staff: Susan Nafziger, Natalie Church

Worship Technology: Dwight J. Flaming, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth

August 25 Attendance: Sunday School – 90; Worship -- 133 in person; 12 Zoom Households

August 25 Offering: Sunday School -- \$18.04; First Fruits – \$2,573.00

Next Sunday Pastor Lois will preach from an interesting combination of Lectionary texts including the epistle of James 2:1-17, the Gospel of Mark 7:24-37 and Psalm 146.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We're grateful for the time of harvest currently underway.
- ❖ We pray for the Hoffnungsau and Grace Hill congregations and communities this weekend as they celebrate their particular immigration stories and your faithfulness, God.

+*This week pray for: Alan and Sharon Boese, Bob Boese, Dennis and Norma Duerksen, Marvin and Rosalie Duerksen, Ted and Joan Nikkel, Glen Unrau*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 1

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Monday, September 2

Offices closed

Tuesday, September 3

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 4

7:00 pm – Trustees Meeting

Thursday, September 5

5:00 pm – M&S Board serve CORE meal

Sunday, September 8

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

COMING EVENTS

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| Sept 2 | Church Offices Closed for Labor Day |
| Sept 7-8 | WDC Women's Retreat at Camp Mennoscah |
| Sept 11 | Youth/Parent Meeting |
| Sept 11-14 | Serve at New Hope Shelter |
| Sept 15 | Hand out First Grade Bibles |
| Sept 15 | Teacher Appreciation Lunch |
| Sept 18 | Youth Trivia Night at Bethel College |
| Sept 20 | Senior Coffee with John Ensz, Inman Museum |
| Sept 22 | Immigrant Site Pilgrimage |
| Sept 28-29 | Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscah |
| Oct 5 | Goessel Harvest Festival |
| Oct 6 | Harvest Giving Walk |
| Oct 4-5 | Bethel College Fall Festival |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The garden sharing table is available in the south lobby. Everyone is welcome to bring extra garden produce to share with others.

Congregational and Pastoral Priorities sheets – due today, Sunday, September 1. Return to the church office, in the box in the south lobby, or via email.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch - September 15, 2024 following the worship service. This is for all teachers/helpers who have taught Elementary, Youth, and Adult Sunday School classes or Midweek classes during the 2023-2024 year. Sign-up sheets are in both the north and south lobbies, where you can indicate how many from your family will attend. Deadline to sign up is September 8.

2024 Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church Retreat: Come to Camp Mennoscah September 28-29 and enjoy God's creation, fellowship, tasty meals, and worshipping our Maker! Come for one day or both days. Thanks to First Fruits giving throughout the year, most of the retreat fees are covered. Opportunity will be given for donations to assist with expenses. For planning purposes, please complete the [online registration form](#) (see the weekly email from amc@alexanderwohl.org) OR the registration form that is in church mailboxes by Sunday, September 22. Feel free to invite friends!

Your next opportunity to serve at New Hope Shelter is Wednesday, September 11 - Saturday, September 14. The sign-up sheet for evening volunteers is on the south lobby bulletin board. These are the Sunday school classes that will be serving during this time: Friends & Followers, Route 15,

Seekers & Sojourners, and Young Adults. The current needs list is also on the bulletin boards in both lobbies. Thank you for your support!

New Hope Shelter – current needs list: toilet paper, paper towels, laundry pods, 55-gallon garbage bags, 30-gallon garbage bags, 20-gallon garbage bags, plastic drinking glasses (ordinary size), small plastic wastepaper baskets, napkins, margarine, Miracle Whip, Mayo, and Salad dressings, Sliced meat and cheese.

The Board of Mission and Service would like to thank the congregation for supporting the School Kit Blitz. Residents at Bethesda have supplies to put together approximately 57 kits! We enjoyed collaborating with Bethesda staff and residents on this endeavor.

Forum on Democracy and Christianity - Leading Christian ethicist, pastor and author David Gushee will deliver a series of presentations on democracy and Christianity at Bethel College Sunday and Monday, Sept. 15-16. Sept. 15, Gushee will speak during worship (9:30 a.m.) and Sunday school (10:30 a.m.) at Bethel College Mennonite Church and, in the afternoon, will keynote a forum on democracy and Christianity. This program will run from 3-6 p.m. in Memorial Hall on the Bethel campus. It will also include a panel of local leaders and a chance for table discussion. Sept. 16, Gushee will speak in convocation at 11 a.m. in Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel, followed by a luncheon with area pastors. More info here: <https://www.bethelks.edu/event/david-gushee/>

Have you heard about the Anabaptist Community Bible? This new Bible uses the Common English Bible translation, but presented in a uniquely Anabaptist context. Marginal notes from 593 Anabaptist study groups (including one from Alexanderwohl) are a special feature. A sample of the book of Psalms and flyers with more details are located in the south lobby. Discounted prices are available on pre-orders made by October 15, and a bulk order would save on shipping costs. More details on ordering will be coming soon!