**Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church**

Volume LXX September 15, 2024 No. 37

**Welcome to Alexanderwohl!**

On this Education Sunday we’ll hear from scripture about wisdom and knowledge – and the importance of teachers! There is power in words and in the tongue. These passages contain wisdom that endures through the ages.

## Gathering to worship

**Gathering Music** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* ~KerrKaren Unruh
*Simple Gifts* ~Held
*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* ~Behnke

**Welcome** Pastor Lois Harder

**Opportunities for Celebration and Service**(raise your hand for the microphone or come to the front)

**Call to Worship | Opening Prayer+** Psalm 19 (adapted)

 Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

 **People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge…**

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

 **People: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

Leader: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

 **People: More to be desired are they than gold, even fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb…**

 ***All: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.***

**\*Gathering Hymns** *God’s Glory Fills the Heavens* VT 197
 *Planets Humming as They Wander* VT 175

**Children’s Story** Kyle Unruh

**First Grade Bible Presentations**
*Silas Combs, Kennedy Esau, Emmett Miller, Lillian Unruh, Greyson Voth*

**Teacher Recognition** VT 955

**Worship Music** Mary Schmidt, violin; Karen Unruh, piano

*Amazing Grace/His Eye Is On The Sparrow*

**Morning Prayer** Pastor Lois

## Hearing God’s Word

**Scripture** Steve Banman and Marilyn Unruh Flaming
 James 3:1-12 NIV; Proverbs 1:20-33 NIV

**Message** *Got Wisdom?* Pastor Lois

**Song of Response** *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom* VT 196

**Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**
**Offertory** *God of Grace and God of Glory* Karen Unruh
~Anne Krentz Organ **\*Prayer of Dedication**

## Sent as God’s people

**\*Song of Sending** *This Is God’s Wondrous World* VT 180

**\*Benediction** Pastor Lois

\***Postlude** Karen Unruh

\*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:** Braden Unruh

**Greeters:** North – Delbert and Janine Peters

 South – Nathaniel Schmucker

**Visual Arts:** Shari Wiens

**Nursery Staff:** Brittany Hiebert, Delaney Duerksen

**Worship Technology:**  Steve Unruh, Colby Nafziger, Delton Voth

**September 8 Attendance**: Sunday School – 90; Worship -- 114 in person;

13 Zoom Households
**September 8 Offering:** Sunday School -- $40.23; First Fruits – $4,560.57

**Next Sunday** Kris Schmucker will share a teaching on the courage and inspiration we can take from our history. She’ll talk about Elder Peter Wedel and the history of Alexanderwohl as well as some broader history. She’ll help us remember where we’ve come from and ask questions about where we are now – and what The Spirit may be calling us to in the future. Texts will be from Acts 2 and Hebrews 12.

# Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

* We pray for Cleo Koop and his family at the passing of his wife, Faye. A memorial service will be held at 11 am Monday, September 16.
* We pray for our country and its citizens and leaders as we move closer to election day. May there be peace and respectful discourse throughout the process.
* Congratulations to Luann and Robert Yutzy as they celebrate their 40th anniversary today!

*+This week pray for: Steve and Sandy Banman, Kara Burkholder, Emily Meier, Kermit and Sandra Nikkel, Matthew, Laura, Lillian and Greyson Voth, Merlin and Velma Hiebert*

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, September 15**

 9:30 am – Sunday School

 10:30 am – Worship – Hand out Bibles to first graders

 Noon Teacher Appreciation Lunch

**Monday, September 16**

 5:00 pm – Board of Worship

**Tuesday, September 17**

 9:30 am – Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, September 18**

 7:00 pm – Music Committee, Conference Room

 7:00 pm – HS Youth Group to Trivia Night at Bethel College

**Friday, September 20**

 10:00 am – Senior Coffee with John Ensz, Inman Museum

**Sunday, September 22**

 9:30 am – Sunday School

 10:30 am – Worship

 3:00 pm – Immigrant Site Pilgrimage

**COMING EVENTS**

Sept 27 Kansas Food Bank opportunity to serve at New Life Center, Wichita

Sept 28-29 Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscah

Oct 5 Goessel Harvest Festival

Oct 6 Harvest Giving Walk

Oct 9 Midweek fellowship meals and classes begin at AMC

Oct 13 Area-wide Junior High hayrack ride, food & fun, 6-8 pm

Nov 3 Bethesda Home Pillar’s Banquet

## Announcements

**The Church Council would like to thank all those who have completed and returned the Congregational and Pastoral Priorities Surveys.** We will be sharing the results of these surveys during the Sunday School hour on October 20. On that morning we will also be introducing the Search Committee Affirmation Form to begin the process of identifying those who will be serving on the Search Committee.  We hope you can attend on October 20.   ~Church Council

**2024 Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church Retreat:** Come to Camp Mennoscah September 28-29 and enjoy God’s creation, fellowship, tasty meals, and worshiping 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**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe77XvwThKrHnivH4SrqP_M_JE4J5_yRau-8XL_yor3N-QP4w/viewform?usp=sf_link) **by Sunday, September 22** (see the weekly email from amc@alexanderwohl.org) OR the registration form that was in church mailboxes. Feel free to invite friends!

**John Ensz, representing the Inman Museum will be the featured guest at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 20** at Alexanderwohl for Senior Coffee. He will show pictures and share about "the Polish experience of the Mennonites in the 17th and 18th centuries, including an interaction with Napolean and housing French soldiers."  Join us!

Pastor Fred Hayes Jr., from The New Life Church of Wichita, shared with Ken Regier, CFO of the Kansas Food Bank, that the church needs help with **food distribution on Friday September 27th from 3-6 pm.** The Board of Mission and Service has placed a sign-up sheet in the south Lobby.

**If you plan to eat the Wednesday night fellowship meals,** please sign up on either lobby bulletin board or call the church office – 620.367.8192. **RSVP by Tuesday, October 1** to be included in the count for fall semester.

**Congregational Gifts Discernment** – Each year attenders and members are asked to participate in a process of discernment for congregational leadership. Gifts for doing ministry in various ways are present in all of us. What do you especially recognize in someone worshipping together with you that would help serve God’s purposes? Yellow “Discernment of Congregational Leadership” forms were placed in church mailboxes on September 8. Please prayerfully consider and discern those who you think would best serve our congregation in the needed positions. Please return your completed form to the designated box in either lobby or mail to the church office no later than **October 6**. ~Gifts Facilitating Committee (Karl Brubaker, Mary Schmidt, Jenny Fast)

The Peace Committee here at Alexanderwohl encourages you to bring **donations for the Tabor Food Pantry on Sunday, October 6.** On that World Communion Sunday, we will share communion together and also remember those who don’t have enough food. Mennonite Central Committee is emphasizing World Food Day, reminding us that “Food is a human right and a blessing from God”. Their focus is global, so you can make a donation to MCC as they respond to food insecure populations around the world and/or make a local donation to the Food Pantry. **Please bring items on October 6**; there will be a table set up at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity!

**We have received minutes of the August 2-4 Western District Conference Assembly held at First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, NE. They are available in the library for your perusal.**

**Volunteers Needed!**  The 150th committee needs 6-8 volunteers to help at the Immigrant Site Pilgrimage on September 22 at 3:00-5:00 pm.  This would be for a 1-hour shift, so you can still have the opportunity to visit the immigrant site.  Please contact Sandy Duerksen 620-386-4434 or sandyduerksen@hotmail.com by Sept. 16. Thank you!

**Thank you for including Bethesda in your school supply project for MCC!** It means so much to many of our residents to able to contribute to causes close to their hearts! ~Ariel Kraus, Bethesda Home

 **Bethel College's Fall Festival is Saturday, October 5.** As usual, our church is responsible for **selling New Year's cookies and coffee** for the BC Women's Association. Volunteers are necessary to help with this event. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the south lobby! Questions? Contact Bonnie Gaeddert.

**The new Anabaptist Community Bible uses the Common English Bible translation, presented in a uniquely Anabaptist context.** Check out the sample of the book of Psalms and pick up an informational flyer from the table in the south lobby. Discounted prices are available on orders placed by Oct. 15. **If interested in a copy, add your name to the group order on the table or let the church office know by September 22.**  For those on the list, an email with payment details will be coming soon. Payment is due by Oct. 6.

**The Harvest Giving Walk will take place at Goessel Church** **Sunday, October 6 at 1:30 p.m.** Pick up a fundraising envelope today orfind someone who is walking and generously support the Tabor Food Pantry and MCC’s global food projects. Walkers are invited to bring an item for the Tabor Food Pantry to the event. Please make checks payable to “Harvest Giving Walk.”

**Bethesda Pillars Banquet – Mark your calendars now for November 3 at Tabor Mennonite Church –** There will be a drive thru option as well as a plated meal with entertainment. More details to come!

**Midweek Schedule - Begins Wednesday, October 9, 2024**

**5:45 – 6:30 pm Fellowship meal served**

**6:30 – 7:50 pm Supervised child care for ages 0-2**

**6:30 – 7:45 pm Children’s activities and music (ages 3 to 5th grade)**

**6:45 – 7:45 pm Chancel Choir**

**7:00 - 8:00 pm 6th-12th grade activities (youth house)**

**7:50 – 8:30 pm Adult Bible Study**

**Christian Education Teachers and Leaders 2024-2025**

**Sunday School**

**Two year olds**: Susan Nafziger, Janice (Delton) Voth, Alma Unrau, helper

**Three, Four & Five year olds**: Sandy Duerksen, Maryanne Esau, Laura Voth; Radene Unruh, helper & Brooke Nafziger, helper

**First Grade**: Pat Schmidt, Chrystiana Miller

**Second, Third & Fourth Grade**: Kara Burkholder, Tammy Flaming, Denise Duerksen

**High School**: Ann Hiebert, Sandy Banman, Brian & Rachael Burkholder,

Pastor Lois Harder

**High School Sponsors**: Ben & Tina Schrag, Jared & Laura Unrau

**Mentor Coordinator**: Megan Duerksen

**Area Junior High Leaders**: Chelan & Megan Duerksen

**Young Adults**: Tim Goertzen, Renae Peters, class members

**Seekers & Sojourners:** Class members

**Upper Room:** Class members

**Friends & Followers**: Steve Banman, Karl Brubaker, Aileen Esau,

John Fast, Ann Hiebert, Delbert Peters

**Route 15:** Arlin Buller, DJ Flaming, Mary Schmidt, Gary Lyndaker

**Midweek**

**Coordinators:** Maryanne Esau, Justine Unruh, Judy Goertzen,
Ruth Goertzen

**Pre K – K:**
**Leader:** Susan Nafziger
**Helpers:** Tammy Flaming, Evan Esau, Emmalyn Schroeder
**Sub**: Vickie Unrau

**1st – 5th Grade:
Story Leaders:** Ann Hiebert, Aileen Esau
**Activity Planner:** Alma Unrau
**Activity Helper**: Laura Voth

**SonShine Singers:** Bryant and Chrystiana Miller, Kyle and Justine Unruh

**Kid’s Praise:** Kevin Gaeddert, Jason Peters, Eric Schrag, Jacob Schrag

**Adult Bible Study:** Pastor Lois Harder

**Chancel Choir Director:** Renae Schmidt Peters