

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

January 26, 2025

No. 4



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Today is the first in a 4-part series focused on 500 years of Anabaptism. Let us thank God for the early "radical reformers" who read the Scriptures diligently and wanted to follow Jesus faithfully! May we be inspired and encouraged by their lives and witness.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *The Church's One Foundation* ~Burkhardt Jason Peters
We Are People of God's Peace ~Fedak

Welcome Gretchen Schrag

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer + VT 869

North: We are a covenant people, called to God by God, generation through generation.

South: We are a covenant people, called to Jesus by Jesus, losing our life to gain our life.

All: *We are a covenant people, called to church by the church, weaving together the strong and the weak, the stranger and the friend.*

North: Renamed.

South: Reborn.

All: *Renewed. We gather ourselves in the community of believers. We gather ourselves unto you.*

***Gathering Hymns** *We Are People of God's Peace* VT 797
Christ Is Our Cornerstone VT 4

Peace Prayer Jenny Fast

Children's Story Julianna Kaufman

Worship Music Kids' Praise

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois Harder

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Jason Peters

***Prayer of Dedication** *Jesus Christ Is Love Divine* VT 749

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading I Corinthians 3:1-11 Gretchen Schrag
Message *What's in a Story?* Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Response/Sending**
The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound VT 392

***Benediction** Pastor Lois

***Postlude** *Oh, Sing to the Lord a New Song* ~Leavitt Jason Peters

*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.

Greeters: North – Elaine Banman
South – Alma and DeAlan Unrau

Organ/Piano: Jason Peters

Song Leader: Julianna Kaufman

Kids' Praise Leaders: Eric Schrag, Kevin Gaeddert, Jason Peters

Visual Arts: Many thanks to Brian and Nancy Stucky for having the "portraits" of the three early Anabaptists framed. They are Felix Manz, Conrad Grebel and George Blaurock.

Nursery Staff: Kim Voth, Tammy Flaming

Worship Technology: Myron Goertzen, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth

January 19 Attendance: Sunday School – 90; Worship -- 117 in person; 18 Zoom Households

January 19 Offering: Sunday School -- \$5.82; First Fruits -- \$3,859.00

Next Sunday Pastor Luann will preach the second in a series of 4 sermons on the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism – Renewal through Repentance: Repenting of our failures and sins as Anabaptist families of faith.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ Be present with us today, God, as we gather for our Annual Congregational meeting. Grant us grace and wisdom as we look to the coming year together.
- ❖ God, we ask for your healing for Ann Hiebert as she recuperates from a fall on the ice.
- ❖ God, we know there is much flu and illness amongst those we know and love; we ask for your healing and health to return to those who are sick.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 26

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Noon meal followed by Annual Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

1:30 pm – Youth Group Ice Skating

Monday, January 27

4:00 pm – Prayer Team

Tuesday, January 28

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 29

5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal Served

Midweek Activities

Serve at New Hope Shelter through February 1

Sunday, February 2

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

1:00 pm – Bethesda Chapel with Pastor Lois leading

2:00 pm – Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum's Annual Meeting

COMING EVENTS

Feb 3	Goessel Community Blood Drive
Feb 5	Midweek Pizza Fundraiser Meal for Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum
Feb 9	Friends and Followers Super Bowl Get Together
Feb 21	Senior Coffee with Jerry and Leann Toews as guests
Feb 23	Pastor Luann's final Sunday at AMC – Noon Potluck Meal
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday
Mar 12	Final Midweek session

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Meeting today (January 26) will be held in the Fellowship Hall. A Zoom connection will not be an option. We hope you can attend in person. Child care will be in the Chapel. ~John Fast

The pastor search committee has submitted the necessary documents, including the Congregational Information Form, to Western District Conference pastor Heidi Regier Kreider. Thank you to all the boards and individuals who worked to get these documents completed! Please continue to pray for this process as we continue to move forward.
~Karen, Weston, Julianna, Megan and Tina

Thank you for partnering with the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum to preserve and share the story of Mennonites who migrated to this area in 1874. **With gratitude, Museum board members will be serving Menno Bros. pizza, along with fresh tossed salad and delicious cookies between 5:45 and 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, February 5. Please join us!** Your donations will be gratefully accepted to continue this mission in 2025.

Looking for something new to read? The AMC library invites you to try a "Blind Date with a Book"! The library will have several books wrapped with a brief description and you can choose which book will be your "date" to

take home to read. Books in several different genres will be available. Sign up on the book tables in lobbies by February 5, then come to the library after church on February 9 to choose your date. You might be surprised with a "match"! If you have questions, please contact Sandy Duerksen or Laura Unrau.

Wednesday night meals – If you are willing to bring dessert, help serve or clean up sign up in the south lobby for dates that work for you.

As you have updates (addresses, emails, cell phone or land line numbers) for the 2025 Church Yearbook, turn them in to the church office.

The Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum has planned its Annual Meeting to be held at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church on February 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Come early to purchase or renew your museum membership. Following the business meeting, our featured speaker for this event will be Dale Schrag. His topic will be on the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement. Afterwards, enjoy the Faspa of zwieback and cheese and reminisce with museum supporters. Event is free and open to the public to attend.

Blood Drive: Make a difference by donating blood on February 3, between 1:00-6:00 pm, at Goessel Church. Sign up at redcrossblood.org to donate. All types are wanted! For more information contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081.