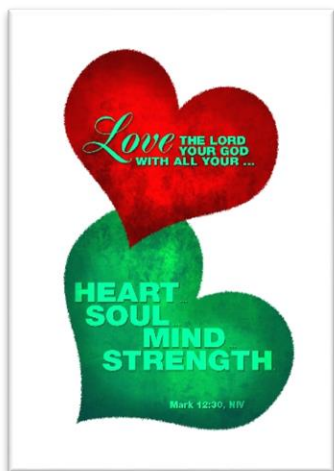


# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

March 23, 2025

No. 12



## Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

On this third Sunday of Lent we'll hear from Dale Schrag about the Great Commandment - through the lens of the early Anabaptists. How do we make our priorities based on these words?

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

### Gathering Music

Karen Unruh

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* ~Portman  
*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* ~Sadowski  
*I Sing the Mighty Power of God* ~Payne

### Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

### Opportunities for Celebration and Service

### Call to Worship / Opening Prayer +

Psalms 119:1-8 CEB

Leader: Those whose way is blameless – who walk in the Lord's Instruction – are truly happy!

**People: Those who guard God's laws are truly happy!**

**All: They seek God with all their hearts.**

Leader: They don't even do anything wrong! They walk in God's ways.

**People: God, you have ordered that your decrees should be kept most carefully. How I wish my ways were strong when it comes to keeping your statutes!**

Leader: Then I wouldn't be ashamed when I examine all your commandments.

**All: I will give thanks to you with a heart that does right as I learn your righteous rules. I will keep your statutes. Please don't leave me all alone!**

### \*Gathering Hymns

*God Is Here Among Us*  
*We Sing to You, O God*

VT 62  
VT 80

### Children's Story

Karl Brubaker

### Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois

## Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *How Clear Is Our Vocation* ~Weber Karen Unruh  
\*Prayer of Dedication

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading Mark 12:28-34 NRSV Tammy Flaming  
Message *Crucial Balancing Acts* Dale Schrag  
Song of Response *I Sing with Exultation* VT 444

#### Confession and Words of Assurance

**All: *Loving and Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you.***

Leader: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

**People: *We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.***

Leader: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**People: *We prioritize the wrong things and the wrong people.***

**All: *We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Help us open our hearts to your love. Help us bring our priorities in line with yours so we may more genuinely share your peace in the world, through your name. Amen.***

Leader: Now hear these words of assurance: We are created in God's image. We are created for relationship with God and each other. We know that God will never break the relationship with us; God's steadfast love endures forever.

### SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*Song of Sending *For the Healing of the Nations* VT 705  
\*Benediction Pastor Lois  
\*Postlude *How Firm A Foundation* ~Lau 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.

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

**Organ/Piano:** Karen Unruh

**Song Leader:** Braden Unruh

**Octet:** Marcia Brubaker, Lois Harder, Renae Peters, Gretchen Schrag,  
Jason Peters, Eric Schrag, Karl Brubaker, Duane Unruh

**Visual Arts:** Tina Schrag

**Nursery Staff:** Susan Nafziger, Janice Voth

**Worship Technology:** Myron Goertzen, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth

**March 16 Attendance:** Sunday School – 85; Worship -- 121 in person; 16  
Zoom Households

**March 16 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$23.63; First Fruits -- \$4,431.00

**Next Sunday** – Mitch Stutzman will preach from Luke 16:19-33, the story of the rich man and Lazarus – Christ collides with our self centeredness.

## *Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We thank God for Steve and Sandy Banman's safe return home.
- ❖ Zenora Gard, sister of Dennis and Donley Duerksen, died March 12 in Newton. Private burial at Greenwood Cemetery occurred on March 14. A memorial service will be held Sunday, March 23, at the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church in Newton at 2:00 p.m.

### **THIS WEEK**

#### **Sunday, March 23**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

2:00 pm – Youth parents meeting in the Youth House followed by bowling and pizza

#### **Monday, March 24**

4:00 pm – Prayer Team

5:30 pm – Board of Deacons

#### **Tuesday, March 25**

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

#### **Wednesday, March 26**

6:00 pm – Bible Study in the Conference Room – *The Chosen*

7:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm – Safe Sanctuary Committee, Conference Room

#### **Saturday, March 29**

6:30 pm – Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum's Heritage Dinner

#### **Sunday, March 30**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

### **COMING EVENTS**

Apr 11-12 Kansas MCC Sale

Apr 13 Palm Sunday

Apr 13-15 Serve at New Hope Shelter

Apr 17 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday supper & service – Childcare provided for those who sign up

Apr 18 8:30-12:00 Good Friday retreat for the Youth

Apr 20 9:00-10:15 am – Easter potluck breakfast and Sunday school activities for children

Apr 20 Easter Sunday

Apr 23 Daughters of Grace Spring Salad Supper

Apr 25 Senior Coffee with David Shelly as our guest speaker

June 2-6 VBS at Tabor Mennonite Church

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VBS 2025 Staff Sign-up:** Tabor and Alexanderwohl churches are joining together to hold VBS at Tabor Mennonite Church the week of June 2-6. We will need staff volunteers from both churches to make this week a success! Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved and share your willingness to serve by filling out our [2025 VBS Staff Sign-up form](#) (see the link in the church email). We look forward to making this a meaningful week for the children in our community!

**Women and Girls: Save the Date for the Daughters of Grace Spring Salad Supper -- Wednesday, April 23, 6:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a salad to share and hear Paula Eigsti present "Legacy...Shoes Tell the Story". Beginning with Eve, Paula will tell the story of Bible characters by matching the attributes of their life and legacy to the unique design of a shoe. Sign-up sheets are in the church lobbies.

For the Spring Sunday School quarter, our **offering money from the elementary students will support Bethesda Home.**

**There is a copy of the newly updated 2025 Handbook in the church library** as well as a copy on the church website ([www.alexanderwohl.org](http://www.alexanderwohl.org)) under Resources / Bulletins & Links / Downloads – AMC Handbook, Updated February 2025. Thanks to Carol Reimer Duerksen for organizing this project and to Nancy Stucky for tech support! (You may place outdated yearbooks in the box outside the office door.)

**The Bible study group invites any who would like to join us in the Conference Room at 6:00 p.m. to watch *The Chosen*.** We'll watch March 26, April 2, 9 and 16.

**Please consider adding New Hope Shelter to your spring activity schedule April 13 - 15.** The sign-up sheet to volunteer for the evening shifts is in the south lobby. Also, thank you for your prayer support!

**A big thank you to the Daughters of Grace for the gracious donation to the Mennonite Disaster Service Cabinet Shop.** The offering at the Christmas Brunch totaled \$855. This gift will help deliver kitchen cabinets to MDS worksites across the country. ~MDS Cabinet Shop

**Save the date: The Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum's annual Heritage Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. on March 29 at Tabor Mennonite Church.** Our program this year will feature Donna Becker. Her presentation will focus on the voice of a fictionalized Mennonite immigrant woman around 1879. A delicious dinner will be catered by Goessel Grocery & Deli. Ticket prices are \$75 per adult, \$15 for ages 12 and under, and first-time attendees are only \$40 per person. To make reservations, contact the museum by Monday, March 24, by calling 620-367-8200 or email: [goesselmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:goesselmuseum@gmail.com). The Heritage Dinner is a fundraiser for the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum.

**You are invited to join us for an upcoming concert of the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus.** The 120-member chorus includes members from our church. The concert will include traditional hymns and contemporary selections performed in four-part harmony. The concert at Tabor College will include students in the Chamber Voices student ensemble with students in the Open Road and Woven choirs joining us at Bethel College. The concerts are free with an offering benefiting the global mission support work of Mennonite Central Committee.

- April 6, 2025, 4:00 pm, Memorial Hall, Bethel College, N Newton
- April 13, 2025, 4:00 pm, Richert Auditorium, Tabor College, Hillsboro

## **MCC SALE**

**The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale is right around the corner on April 11 & 12.** There are lots of ways to volunteer during the weekend. Many of the sign-up sheets are now conveniently located on line. To check out the opportunities (and hopefully sign up) you can go to [KANSAS.MCCSALE.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://KANSAS.MCCSALE.ORG/VOLUNTEER) or click on the QR Code located on either lobby bulletin board or in Friday's email. The sooner you sign up, the better chance you have in getting your preferred job and time slot. It takes many volunteers for a successful Sale!

**Volunteers Needed** - The Verenike/Sausage booth in the Domestic Arts building for the 2025 Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale needs more volunteers! There are jobs for everyone - cooking, serving, and cashiering. This booth is led by a group of young adults from Eden Mennonite (including Lucas and Michelle Hiebert). Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44A4AB2CA5FECE9-54215329-2025#/>

**Children's Auction - Consider donating new, in-the-package, items to this year's auction!** Talk with the youth in your church to see what items they would like to bid on, but you can never go wrong with Hot Wheels, Barbie, board games, Lego sets, art kits, and sports equipment. If you wish to volunteer for the auction by clerking or helping in other ways please contact Brad Kohlman [bkohlman32@gmail.com](mailto:bkohlman32@gmail.com)