

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

April 6, 2025

No. 14



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

On this fifth Sunday of Lent,
Mitch Stutzman returns to
talk about how Christ collides
with our blinders. What is
"blinding" us from being able
to see, experience and share
Jesus' grace?

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

To God Be the Glory ~Powell
In the Morning When I Rise ~Hayes
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say ~Fedak

Marcia Brubaker

Welcome

Nancy Stucky

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship / Opening Prayer +

Psalm 84:1-4; 10-12

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

People: My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Leader: Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

All: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

Leader: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

People: For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.

Leader: No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

All: O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

*Gathering Hymns

Come Away from Rush and Hurry
Life-Giver, Maker, God of All

VT 9

VT 38

Peace Prayer

Kyle Unruh

Children's Story

John Fast

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois Harder

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Wondrous Love ~Behnke

Marcia Brubaker

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Lois

Worship Music

How Great Thou Art
~Stuart K. Hine, arr. Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Luke 18:31 – 19:10

Lois, Chase, Nancy

Message

Christ collides with our blinders

Mitch Stutzman

Song of Response

Will You Come and Follow Me (omit vs. 4) VT 540

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 walk through our days with blinders on – blinders that are often of our own making.*

All: *We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Help us open our hearts to your love. Help us walk with eyes and hearts wide open, 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** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

VT 156

***Benediction**

Pastor Lois

In the gentle spirit of our sending song, you're invited to sit down and reflect as Marcia offers the postlude.

Postlude

Marcia Brubaker

*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 – Travis Duerksen and Erica Stoltzfus

South – Ann Hiebert and Cindy Hastings

Organ/Piano: Marcia Brubaker

Song Leader and Chancel Choir Director: Renae Schmidt Peters

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Nursery Staff: Laura Unrau, Grace Meier

Worship Technology: Steve Unruh, Colby Nafziger, Delton Voth

March 30 Attendance: Sunday School – 86; Worship -- 121 in person; 15 Zoom Households

March 30 Offering: Sunday School -- \$19.71; First Fruits -- \$4,425.00

Next Sunday – Eric Schrag will bring the message. Children of all ages are invited to bring palm branches to the front at the beginning of the service as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The text is Luke 19:29-44 and the theme is Christ collides with our expectations.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for our elders, for those who live in care facilities and for those who live at home. May they know God's care and presence. Thank you for the gifts of their lives with us.
- ❖ We pray for our students, for their teachers, coaches, mentors and others who guide them. Grant them wisdom.
- ❖ We pray for our leaders -- in our churches and communities, in our state, our nation and our world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 6

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

1:00 pm – Chapel at Bethesda with Pastor Lois leading

4:00 pm – Mennonite Men's Chorus concert at Tabor College (note location – see announcement sheet for details)

Monday, April 7

12:00-6:00 pm – Goessel Community Blood Drive

4:00 pm – Prayer Team

Tuesday, April 8

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education

Wednesday, April 9

6:30 pm – Youth will rehearse for Palm Sunday

7:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm – Board of Trustees

Thursday, April 10

5:30 pm – Board of Worship

Friday, April 11

Kansas MCC Sale

Saturday, April 12

Kansas MCC Sale

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Serve at New Hope Shelter

COMING EVENTS

Apr 23	Daughters of Grace Spring Salad Supper
Apr 25	Senior Coffee with David Shelly as our guest speaker
Apr 30	VBS Staff Orientation at Tabor Mennonite Church
June 2-6	VBS at Tabor Mennonite Church
June 8	VBS Worship Service at Tabor Mennonite Church
July 6-12	Youth Summer Service trip to Rocky Mountain Menn. Camp

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week Events --

- **Palm Sunday, April 13** – palm procession
- **Maundy Thursday, April 17** – a simple meal and a service of remembrance (including Communion together, around tables) in the Fellowship Hall at **6:30-7:30 p.m. Child care provided – please sign up TODAY** .
- **Good Friday, April 18** – Youth retreat 8:30 a.m. to noon.
- **Easter Sunday, April 20** – potluck breakfast from 9:00-10:00 in the Fellowship Hall – **please sign up**. The Easter story will be told and the children will enjoy an egg hunt. *Worship at 10:30. “The Easter story through the ages – in Word and Song”*. Scripture readings in various languages and translations accompanied by the music of the times.

Easter lily plants may be shared on Easter Sunday morning in memory of a loved one. These plants will be part of the Easter display in the sanctuary on April 20. Contact the church office by Wednesday, April 16, with the name of the loved one(s) you are remembering.

We want to thank the congregation for all the love, support, and especially prayers for Sandy and I over the last number of weeks. It has had its ups and downs but God has been faithful and present through it all. We appreciated all the cards we received in Phoenix. It was always nice to check the mailbox and see a card from home. "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:29-31
~Steve & Sandy Banman

Blood Drive: “Give Hope This Spring!” when you donate blood - April 7 between 12:00-6:00 pm. Note the earlier start time for appointment times. Sign up at redcrossblood.org. For more information contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081.

The Daughters of Grace Spring Salad Supper will be on Wednesday, April 23, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheets are in the lobbies.

The Mennonite College Student Ministry Team is now collecting donations for the upcoming fall semester. Our students attending Mennonite Colleges appreciate your support, as these dollars are matched \$ for \$ by the colleges. Please place contributions in the designated envelopes found in church mailboxes and return to the church office or Gretchen Schrag by April 27. Thank you!

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!

It's time to register for VBS! Children ages 4 (by 9-1-25) through current 5th graders are invited to join us for Waves of Wonder VBS the week of June 2-6, 2025 from 8:30a-11:45a at Tabor Mennonite Church. Please fill out the [Tabor-Alexanderwohl VBS 2025 Registration](#) to let us know you plan to attend. Registrations are appreciated by April 27, 2025. Current sixth graders wanting to participate in service projects as part of VBS should fill out the [6th Grade VBS Registration 2025](#) Form. You will find the links on the church email. We look forward to seeing you in June!



A Note from Pastor Lois...

During these turbulent times, it's more important than ever to remember who we are – and who we are not. Psalm 136 is a Psalm in praise of God's Work in Creation and in History. It reminds us over and over again to... "give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Each of us is likely experiencing many responses and reactions to the current political environment: anxiety, fear, anger, confusion, concern, uncertainty, withdrawal, isolation, depression, helplessness, on and on... And whatever we're feeling, it's valid! All of these things and more!

Whether or not we agree with one another becomes less significant in times like these. What matters more is how well we support one another, offer grace, mercy, love and care to one another. These are the ways we can be a light on a hill, the salt of the earth, and BE God's love in the world.

None of us can follow Jesus alone; he made that clear. We need each other as we navigate each day, each newscast, each unsettling announcement. I'm grateful for each one who participates in the life of this congregation. Each one is a gift from God, valued and needed here and now for such a time as this.

Let us cling to the God of Creation and History. Let us walk, together, with the Spirit of Jesus of Nazareth who taught us about love and prayer, tapping into The Source of our Life.