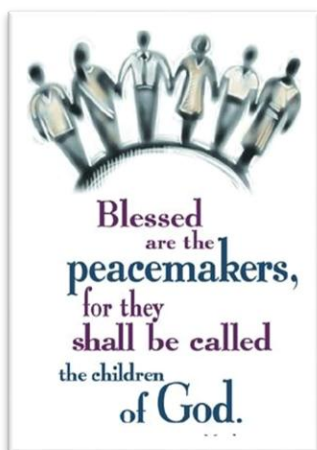


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

May 4, 2025

No. 18



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

This morning we'll hear from Travis Duerksen as he tells us about one of his recent projects with Mennonite Mission Network, focusing on the intersection between Anabaptist conscientious objectors and voluntary service through history.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven ~Page
Jubilation ~Payne*

Mary Schmidt

Welcome

Justine Unruh

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship / Opening Prayer +

Psalm 85:7-13 NRSV

Leader: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

People: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Leader: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet:

People: righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Leader: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

All: The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Leader: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

***Gathering Hymns** *Restore Our Faith, O Saving God
Could It Be That God Is Singing*

VT 198
VT 42

Peace Prayer

Children's Story

Julianna Kaufman

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois Harder

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *When He Cometh* ~arr. Shockley

Mary Schmidt

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Lois

Worship Music

Resurrecting ~Elevation Worship
Julianna Kaufman and Alyssa Burkholder

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading Matthew 10:34-37; Romans 12:9-21 Justine Unruh

Message *Conscientious objection: a rough draft* Travis Duerksen

Song of Response *We Are People of God's Peace* VT 797

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending** *Seeds* VT 777

***Benediction** Pastor Lois

***Postlude** *Go, My Friends, in Grace* (VT 810) Mary Schmidt

*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 – Lynel and Vickie Unrau

South – Jared and Laura Unrau

Organ/Piano: Mary Schmidt

Song Leader: Marcia Brubaker

Visual Arts:

Nursery Staff: Maryanne Esau, Myra Peters

(nursery available for children age 3 and under)

Worship Technology: DeAlan Unrau, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

April 27 Attendance: Sunday School – 98; Worship -- 136 in person; 12 Zoom Households

April 27 Offering: Sunday School -- \$12.42; First Fruits -- \$7,800.56

Next Sunday – Pastor Lois will preach and we will celebrate some of life's transitions – infant/parent dedications, 8th grade promotions, high school and college graduations. God is present in ALL the transitions of our lives!

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for Lois Janzen who has been a patient at the Newton Medical Center this past week. She had a partial hip replacement on Tuesday and is recovering well.
- ❖ We pray for Kim, Josh and Tim Voth as they grieve the passing of Jolynn. She died at Bethesda on Thursday morning.
- ❖ We remember the end of the Vietnam War 50 years ago and ask for your healing, wisdom and peace to prevail, O God.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 4

9:30 am -- Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

1:00 pm – Bethesda Chapel with Pastor Lois

Monday, May 5

5:00 pm – Board of Worship

Tuesday, May 6

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 7

6:00 pm – Bible Study, *The Chosen*

Sunday, May 11 – Mother's Day and Child Dedication

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

COMING EVENTS

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

Have you done a term of service? Do you have draft or military experience? At the end of the message time this morning, we'll have space to share a bit about our own experiences, centered around the question: how did your experience with service/conscientious objection/military affect the way you view the world?

The Peace Committee and Board of Mission and Service invites you to a summer book study. *So That We and Our Children May Live:*

Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis by Sarah Augustine and Sherie Hostetler is the book. "Everywhere we look, we see signs that all is not right with our earth... Climate change is just a symptom of a larger ecological crisis. If we want change, the solutions can't come through the same systems that created these problems. Ecological justice requires us to challenge our assumptions about creation and our relationship to it... We must turn to the leadership of Indigenous communities... and we must call on people of faith to join them - to confront climate change... and choose life for our children and the future of our planet. This book offers hope for a better future alongside concrete actions for joining with Indigenous Peoples to protect life and negotiate with decision-makers for sustainable change that follows Jesus." **Meeting dates are June 4, 11, 18, 25 and July 2 and 9 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.** Books are available in both lobbies at a cost of \$15. Leave your payment in the box next to the books or at the church office.

As many of you are aware, both the Board of Deacons and the Search Committee are hard at work, searching for individuals to fill the Interim Pastor position and/or the Supply Pastor position. In the meantime, in order to assist and support Pastor Lois in caring for our church family, the Deacons will be taking on more pastoral duties, including more caregiving responsibilities. You may notice that one of the Deacons might check in with you from time-to-time in the coming months. Additionally, if you, or someone you know, have any caregiving concerns, please reach out to one of the Deacons. Deacon Board members and their phone numbers are posted on the bulletin board in the lobby. We appreciate your patience and flexibility during this transitional time.

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 May 7 and 14 to finish Season 3.