

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

May 18, 2025

No. 20



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Today we look at Psalm 139, sometimes subtitled, "The Inescapable God" as we celebrate Colby Nafziger's decision to be baptized and join the church.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Settings by Mark Hayes:

Karen Unruh

This Is the Day

Lord, I Lift Your Name On High

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Welcome

Karl Brubaker

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship / Opening Prayer + (verses compiled by Pastor Lois Harder)

All: *We praise you, O God, that your steadfast love is with us throughout our whole lives!*

Leader: For it was you who formed each of our inward parts; you knit us together in our mothers' wombs. We praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139

People: **Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19**

Leader: When we're old enough to make our own, adult decision, we follow Jesus' example and receive baptism. "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him." Matthew 3

People: **In our adulthood we are mandated to "...do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God." Micah 6**

Leader: As we grow older, God is still present with us and says, "...even to your old age I am he, even when you turn gray I will carry you." Isaiah 46 – And even in death, God does not leave us.

All: *"...Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds will follow them." Revelation 14*

***Gathering Hymns** *Summoned by the God Who Made Us* (vs. 1-4) VT 1
Morning Has Broken VT 495

Children's Story

Delbert Peters

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois Harder

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision ~Krentz-Organ

Karen Unruh

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Celebration of Baptism

Colby Nafziger: *"The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you."* ~Deuteronomy 8:28 NIV

Mentor: Matthew Voth

Congregational Covenant

VT 932

Song of Response

The Water Is Ready

VT 458

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:1-18 NRSV

Dwight Flaming

Reflection

The Inescapable God

Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

VT 182

***Benediction**

Pastor Lois

***Postlude**

The Lord Lift You Up ~Shelly

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 – Verney and Janice Voth

South – Myron and Pat Schmidt

Organ/Piano: Karen Unruh

Song Leader: Julianna Kaufman

Visual Arts: Anita Boese

Nursery Staff: Aileen Esau, Cambry Duerksen
(nursery available for children age 3 and under)

Worship Technology: Myron Goertzen, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth

May 11 Attendance: Sunday School – 103; Worship -- 150 in person; 15 Zoom Households

May 11 Offering: Sunday School -- \$24.73; First Fruits -- \$3,203.00

Next Sunday – This 5 letter word is precisely what the world needs in these contentious times. Next Sunday, Eric will get us started with our dive into Paul's letter to the Churches of Galatia.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for the Palestinians who, on May 15 recognized the 77th year of the first Nakba – the catastrophe in 1948 during which they were forced off their land as part of the creation of the state of Israel, and are now experiencing a second Nakba.

- ❖ We continue to pray for those who are fearful for their safety or survival.
This world desperately needs your Peace, God.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 18

9:30 am -- Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Tuesday, May 20

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

5:30 pm – Board of Deacons

Sunday, May 25

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Memorial Day service in the cemetery following worship
(approximately 11:45 am)

COMING EVENTS

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| May 28 | Bethesda Home's Annual Meeting, 7:00 pm |
| June 2 | Goessel Community Blood Drive |
| June 4 | Book study begins (see announcement below) |
| June 2-6 | VBS at Tabor Mennonite Church |
| June 8 | VBS Worship Service at Tabor Mennonite Church (no service at Alexanderwohl) |
| June 8 | Bethesda's Annual Summer Fundraiser at White Owl Barn |
| June 20 | Senior Coffee |
| July 6-12 | Youth Summer Service trip to Rocky Mountain Menn. Camp |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Just a couple more weeks to get and read your book for the summer book study -- *So That We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis* by Sarah Augustine and Sherie Hostetler. **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.

We are pleased and excited to welcome Timothy Schrag this summer as a Ministry Inquiry participant here at Alexanderwohl! The Ministry Inquiry Program (MIP) is a program of Mennonite Church USA; it's "an opportunity for college-age young adults to test their gifts and explore their calling through a hands-on summer internship." Count on seeing Timothy a lot this summer!

VBS Worship Service: Please join us for a VBS celebration worship service at Tabor Mennonite Church the morning of Sunday, June 8. The children will share the songs, stories, and lessons learned during the week. Following the service, everyone is invited to tour the classroom and session spaces to see what the kids have created and then join us for a potluck lunch

in the hospitality hall. Please bring a potluck dish and your own table service. Drinks will be provided. (There will be no worship service at Alexanderwohl that Sunday morning.)

Don't miss an amazing opportunity to attend the Mennonite Church USA convention in Greensboro, NC! "Follow Jesus '25" will happen from **July 8-12** and we'd love to support the attendance of at least 2 people from AMC to **represent our congregation as delegates**. Please see Pastor Lois or Justine Unruh for more information.

From the Board of Christian Education: There will be no Sunday school for ages 3 through 4th grade on June 1 and August 31. The 2-year old class will meet as usual and the Youth will meet as usual, in the Youth House for Sunday school. As we've done the past two summers, there will be "intergenerational" Sunday school at the Shelter House (ages 3-youth) from June 15 – August 24.

Start making your plans for summer and volunteer to help at New Hope Shelter June 18- 21. The sign-up sheet is posted in the south lobby. **More help is needed with providing supper on Thursday, June 19.** No Sunday school class is available so we need individuals to help provide food for that evening. If you are interested, please let Janice (620-747-0744) know as soon as possible.

Inspire a love of reading!! Spring/Summer Children's Sunday School offering will be for the Marion County Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Our offering will help pay the postage for the free books being sent to the children in Marion County.

Blood Drive: Start your summer by giving a gift of life! Donate blood on **June 2, between 1:00-6:00 pm** at Goessel Church. Sign up at redcrossblood.org to donate. For more information contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081.

Bethesda Home's Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 28, at 7:00 p.m. in Bethesda's Chapel. An update of Bethesda, election of board members, financial report, AND a piece of pie – you won't want to miss! It's a time to celebrate the ministry of Bethesda. We hope you can join us!

Mark your calendars for Bethesda's Annual Summer Fundraiser which will be held from 5p-7p on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at the White Owl Barn. We will once again be serving pulled pork sandwiches with all the fixings. New this year – special drinks provided by Midwest Sippin'. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy an evening by the creek.

There are several pew backs located in the garage. They are free for the taking if you can use one of them. Please remove by May 31.