

# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

May 25, 2025

No. 21



## Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

What IS that 5-letter word that is so important and desperately needed in the world right now? Eric Schrag will introduce us to the churches in Galatia; some of their challenges continue to be our challenges!

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

### Gathering Music

Mary Schmidt

*Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me* ~arr. Behnke

*Now Thank We All Our God* ~arr. Behnke

### Welcome

Jerod Kaufman

### Opportunities for Celebration and Service

#### Call to Worship / Opening Prayer +

(VT 1043 – based on Psalm 146)

Leader: Some trust in governments and some in borders,

**People: but we trust in God, who invites all people to live in peace.**

Leader: For the earth belongs to God, and all creation is in God's care:

**People: land and waters, plants and animals, sky and soil declare the hospitality of God.**

Leader: The world belongs to God, and all who live in it.

**People: We belong to one another as siblings, all of us children of God.**

Leader: With gratitude for the home God has made for us on this planet, we pray:

**People: Send your Holy Spirit to strengthen our resolve, to strive for communities where foreigners become neighbors and strangers become friends.**

Leader: Revive our desire for the reign of Christ, who releases prisoners and liberates the oppressed, who frees the world from greed and proclaims God's peace.

**All: Make justice roll down like a river and righteousness flow like an everlasting stream. Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymns** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

VT 156

*Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah*

VT 95

### Children's Story

Matthew Voth

## Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois Harder

### Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

**Offertory**

*Softly Tenderly* ~arr. Tonioli

Mary Schmidt

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

*You Are All We Have*

VT 701

### Worship Music

*My Life Flows On*

Piano by Elsie Unruh, recorded in 2004

As we remember the saints who've gone before...

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Scripture Reading**

Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

Gretchen Schrag

**Sermon**

*It's Not Fair*

Eric Schrag

**Song of Response**

*Christ Has Broken Down the Wall*

VT 174

## SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*Song of Sending**

*I Know Not Why God's Wondrous*

VT 590

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Lois

**\*Postlude**

*In the Rifted Rock* ~arr. Davies

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 – Denise Duerksen

South – Sandy Duerksen

**Organ/Piano:** Mary Schmidt

**Song Leader:** Renae Schmidt Peters

**Visual Arts:** Anita Boese – “The Willow Tree figurine ‘Healing Grace’ was given to the Boese family from the nursing home when our parents passed away.”

**Nursery Staff:** Julianna Kaufman, Rosie Gaeddert

(nursery available for children age 3 and under)

**Worship Technology:** Steve Unruh, Colby Nafziger, Delton Voth

**May 18 Attendance:** Sunday School – 93; Worship -- 136 in person; 11

Zoom Households

**May 18 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$22.63; First Fruits -- \$3,949.00

**Next Sunday** – Pastor Lois will continue in the book of Galatians, chapter 3.

ALL people who know and love Jesus and want to follow him in their lives belong to The Church – the body of Christ. There is a place for every God-gifted, faithful and beloved child of God within God's kingdom!

## *Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We continue to keep Ann Hiebert and her family in our prayers as they grieve the loss and celebrate the lives of Ann's parents, Janora and Arlin Ratzlaff. A memorial service was held for them yesterday at the Saron Mennonite Church in Orienta, OK.

- ❖ We also pray for the family of LaWanda (Flaming) Oblander who died on Sunday, May 18 at Paramount in Newton. A graveside service was held on Friday, May 23.
- ❖ We pray for our students, teachers and all involved with school who are heading into summer. May there be time for refreshment and rest.
- ❖ We thank you, God, for loved ones who've gone before. We're grateful for the ways their lives have been for us.
- ❖ We recognize that five years ago today George Floyd was murdered by police officers in the street in Minneapolis, MN. We long for a world filled with your peace with justice. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.
- ❖ On this busy Memorial Day weekend we pray for safety for those we know and love who are traveling.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **Sunday, May 25**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Memorial Day service in the cemetery following worship

(approximately 11:45 am) In case of rain, meet in the Chapel.

### **Tuesday, May 27**

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, May 28**

7:00 pm – Bethesda Home's Annual Meeting

### **Sunday, June 1**

9:30 am -- Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

1:00 pm – Bethesda Chapel with Pastor Lois leading

## **COMING EVENTS**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| June 2     | Goessel Community Blood Drive   |
| June 2-6   | VBS at Tabor Mennonite Church   |
| June 4     | Book study begins (see announcement for details)                                    |
| June 8     | 10 am - VBS Worship Service at Tabor Mennonite Church (no service at Alexanderwohl) |
| June 8     | Bethesda's Annual Summer Fundraiser at White Owl Barn                               |
| June 18-21 | Serve at New Hope Shelter   |
| June 20    | Senior Coffee   |
| July 6-12  | Youth Summer Service trip to Rocky Mountain Menn. Camp                              |
| Aug 8-9    | WDC Annual Assembly at Hesston Mennonite Church                                     |

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome Timothy Schrag** to the leadership team here at Alexanderwohl this summer! Timothy will be here as a **Ministry Inquiry participant!** 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, officially starting next Sunday, June 1!

**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.** The books are gone! If you would like help in ordering one, contact Pastor Lois by tomorrow.

**VBS Worship Service: Please join us for a VBS celebration worship service at Tabor Mennonite Church the morning of Sunday, June 8 at 10:00 am.** 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 on June 8.)

**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.

**Thank you to all who contributed this spring to the Mennonite College Student Ministry Fund.** A total of \$3,245 was raised and will be available to students attending Mennonite Colleges in the fall. Students interested in applying for a scholarship from this fund may find the application on the church's website under: resources/bulletins & links/MCSMT Scholarship Application. Please return the application to the church office or Gretchen Schrag by July 1, 2025.

**Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale has announced that the annual donation to MCC is \$678,750.** This is an unexpected large amount! Thank you to everyone for your generous giving and many volunteer hours!

**Service Opportunity!! The Board of Mission and Service would like to encourage the congregation to participate in collecting new baby items** (big or small,) for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) of Wichita. The IRC provides opportunities for refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, and other immigrants to thrive in America. IRC's staff, volunteers and community partners work together to empower refugees to restore their dignity and self-reliance, and participate in their new communities through various programs. A list of baby items is posted on the lobby bulletin boards. Bring donations on June 22 or June 29 to Room # 12 of the Sunday School wing in the basement. If you have questions, contact Judy Goertzen.

**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](https://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.

### ***We Remember...***

*Alice Ruby (Klassen) Jantz – August 7, 2024*

*Irvin Earl Goertzen – August 18, 2024*

*Norman Edward Schroeder – December 3, 2024*

*Evelyn Doris (Hiebert) Matz – January 11, 2025*

*Mary Lou (Voth) Unrau – March 31, 2021*

*Glen Wesley Unrau – March 24, 2025*

*Eulalia (Duerksen) Schroeder – March 26, 2025*

*Rodney L. Duerksen – May 9, 2025*

*LaWanda Rose (Flaming) Oblander – May 18, 2025*

*We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have recently died.  
We thank God for these saints and for the richness they added to our lives.  
On this Memorial Day weekend, we grieve their loss and continue to  
remember and give thanks for them.*



### ***Memorial Services***

*Alexanderwohl Mennonite Cemetery – May 25 following worship*

*Goessel Church – No service*

*Tabor Mennonite Cemetery – Monday, May 26, 10:00 am, cemetery*