

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

June 29, 2025

No. 25



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

This morning we begin a 4-Sunday series called "Telling a Different Story", bringing awareness to the stories and experiences of the Indigenous peoples who first occupied the lands we now call home.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Morning Has Broken* ~Wood Karen Unruh
 All Creatures of Our God and King ~Burkhardt
 Simple Gifts ~Held

Welcome Timothy Schrag

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship / Opening Prayer + adapted VT 864

Leader: We offer thanksgiving to our Creator, recalling that Christ is the center of creation and our lives as Christians.
As we face west, where we receive teachings of faith, we offer thanks for the gifts of the rock world and the purifying and fruitful waters.

All : *Sustain us and the earth through your Holy Spirit, and give us faith as strong as the rock.
We give thanks to you, O God.*

Leader: As we face south, where we receive warmth, we offer thanks for the gifts of the animal world and for the call to be humble.

All : *Enable us to walk good paths, to live as family should, and, with you, to renew the face of the earth.
We give thanks to you, O God.*

Leader: As we face east, the direction of the rising sun, we offer thanks for the gifts of the tree world and for new beginnings.

All: *Help us to be honest with you and others and to be wise and just in our use of the resources of the earth.
We give thanks to you, O God.*

Leader: As we face north, the direction of wind and snow, we offer thanks for the plant world, and for kindness and wisdom.

All: *Breathe your strength and endurance into us, and give us wisdom to treat each other with kindness.
We give thanks to you, O God.*

All: *We give thanks for love like the wings of the eagle.
We dedicate our lives to you, our Creator and Savior.
As we walk on this earth, may we learn together and celebrate
the way of peace, harmony, and tranquility.
We give thanks to you, O God.*

Worship Music *Love Lifted Me* Schrag Siblings

***Prayer of Dedication** *You Are All We Have* VT 701

Sermon *Finding the best in one another* Pastor Lois Harder

*Postlude *Earth and All Stars ~Leavitt* Karen Unruh

June 22 Offering: Sunday School -- \$15.93: First Fruits -- \$5,835.16

Next Sunday – Timothy Schrag will continue our series. “Just as John creatively begins his gospel by reimagining Jesus’ origins in a time before memory, we gather to hear the stories that precede our community’s memory. These origin stories help us understand the gifts and challenges of ‘pitching our tents’ in this place.” John 1:1-5; Hebrews 1:1-3

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for Tim Goertzen who left on Wednesday for an MDS assignment in Perry, FL for the month of July.
- ❖ Myra Peters is attending Junior High Camp at Camp Mennoscah June 29-July 4; Eddie Gaeddert is a counselor at Camp Mennoscah this week and Darla Banman is volunteering as a cook.
- ❖ We pray for the youth and sponsors who will leave next Sunday morning for Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp where they'll do a week of service.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 29

9:30 am -- Sunday School (Summer SS meets in Shelter House for age 3 through high school)

10:30 am – Worship

Monday, June 30

5:00 pm – Board of Worship

Tuesday, July 1

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, July 2

7:00 – 8:30 pm – Book Study in the Fellowship Hall

Friday, July 4

Church Offices Closed

Sunday, July 6

8:00 am – Youth depart AMC for summer service trip to Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp

9:30 am – Sunday School (Summer SS meets in Shelter House for age 3 through high school)

10:30 am – Worship

1:00 pm – Bethesda Chapel with Pastor Lois leading

COMING EVENTS

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| July 6-12 | Youth Summer Service trip to Rocky Mountain Menn. Camp |
| July 8-12 | MC USA Convention in Greensboro, NC |
| July 18 | No Senior Coffee in July – See you in August! |
| July 20 | Area JH summer swim party at Hesston |
| Aug 8-9 | WDC Annual Assembly at Hesston Mennonite Church |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer book study this Wednesday -- *So That We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis* by Sarah Augustine and Sherie Hostetler. **Meeting dates are July 2 and 9 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

Inspire a love of reading!! 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.

Catch the reading bug! AMC summer reading program June 1 – August 31 for preschool thru adult. For every book you read you can add a circle to our caterpillar's body by the library. The circles are located on the library book tables in the lobbies and in the library. Please write the book title and your name on the circle. For every circle that you add you will be entered into a drawing at the end of summer. Questions? Contact Sandy Duerksen 620-386-4434 or Laura Unrau 620-386-4331.

Don't forget to purchase new baby items for distribution by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Wichita. The list of needed items is on the bulletin boards. **Today (June 29) is the final collection day.** If you have questions, contact Judy Goertzen.

The garden sharing table is available in the south lobby. Everyone is welcome to bring extra garden produce to share with others. See Megan Duerksen for more information.

All items for the Sunday, July 6 bulletin are due in the church office at noon on Wednesday, July 2.

Goessel Ministerial Alliance Joint Worship Service: The GMA will offer a joint worship service for the three area churches. This idea was inspired by the joint service that we did last year in celebration of the 150th year marking our forebears' immigration. That service was widely appreciated! We also felt it was time to make a change from the Thanksgiving meal followed closely by the Christmas Brass Concert. We will continue to host the Christmas Brass, but let go of the Community Thanksgiving meal. We feel that it's beneficial for our congregations to worship together at least one time per year! This year the worship service will be held on **August 3 at 10am at the Goessel City Park** and it will be hosted by the Goessel Church. This service will be led by the pastors who are part of the Goessel Ministerial Alliance, with Pastor Brad Penner preaching this year. (This joint service is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Tabor Mennonite Church Park in 2026 and the Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church campus in 2027.) People are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and sun protection. There will be a coffee cake potluck at 9:30 prior to the service; all are invited to bring a coffee cake to share (drinks will be provided). The offering received as a part of this joint worship service will be evenly split between the ministry of the GMA and Bethesda Home. We look forward to this opportunity to worship God together!