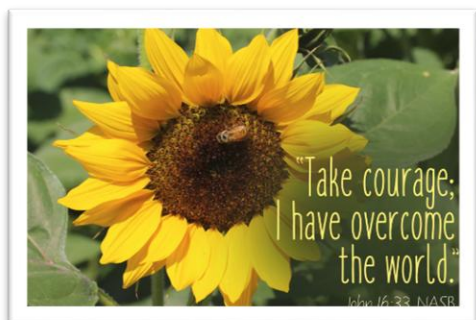


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

September 14, 2025

No. 35



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Jim Klassen brings us the message today from 2 Kings 5 - the story of a little girl who had big faith and courage! What can we learn from her?

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *At the Name of Jesus* ~Wagner Mary Schmidt
 The Trumpet of Faith ~Broughton
 Postlude in G Minor ~Smith

Welcome Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship / Opening Prayer + Psalm 46:1-7 CEB

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble.

All: *That's why we won't be afraid when the world falls apart, when the mountains crumble into the center of the sea, when its waters roar and rage, when the mountains shake because of its surging waves.*

Leader: There is a river whose streams gladden God's city, the holiest dwelling of the Most High.

All: *God is in that city. It will never crumble. God will help it when morning dawns.*

Leader: Nations roar; kingdoms crumble. God utters his voice; the earth melts.

All: *The Lord of heavenly forces is with us! The God of Jacob is our place of safety.*

***Gathering Hymns** *Oh, Have You Not Heard* VT 668
 God of Our Strength VT 47

Children's Story Kyle Unruh

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* ~Tonioli Mary Schmidt

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading	2 Kings 5:1-14	Megan Duerksen
Song of Response	<i>The Lord Is My Light</i>	VT 437
Sermon	<i>A Young Girl's Faith</i>	James Klassen

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Song of Sending	<i>Let There Be Light</i>	VT 714
*Benediction		VT 1068
*Postlude	<i>And I Will Raise You Up ~Joncas</i>	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 – Delbert and Janine Peters
South – Nathaniel Schmucker

Organ / Piano: Mary Schmidt

Song Leader: Renae Schmidt Peters

Visual Arts: Anita Boese

Nursery Staff: Julianna Kaufman, Rosie Gaeddert
(nursery available for children age 3 and under)

Worship Technology: Steve Unruh, Colby Nafziger, Delton Voth

September 7 Attendance: Sunday School – 99; Worship -- 140 in person;
8 Zoom Households

September 7 Offering: Sunday School -- \$125.36; First Fruits -- \$5,514.87

Next Sunday – Eric Schrag will preach on our Education Sunday. The text is the story of Jesus saying, "Let the children come to me", found in Matthew 19, Mark 10 and Luke 18. We will celebrate with Jill Siebert and Braden Unruh as they dedicate themselves and Sonny.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ O God, we confess that we live in a world of violence and weapons. Forgive our sin of not trusting in you.
- ❖ We thank you, God, for the story of Naaman, Elisha and the young girl. Give us the kind of courage to see different solutions, the willingness to risk, and the faithfulness to speak up that we read about in this story.
- ❖ We continue to keep Steve and Sandy Banman and their family in our prayers as they maintain this vigil. We're grateful, God, for hospice services and those willing to bring groceries, meals and help out in various ways.
- ❖ We pray for the activities happening in our church community this week. Be with the Midweek and Safe Church committees as they do their orientation and training on Wednesday. Be with the seniors and with Will Wiebe-Friesen as we gather for Sr. Coffee on Thursday.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 14

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Tuesday, September 16

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 17

6:00 pm – Midweek Informational Meeting, Chapel

6:30 pm – Safe Church Training, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 18

10:00 am – Senior Coffee with Dr. Will Wiebe-Friesen

Sunday, September 21

9:30 am -- Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Noon – Teacher Appreciation Meal

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Sept 24 | Youth Group Kickoff - Fun night at 6:30 pm |
| Sept 28 | Community Service sponsored by Board of Mission & Service |
| Oct 1 | Midweek Activities Begin |
| Oct 12 | Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk |
| Oct 19 | Goessel Arts Fund Committee's Arts Soirée |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a short informational meeting for all individuals helping with Midweek this year. It will be at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, September 17, in the Chapel. This is right before the Safe Church meeting at 6:30 pm.

Our church will have a SAFE CHURCH Safety and Abuse Prevention training session on Wednesday, September 17 from 6:30-7:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is required for all adults 18 years and older, who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults in our church in any capacity. Anybody and everybody is welcome! Child care will be provided for 0-4 year olds in the nursery and Kindergarten-Grade 5 in the shelter house by Tabor Church trained volunteers. All those attending need to RSVP on the sign-up sheets in the lobbies or contact the church office by Sunday, September 14. Contact Marilyn Unruh Flaming, Courtney Hiebert or Susan Nafziger with questions.

It's time to register your kids for Midweek! Use the QR code on the flyer in the lobbies or Friday's email.

The garden sharing table is available in the south lobby. Everyone is welcome to bring extra garden produce to share with others.

All items stored in the church freezer need to be removed today. The freezer will be unplugged for cleaning and maintenance next week.

If you plan to eat the Wednesday night fellowship meals, please sign up on either lobby bulletin board or call the church office – 620.367.8192. **RSVP by Sunday, September 21** to be included in the count for fall semester. Midweek activities begin October 1.

Sr. Coffee with Dr. Will Wiebe-Friesen on **THURSDAY**, September 18 at 10:00 a.m. "Mennonite Hymnody: From the dungeons of Passau, Germany, in 1535 to Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church in 2025. We will explore some of the different veins of worship styles, hymns sources, and traditions, and possibly challenge your understanding of just what 'Mennonite singing' really is."

It's that time of year again! Midweek for Junior High and High Schoolers will begin on September 24, one week before regular midweek begins. We will start with a short parent meeting at 6:30 and then meet with the kids to talk about expectations and plans for the upcoming year until 7:45. Please meet at the youth house. Students can be registered at the midweek link on the flyer. Also, on the bulletin board in the south lobby is a sign-up sheet for snacks each week. Thanks for your support!

Our group subscriptions to the magazine *Anabaptist World* need to be updated. The cost for each subscription is \$54. If you have been part of our group subscription and wish to continue or if you would like to participate as a new reader, please return to Dwight M. Flaming a completed form (found in the lobby and also attached to the church email) plus your check of \$54 payable to Alexanderwohl by **September 21, 2025**.

The annual **Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk is a month away**. This year's route (between 1 and 6 miles) will begin at Tabor Mennonite Church on **Sunday, October 12 at 1:30 p.m.** Find a donation envelope on the table in the foyer and start your fundraising today! Donations go to support MCC and the local Tabor Church Food Pantry.

Bethel College's Fall Festival is Saturday, October 4. As usual, our church is responsible for selling New Year's cookies and coffee for the BC Women's Association. Volunteers are necessary to help with this exciting event. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the south lobby. Questions? Contact Bonnie Gaeddert.

Mennonite Action is a movement of Mennonites, Christians, and friends following in the example of Jesus Christ, who called us to live as active peacemakers, standing firmly on the side of the downtrodden and the oppressed. Right now the genocide in Gaza rages on while the authoritarian powers of our government kidnap our neighbors off the streets in the U.S. Many of us are horrified and want to do something, but we don't know how. Mennonite Action is bringing training, tools, and frameworks to help our communities respond with courage in this historical moment, "discerning the times" as we're called to do. There will be an **evening training event in Newton on Friday, October 10**, as part of the *To Build Our Courage* tour. On **Saturday, October 11**, there will be a **full-day training in Topeka**. The events will include trainings on noncooperation, grassroots organizing, and mutual aid. In addition to spending time worshiping in prayer and song, we'll enjoy a meal together too. Exact times and locations will be announced soon.

The Mennonite Heritage & Agriculture Museum will have a program featuring Donna Hetrick, daughter of Norman and Wanda Ratzlaff on October 18, 7:00 p.m. at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church. Donna Ratzlaff Hetrick will play the organ recital she played in June 2024 at the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chelmo, Poland as part of a celebration of Mennonite history in the Przechowko area. This is the region where many of the Alexanderwohl congregation lived, 1600-1800.

The Goessel Arts Fund Committee is hosting an Arts Soirée on Sunday, October 19, from 2-5 pm at the Tabor Mennonite Church. There will be an **art show** in the hospitality hall that will feature local and regional artists. A **concert** at 3 pm in the sanctuary will include performances by the Salina Symphony Brass Quintet, Holly Swartzendruber (soprano), and a piano duo extravaganza that will feature Goessel area pianists Russell Adrian, Marcia Brubaker, Jason and Renae Peters, and Karen Unruh performing works for 4-10 hands! Following the concert at 4 pm, **refreshments** will be served in the hospitality hall. Plan now to attend this free event! (The Goessel Arts Fund Committee is a subsidiary of the Goessel Community Foundation. Members are Russell Adrian, John Goerzen, Kris Schmucker, and Karen Unruh.)

OUR BANNERS

SaeJin Lee (Korea/USA), *Tree of Life, 2018*, Watercolor paints and coloured pencils

We gather at the Tree of Life, which was in the garden, and will be with us in the restored creation. Around the tree we rest and play; under its branches we belong. It is our source of wisdom, and its leaves are for the healing of the nations. By the tree we need not fear, for the lamb rests in the bosom of the lion, and the child and the adder play together. By the tree we meet our friends – old and new, forgotten and familiar. And when we have gathered, we realize the tree has been with us all along. So come, friend, rest, play, and belong. (VT 12)

Rafael H. Barahona (Canada/USA), *Migrant Journey*, 2018, Digital illustration

There is often great richness in subtleties. This is especially true when it takes us a moment to really see something. I am drawn to this notion in my work as a designer, in my appreciation of art, and in some of life's most poignant moments.

Migrant Journey is a depiction of a universal story known since the beginnings of humanity. The reasons people(s) migrate are many, but perhaps what motivates the most adventurous and even perilous of journeys is hope. While the reality of the migrant journey is too often raw, dangerous, and full of trauma, this depiction is intentionally different. This is not meant to devalue that reality, but rather to illuminate the implicit, yet powerful force of hope that drives such journeys. As is depicted in this piece, there is a hidden blessing with every struggle. This is the story of the migrant, one who has risked so much, not fully knowing what is ahead but propelled forward by a hope that is beyond one's understanding.
(VT 817)

Meg Harder (Canada), *Sing the Goodness*, 2018, Ink on paper

Sing the Goodness responds to passages in the book of Psalms. The Psalms describe singing praise to God with striking physical imagery. The mouth is the site of worship and also a receptacle for God's grace; the lips and the tongue are active participants as well. For this reason, prominent mouths stretch wide over lines of music that seem to occupy real space.

The maternal qualities of God are praised in the Psalms; God is described as a comforter, a place of refuge, and the deliverer of babies. In Psalm 71, metaphors of God as "rock of refuge" are shortly followed by mention of a "mother's womb". For this reason, the central motif features strong but feminine hands delivering a tiny lamb from the depths of the mountains.

Psalm 98 celebrates praise and worship that happen in collaboration with the natural world. This is shown in birds that can harmonize, waters that "roar" and "clap their hands", and mountains that "sing together" to aid the singers in their melodies.

My art practice is inspired by fraktur, a Mennonite folk arts tradition of illuminated calligraphy employed in the production of religious, musical, and educational texts. I work to carry forward the aesthetic sensibilities of this tradition while expanding its narrative and symbolic potential for a contemporary audience.
(VT 104)

Note: Banners have been created of the artwork in *Voices Together* and are on loan from the Western District Conference Resource Library. We have three of the twelve banners in our sanctuary.