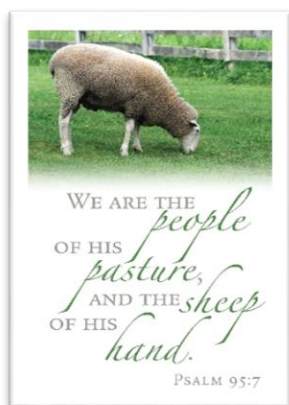


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

October 5, 2025

No. 37



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Today we welcome Sheri Ellwood as our guest speaker. Sheri works for Kansas InterFaith Action and will bring the message from Matthew 25. She'll also share with us about rural advocacy and outreach.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Two Arabesques ~Debussy

Karen Unruh

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship / Opening Prayer +

adapted from Psalm 95 NRSV

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

North: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

South: let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

All: For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

Leader: In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains also belong to God.

North: The sea belongs to God, for God made it,

South: and the dry land which God's hands have formed.

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

***Gathering Hymns**

Like a Rock (2x)

VT 63

Christ is King! Let Earthly Powers

VT 410

Peace Prayer

Nathaniel Schmucker

Children's Story

Sheri Ellwood

Worship Music

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

VT 196

Prayer of Commissioning

~ for Jared and Laura Unrau and the new Young Adult Sunday school class

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Reverie ~Debussy

Karen Unruh

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:34-40 CEB

Dwight M. Flaming

Song of Response

Longing for Light (vs. 1, 2, 5)

VT 715

Sermon

Sheri Ellwood

Around the world and on the prairie; Breaking Open Hearts

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending**

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

VT 392

***Benediction**

Pastor Lois

***Postlude**

excerpt from Prelude ~Debussy

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 – Kevin and Bonnie Gaeddert

South – Brian and Nancy Stucky

Piano: Karen Unruh

Song Leader: Kyle Unruh

Visual Arts: Courtney Hiebert

Nursery Staff: Brittany Hiebert, Delaney Duerksen

(nursery care available for children age 3 and under)

Worship Technology: DJ Flaming, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth

September 21 Attendance: Sunday School – 102; Worship -- 140 in person; 13 Zoom Households

September 21 Offering: Sunday School -- \$44.38; First Fruits -- \$5,683.71

September 28 Offering: First Fruits -- \$10,445.45

Next Sunday – We will observe World Communion (one week later than most). Eric Schrag will preach from Luke 17:11-19 and we'll hear from the Chancel Choir for the first time this season!

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We thank God for successful back surgery for Mary Schmidt.
- ❖ We pray for Kara Burkholder and Adrian Hernandez who were married October 4
- ❖ We pray for family of Phyllis (Dyck) Nickel who died at Bethesda Home on Friday, September 26.
- ❖ We continue to pray for our nation and the world. We need the Peace of Jesus, God. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.
- ❖ We pray for the work of organizations who are leading in efforts to bring your Good News into the world...groups like KIFA, Mennonite Central Committee and others who are actively working for peace with justice.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 5

- 9:30 am -- Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Worship
- 1:00 pm – Bethesda Chapel led by Pastor Lois

Monday, October 6

- 1:00-6:00 pm – Goessel Community Blood Drive, Goessel Church
- 5:15 pm – Board of Worship

Tuesday, October 7

- 9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, October 8

- 5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal
- 6:30 pm – Midweek Activities

Sunday, October 12

- 9:30 am – Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Worship with Communion
- 1:30 pm – Harvest Giving Walk (begins at Tabor Church)

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Oct 11 | Goessel Harvest Festival |
| Oct 17 | Senior Coffee – Dyck Arboretum |
| Oct 18 | Museum program featuring Donna (Ratzlaff) Hetrick |
| Oct 19 | Goessel Arts Fund Committee's Arts Soirée |
| Nov 2 | Bethesda Home Pillar's Banquet at Tabor Mennonite Church |
| Nov 6 | Tabor Mennonite Church Chicken Barbeque, 5-7 pm |
| Dec 6 | Daughters of Grace Christmas Brunch |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Midweek Schedule:

- 5:45–6:30 pm – Fellowship Meal Served
 - 6:30-7:45 pm – Supervised childcare for 0-2
 - 6:30-7:45 pm – Children's activities and music (ages 3-5th grade)
 - 6:45-7:45 pm – Chancel Choir
 - 6:45-7:45 pm – 6th through 12th grade activities
 - 7:50-8:30 pm – Adult Bible Study
- Please register your students with the QR code found in either lobby or in the Friday email.

Wednesday night meals – If you are willing to bring dessert, help serve or clean up, sign up in the south lobby for dates that work for you.

The Board of Mission and Service would like to shout out a BIG THANK YOU to the congregation for supporting Love Your Community Service Day last Sunday. May we all be encouraged to show God's love everyday as we follow Jesus' example of loving others in word and deed. As a point of interest, approximately 115 children, students, young adults, adults, and seniors participated in LYC Day!

NEW HOURS FOR THE CHURCH OFFICE! Beginning on **Monday, October 20**, the **church offices will be closed on Mondays** and the building will be locked. The office hours will remain the same (8:30-12:30 and 1:00-4:00) Tuesday-Friday. Pastor Lois may be reached on her cell phone 316.617.3497.

The Harvest Giving Walk will take place at Tabor Mennonite Church next Sunday, October 12 at 1:30 p.m. It's not too late to pick up a donation envelope on the table in the foyer today or find someone who is participating and generously support the Tabor Food Pantry and MCC's education projects. Walkers are also invited to bring an item for the Tabor Food Pantry on the day of the event. Make checks payable to "Harvest Giving Walk".

Are you feeling overwhelmed and exhausted by the news and am not sure where to put your energy? Do you want to do something positive but don't know where to start? Join the **Mennonite Action in their National Courage Tour** training on **Friday, October 10 at New Creation Fellowship, 221 Muse St., Newton**. We will dive into ways to push back against Authoritarianism, support our immigrant neighbors as ICE moves into the streets and connect that with the liberation of Palestine. All this work will grow out of our following Jesus Christ. Please RSVP to join this powerful training at [Mennonite Action](#).

Here is the schedule:

5:30 check-in, dinner starts at 5:45

5:45-6:30 dinner

6:30-6:45 transition

6:45 worship

7:10 intro into authoritarianism, mutual aid for each other and our neighbors

8:00 put the ideas into practice

8:30 closing courage circle

8:45 participants depart

Blood Drive: "Color your fall with kindness" and donate blood on October 6, between 1:00-6:00 pm at the Goessel Church. Sign up at [redcross blood.org](https://redcross.blood.org) to donate. Your donations are always needed. For more information contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081.