

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXII

September 13, 2026

No. 35



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!
This morning we continue in the series called *God's Shalom for our Common Home*. We'll focus on ways that shalom is nurtured best within covenant relationships - with God, ourselves, each other, the land and all of creation.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Prelude and Fugue V in G Major* ~ Bach Jared Janzen

Welcome Pastor Chris Weaver

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer +

Leader: You are not alone. You are a creature within creation, a part of a whole, with a story to share, and a covenant to keep.

People: And we do not worship alone. We are a community within creation, a part of God's story summoned by God's faithfulness to be faithful to each other.

All: Together, let us worship for the sake of our common life – a life that leads to shalom.

***Gathering Hymn** *This is God's Wondrous World* VT 180

Time with the Children Laura Unrau

Confession

Leader: God of covenant, God of promise:

All: We come to you in a spirit of humility, knowing that we have not always embodied your love and shalom through our relationships with ourselves, our neighbors, and creation.

Hymn of Confession *Touch the Earth Lightly* VT 145

Assurance (based on Ephesians 2:14-22)

Leader: Christ is our peace – the embodiment of reconciliation. He has taken down the dividing walls, opened the streets for a neighborhood block party!

People: We are no longer those who disagree with one another, passing on the sidewalk, but neighbors working together for the common good.

Leader: Look – Christ is already at work building a community garden! He has rolled up his sleeves; he's getting down to the business of cooperation and collaboration.

People: People of all ages, all walks of life, are drawn into this place, a habitat for all right here in the community.

Hymn of Assurance *Wonderful Grace of Jesus* VT 170

Morning Prayer Pastor Chris

Worship Music *Be Thou My Vision* ~ arr. Curnow Mary Schmidt, violin

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings First Fruits Giving

Offertory *Prelude on "Guidance"* ~ Gordon Young Jared Janzen

***Prayer of Dedication** *God of the Fertile Fields* VT 750

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings Sandy Banman

Isaiah 55:3-5; Matthew 5:17-20; Ephesians 2:14-22

Sermon *...built together into a dwelling place for God* Pastor Lois Harder

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Sending Song** *Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God* VT 653

***Benediction** Pastor Lois

***Postlude** Jared Janzen

Lord, You Give the Great Commission ~ Gordon Young

*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 – Eric & Gretchen Schrag

South – Nathaniel Schmucker

Organ / Piano: Jared Janzen

Song Leader: Kyle Unruh

Visual Arts: Brianna Combs

Nursery Staff: Brittany Hiebert, Delaney Duerksen

(nursery care available for children age 3 and under)

Worship Technology: Steve Unruh, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

September 6 Attendance: Worship -- 141 in person; 16 Zoom Households

Next Sunday – Pastor Chris will continue the series, preaching from Isaiah 55:6-9 and Matthew 6:7-13 on returning to God's garden.

Greeters are Jared & Laura Unrau and Larry Voth.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We praise God for the birth of Jack Myron Hiebert to Weston and Courtney last Sunday morning! Also welcoming him to the family are big brother and sister Wyatt and Haydin.

- ❖ We pray for wise local, state, national, and world leaders during this time of intense polarization and waning desire to work for solutions that benefit everyone and our common home.
- ❖ God, we pray for all the children within our care here at AMC. May we continue to develop and provide an environment that is safe and healthy for persons of all ages to learn about and experience God's great love.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 13

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Monday, September 14

4:00 pm – Prayer Team

5:45 pm – Board of Mission & Service

7:00 pm – Church Council

Tuesday, September 15

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Friday, September 18

10:00 am – Senior Coffee

2:00 pm – Offices Closed for Afternoon

Sunday, September 20

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

COMING EVENTS

September 18	Senior Coffee; Jerod Kaufman, presenter
September 23	Midweek Staff Informational Meeting, 5:45 pm
September 23	Annual Safe Church Training, 6:30 pm
September 26-27	Church Retreat at Camp Menno'scah
October 4	Harvest Giving Walk World Communion Sunday
October 7	Midweek Begins
November 7	Daughters of Grace Fall Brunch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harvest Giving Walk 2026 is Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 1:30 pm. Walkers remember the millions of people around the world who walk to find food, water or shelter. You are able to walk any distance to support this cause! If you prefer, you can simply make a donation in lieu of walking. Donations support MCC and the Tabor Food Pantry. Pledge forms are available in the back of the sanctuary or from Karl Brubaker.

Our church will have a SAFE CHURCH Safety and Abuse Prevention annual training session on Wednesday, September 23, from 6:30-7:30 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! Childcare will be provided. All those attending need to RSVP on the sign-up sheets in the lobbies or contact the church office by

Sunday, September 20. Contact Marilyn Unruh Flaming, Malea Hartvickson or Susan Nafziger with questions.

New Life Church and Resource Center, located in Wichita, would again welcome our assistance with food distribution on Friday, Sept. 25, from 3:00 to approximately 6:00pm. Their operation is growing in size due to the need for food, so we are asked to arrive a little earlier than we have in the past. There is a sign-up sheet in the south lobby for approximately eight people and we will help to arrange carpooling. If you have questions, contact Pastor Chris, Sandy Banman, or John Fast. ~ Board of Mission and Service

Midweek is starting up again! Wednesday, October 7, will be Kickoff Night – the first evening of Midweek meals and activities at Alexanderwohl this fall. If your child plans to be involved in Midweek and/or Sunday School this year, please register online by Wednesday, September 30 (see the Friday email from amc@alexanderwohl.org) or scan the QR code on the flyers in the lobbies. Feel free to invite friends from the community! With questions, contact one of the Midweek Coordinators: Sandy Banman, Julianna Kaufman, or Kyle Unruh.

If you plan to eat the Wednesday night fellowship meals, please sign up on either lobby bulletin board or call the church office – 620.356.8192. RSVP by Sunday, September 27 to be included in the count for fall semester.

2026 Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church Retreat: Come to Camp Mennoscah September 26-27 and enjoy God's creation, fellowship, tasty meals, and worshipping our Maker! Come for one day or both days. Thanks to First Fruits giving throughout the year, most of the retreat fees are covered. Opportunity will be given for donations to assist with expenses. For planning purposes, please complete the online registration form (see the weekly email from amc@alexanderwohl.org) OR the registration form that can be found on the back table in the sanctuary, by Sunday, September 20th. Feel free to invite friends!

Join us for Senior Coffee THIS Friday, September 18, at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Jerod Kaufman will deliver a presentation covering life as a meteorologist, forecasting, and what the upcoming winter may hold for Kansas. Jerod currently works as a meteorologist for the National Weather Service.

Save the date for an autumn-themed Daughters of Grace brunch on Saturday, November 7. We're trying this new date instead of the typical Christmas brunch due to the many other holiday opportunities in early December. Plan to come for a fun fall festive event! More details to be announced later. ~ Daughters of Grace Leadership Team

First Fruits Update: We have completed 2/3 (67%) of the year and we have received 59% of our giving goal for 2026. The majority of our expenses have been at or below our spending plan amounts. However, repairs and expenses, which account for a significant portion of our operating expenses, have been running over budget. We look forward to continued generous giving of your First Fruits offerings so we can meet our spending plan goals for the remainder of the year. Thank you for your support of the ministries of Alexanderwohl.