

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

A new **Faith Ex class** for high school youth begins in January. Students shall notify Pastor Linda by Wed., Jan. 6, if they plan to participate in the class.

Sunday, Jan. 17, Faith Ex students and mentors will meet from **noon to 1:30 pm** in the Youth House for an Orientation Session.

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 7:00 pm – Midweek in the Youth House

This summer's service trip will be to Dallas from July 7-11. We'll spend two days serving with our sister church and two days participating with Western District youth groups in a conference in Waxahachie, Texas.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Jan. 17, Noon Area Wide Junior High Fundraiser Meal

Sunday, Jan. 17, 7:00 pm Church Meeting about our schools and community

Saturday, Jan. 23, 8:30 am–1:30 pm Leadership Retreat

Sunday, Jan. 31 Annual Meeting

ALEXANDERWOHL MENNONITE CHURCH

Building on the foundation of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11),

empowered by the Holy Spirit,

we

Love God and invite all people

Encourage fellowship in Christ

Teach obedience to Christ

Serve and minister in Jesus' name

so that

God is praised!

Offering God's Love, Healing & Hope to All

Vol. LVI, No. 1
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.
1304 K-15 Hwy, Box 8
Goessel Kansas 67053
Office: (620) 367-8192
Youth Office: (620) 367-8197
email:
alexmenno@mtelco.net
alexsteve@mtelco.net
alexlinda@mtelco.net
alex youth@mtelco.net
Web Site: www.alexanderwohl.org
Pastors:
Steve Schmidt (316) 283-0058
Linda Ewert H – (620) 367-3882
Linda Ewert C – (316) 204-4896
Mike Brouillette (620) 947-3587

ALEXANDERWOHL MENNONITE CHURCH
JANUARY 3, 2010

WORSHIP SERVICE

Focus Statement: Has it soaked in yet: this amazing display of God's love at Christmas? It is nearly overwhelming. How could God come to us in this way? Why would God do such a thing? What does it mean? And what effect will it have on us in this coming year? Listen for the insight God wants you to have as the service progresses today.

Gathering Music DJ Freeman, piano
Welcome Pastor Steve Schmidt
Opportunities for Celebration and Service
Instrumental Call to Worship Jason Peters, organ
"Go Tell It on the Mountain" ~Behnke
(Please sign, pass, and return the friendship registers)

The Advent and Christmas Candles

Leader: Why have we lit these candles?

Congregation: We have lit these candles because God has brought light into our dark world.

Leader: Yes, the promise spoken by Isaiah has been fulfilled...

Congregation: ...all who walk in darkness have received a great light.

Leader: The small light of the Christmas candles reflect the Light that now goes forth into the world.

All: Jesus, the Light of the World is here! Christ the Savior is born!

Advent Hymn (remain seated)

"Oh, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" In back pocket of the blue Hymnal

Invocation Pastor Steve

Special Music Eric & Gretchen Schrag family

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-20 NRSV Pastor Linda Ewert

*Songs of Praise and Adoration

"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" HWB #202

"Joy to the World" HWB #318

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" HWB #212

Morning Prayer Pastor Linda

Children's Story Amy Flaming

(Following the story, children, ages 3 thru Kindergarten, are dismissed for Children's Church.)

Offertory "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" ~Burkhardt
***Song of Dedication** "What Child Is This" (vs. 3) HWB #215

Message "What Difference Does Christmas Make?" Pastor Steve

***Closing Song** "Angels We Have Heard" HWB #197

***Benediction** Pastor Steve

Postlude "Let Our Gladness Have No End" ~Leavitt

*All who are able are invited to stand.

* * *

Song Leader: Marcia Brubaker

WELCOME

Welcome everyone! Welcome to this second Sunday after Christmas. We are so glad you are here. Our hope is that this time together will help draw us close to Jesus, and strengthen us to truly be Christmas People!

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

Hospital: Susie Schmidt was dismissed from Newton Medical Center and is at Bethesda Home.

Death: Wilma Unruh (Mrs. John W.) died on Dec. 25 and her funeral was held here on Thursday, Dec. 31. Please remember this family as they grieve their loss.

Western Dist. Conference: Pray for the WDC Conference Minister search committee as it discerns new leadership for our area conference.

TODAY

A **Supervised Nursery** is available for children ages 3 and under during Worship. Attendants are Vickie and Ashley Hiebert.

Children's Church available for 3 year olds thru Kindergarten. Teachers are Tina and Ben Schrag; helper is Tia Goertzen.

Today is the last day to sign up for the Mennonite men & boys banquet. Come hear the gospel blue grass music from the Jammin Biscuits and enjoy a fun and entertaining evening with family and friends.

4:00 pm Bethesda Chapel with Pastor Steve Schmidt

Monday, January 4

9:00 am Staff Meeting
7:30 pm Board of Deacons

Tuesday, January 5

Wednesday, January 6

Midweek Activities (See Insert for Details)
6:30 – 8:00 pm Audit of Treasurer’s books

Thursday, January 7

6:30 pm Board of Mission & Service

Friday, January 8

Saturday, January 9

7:00 pm Men and Boys Banquet

Sunday, January 10 *Communion*

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

Preaching: Pastor Steve Schmidt

Special Music: Living Prayer

Offering: First Fruits Giving

Nursery Attendants: Tammy Flaming and Kara Schmucker

Children’s Church Teachers / Helpers: Amy and Pat Flaming / Nicole Goertzen

Noon Sunday School Class Get-together – Fellowship Hall

Last Sunday, December 27

Attendance: Sunday School 140
Worship Service 220

Offerings: Sunday School \$149.07
First Fruits Giving \$15,623.50

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Reports are due in the church office on Sunday, Jan. 10.

Treasurers, please make sure your books are audited before turning in your report. Auditors will be available Wednesday evening, Jan. 6.

Thanks for calling the church office/pastors when a family member or church friend or neighbor is in the hospital. The hospitals usually have a plan in place for notifying us, but more often than not it doesn’t happen.

4

The Church Group email is up and running! If you would like to be included on this email list—or thought you were on the group email list and

did not receive anything—please contact the church office. A Phone Tree has been put in place for those who do not have email. Please contact the church office if you wish to be added to the Phone Tree. The group email and phone tree will be used for church communication and prayer concerns.

The **Prayer Team** will meet for the first time in the new year on Tues., Jan 5 at 9:00 a.m. Susan Nafziger and Norma Duerksen are joining Kris Schmucker, Josephine Voth and Esther Schmidt on the Prayer Team. There is one change being made to make this continue to work for our team. Kris, Norma and Susan will meet to pray at the church and Josephine and Esther will be praying at the designated time from their individual homes. Prayers will continue to be lifted up for our church simultaneously from several locations. We would invite anyone who has an interest in praying for our church and community to join us on a regular basis in 2010. If you have questions, call Pastor Linda or Kris Schmucker.

As was shared last Sunday, **we are very sorry that not everyone got the word about the Christmas Day Service being cancelled.** We are developing back-up plans for getting the word out in the future, so even if the TV station’s computers fail again, other avenues will be available.

Start the New Year off right by digging into God’s Word. The Wednesday evening Bible study, led by Pastor Steve, will search the 9th chapter of the Gospel of Mark for faith lessons for today. All are welcome at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, or at 8:00 p.m. in the Pastor’s Study.

Midweek Adult Class—What does it mean to live as an Anabaptist Christian today? Why do you come to a Mennonite church? Does Anabaptist and Mennonite mean the same thing? What are the core values that are important to you? Come join the conversation on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 7:00 or 8:00 in the Conference Room. Pastor Linda will lead the class.

Women of all ages are invited to join in supporting your sisters in Christ through prayer. To join the Prayer Circle, pick up a "2010 Prayer Partner" sheet from the table in either lobby and return the completed form to the Daughters of Grace mailbox in either lobby by January 15. A partner will be selected for you. Join in the Circle and be blessed!

5

Discussion about how **leadership for Youth Ministries** will look in the future has begun. Ideas range from finding leadership within the congregation (not hiring a pastor) to hiring a full time pastor with expanded

responsibilities. Church Council welcomes input from youth, parents, pastors, leadership groups, and congregation. Our Conference Minister, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, met with the Council Monday and recommended that a Search Committee be formed immediately, so that committee members can already be listening to all the input. That way, they will be fully informed should their services be needed. Your prayers are greatly appreciated as the various leadership groups consider this need in the context of the larger church vision.

Forms for submitting names of people to serve on the search committee are in your mailboxes.

Sunday, January 17 – Noon: Think junior higher kids just sit around all day playing video games? Not ours! You're invited to Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church where you will witness first-hand a meal prepared and served up by the Goessel Area Wide Junior High youth. Please come enjoy some super sloppy Joes and delightful homemade desserts (don't worry – we've engaged the parents for that). This event is a fundraiser for our trip to Camp WaShunGa in May. Thanks for your support!

Church Meeting about our Schools and our Community – Come to Alexanderwohl on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 7:00 pm to hear about what is happening with schools in Kansas and the big concern about school funds being cut by the State. What about Goessel schools? How can the schools, the churches and the community work together to keep our institutions and our community a vital place to live and work? John Fast, Superintendent of Goessel schools will give us an informative PowerPoint presentation on this topic. Come to be informed and join the conversation.

The date is set! The excitement is building. **The Leadership Retreat** is January 23, 8:30-1:30, in the Fellowship Hall. **Church Council and all members of all Boards** are cordially invited to this time of prayer and sharing about the church's future. We will be celebrating and assessing what God has given this past year. We will look at which of last year's goals and strategies to continue, and we will plan new strategies that will help us reach our God-given goals. Fix the date on your calendar and please begin including this time in your prayers. Thank you.

COMMUNITY AND CONFERENCE

AGAPE Potluck Meal will be Jan. 21, 6:00 pm. At 7:00, Donley and Carol Duerksen will show pictures from their recent China trip.

6

Everyone interested in **Agri-Urban** and its programs is invited to an **appreciation dinner on January 16, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. (Note corrected date)** at Eden Mennonite Church – 4 miles west and 2 miles north of Moundridge, Kansas. Please make reservations with Ben Schrag by

January 10, 2010. A program will follow the meal.

The 2010 annual meeting of Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service will be held Jan. 17, 2:30 pm, at Hesston Mennonite Church. Speaker will be Jeff Blackburn, pastor of Greensburg Mennonite Church. See details on bulletin boards.

You are invited to attend the **2010 annual meeting of Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum** on Sunday, Jan. 17, at 2:30 p.m. at Goessel Mennonite Church. The program will include a business meeting and a presentation on the *Santa Fe Trail in Marion County* by Steve Schmidt, president of the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association. Faspa will served following the program.

Opportunity will be given to become a member of the Museum; membership levels are Individual, Couple and Family. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Early next year **Dr. Jason P. Holcomb**, a professor at Morehead (KY) State University, **will begin work on an oral history project focusing on Mennonite custom harvesters in Kansas.** He is seeking people to interview: custom harvesters and custom harvesting crew members; others who have had custom harvesting experience; and people who could tell custom harvesting stories that have been passed down from an earlier generation. Dr. Holcomb would like to get in touch with you. Dr. Holcomb's project is being funded by the Kansas Humanities Council; Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum is sponsoring Dr. Holcomb. If you are willing to help Dr. Holcomb in his work, please call the Museum (367-8200) and leave a message or call Marj Shoemaker (367-8534).

On the bulletin boards:

- ▶ Bethel College Events: MLK Day, Jan. 18; Concert Choir, Feb. 7, 2 pm
- ▶ Call to action against the Death Penalty
- ▶ Mennonite Central Committee increases Asia Disasters Appeal
- ▶ MCC information on World AIDS Day
- ▶ Assoc. Menn. Biblical Sem.–Great Plains Extension seminary courses
- ▶ Music and Worship Leaders' Retreat, Jan. 8-10, 2010, Laurelville, PA

7

MIDWEEK SCHEDULE – WINTER 2010

Schedule for January 6, 2010

5:30–6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Study of the Gospel of Mark

Conference Room

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| 5:45–6:45 p.m. Fellowship Meal Served | Fellowship Hall |
| 6:30–8:00 p.m. Children’s Activities | |
| SonShine Singers (ages 3–1st grade) | Education Wing Room 19 |
| Rejoice Choir (grades 2–6) | Chapel |
| Joy Builders Class (ages 3–Kindergarten) | Education Wing |
| Disciple Makers Class (grades 1–4) | Education Wing |
| Faith Finders Class (grades 5–6) | East Chapel |
| 7:00–8:00 p.m. Midweek Classes for Youth | |
| Jr. High Class | Shelter House |
| High School Youth | Youth House |
| 7:00–8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir* | Choir Loft |
| 7:00–8:00 p.m. Living as an Anabaptist Christian Today* | Conference Room |
| 8:00–9:00 p.m. NO Handbell Choir | |
| 8:00–9:00 p.m. Repeat Adult Bible Study | Pastor Steve’s Office |
| 8:00–9:00 p.m. Repeat Living as an Anabaptist Christian | Conference Room |

* Childcare provided for children birth–age 2.

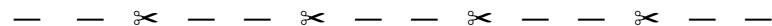
**Invite your Friends, Neighbors, New Persons in the Community
To Join Us!**

Questions? Call 367-8192

MID–WEEK FELLOWSHIP MEALS READY TO SERVE AT 5:45 P.M.

Additions will be accepted in the church office until Monday noon.

Cancellation deadline is 9:00^{AM} on Wednesday. Menu for January 6: Taco Soup, rolls, carrots & pickles, apples, brownies (peanut butter and jelly sandwiches will also be available).



Wednesday Fellowship Meal Reservation for January 6

Additions will be accepted in the church office until Monday noon.

Cancellation deadline is 9:00 ^{AM} on Wednesday.

_____ I/We plan to be a regular at every Wednesday night meal. I will notify the church office if I will not be able to come.

_____ I/We plan to come this Wednesday.

Family Name _____

Adults _____ # Children _____

(Place in Offering Plate or Turn in to Church Office)