

Western District Conference VISION 2012

VISION 2012, the Western District Conference prayer and funding campaign, is ready to receive your gifts to achieve the goal of \$1.5 million. So far, 733 people/units have given slightly over \$1000 per intent or \$1.1 million – and we are thankful. The goal is 1000 people giving \$1000 (over a three-year period). Prayerfully consider how you can assist church planting, Camp Mennoscah, the Resource Library and ministerial services with your gift. Contact WDC at Box 306, North Newton, KS; 316-283-6300 or www.mennowdc.org, click on "Vision 2012", print the intent form and send it in.

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. 8
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.
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Goessel Kansas 67053
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Steve Schmidt (316) 283-0058
Linda Ewert H – (620) 367-3882
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ALEXANDERWOHL MENNONITE CHURCH
FEBRUARY 21, 2010

WORSHIP SERVICE

Focus Statement: Today is the first Sunday of Lent, that 40 day period from Ash Wednesday to Easter. (Not counting Sundays which are already 'little Easters'.) The Lenten season helps us prepare anew for Christ's death and resurrection. The Lenten sermon focus is God's everlasting covenant and everlasting love. May these messages help prepare your heart, mind and spirit for Jesus to rise again in your life.

Gathering Music Worship Team
Welcome Pastor Steve Schmidt
Opportunities for Celebration and Service
Invocation Pastor Steve
Lenten Opening
Reading In the blue *Hymnal Worship Book (HWB)* #710
Lenten Prayer Song, Removing of a Cloth from the Cross
"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" (vs. 1,2) HWB #317
Instrumental Call to Worship Karen Unruh, organ
"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" ~Hobby
(Please sign, pass, and return the friendship registers)
***Songs of Praise and Adoration**
"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (vs. 1,2,3,5) HWB #110
"I've Found a Friend" In the red Sing With Joy folders (SWJ) #27
"All In All" SWJ #73
"Open Our Eyes, Lord" SWJ #55
Morning Prayer Pastor Linda Ewert
Children's Story Delbert Peters
(Following the story, children, ages 3 thru Kindergarten, are dismissed for Children's Church.)
Special Music Rejoice Choir
"This Is The Day, This Is The Day" ~Fiji Island Folk Melody
Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings First Fruits Giving
Offertory *"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me" ~Kerr*
***Song of Dedication** *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (vs. 1)* HWB #327
Receive and Welcome New Member
Pastors Linda Ewert and Steve Schmidt
Marjorie Jantzen Shoemaker by letter of transfer from First
Mennonite Church, Beatrice, Nebraska

Congregational Response

We freely receive you, even as Christ has received us.
We open ourselves to fellowship with you
in worship, study, service, and discipline.
We pledge our willingness to give and receive counsel,
to offer and accept forgiveness in the redeemed community.
We joyfully accept you as a partner,
both in the care of our spiritual family,
and in our mission to the world.

Scripture Reading Genesis 9:8-17 (NIV) Kent Peters
Message Pastor Steve Schmidt
"Everlasting Covenant, Everlasting Love"
***Closing Song** *"I Bind My Heart This Tide"* HWB #411
***Benediction** Pastor Steve
Postlude
*All who are able are invited to stand.

* * *

Song Leader: Arlin Buller
Worship Team: Mandi Brouillette, Isaac Fast, Matt Flaming, Pat Flaming,
Jason Peters, Eric Schrag, Gayle Voth

WELCOME

Welcome everyone! Welcome to this worship service. As we sing, and pray, and study God's word, may you be drawn close to the heart of God this morning. And because God loves us, and longs to have us near, we know that God's heart is a welcoming heart.

TODAY

A **Supervised Nursery** is available for children ages 3 and under during Worship. Attendants are Rick and DJ Freeman.

Children's Church available for 3 year olds thru Kindergarten. Teacher is Jessica Boese; helper is Denise Voth.

Not by Bread Alone, Daily Reflections for Lent by Jay Cormier, are available on a table at the back of the sanctuary. A donation of \$1.00 is suggested.

Pictorial Directories are here and may be picked up after worship in the south lobby.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

Hospital: Marilyn Schmidt was admitted to and dismissed from Newton Medical Center

Western Dist. Conference: Pray for the WDC Gifts Discernment Committee as it prepares a ballot for leadership positions – including a moderator-elect, secretary and eleven board/commission positions.

WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER

Marjorie Jantzen Shoemaker

Every Day a Gift . . . On my key ring hangs a heart-shaped metal piece stamped with the words: *Each day is a gift from God.* It's true. It's a reminder that so far God has given me more than 23,000 presents.

My first 20 years were spent west of Beatrice, Neb., on the family farm overlooking a wood. I grew up amongst natural beauty, siblings, and the many members of my paternal extended family. My maternal relatives all lived in Kansas. My mother, Anna Ruth Franz, grew up near Goessel and in this church. When she was 15, her parents moved to Mingo. Several years later, however, Mother returned to Alexanderwohl Church to be baptized and to join this congregation. She joined First Mennonite Church near Beatrice after her marriage to my father.

When I was about six, my parents joined the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church at Jansen. At age 13 or 14, I was baptized upon confession of faith and joined EMB congregation.

My formal education was received through one-room country grade schools, a small high school, Grace Bible Institute (now Grace University) in Omaha, and Wheaton (Ill.) Graduate School.

There was a time in my life when I had many answers and few questions; one might say I lived in my very own ivory tower – and it even had a balcony. Then one day in 1971 God gave me the gift (with a fork) of a brief conversation with a summer student at Wheaton College. He closely resembled a hippie (how could he call himself a Christian!?), but I learned that in addition to his studies, he was a volunteer doing Jesus' work with children in Chicago's inner city. I felt a jolt, as if lightning had hit my very comfortable tower. It had, and the structure began to crumble. So began a journey in a new direction, a road which led me, and still leads me, to wondering deeply what it means to be Christian – or not.

Five years later, during my time at Wheaton Graduate School, God gave me another life-altering day-gift (again with a fork). I had decided to get re-acquainted with my Mennonite roots, and one Sunday I visited Lombard (Ill.) Mennonite Church. I arrived between the worship service and Sunday School. I knew no one in that church; no one was at the door to greet me. Yet, completely unexpectedly, as I entered the church building, I felt as though I had come home. And so I had.

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There have been other gifts with forks. One day in 1984 I contacted Mennonite Weekly Review; I enjoyed seven years as staff writer there. It was during this time I was also given the gift of involvement with Mennonite Heritage Museum. In the early 1990s I was given the gift of love and marriage, although it required leaving this beloved south central Kansas. Three years later, cancer took my husband, and I traveled through Kansas back to Nebraska, where I could be near my aging parents. One day, sometime after their passing, I gave myself permission to return to Kansas. I began plans to move in the summer of 2008. One day in late 2007, however, I was asked if I was interested in applying for the directorship at the museum. Was I!? In the next weeks, all details fell into place. Sometimes I could only stand back and say Wow!

So here I am, on this day thankful to receive the gift of membership in Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, February 22

NewsLine Items Due

9:00 am Staff Meeting

11:45 am-1:30 pm MomTime – Fellowship Hall and Nursery

Tuesday, February 23

7:00 pm Board of Education – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 24

Midweek Activities (See Insert for Details)

Thursday, February 25

7:00 pm Overall Overhaul fitness class in the Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 26

Saturday, February 27

8:00-Noon Bloodmobile Donor Coach at Goessel Mennonite Church

Sunday, February 28

2nd Sunday of Lent

8:30 am Faith Ex in the Youth House

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

Preaching: Pastor Steve Schmidt

“Everlasting Covenant, Everlasting Love” Part 2 in a series

Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5; Hosea 2:19-20; Jeremiah 31:31-33

Special Music: Chancel Choir

Offering: First Fruits Giving

Nursery Attendants: Aileen Esau and Pat Schmidt

Children's Church Teachers / Helpers: Rachael & Brian Burkholder / Erin Brubaker

Sunday, February 28

6:30 pm Special Congregational Meeting – Fellowship Hall

- 1) Vote to approve a new term of service for Pastor Linda
 - 2) Discern direction for Youth Leadership as Pastor Mike's term comes to an end
- Childcare will be provided if you let the church office know in advance that you wish to have childcare.

Last Sunday, February 14

Attendance: Sunday School 180
 Worship Service 254

Offerings: Sunday School \$106.61
 First Fruits Giving \$13,942.85

COMING EVENTS

Friday, March 26 Daughters of Grace MCC Craftin' Event
Wednesday, April 28, 6:30 pm Daughters of Grace Salad Supper

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 7:00 pm – Midweek in the Youth House

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Priorities for 2010. Thanks, again, for all your prayers for the Leadership Retreat and for the Church Council as priorities were discerned. Watch the *NewsLine* for an article. Copies are available in the Church Office to already start implementing them.

Homeless Shelter Update – Check the Sign-up Sheets in the south lobby and consider how you might help on March 17, 18, or 19. Expenses for making meals for the homeless shelter may be reimbursed, if you so wish. Keep your receipts and give them to Rod Peters, Chr. of Mission and Service Board. New volunteers are encouraged to attend a training session. Pastor Linda plans to attend one on Tuesday, Mar. 2, 6:30 pm. Let her know if you would like to go along. Other training session options are Thursday, Feb. 25, 6:30 pm, or Wednesday, Mar. 17, 10:00 am.

No need to cook on March 7! The Mennonite College Student Ministry Team will prepare and serve your Sunday noon meal here in the Fellowship Hall as a fundraiser for our college students attending Mennonite colleges. Please join us for a delicious BBQ meal and contribute to the support of our college students for the 2010-2011 school year. Reserve the date and plan to attend.

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Book Sale – Books that have not been checked out for about 10 years are on tables in the fellowship hall. There is a jar for donations.

MMA College Scholarship. Each year, MMA offers college scholarships from \$500 to \$2500. These scholarships are available for High School Seniors and also current College Students that are planning on attending college in the fall. For information and an application contact Brian Burkholder 620-367-8172. Application deadline is Feb. 28, 2010.

Mark your calendars for March 26 to come and make crafts for the MCC Sale. Women of all ages are invited to attend a fun evening of making a variety of crafts: MCC tote bag, tied flannel quilts, children's games and a variety of paper crafts. Be looking for more information in your church mailbox. This event is hosted by Daughters of Grace.

This is our year for Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscah, so mark **Sept. 25-26** on your calendars, and plan to come. It promises to be a fun and inspiring time!

Are you interested in a copy of a **map of the District System** that was in place until our new spending plan was adopted? Recently a large number of copies was found and if you would like one please contact Judy Unruh.

THANK YOU

Recently I spent a few days in Newton Medical Center because I needed blood, as I have once before, and I'm sure some of you have. Many of you are giving blood. The blood mobile has been coming to Goessel and the surrounding communities for quite a few years and we've almost begun to take that for granted. Thank you to those who give blood. It takes time, and you are sharing what keeps you alive. Thank you to those who arrange, set up, and help each time the mobile comes; it's a lot of work. We recipients appreciate it. Pastor Linda, thanks for the visits. ~*Les Flaming*

COMMUNITY AND CONFERENCE

Help keep Meals on Wheels in our community! By the Agape Center serving at least 15 meals per day (eaten there, taken out, or delivered as Meals on Wheels) we can keep this service in Goessel. It may surprise you to know that people under 60 count too! So you are welcome to get your meals at Agape.

Gracia Burnham will be the guest speaker Thursday, Mar. 11, 6 pm, at the annual SPRING SUNSET SUPPER to be held at Eden Mennonite Church and sponsored by South Central and Western District Conference women. **Please sign up** on the bulletin boards or contact Loretta in the church office **by March 2**. See details on bulletin boards.

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Support MCC by shopping at and donating to Et Cetera! After two days of Spring cleaning, Newton Et Cetera Shop will re-open to the public on Wednesday, Feb. 24. Come see our restocked displays and expanded

Silent Auction, featuring an antique crazy quilt, vintage jewelry, Fenton, Noritake, Campbell's Soup collectibles, silver ware and much more. Et Cetera Shop will continue receiving donations at the store's back door while the front is closed for cleaning, Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 22 & 23. All proceeds benefit the work of Mennonite Central Committee.

Information about a very **special evening being planned by Kansas MEDA** is available on the table in the lobbies. The **focus of the evening is the Ukraine** (an area of Russia once inhabited by Mennonite farmers and business persons), exploring the transition from collective farming to a market economy. It will be March 13, at the Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church, with a German buffet starting at 6:00 pm.

MCC is deeply grateful for the overwhelming response to the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti. MCC is developing a multi-year response to utilize the over \$8 million that has been donated. Kurt Hildebrand, an MCC worker in Haiti, recently said, "Haitians...were accustomed to being considered by the outside world as a hopeless basket case that wasn't worth the effort...I want us to all think and pray very hard about how we can sustain the interest." MCC is committed to working in Haiti long after the media spotlight fades as it has in other places—New Orleans, Sudan, Indonesia, etc. However, due to a decrease in general giving over the past two years MCC has been forced to make cuts to vital programming around the world. Please consider giving a "where needed most" donation to support MCC's work. Send checks to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117 or at www.mcc.org.

On the bulletin boards:

- ▶ Bel Canto Singers, Hesston Menn. Ch., Feb. 21, 4 pm
- ▶ Organ recital, Chelsea Vaught, Bethel College Chapel, Feb. 21, 4 pm
- ▶ Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston, events Feb. 23 & Mar. 7
- ▶ Peace Connections Annual Mtg., Feb. 25, 6 pm, 1st Pres. Ch., Newton
- ▶ Men of Song Benefit Concert, Bethel College Menn. Ch., Feb. 28, 3 pm
- ▶ "Immigration, faith and justice" consultation, Faith Menn. Ch., Mar. 6
- ▶ MCC Comforter Blitz at Journey at Yoder Church, Mar. 8 & 9
- ▶ Lenten Retreat, Hesston Menn. Ch., Mar. 13, 9 am-2 pm
- ▶ Summer service opportunities with Youth Venture
- ▶ Camp Mennoscah Updates
- ▶ Men and Boys Retreat at Camp Mennoscah, Apr. 23-25

MIDWEEK SCHEDULE – WINTER 2010

Schedule for February 24, 2010

5:30–6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study	Conference Room
Study of the Gospel of Mark	
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. Handbell Choir	Chapel
8:00–9:00 p.m. Repeat Adult Bible Study	Pastor Steve's Office

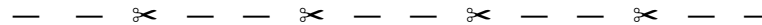
* Childcare provided for children birth–age 2.

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 February 24: Ham, potato salad, another salad, rolls, cake (peanut butter and jelly sandwiches will also be available).



Wednesday Fellowship Meal Reservation for February 24

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)