



# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Welcome!** As we enter the season of Advent, we enter a season of waiting, watching, and hoping. We imagine what it must have been like to anticipate the coming of Christ. We are still called to carefully watch for Christ in our present and future.

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

**Gathering Music**

Worship Team

**Welcome**

**Opportunities for Celebration and Service**

(Please sign, pass, and return the friendship registers.)

**Call to Worship**

(*Leader, Fall 2018*)

**Leader:** Now is the time of waiting and watching. We wait expectantly for the Messiah, for God's promises to be fulfilled.

**People:** **God, we turn to you, in the mist of this chaotic world, longing for the day of salvation to arrive. How long must we wait?**

**Leader:** Pay attention, be still and know that God is with us. The signs are all around us!

**People:** **Fill us with the faith and the hope of what is to be as we come before you with open hearts.**

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

**Invocation**

**Instrumental Call to Worship**

Karen Unruh

*Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying* -A. D. Miller

Lighting of Advent Candle

Caleb Burkholder

**\*Songs of Hope**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
Longing for Light*

Worship Team

**Scripture Reading**

Psalm 25:1-10  
Jeremiah 33:14-16

Bryant &  
Chrystiana Miller

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Lois Harder

<b>Advent Hymn</b>	<i>Comfort, Comfort, O My People</i>	HWB 176
<b>World Peace Prayer</b>		Miguel Ballesta - Spanish Daniel Uhlig - German Eddie Gaeddert - English
<b>Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings</b>		First Fruits Giving
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>Gabriel's Message</i> ~Bedford	
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		Pastor Caleb Yoder

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

<b>Children's Story</b>	(for children through grade 3)	Ann Hiebert
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Luke 21:25-36	Bryant & Chrystiana
<b>Message</b>	"Waiting for Christ in past, present, and future"	Pastor Caleb

### SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

<b>*Song of Praise</b>	<i>Joy to the World</i>	HWB 318
<b>*Benediction</b>		Pastor Caleb
<b>*Postlude</b>	<i>Lift Up Your Heads</i> ~Cherwien	Karen Unruh

\*All who are able are invited to stand.

HWB - *Hymnal A Worship Book* (Blue)

SWJ - *Sing With Joy* (Red)

### TODAY

**A Supervised Nursery** is available for children ages 3 and under during worship. Attendants are Nicole Hein and Amanda Voth.

**Song Leader:** Kyle Unruh

**Visual Arts:** Janine Peters

**Christmas Decorations:** Route 15 Sunday School Class

**4:00 pm** Bethesda Chapel - Pastor Caleb

### PRAYING FOR OUR CONGREGATION AND BEYOND

- ❖ For Mary Lou and Glen Unrau as Mary Lou is hospitalized at Newton Medical Center
- ❖ For Elva Plett as she continues to recover from a broken pelvis
- ❖ For students as they finish semester projects and prepare for final exams
- ❖ For watchful anticipation of Christ among us during the Advent season
- ❖ For Life in Abundance Mennonite Church in the Chamelecón neighborhood of San Pedro Sula, Honduras

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Tuesday, December 4**

9:00 am Work at the MCC Center, N Newton

9:00 am Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, December 5**

5:45 pm Fellowship Meal Served

Menu: Ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls and dessert

Midweek Activities

Note: This is the final midweek session before Christmas

### **Thursday, December 6**

Bulletin items and announcements due at noon in church office

### **Friday, December 7**

9:00 am Senior Coffee and Conversation

### **Sunday, December 9**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

Message: Service of Lessons and Carols, Chancel Choir

Nursery: Kim Voth and Cambry Duerksen

7:00 pm McPherson Brass Community Christmas Concert

## **COMING EVENTS**

**Dec 12-15** Serve at New Hope Shelter, Newton

**Dec 24** Christmas Eve Service

**Dec 26** Goessel Blood Drive

**Jan 27** Annual Meeting

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**At the front of the sanctuary there is a prayer bowl and slips of paper to be able to write any prayer requests.** These will be shared with pastors and deacons. This is available anytime the church is open.

**Join us for Senior Coffee and Conversation on Friday, December 7, at 9:00 am.** Bethany Martin, manager of Faith and Life Bookstore in Newton, will be our guest speaker. Sign up in either lobby by Monday, December 3. Invite your friends and neighbors, but be sure to sign them up too!

**As we head into the hustle and bustle of the holiday season,** the AMC Deacon Board invites you to come away for a time of prayer and advent expectation. The church will be open from **9-11 am and 2-4 pm on Saturday, December 8.** There will be “prayer stations” in different areas of the church for various forms of prayer. “Advent is a time for us to remember where Jesus enters God’s story and our own stories, to remember what it means to live righteously, and to look to the future as we seek God’s plan for us as faithful individuals and faithful communities.” (*Leader Magazine*, Fall 2018)

**Adult Bible Study will have our final fall session** in the conference room at 5:00 and again at 7:45 on Wednesday with pastor Caleb, studying how the Old Testament helps us read gospel stories in fresh ways. Our next passage will be from Matthew 21:33-45.

**Tis the season to give your time, food and friendship to others.** Please sign up in the south lobby to serve at the New Hope Shelter on Wednesday – Saturday, December 12 -15. The Sunday school classes providing the meals are: Seekers & Sojourners, Route 15, Young Adults and Friends & Followers. Thank you!

# Our Purpose Statement for 2018

This year we will...

- ❖ Be present with one another across ages
- ❖ Be present in our community, sharing life with neighbors
- ❖ Be in prayer for our community and our church
- ❖ Be authentic in worship and witness

---

---

## Thursday, November 22 - Thanksgiving Day

Attendance: 89

Offerings: \$8,272.00

## Sunday, November 25

Attendance: Sunday School 80

Worship 124

Offerings: Sunday School \$18.28

First Fruits \$4,703.10

---

---

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  
email:  
[alexmenno@mtelco.net](mailto:alexmenno@mtelco.net)  
website:  
[www.alexanderwohl.org](http://www.alexanderwohl.org)

Pastors:  
Caleb Yoder  
(319) 930-7754  
[alexcaleb@mtelco.net](mailto:alexcaleb@mtelco.net)

Lois Harder  
(316) 617-3497  
[alexlois@mtelco.net](mailto:alexlois@mtelco.net)

Deacons:  
Marilyn Unruh  
Flaming  
Judy Goertzen  
Ruth Goertzen  
Linda Peters  
Brian Stucky  
James Voth

If you would like a visit or a phone call from one of the pastors or deacons,  
please feel free to contact us.

Our group subscription plan for **The Mennonite** is renewing. If you would like to join our group plan or wish to continue your subscription, please fill out a renewal sheet or contact Dwight M. Flaming by December 9, 2018. Please include \$37 payable to Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church with your subscription.

**The High School Youth** will be sending our annual college care packages to 12 college students. We would appreciate your help with donating some items such as granola bars, candy, gum, hot chocolate, packages of chex mix, pre-packaged cookies, etc. Monetary donations are also welcome. Items can be placed in the boxes in either lobby marked "College Care Packages". Thank you for your support!

**2018 Year-End Reports:** Annual reports are due on **January 7, 2019**. Please submit your report in electronic form to the church office. Email: alexmenno@mtelco.net.

**As you have changes for the 2019 Yearbook** (addresses/phone numbers/email addresses, etc.) turn them in to the church office. All changes are due January 28. This includes new board positions for the coming year.

**Tags for the Christmas Giving Tree project are available at the Citizen's State Bank for pick up.** Help make it a great Christmas for children in our community! This event is sponsored by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance.

**The Goessel Ministerial Alliance** invites you to come and enjoy the music of The McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews and the GHS Elbiata Singers under the direction of Braden Unruh on **Sunday, December 9, at 7:00 pm** at the Alexanderwohl Church.

## THANK YOU

"How can we thank God enough for you..." (I Thessalonians 3:9) From the museum's earliest beginnings, this congregation has been a cornerstone of faithful support and continues to be today. We were again blessed by your generosity at our recent pizza fundraiser meal on November 7. Contributions of nearly \$1,100 were received. These gifts, along with your first fruits giving, will be used as vital operating funds to close the year. We have also been blessed by the individual contributions of church members, both financially and through volunteer time. We are deeply appreciative of each and every one of these gifts and ask for your ongoing prayers and support. ~With sincere gratitude, the Board and Staff of the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum