



Welcome!

Welcome to our Sunday worship service! This third week of Advent, we continue on the road, preparing the way of the Lord. Advent is a time of preparation and gestation - preparing ourselves for the Christ child to be born within each of us so that we may be carriers of God's good news!

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Salina Symphony Brass Quintet
Brass Quintet No. 1 in B-flat minor: Mvt. 1 & 3 ~Ewald

Welcome

Pastor Caleb Yoder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation

Adapted from Psalm 126:2-6

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us, and so we rejoice!

People: Our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.

Leader: Those who sow in tears will reap shouts of joy.

People: Those who go out weeping will come home with shouts of joy.

All: The Lord has done great things for us – we rejoice!

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Tina and Levi Schrag

Instrumental song

Hope is a Candle

STS 15

Joy is a candle of myst'ry and laughter, myst'ry of light that is born in the dark;

laughter at hearing the voice of an angel, ever so near, casting out fear.

1: We light a candle for *joy: joy* in our hearts, *joy* in our homes, *joy* in our world.

2: **May the light of joy shine through our lives.**

Advent Hymn (instrumental)

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

HWB 71

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
leading us with mercy's hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music lifts us sunward
in the triumph song of life!

Children's Story

Gayle Voth

Worship Music

Brass Quintet No. 1 in B-flat minor: II. Adagio ~Ewald

Morning Prayer

Pastor Caleb

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Leader: God, we confess we do not always recognize you.

People: **We confess that when we do, we do not always receive you.**

All: Open our eyes to see you and our hearts to receive you.

Advent Hymn (instrumental) *Praise the One who breaks the darkness*

STS 1

Praise the One who breaks
the darkness with a
liberating light; praise the
One who frees the
pris'ners, turning
blindness into sight.
Praise the One who
preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread
disease, calming storms
and feeding thousands
with the very bread of
peace.

Praise the One who blessed
the children with a strong
yet gentle word; praise
the One who drove out
demons with a piercing,
two-edged sword. Praise
the One who brings cool
water to the desert's
burning sand; from this
well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry
land.

Praise the One true love
incarnate, Christ, who
suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for
many that we may know
God by grace. Let us sing
for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has
done. Praise the one
redeeming glory; praise
the One who makes us
one.

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

Prayer of dedication

Pastor Caleb Yoder

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and Luke 1:46b-55

Message

"Seeking joy in the darkness of the womb"

Pastor Lois Harder

Hark! The glad sound!

HWB 184

Hark! The glad sound! The
Savior comes! The Savior
promised long! Let ev'ry
heart prepare a throne, and
ev'ry voice a song. On him
the Spirit largely poured,
exerts its sacred fire, wisdom
and might and zeal and love,
his holy breast inspire.

He comes the pris'ners to
release, in Satan's bondage
held. The gates of brass
before him burst, the iron
fettters yield. He comes the
broken heart to bind, the
bleeding soul to cure, and
with the treasures of his
grace to enrich the humble
poor.

His silver trumpets publish loud
the jub'lee of the Lord. Our
debts are all remitted now,
our heritage restored. Our
glad hosannas, Prince of
peace, thy welcome shall
proclaim, and heav'n's
eternal arches ring with thy
beloved name.

Benediction

Pastor Lois

Postlude

Salina Symphony Brass Quintet

Glory to That Good Jump Swing (Hark! The Herald Angels Sing) ~arr. Meeboer

+ The peace lamp serves as a visual reminder for us that we follow Jesus the Prince of Peace and believe in uncertain times that God's shalom will prevail.

This service made use of resources and ideas from *Leader* (MennoMedia), Fall 2020

Special thanks to Karen Unruh, Gayle Voth, Kyle Unruh and the Brass Quintet, LaNae Unruh (visual arts), Anthony Esau, Lynel Unrau, Steve Unruh, Delton Voth, and the AMC Covid Task Force.

Salina Symphony Brass Quintet: Kyle Unruh – trumpet; Becky Horne – trumpet; Kyle Hopkins – horn; Dave Koetting – trombone; Jacob Hodges – bass trombone.

Questions for Reflection – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and Luke 1:46b-55

1. Are there dark, painful areas in your life or that you are aware of where The Holy Spirit might be given space to bring new life?
2. Are there ways you could prepare for or participate in this transformation?

Next Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Pastor Caleb will be preaching.

Praying for our congregation and beyond

- ❖ We celebrate with Pastor Caleb as the credential of ordination has been extended to him after his ordination interview Friday morning! Thank you God, for your presence and leading in Caleb's life!
- ❖ Thank you all for your prayers and concern as I recuperate from surgery; I praise God for good surgeons and bodies that heal! I appreciate your ongoing prayers in the coming weeks. Janice Funk Voth
- ❖ We pray for those that are keenly feeling the losses of family and friends gathering during these holiday times.
- ❖ We pray for teachers and students wrapping up these final days of the first semester; grant them a sense of completion and accomplishment in spite of the difficult and unusual learning circumstances.
- ❖ We pray for those who are food or housing insecure due to job losses or financial stress in these times. We think of those locally, in our own communities as well as those in our state, our nation and around the world who are experiencing this stress.
- ❖ We thank you God, for the new *Voices Together* worship resource that will be launched virtually this afternoon. We are grateful for those who have worked for over three years to produce this resource and we pray your blessing on all who will use it to worship.
- ❖ We celebrate and thank God for Allison Baumgartner's graduation (on Friday) from Fort Hays State University, earning her Master's Degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Congratulations Allison!
- ❖ We pray for God's transformation in our national justice system as Brandon Bernard and eight others have been executed recently by the federal government. We pray for God's mercy for the families of the executed, for the five who are scheduled to be executed in the coming weeks and for those who are ordering and carrying out the executions.

1304 K-15 Hwy, Box 8
Goessel Kansas 67053
Office: (620) 367-8192
email: alexmenno@mtelco.net
website:
www.alexanderwohl.org

Pastors:
Caleb Yoder
(319) 930-7754
alexcaleb@mtelco.net
Lois Harder
(316) 617-3497
alexlois@mtelco.net

Deacons:
Sandy Banman
Marilyn Unruh Flaming
Ruth Goertzen
Cindy Hastings
Bryant Miller
Jim Schmidt

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

Coming Events

Today, Sunday, December 13	10:00 am	Worship service via Zoom
Monday, December 14	1:00 – 6:00 pm	Goessel Blood Mobile
	4:30 pm	Covid Task Force
	5:45 pm	Board of Mission and Service
	7:00 pm	Church Council
Thursday, December 24		Christmas Eve Service on YouTube

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The AMC COVID-19 task force continues to meet and make plans to the best of our knowledge and ability. The task force will meet again on Monday, December 14, to discuss further plans.

The pandemic is giving us an opportunity to try something different for the **Alexanderwohl Christmas Eve program** this year! A program has been prerecorded that includes many traditional elements of our typical Christmas Eve programs. A link to a Youtube video will be sent from the church before December 24. Only people who receive the link will be able to view the video, and the video will only be viewable between 4:00pm-Midnight on December 24 in order to protect the privacy of the children. You may forward the link to family and friends who are not on the Alexanderwohl email list. DVDs will also be available after December 21 in the entryway on the east side of the church.

The 2020 Advent at Home devotional, "We Wait for Jesus" is an easy-to-use resource that includes suggested Bible readings, activities, and simple celebratory rituals that can be done at home together as a family. The flexible, intergenerational format makes it ideal for families of all sizes and ages. Use it for all of Advent to Epiphany (November 29 through January 6), just for Christmas week, or whatever rhythm works for your household. You can download this free resource at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/advent-at-home/> or pick up a copy in the NE entryway.

The *Voices Together* hymnal dedication launch celebration will take place via Zoom **this Sunday, December 13**, at 4:00 pm Central Time. It will include a time to worship with new songs and resources, hear stories, and offer blessings for *Voices Together* and all who receive it. After this time of worship, there will be an overview of the process of creating *Voices Together* and a time for questions with committee members. This event is free but registration is required to receive the Zoom link. <http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/digital-launch-registration/>

Current and upcoming devotionals (*Upper Room & Rejoice!*) are available in the NE entryway for purchase.

Bloodmobile: As you make plans for the holidays, include sharing the gift of life by donating blood at Goessel Church between 1:00-6:00 on Monday, December 14. Go to www.redcrossblood.org to see available times and types of donations. For more information contact Rosi Reimer 620-367-2418 or Nancy Stucky 620-367-2610.

CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

Western District Conference

Pray for God's guidance for WDC congregations in pastoral transition, as they navigate endings and discern new beginnings in the midst of the pandemic.

Mennonite Mission Network

Praise God for Joe Sawatzky, who recently became an international education liaison for Mennonite Mission Network and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Pray for Joe and global church leaders, as they seek to strengthen the body of Christ through Anabaptist education initiatives around the world.

COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camp Mennoscah

Camp Mennoscah is a wonderful place for family gatherings of whatever size! A variety of facilities fit any number of family groupings. Maybe you only need a space during the day for walking the trails or playing disc golf. There is plenty of outdoor space! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or office@campmennoscah.org to reserve! You are welcome here!

Miss ordering your Camp Mennoscah hoodie for that dedicated camp enthusiast? No worries! A few extra will be available. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org Grab yours before they're gone!

Western District Conference

Due to the rise in cases of Covid-19, the WDC office and Conference Resource Library are closed, and all staff members are working from their homes. The best way to contact WDC is by email:

--Heidi Regier Kreider, Conference Minister - heidirk@mennowdc.org

--Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Associate Conference Minister (Kansas-Based) - kathynd@mennowdc.org

--Sandra Montes-Martinez, Associate Conference Minister (Texas-Based) - sandramm@mennowdc.org

--Beth Yoder, Business Manager - busmg@mennowdc.org

--Jennie Wintermote, Library Director - crlib@mennowdc.org

--Dwight Regier, Youth Ministry Network Team Leader - dwichtr@mennowdc.org

--Nancy Funk, Administrative Assistant - wdc@mennowdc.org

Save the date: WDC Annual Assembly will be July 30-Aug 1, 2021, in a hybrid model with the possibility of both virtual and in-person activities. More information to come!

The *WDC Garden December 2020/January/February 2021* issue is now available for viewing at: <https://mennowdc.org/wdc-garden-december-2020-january-february-2021/>. Learn about how WDC is engaging with racial justice and cultural diversity, the impact of Covid-19 on Hispanic churches, an announcement about Sandra Montes-Martinez as the new WDC Associate Conference Minister (Texas-Based), and more!

Bethel College

TODAY (Sunday, Dec. 13), 8 p.m. – All are invited to take part in Bethel College’s annual Lighting of the Green, from wherever you are. This long-standing Bethel Advent tradition celebrates the Light that shines in the darkness, the life and light of Christ who came into the world giving light to all humankind. Normally held on the Green in the center of campus, the gathering will take place virtually this year, live online (links follow) with some parts pre-recorded.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/LZeLxduHoVk> or

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98444357235?pwd=N1MzQlpiQ29HQWZiWUs2NGpNWwtlZz09>

Alternate instructions:

Go to <https://www.bethelks.edu/article/lighting-green-be-virtual-year>, the URL for the Lighting of the Green press release, which contains both links.

Or

Go to [bethelks.edu](https://www.bethelks.edu), scroll to FEATURED NEWS, and click the Lighting of the Green article, where you will find both links.

Kauffman Museum at Bethel College is partnering with Humanities Kansas to host the Smithsonian traveling exhibit “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” through Jan. 17. Accompanying it is a local companion exhibit, “Of Land and People: Our Community at the Crossroads,” created from the museum’s permanent exhibit “Of Land and People.” **The museum is open 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tues.-Fri; 1:30-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sunday; and closed Mondays and major holidays (Friday, Dec. 25, Friday, Jan. 1).** Admission to the “Crossroads” exhibit is free on Saturdays.

TODAY (Sunday, Dec. 13), 3 p.m. – Gene Chávez, Ed.D., Shawnee, Kan., will give a virtual presentation (via Zoom or Facebook Live), sponsored by Humanities Kansas, on the rich history of Mexican immigration to Kansas and the journey of the humble but important flour tortilla. This Kauffman Museum “Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum” program is connected to the museum’s current special exhibit, “Crossroads: Change in Rural America.” **Go to the museum website ([kauffmanmuseum.org](https://www.kauffmanmuseum.org); look for the “Visit” tab and click “Events”) or Facebook page to participate.**

Mennonite Church USA

Service Adventure is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 service term! Grow in leadership and faith, as you spend a year serving and living in community with others your age and with unit leaders.

Visit MennoniteMission.net/ServiceAdventure to learn more!

SOOP (Service Opportunities with our Partners) is accepting applications! Use your gifts and skills to work alongside others in a network of ministries across the church. Flexibly designed for retirees, families, and adults over 25. Visit MennoniteMission.net/SOOP to learn more!

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC Comforter Blitz update: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Kansas Friends of MCC Comforter Blitz in Yoder, KS has been canceled. However, the Blitz committee still has a goal of collecting at least 300 comforters between February and April. We need your help to meet this goal! Fabric kits and comforter sets to tie (top, back, and

batting) are available to check out from MCC in North Newton. For contactless drop-off of completed comforters the 24-hour donation room is always available. To arrange drop-off or checkout materials, contact Kate at katemast@mcc.org, or 316.804.8432.

Free resource from MCC: Learning about generosity! Help children learn about generosity with MCC printable worksheets including activities, a story, a craft to make and Christmas gift ideas that benefit global neighbors with colorable greeting cards, find it all at mcc.org/generosity. Explore the full list of Christmas giving options from MCC at mcc.org/christmas.

A memorable, meaningful and unique MCC gift to give this Christmas! Grab a piece of MCC history to use in a modern day Mennonite feeding station - your home! Get one for yourself and order more for family and friends. Hang it on the wall in your kitchen or dining room, display it on a shelf or use it as a serving tray! Remember the kitchen at your church, too. Each tray was uniquely handcrafted by an artisan in Siberia using Siberian hardwood. The tray is 16" in diameter and 2" deep. Suggested donation per tray is \$150. Full details and pictures are available at <https://mcc.org/feeding-station-tray>.

Everence to hold Social Security and retirement income planning webinar

Everence will host a *Social Security and retirement income planning* webinar, on Monday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about Social Security strategies, risks that can impact retirement savings and strategies to help income last throughout retirement. This online workshop is free. Register soon by contacting our office at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.

Advisory services offered through Investment Advisors, a division of ProEquities Inc., Registered Investment Advisors. Securities offered through ProEquities Inc., a registered broker-dealer, member FINRA and SIPC. Investments and other products are not NCUA or otherwise federally insured, may involve loss of principal and have no credit union guarantee.

Products and services offered through Everence Trust Company and other Everence entities are independent of and are not guaranteed or endorsed by ProEquities, Inc., or its affiliates.