

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVII

December 12, 2021

No. 50



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

The prophet Zephaniah expressed joy at the restoration God would bring. Even God joins in the joyous festival with singing. As we continue our Advent wait for Christ, we have some lessons to learn about how to find joy even when things are not (yet) as we'd like them to be.

Third Sunday of Advent

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ~arr. Klein Handbell Choir
Carol of the Bells
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella ~arr. Klein

Welcome

Ben Schrag

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship (*adapted from Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7*)

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say: Rejoice!

People: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!

Leader: God sings over you. Fear not, for God is in your midst.

People: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!

Leader: Sing praises to God—shout aloud and sing for joy.

People: God is in our midst.

Leader: We listen.

People: We strain to grasp the sound of God's song.

Invocation

Lighting of Advent Candles+ Craig, Jody, Javin & Jaley Schmidt

***Gathering Songs** *Joy to the World* VT 240
Hark! The Glad Sound! VT 217

Children's Story Karl Brubaker

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois Harder

Prayer of Confession Pastor Caleb Yoder

Words of Assurance Isaiah 12:2, 5-6 CEB

Leader: God is indeed my salvation; I will trust and won't be afraid.

People: Yah, the Lord, is my strength and shield; he has become my salvation.

Leader: Sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things; proclaim this throughout the earth.

All: Shout and sing for joy, city of Zion, because the holy one of Israel is great among you.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Still, Still, Still* ~Cherwien (VT 264)

***Prayer of Dedication**

First Fruits Giving

Marcia Brubaker

Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Ben Schrag

Message

"God's Song"

Pastor Caleb

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Song of Response

My Soul Cries Out

VT 412

***Benediction Song**

The Lord Your God Is with You

VT 173

***Postlude**

Joy to the World ~Beck

Marcia Brubaker

*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 in uncertain times that God's shalom will prevail.

This service made use of resources and ideas from *Leader*, Fall 2021

Song Leader: Renae Peters

Handbell Choir Director: Mary Schmidt

Greeters: North – Chelan & Megan Duerksen; South – Kevin & Bonnie Gaeddert

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Christmas Decorations: Young Adult Sunday School Class

Nursery Staff: Maryanne Esau, Susan Nafziger, Nicole Hein

Worship Technology: DeAlan Unrau, Caiden Duerksen, Steve Unruh, Delton Voth

December 5 Attendance: 121 in person, 8 households on Zoom

Questions for Reflection – Zephaniah 3:14-20

1. If you pictured God singing with joy, what would God sound like? What would it be like for God to take delight in you?
2. Is joy only possible in favorable circumstances? Where do we find joy when circumstances are not good?
3. How can we joyfully be a part of bringing joy to suffering people?

This **Advent season** we will reflect on Old Testament prophecies looking to the coming of Christ and modeling faithful imagination of God. Next Sunday's passage will be from Micah 5:2-5a.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for all who are grieving the loss of a loved one during these holiday weeks. Be present with your comfort and love, God.
- ❖ We pray for Leona Schroeder as she undergoes testing at Newton Medical Center.
- ❖ We pray for any whose feelings of loneliness, discouragement or anxiety may be heightened in this season.
- ❖ We pray for the families of the young people who were shot or traumatized in the shooting at Oxford High School in Michigan.
- ❖ Thank you God that you rejoice over us and that your steadfast love can offer us deep contentment; lead us to the joy that you give.
- ❖ We give thanks for the birth of Sage Noella Janzen on December 7 to Ryan and Amanda Janzen. She is welcomed by her big sister, Nora. Marlin and Sheri Janzen are grandparents, and Lois Janzen is her great-grandmother.
- ❖ We pray for the family of Joan Boyer upon her passing this past week. Joan was part of the Pastoral Ministries program at Hesston College and some may remember that she served as a summer intern at AMC.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, December 13

- 1:00 – 6:00 pm Blood Mobile at Goessel Church
- 4:30 pm Covid Task Force
- 5:45 pm Board of Mission and Service
- 7:00 pm Church Council

Wednesday, December 15

- 6:30 pm Midweek Activities
- 6:30 – 6:50 pm Intergenerational Christmas Carol Singing
- 6:30 pm Children's Christmas Party
- 7:00 pm Board of Worship

Friday, December 17

- 9:00 am Senior Coffee (note time change) –See Announcement

Sunday, December 19 – Advent 4

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Worship Service in person or on Zoom

COMING EVENTS

- Dec 20 2:00 pm Prayer Team
- Dec 22 **No Midweek Activities**
- Dec 24 Church Offices Closed
- Dec 24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25 **No Christmas Day service**
- Dec 26 **No Sunday School**
 - 10:30 am Worship – A Service of Lessons and Carols

Budget update: In the past weeks since the previous budget update, we have seen the generosity of Alexanderwohl come through. There have been

many varied positive responses to the request for additional support of our church's ministries and mission partners. As we enter the final weeks of the 2021, it appears that, based on current giving patterns, we will be within \$8,000 to \$10,000 of covering all of our expenses for our local church ministries for 2021. While this would still be a budget shortfall, it is much better than what was projected earlier. **Of course, with generous increased support, we can still meet our obligations for the year.** Thank you for your continued support with your First Fruits offerings during this Christmas season.

Today - Brass Christmas with the McPherson Community Brass Choir and the GHS Elbiata Singers at 7:30 in the Goessel High School **Gymnasium**. The event is sponsored by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. A livestream is available by clicking on the Goessel School YouTube channel link at [usd411.org](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsd411).

Senior Coffee ***THIS Friday***, December 17 at **9:00 a.m. (NOTE EARLIER TIME)**. Braden Unruh and Elbiata will be our guest presenters! Don't miss these amazing young musicians in their "tacky Christmas sweaters"! Attenders are invited to join in wearing your own tacky Christmas sweater. The program will be in the sanctuary at 9:00. We'll move to the Fellowship Hall for coffee afterwards.

Thank you to everyone who took a Christmas tree candy ornament from the tree in the south lobby. The grades 1-5 children had a lot of fun making these and are excited to get a card in the mail!

The Children & Junior High Youth have completed their pre-recorded video for the 2021 **Christmas Eve Program**. Our Covid taskforce will evaluate whether or not we will proceed with an in-person Christmas Eve service. Either way, the recorded program will be made available to all on Christmas Eve via YouTube.

As you have updates (addresses/phone numbers/emails) for the 2022 Church Yearbook, please turn them in to the church office.

Come and join the prayer team! We're a small group that meets twice a month (Mondays 2:00 – 3:00 pm). We have a devotion time and offer prayers for the church. Our next prayer time is December 20.

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
amc@alexanderwohl.org
www.alexanderwohl.org

Pastors:
Caleb Yoder
(319) 930-7754
calebyoder@alexanderwohl.org

Lois Harder
(316) 617-3497
loisharder@alexanderwohl.org

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