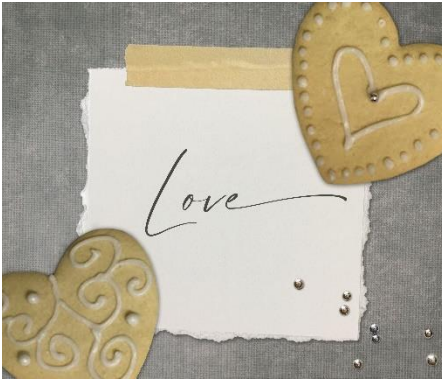


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVII

December 19, 2021

No. 51



Welcome to Alexanderwohl! As we near the celebration of the birth of Christ, we listen to an important Messianic prophecy from Micah. God blesses and demonstrates love by raising up the Prince of Peace from humble origins. But sometimes we go through pain along the way to new life.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Nun ist sie erschienen* ~arr. Vincent Karen Unruh
 Go, Tell It On the Mountain ~Miller
 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! ~Blair
 Braden Unruh, trumpet

Welcome Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation

Advent Candles+ Jeremy, Maggie, Emma and Mallory Schroeder

***Gathering Songs** *Bless'd Be the God of Israel* VT 223
 Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee VT 215

Mary's Song (on screen) Adapted from Luke 1:46-55

Advent Song *With Mary Sing Magnificat* VT 208

Children's Story Laura Unruh

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois

Prayer of Confession Pastor Caleb Yoder

Leader: O God, when you feed people, everyone has enough.

People: **Yet in our world, we try to feed people, but some have more than enough, and many are still left hungry.**

All: **Teach us to love.**

Leader: O God, in your reign, no one is greater, and no one is left behind.

People: **Yet in our world there are many ladders we try to climb, while many are left behind**

All: **Reorient us to the worth you see in each and every person.**

Leader: God of mercy, lower us, raise us, empty us, and fill us. Like an empty manger, we want to be ready to receive Emmanuel.

Words of Assurance *(adapted from Luke 1:46-49)*

All: Our souls magnify the Lord, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. God has looked with favor on our lowliness. The Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.

Worship Music *Some Children See Him* Karen Unruh & Lois Harder
Music by Alfred Burt, words by Wihla Hutson
From "Various Artists – A GRP Christmas Collection", as performed by David Grusin

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings First Fruits Giving
Offertory *Cradle Song* ~Archer Karen Unruh
***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Caleb

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading Micah 5:2-5a Lynel Unrau

Message "God's promise" Pastor Caleb

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Song of Response *O Little Town of Bethlehem* VT 245

***Benediction** Pastor Caleb

***Postlude** *Joy to the World* ~Bennett Karen Unruh

*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 adapted resources and ideas from *Leader*, Fall 2021

Song Leader: Braden Unruh

Greeters: North – Kent and Amy Sterk

South – Myron and Ruth Goertzen

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Nursery Staff: Tina Schrag, Emma Schroeder, Kim Voth

Worship Technology: DJ Flaming, Caiden Duerksen, Steve Unruh, Delton Voth

December 12 Attendance: 151 in person, 11 households on Zoom

Questions for Reflection – Micah 5:2-5a

1. What are you waiting for spiritually this Christmas season?
2. What if any are the "labor pains" of our present?
3. How does Jesus fulfill God's promises of old?

Join us in-person or on Zoom for our Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm. Next Sunday, the day after Christmas, we will meet for a service of lessons (Christmas scripture readings) and carols.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for communities in our state with homes and livelihoods affected by high winds and wildfires.
- ❖ We pray for the health and well-being of members of our nearby communities as we anticipate a rise in virus cases from the omicron variant. We pray for the resilience of hospital staff in the midst of exhaustion.
- ❖ We pray for students and teachers along the home stretch to finishing the fall semester.
- ❖ We pray for Sandy Schmidt (daughter in law of Marilyn Schmidt) who is scheduled for hip replacement surgery Tuesday.
- ❖ We pray for those who are spending this Christmas season in difficult or threatening surroundings – migrant camps, prison, situations of violence or abuse. God, shine your light of comfort and assurance for them.
- ❖ We pray for safety for those who will be traveling in the coming days.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, December 20

9:30 am Vision Team Meeting

2:00 pm Prayer Team

Tuesday, December 21

9:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 22

No Midweek Activities

Friday, December 24

Church Offices Closed

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Program (In Person)

Saturday, December 25

No Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 26

No Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service in person or on Zoom

A Service of Lessons and Carols

COMING EVENTS

Dec 28 Church Offices Closed

Dec 31 Church Offices Closed

Jan 7 2021 Annual Reports Due in Church Office

Jan 12 Midweek Resumes

Jan 21 Senior Coffee

Jan 23 2022 Budget Q & A during Sunday School

Jan 30 Annual Business Meeting following light noon lunch

All individuals on the affirmation ballot last Sunday were strongly affirmed and will begin their positions January 1, 2022:

Church Moderator – John Fast

Board of Deacons – Jim Schmidt, Kris Schmucker

Board of Worship – Janice Funk Voth

Board of Trustees – Tina Schrag
Board of Mission and Service – Dwight J. Flaming
Board of Christian Education – Janine Peters, Gretchen Schrag
Gifts Facilitating, Karl Brubaker

This year's Christmas Eve service will be held in-person on Friday, December 24 at 7 pm. Along with the recorded children's portion of the service, those gathering will participate in hymn singing and a candle lighting service. We are requesting that **everyone wear masks**, as in our regular worship services. For those wishing to join by **Zoom**, a link for the live service will be emailed by the church office during the week. The recording of the entire service will be available to watch from our church website for one week. We are excited to all be able to worship together on this special night, whether in-person or virtually!

As you have updates (addresses, emails, cell phone or land line numbers) for the 2022 Church Yearbook, turn them in to the church office.

If you would like a printed paper copy of the 2021 annual reports, please sign up in either lobby by Sunday, January 16, 2022. Reports will be emailed to those who have email.

Congregational Budget for 2022 - Sunday January 23, 2022 there is a time scheduled during the Sunday School hour for information and questions about the proposed 2022 congregational budget. Treasurer Dwight M. Flaming will walk the group through details and rationale of the plan. There will be time for questions and answers. This is an opportunity aside from the annual meeting, to more fully understand the budget proposal and to provide feedback to the treasurer, trustees and Church Council. **This special meeting will provide more detail about the budget than what will be presented at the annual meeting.** For those interested, please plan to attend.

Congregational Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 30th, 2022, following the worship service and a meal. We anticipate a time of discernment, of recollection, and celebration of God's provision in challenging times. We will take action on the 2022 congregational budget, hear about any construction project updates, as well as address other issues brought before the congregation. Members are encouraged to attend either in person or by Zoom. Ballots can be requested from the church office if attending via Zoom.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.
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Flaming
Ruth Goertzen
Bryant Miller
Jim Schmidt
Sandy Banman