

# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVII

December 26, 2021

No. 52



## Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Jesus is born! Alleluia!! Join in as we celebrate with this service of Lessons and Carols, hearing the story in both word and song.

## *First Sunday after Christmas*

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP

**Gathering Music** *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* ~arr. Hayes Mary Schmidt  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem* ~arr. Tonioli  
*While By My Sheep* ~arr. Hayes

**Welcome**

Pastor Lois Harder

### Opportunities for Celebration and Service

#### Call to Worship

(adapted from Psalm 148)

**Leader:** Alleluia! Praise Yahweh from the heavens! Praise God in the heights. Praise God, sun and moon.

**People: Praise God, all you shining stars!**

**Leader:** Praise God from the earth, sea creatures and ocean depths, lightning and hail,

**People: snow and mist.**

**Leader:** Sing praise to God, mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars,

**People: small animals and flying birds.**

**Leader:** Let them praise God's name. Let all creation praise the name of Yahweh, whose name alone is exalted.

**People: Praise God's name!**

**All: Alleluia!**

### Invocation

#### Lighting of the Candles+

Jason, Renae, Myra, Celia Peters

#### \*Gathering Song

*Here I Am to Worship*

VT 227

#### Morning Prayer

Pastor Caleb Yoder

### Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

**Leader:** God, on this first day after Christ's birth, we confess that we are joyful, we are tired, we are grateful, we are changed by the

celebration and yet we are the same people we were the day before we celebrated Christ's birth.

**People:** Today we're reminded again of the ways this newborn baby altered the course of history and our lives.

**Leader:** We trust you, God, the source of wholeness and miracles, to take us as we are and bring healing and forgiveness in ways we cannot imagine.

**All:** Restore the joy of our salvation as only you can do.

**Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** *The First Noel* ~arr. Root

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

First Fruits Giving

Mary Schmidt

Pastor Caleb

## HEARING AND SINGING GOD'S WORD

**The Prophet foretells the coming of the Savior**

Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

**Carol** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

VT 218

**The Peace that Christ will bring**

Isaiah 11:1-4

**Carol** *Poor of the Earth*

VT 213

Eric, Timothy and Jacob Schrag

**The angel Gabriel comes to Mary**

Luke 1:26-35; 38

**Carol** *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder*

VT 222

Refrain and verse 1 – Julianna Schrag

**The birth of Jesus**

Luke 2:1-7

**Carol** *What Child is This* (v. 1 & 3)

VT 267

**The shepherds go to the manger**

Luke 2:8-16

**Carol** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (v. 1, 3 & 5)

VT 248

**The wise men are led by the star**

Matthew 2:1-12

**Carol** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (v. 1 & 4)

VT 265

**The great mystery of the Incarnation**

John 1:1-14

**\*Carol** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

VT 241

Higher voices sing descant on verse 3

## SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Lois

**\*Postlude**

*Gloria* ~arr. Page

Mary Schmidt

\*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

**Readers/Singers/Guitar:** Eric, Gretchen, Julianna, Timothy, Jacob Schrag

**Greeters:** North – Lavern and Arlene Goossen  
South – Dennis and Norma Duerksen

**Visual Arts:** Tina Schrag

**Nursery Staff:** Chrystiana Miller, Laura Voth, Kim Voth

**Worship Technology:** DeAlan Unrau, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth,  
Steve Unruh

**December 19 Attendance:** 142 in person, 11 households on Zoom

### Questions for Reflection

1. Did you hear or experience anything new or different as you heard the story again this morning?
2. What are you most grateful for as you reflect on Jesus' birth?
3. What do you long for God to transform in your life in the coming days, weeks, or months?

Next Sunday we will reflect on the final Old Testament prophetic text in the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season. The passage will be from Jeremiah 31:7-14.

## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We pray for Leona and Norman Schroeder as Leona continues to regain strength. God, be with her doctors as they keep working to discover the best course of action.
- ❖ We pray for Marlene Voth and her family as they grieve the loss of her sister, Lillian Ediger who died on Monday, December 20, at Pleasant View Home in Inman.
- ❖ We pray for Judy and Darrell Unruh as Judy is recuperating at home now; prayers of thanksgiving as well as continued prayers for healing. We also ask for the comfort of your Holy Spirit for Darrell and his family as they grieve the passing of his brother, Harland Unruh. Harland died on Monday morning, December 20. There was a private, family burial in the Alexanderwohl cemetery on Thursday, December 23.
- ❖ We're grateful for college students who are home on break; we pray for safe travels for them and all who are traveling.
- ❖ Thank you God for sending Jesus to us!

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### **Tuesday, December 28**

Church Offices Closed

#### **Wednesday, December 29**

Pastor Lois will be in the office in the morning

#### **Friday, December 31**

Church Offices Closed

#### **Sunday, January 2, 2022**

9:30 am Sunday School

9:30 am College-age folks meet in the Shelter House for coffee etc.

10:30 am Worship Service in person or on Zoom

## COMING EVENTS

- Jan 5 Board of Trustees
- Jan 7 2021 Annual Reports Due in Church Office
- Jan 10 Prayer Team  
Church Council
- 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

**Next Sunday, January 2, 2022**, the college-age folks are invited to gather in the Shelter House during the Sunday school hour (beginning at 9:30) for coffee and fellowship.

**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 spending plan. There will be time for questions and answers. **This special meeting will provide more detail about the spending plan than what will be presented at the annual meeting.**

**Congregational Annual Meeting** – Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, following the worship service and a meal. We will take action on the 2022 congregational spending plan, 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. More information will be available next week.

**The church office will be closed** all day Tuesday, December 28, the afternoon of Wednesday, December 29 and all day Friday, December 31 this week. Information for the bulletin needs to be received by 9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 30. Pastor Caleb and his family will travel to South Dakota. He will return to the office on Tuesday, January 4. Call Pastor Lois or one of the deacons for pastoral needs this week.

**Thank you** to all the wonderful people who call Alexanderwohl home. I have received numerous cards, personal notes of concern and uncounted prayers. Progress in healing is very slow and patience is needed - a Christian virtue much exercised, not always successfully. May our Lord be with all of us as we go into a new year. ~Judy Unruh

**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](mailto:amc@alexanderwohl.org)  
[www.alexanderwohl.org](http://www.alexanderwohl.org)

**Pastors:**  
Caleb Yoder  
(319) 930-7754  
[calebyoder@alexanderwohl.org](mailto:calebyoder@alexanderwohl.org)

Lois Harder  
(316) 617-3497  
[loisharder@alexanderwohl.org](mailto:loisharder@alexanderwohl.org)

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