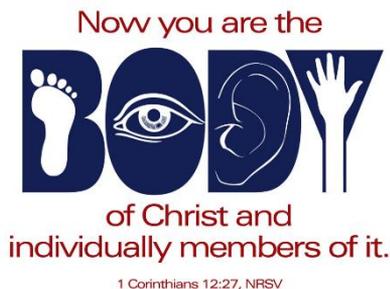


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

January 9, 2022

No. 2



Welcome to worship at Alexanderwohl! At the start of this new year, we ask what it means to be the church: the body of Christ, with Christ at the head. Each of us has a part to play in continuing the ministry of Christ in our community.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Gathering Music | | Karen Unruh |
| | Partita on <i>Christ Is Our Cornerstone</i> ~Callahan | |
| Welcome | | Pastor Lois Harder |
| Opportunities for Celebration and Service | | |
| Call to Worship | | 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10 (VT 381) |
| Invocation+ | | |
| *Gathering Hymns | <i>What Is This Place</i> | VT 22 |
| | <i>Summoned by the God Who Made Us</i> | VT 1 |
| Children's Story | | Eric Schrag |
| Morning Prayer | | Pastor Lois |
| Worship Music | | Braden Unruh and Jill Siebert |
| Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings | | First Fruits Giving |
| Offertory | <i>How Lovely Shines the Morning Star</i> ~Manz | |
| *Song of Dedication | <i>Grant Us, God, the Grace</i> | VT 746 |

HEARING GOD'S WORD

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Scripture Reading | 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 | EIRoy Wiens |
| Message | "What is the church?" | Pastor Caleb Yoder |
| Song of Response | <i>You're Not Alone</i> | VT 779 |
| Responding to the Gospel | (Open sharing) | Pastor Lois |

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------|
| Song of Sending | <i>There Are Many Gifts</i> | VT 374 |
| *Benediction | | Pastor Lois |
| *Postlude | <i>Let All Together Praise Our God</i> ~Manz | 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.

Song Leader: Braden Unruh

Greeters: North – Elroy and Loretta Wiens
South – James and Shari Wiens

Visual Arts: Anita Boese

Nursery Staff: Mallory Schroeder, Nicole Hein

Worship Technology: Myron Goertzen, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth, and Steve Unruh

January 2 Attendance: Service cancelled due to weather

Questions for Reflection – 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

1. How would you answer the question "What is the church?"
2. If you are baptized (or confirmed), what were you committing yourself to?
3. What is essential to who we are or what we do that makes us part of Christ's church?

Next Sunday we ask, "why does God work through the church?" Our primary scripture will be from John 15:1-17

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for Ann Boese, Bob, Rod and other family members as they grieve Art's passing at 95 years of age. Services took place yesterday at the church.
- ❖ We pray for Joel and Karis (Janzen) Hill, daughter and son-in-law of Marlin and Sheri Janzen. They're expecting a little brother to Jackson, due in late April. In December it was learned that there was not enough amniotic fluid for the baby's organs to develop properly, so they are making weekly trips to Kansas City for treatments. We are grateful for their strong trust in God. We pray for safe travels and successful treatment for baby Ezekiel's lungs, bladder and kidneys to develop normally and for Karis to carry him until at least April 2.
- ❖ We pray for Leona Schroeder who remains at NMC Health.
- ❖ We pray for Judy Goertzen and her family as they celebrate the life and grieve the loss of Judy's mother, Elizabeth Unruh, who died early Thursday morning, January 6, at Kidron-Bethel. Services are pending.
- ❖ We continue to pray for doctors, nurses and all medical personnel as they serve the ill and dying in spite of their own exhaustion and increasing frustration. O God, may your Spirit of compassion and wisdom prevail.
- ❖ Be with us as a congregation, God, as we delve into sermons and discussions about what it means to be your church together in this time and place.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, January 10

- 9:30 am Vision Team Meeting
- 2:00 pm Prayer Team
- 4:30 pm Covid Task Force
- 5:45 pm Board of Mission and Service
- 7:00 pm Church Council

Tuesday, January 11

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 12

Midweek plans are pending. Watch for an email.

- 7:00 pm Board of Trustees

Sunday, January 16

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

COMING EVENTS

- Jan 21 Senior Coffee
- Jan 23 2022 Budget Q & A during Sunday School
- Jan 30 Congregational Annual Meeting

Spending Plan Update - Thank you for the many ways that you supported the 2021 spending plan during the past year. There was an increase in First Fruits contributions during December which allowed us to basically break even for the year. While we did not reach our First Fruits goal for the year, we were able to manage the expenses so that almost everything was covered with your generous support through your First Fruits offerings.

2022 Spending Plan - The 2022 spending plan proposal will be presented and discussed at a special meeting on January 23, 2022 during the Sunday School hour. This will be an opportunity to find out the details behind financing the ministries of Alexanderwohl and what is planned for 2022. The proposed 2022 spending plan will be voted on the following week at the January 30, 2022 congregational meeting.

Save the Date – Congregational Annual Meeting -- Sunday, January 30, 2022, following the worship service. More details will be coming.

As we look forward to this New Year, we recently formed a vision team which includes Matt Voth, Laura Unrau, Kris Schmucker, and Myron Schmidt. The pastors, along with this team, invite conversation about what it means for Christ to be the head of the church as we reflect on who we are as a congregation. We want to create an opportunity for conversation within adult/HS Sunday School classes: we will provide a summary of key ideas from our upcoming worship series, a few scripture passages to read together, along with several questions to prompt conversation. The main themes/dates are: January 16th --What is the church?; January 30 --Why church?; and February 6 -- How shall we be church? More information will be

coming about how to facilitate these conversations and about an upcoming leadership retreat in February,

A note from Brooke Nafziger – I am extremely grateful for the congregation’s support and prayers in my time in Albuquerque with Service Adventure. At Thanksgiving I made the decision not to return after Christmas and will remain home in Kansas. I would really appreciate continued support as I transition back home and figure out next steps. Thank you!

AMC Library -- In the last few months of 2021, the church library has been getting a fresh new look. This is largely due to the work of Nancy Stucky. Pastor Caleb had a suggestion to computerize the library card catalog so in conjunction with the library committee, the project was underway. Nancy volunteered to lead this project; she researched what program would be best for our library and it was decided to use LibraryThing. This will give our patrons the ability to search the collection, check for availability of materials and even place books on hold. With help from the library committee, the pastors, and others, the evaluation and sorting of books was started. Nancy spent countless hours of “behind the scenes” work before entering the current books into LibraryThing. The library committee would like to give a BIG Thank You to Nancy for spearheading this project and helping give the AMC library a new, refreshed look!

Thank you -- For many years James Voth has been putting up the stars in the bell tower for Advent and Christmas. James has decided it is time to “pass the stars” on to someone else. Thanks so much, James, for your many years of service!

It’s time for another Goessel Community Junior High event! On Sunday, January 30 from 4:30-7:30 all 6th-8th graders are invited to Goessel Church for a pizza and game night. We’ll be making individual pizzas and will have a variety of games ready to play! RSVP’s are encouraged to Laura (lauraelaine25@gmail.com) or Michelle (michellerunruh@gmail.com).

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.
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