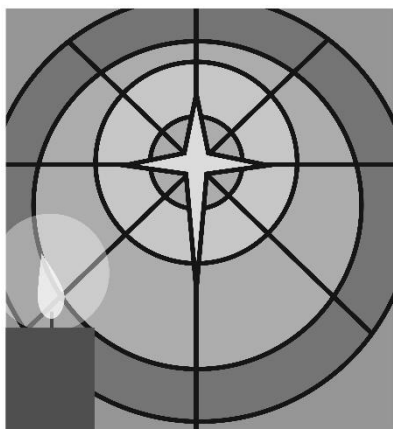


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

November 27, 2022

No. 48



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

Advent is a season of waiting for the coming of Christ, longing for restoration, and watching for signs of God's movement. This is a time of hopeful angst. Today let us give our fears and angst to God and stay awake for Christ's coming.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ~Bock Mary Schmidt
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came ~Page

Welcome Lynel Unrau

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship (Melody Zimmerman, The Soil and the Seed Project)

Leader: *Are you ready?* The LORD is coming!

People: We are people of hope. We hold on to the promise.

Leader: *Are you ready?* The LORD is coming!

People: Coming in righteousness. Coming in peace.

Leader: *Are you ready?* The LORD is coming!

People: We are people of hope. We hold on to the promise.

All: Are you ready? The LORD is coming!

Invocation Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candles+ Kyle, Justine, Lillian, and Myles
Comfort, Comfort, O My People ~Seth Thomas Crissman

Congregational Response *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* (v.1, 6) VT 210

***Advent Hymn** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* VT 218

Children's Story Eric Schrag

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois Harder

Scripture Reading Isaiah 2:1-5 Lynel Unrau

Song of Response *Sword into a Plowshare* VT 798

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings First Fruits Giving

Offertory *Bethlehem* ~Johnson Mary Schmidt

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Caleb Yoder

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading	Matthew 24:36-44	Lynel Unrau
Message	"Are you ready?"	Pastor Caleb
Song of Response	<i>I Know Not Why God's Wondrous</i> (v.1, 3, 4)	VT 590
Responding to the Gospel	<i>(open sharing)</i>	

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Song of Sending	<i>Comfort, Comfort, O My People</i>	VT 212
*Benediction		Pastor Caleb
*Postlude		Mary Schmidt

*All who are able are invited to stand.

+ The peace lamp is a visual reminder 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 from *Leader*, Fall 2022; and *Vol. 5 Advent-Christmas-Epiphany* of the Soil and the Seed Project.

A note about the worship table: Restoration is near and this year the Advent table is progressive. Restoration is a process. Each week the display will change slightly as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. It serves as a visual reminder that we are moving from darkness toward light (illumination) helping us to see more clearly.

Song Leader: Kyle Unruh

Greeters: North – Lynel & Vickie Unrau; South – John Janzen

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Christmas Decorations: Friends and Followers Sunday School Class

Nursery Staff: Janice Voth, Natalie Church

Worship Technology: DJ Flaming, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

November 20 Attendance: Sunday School – 74; Worship -- 87 in person, 16 Zoom households, 9 YouTube views

November 20 Offering: Sunday School – \$21.03; First Fruits – \$17,997.50

Questions for Reflection

1. How do you understand "end-times" passages in the Bible?
2. What might it mean to live as if the world as we know it will soon be gone, even if we don't see this come to pass?
3. What does it mean to practice "alertness" or "watching" as a spiritual discipline?

Next Sunday is the second Sunday of Advent. Pastor Caleb will preach from Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for Lucas Hiebert and Michelle Schrag as they join their lives in marriage this coming Saturday in Moundridge, and we give thanks for this celebration for the Hiebert family.
- ❖ We pray for households dealing with illness from influenza, Covid, or any other number of viral infections circulating right now.
- ❖ We're grateful for successful knee replacement for Connie Wiens this past Tuesday and we continue to pray for healing as she has physical therapy and rehabilitation.
- ❖ We pray blessings for Tabor Mennonite Church as they welcome Todd Schlosser as their pastor today.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 27

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Tuesday, November 29

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 30

Midweek Activities

Friday, December 2

6:45 pm -- Newton Community Children's Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 3

Lucas Hiebert | Michelle Schrag Wedding

Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

3:00 pm – Newton Community Children's Choir Concert under the direction of Jill Siebert

COMING EVENTS

Dec 11 10:30 am -- A Service of Lessons and Carols

Dec 11 7:00 pm -- Christmas Brass Concert at AMC

Dec 12 1:00 – 6:00 pm -- Blood Drive at Goessel Church

Dec 16 2:00 pm – Senior Coffee

Dec 24 7:00 pm -- Christmas Eve Service

Dec 25 Christmas Day -- No Sunday School – Worship at 10:30 am

Jan 1 New Year's Day – No Sunday School – Worship at 10:30 am

Jan 20 Annual Reports due in Church Office

Jan 22 Q & A on 2023 Spending Plan

Feb 5 Annual Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Bible Study led by Pastor Caleb will continue this Wednesday. We will gather in the conference room at 7:50, just after the dismissal of choir. You may also join on Zoom.

There are two **Advent devotional resources** in the back of the sanctuary:

- Advent at Home 2022 worship guide, "Restoration is Near!" is a guide for devotions at home during Advent and oriented toward families or households.
- The Soil and Seed Project has short weekly liturgies paired with original music for use at home or in small groups, Sunday school classes, etc. The booklet, song lyrics, and instructions for accessing the music are in the back of the sanctuary. You can also find the music on Spotify, YouTube, and Apple Music, or download directly from thesoilandtheseedproject.org.

Christmas Giving Tree -- The Goessel Ministerial Alliance and the Crossroads Credit Union are sponsoring a community giving tree to help with some of the expenses of Christmas for families in need. Tags with suggestions for gifts for children will be available on the tree at the Crossroads Credit Union on Tuesday, November 22. Gifts will need to be brought back to the Credit Union by Monday, December 12. The gifts should be wrapped and the credit union personnel will assist with the "checking in" process. It is our goal that everyone has a blessed and happy Christmas, both the giver and the receiver.