

# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

December 25, 2022

No. 52



## Christmas DAY

**Welcome to Alexanderwohl!** The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world! The Word became flesh and lived among us. Today we celebrate not only the birth of Jesus, but also find joy in this great story of God's redeeming love fully entering the human experience.

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP

#### Gathering

*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* ~Eggert  
*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* ~Engel/Manz  
*Angels We Have Heard on High* ~Behnke  
*Of the Father's Love Begotten* ~Leavitt  
*Go Tell It on the Mountain* ~Behnke  
*Oh Come, All Ye Faithful* ~Behnke

Jason Peters

#### Welcome

Pastor Caleb Yoder

#### Opportunities for Celebration and Service

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

Leader: God with Us, Immanuel, there in the beginning

**All: You took on flesh and lived among us**

Leader: Christ, your coming was written in the stars

**All: You reveal yourself to us**

Leader: Your light shines in the darkness

**All: Open our hearts and reveal your glory**

Leader: Comfort the mourning and protect the vulnerable, we pray

**All: God, we put our trust in you**

#### Invocation Prayer

#### Lighting of the Candles+

Matt, Laura, Lilly, and Greyson Voth

#### \*Christmas Carol

*Oh, How Joyfully*

VT 254

#### Children's Story

Karl Brubaker

#### Prophetic Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

Brendon Nafziger

#### Christmas Carol

*What Child Is This / Helpless and Hungry*

VT 267/268

#### Worship Music

Myra Peters, piano

<b>Morning Prayer</b>		Pastor Lois Harder
<b>Worship Music</b>	Nelson Voth, harmonica; Dan Bergen, guitar	
<b>Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings</b>		First Fruits Giving
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>Shepherds</i> ~Held	Jason Peters
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		Pastor Lois

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

<b>Gospel Reading</b>	John 1:1-14	Brendon Nafziger
<b>Message</b>	<i>"Love took on flesh"</i>	Pastor Caleb
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i>	VT 255

### SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

<b>Psalm Reading</b>	Psalm 98:4-9	
<b>*Song of Sending</b>	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	VT 247
<b>*Benediction</b>		Pastor Caleb
<b>*Postlude</b>	<i>Joy to the World</i> ~Held	Jason Peters

\*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.

**Song Leader:** Renae Peters

**Greeters:** North – Kermit & Sandra Nikkel; South – Myron & Ruth Goertzen

**Visual Arts:** Tina Schrag

**Christmas Decorations:** Friends and Followers Sunday School Class

**Nursery Staff:** Aileen Esau, Cambry Duerksen, Laura Voth

**Worship Technology:** Myron Goertzen, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth

**December 18 Attendance:** Sunday School – 107; Worship -- 119 in person, 16 Zoom households, 15 YouTube views

**December 18 Offering:** Sunday School – \$46.73; First Fruits – \$25,351.23

#### Questions for Reflection

1. What is the meaning of incarnation for you?
2. Was incarnation only a one-time event, or does it happen repeatedly?
3. How has Jesus pitched a tent in your life?

Next Sunday is New Year's Day. We will continue to celebrate Christ's birth utilizing a lovely children's book called *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*. We'll sing carols as the story is told. There will be no Sunday School – prelude music will begin at 10:20; worship at 10:30 am.

# *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We pray for Jenny, Greg, their families, and all who have been touched by Dan Bergen and feel sadness with his loss. Dan passed away on Monday, December 19, at Wesley Medical Center.
- ❖ We pray for the family of Milton Duerksen as they grieve his loss and celebrate his life and home going. Milton passed away on Thursday, December 22, at Bethesda Home.
- ❖ We pray for Zola Esau, David Esau's mother, and the Esau family, as Zola too approaches the time to go home to Jesus.
- ❖ We give thanks for the gift of Christ who is present in our lives, in the faces of the people we encounter, and in God's wondrous and frightening world.
- ❖ We pray for Ukrainian brothers and sisters as the war with Russia rages on through these cold winter months.
- ❖ We pray for people waiting "at the border" of many countries as their lives hang in the balance.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **Sunday, December 25** - Christmas Day

No Sunday School

10:15 am – Prelude

10:30 am – Worship

Serve at New Hope Shelter

### **Monday, December 26**

Church Offices Closed

Serve at New Hope Shelter

### **Tuesday, December 27**

Serve at New Hope Shelter

### **Wednesday, December 28**

No Regular Midweek Activities

### **Thursday, December 29**

11:00 am – Dan Bergen Memorial Service

### **Friday, December 30**

Church Offices Closed

### **Sunday, January 1** - New Year's Day

No Sunday School

10:20 am -- Prelude

10:30 am – Worship

## **COMING EVENTS**

Jan 2 Church Offices Closed

Jan 11 Midweek Activities Resume

Jan 20 2022 Annual Reports due in Church Office

Jan 22 Q & A on 2023 Spending Plan

Feb 5 Annual Meeting

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The motion “that we set aside the requirement in our constitution prescribing a set number of members for each board for 2023” passed unanimously.**

**All individuals on the affirmation ballot last Sunday were strongly affirmed and will begin their positions January 1, 2023:**

Church Secretary – Carol Reimer Duerksen  
Board of Deacons – Justine Unruh, Karl Brubaker  
Board of Worship – Megan Duerksen, Eric Schrag  
Board of Trustees – Brendon Nafziger, Robert Boese  
Board of Mission and Service – Jody Schmidt  
Board of Christian Education – 2 open positions to fill  
Gifts Facilitating – Mary Schmidt

**Pastor Caleb and Beth are on vacation** in Iowa and South Dakota from *December 26-January 2*. During this time, you may contact Pastor Lois or one of the deacons for any pastoral concerns.

**The following items are needed at New Hope Shelter:** disposable vinyl gloves, coffee, creamer & sugar, Jello & pudding cups, fruit & granola bars, cookies, sliced meat & cheese, laundry pods, pillows & pillow cases, letter sized file folders, Pine-Sol, and Wal Mart or Dillion's Gift Cards. These items can be placed in the large box in the south lobby under the coat rack. Thank you for your support!

**As you have updates (addresses, emails, cell phone or land line numbers) for the 2023 Church Yearbook,** turn them in to the church office.

**If you would like a printed paper copy of the 2022 annual reports, please sign up in either lobby by Sunday, January 22, 2023.** Reports will be emailed to those who have email.

Thank you for the cards, goodies and well-wishes in this Christmas season. We are grateful to be your pastors! ~Pastor Caleb Yoder and Pastor Lois Harder