



# EPIPHANY

Welcome to Alexanderwohl! Epiphany marks the revelation of Christ to the foreign Magi. Let us discover the joy of the Magi, the surprising and strange visitors who sought out the infant Jesus and welcomed him with regal gifts. Today we consider what gifts we have to offer Christ.

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

### Gathering

Karen Unruh

Two Settings of *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star* –Manz and Hobby

### Welcome

Pastor Caleb Yoder

### Opportunities for Celebration and Service

### Call to Worship

(Adapted from Ephesians 3 and Isaiah 60)

**All: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you!**

Leader: See, darkness covers the earth, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

**People: Lift up your eyes and look about you!**

Leader: Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy;

**People: Through faith in Christ we approach God with freedom and confidence.**

Leader: The mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations has now been revealed by the Spirit.

**All: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you!**

### Invocation Prayer

### Candle Lighting+

Rick and Sheryl Duerksen

### \*Gathering Song

*O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

VT 275

### Children's Story

Amos the Shepherd (Eric Schrag)

### Prophetic Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Judy Goertzen

### Epiphany Song

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

VT 273

### Worship Music

Bryant and Chrystiana Miller

**Morning Prayer** Pastor Lois Harder  
**Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings** First Fruits Giving  
**Offertory** *Let Our Gladness Know No End* ~Haan Karen Unruh  
**\*Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 2:1-12 Judy Goertzen  
**Message** "We saw his star" Pastor Caleb  
**Song of Response** *Hail the Bless'd Morn* (omit v. 3) VT 272

### SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*Song of Sending** *See Whose Glory Fills the Skies* VT 274  
**\*Benediction** Pastor Caleb  
**\*Postlude** *Let All Together Praise Our God* ~Manz Karen Unruh

\*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:** Kyle Unruh

**Greeters:** North – ElRoy and Loretta Wiens  
South – James and Shari Wiens

**Visual Arts:** Tina Schrag

**Nursery Staff:** Myron Hiebert, Ann Hiebert, Maryanne Esau

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

**January 1 Attendance:** Worship -- 88 in person, 9 Zoom households

**January 1 Offering:** First Fruits – \$1,755.00

#### Questions for Reflection

1. What lessons do you take from the story of the Magi?
2. What does it mean to diligently seek out Christ within our own reality?
3. What gifts do you have to offer Christ?

Next Sunday we welcome David Boshart, President of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, who will bring the morning message.

## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We pray for the ongoing work of this congregation as our boards and committees begin meeting again in this new year. We are grateful for the contributions of those who have served and whose terms are up and we ask for your blessing God, on new and continuing members.

- ❖ We pray for the midweek activities as they begin again; bless our time together.
- ❖ We pray for the leaders of our government. May they seek the well-being of those they serve.
- ❖ We pray for a lasting peace in Ethiopia and for the students at Meserete Kristos College, a Mission Network partner school, as they prepare to share the teachings of the Prince of Peace with their congregations and communities.
- ❖ We give thanks for the positive scan results for pastor Caleb's mom, Gloria, indicating that she is cancer free.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **Sunday, January 8** - Epiphany

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

4:00 pm – Service at Bethesda – Pastors Caleb and Lois

### **Monday, January 9**

9:30 am – Vision Team Meeting

5:45 pm – Board of Mission and Service

7:00 pm – Church Council

### **Tuesday, January 10**

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, January 11**

5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal

Midweek Activities Resume

### **Thursday, January 12**

7:00 pm – AMC hosts the MCC Sale Meeting

### **Sunday, January 15**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am -- Worship

## **COMING EVENTS**

- Jan 16 Church offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- Jan 20 2022 Annual Reports due in Church Office
- Jan 22 Q & A on 2023 Spending Plan
- Jan 22 Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum's Annual Meeting
- Feb 5 Annual Meeting
- Feb 11 Daughters of Grace Event – watch for details!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**2022 Budget Update** -- Thank you for the many ways that you have supported the ministries of Alexanderwohl during this past year, especially the many generous First Fruits offerings during the past two months! These gifts through our weekly offerings have funded the majority of our local church ministry expenses for 2022. While we did not meet our giving goal, we also did not need as much as our budget originally illustrated. This allowed us to be within \$7,000 of covering all of our expenses with your

donations. The remaining shortfall was covered with other financial resources that we had available. In addition to funding our local church ministries, we also gave a tithe of our offerings totaling \$57,000. This tithe supported 17 other mission partners, to varying degrees, as our spending plan illustrated. Thank you for your generous 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.

**Because No One Should Go Hungry:** The purpose of the Tabor Church Food Pantry is to provide food at no cost for families in need in the Goessel area. If you are struggling financially to make ends meet, know that you are not alone. We are here to help! Please call Tabor Mennonite Church (367-2318) to set up a time to get your food. This is a ministry supported by the Goessel area churches and community.

**Say "cheese" with Jason Schmidt and Miriam Goertzen-Regier of Grazing Plains Farm at the annual meeting of the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.** at Goessel Church. Jason and Miriam's presentation will follow the business portion of the meeting. After the program, the faspa (light meal) will include cheese samples from Grazing Plains Farm. Memberships to the museum will be available to purchase or renew.

Alexanderwohl was Dad's church family, and you all honored him so wonderfully as we celebrated his life. Whether you were the pastor or pianist or photographer or person who prayed, the cake baker or chair mover or card writer or custodians, the usher or sound and video person, funeral committee servers or administrative assistant, or however you supported us, we are deeply grateful. --Milt Duerksen's family