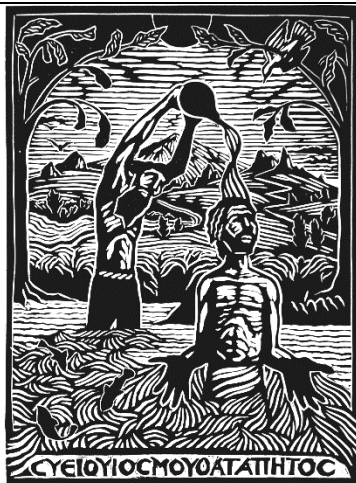


# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

January 22, 2023

No. 4



**Welcome to our worship service at Alexanderwohl!** One of the traditional passages of Scripture read during Epiphany is the account of the baptism of Jesus. In this story, Jesus not only receives the power and commissioning of the Holy Spirit, but also prepares the way for all who follow after. As we look to the new year and any needed resets, God's love is the foundation for who we are and what we do.

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

**Gathering**      *God is Here Among Us* ~Burkhardt      Marcia Brubaker  
*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ~Hayes

**Welcome**      Pastor Caleb Yoder

### Opportunities for Celebration and Service

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

Leader: Before he could even do a thing,

**People: Jesus was called Beloved**

Leader: Before the healings, before the cross, before the Resurrection,  
The Lord spoke:

**People: "This is my Beloved Child, in who I am well pleased."**

Leader: Before he could even do a thing,

**People: Jesus was.**

Leader: Let us hear the Lord call us by name:

*[All say to the person next to you]*

**All: \_\_\_\_\_, YOU ARE BELOVED OF GOD!**

### Invocation Prayer+

**\*Gathering Songs**      *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*      VT 443  
*Your Love Is Amazing*      VT 96

**Children's Story**      Bonnie Gaedder

**Prophetic Reading**      Isaiah 42:1-9      Tammy Flaming

**Worship Music**      *See Whose Glory Fills the Skies*, VT 274      Chancel Choir &  
*As I Went Down to the River* (v. 1-3), VT 453      Congregation

**Morning Prayer**      Pastor Lois Harder

**Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

*Be Thou My Vision* ~Bober

First Fruits Giving

Marcia Brubaker

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Lois

**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 3:13-17

Tammy Flaming

**Message**

“Beloved of God”

Pastor Caleb

**Responding to the Gospel**

(open sharing)

**SENT AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**\*Song of Response**

*From the Waters I Will Rise*

VT 442

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Caleb

**\*Postlude**

Marcia Brubaker

\*You are invited to stand in body or in spirit.

+ 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.

Graphic credit: *From the River to the Wilderness*, Matthew C. Regier, 2018, linocut; in VT 445; used with permission

**Song Leader:** Renae Peters

**Greeters:** North – Elaine Banman

South – Verney and Janice Voth

**Visual Arts:** Anita Boese

**Nursery Staff:** Tina Schrag, Noah Schrag, Kim Voth

**Worship Technology:** DJ Flaming, Levi Schrag, Delton Voth

**January 15 Attendance:** Sunday School – 102; Worship -- 133 in person, 12 Zoom households

**January 15 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$34.48; First Fruits – \$3,590.12

**Questions for Reflection** (Matthew 3:13-17)

1. How are our baptisms similar or different than Jesus’?
2. How does Jesus’ baptism relate to the rest of his ministry?
3. Can you receive God’s words to Jesus as addressed to you?

**Next Sunday**, the Hesston College Bel Canto Singers and the Goessel High School Elbiata Singers will lead us in worship. Following the service, everyone is invited to a potluck meal in the fellowship hall.

*Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ Today is Chinese New Year, and this is the Year of the Rabbit. Pray for Mennonite Partners in China, especially Pastor Yin Hongtao and his colleagues, who share the message of peace through Anabaptist resources and the message of Jesus’ true shalom.
- ❖ We pray for God’s leading and wisdom as we prepare for our annual meeting.

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, January 22

- 9:30 am – Q & A on 2023 Spending Plan - Sanctuary
- 10:30 am – Worship
- 2:30 pm -- Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum's Annual Meeting

### Tuesday, January 24

- 9:30 am – Staff Meeting
- 6:30 pm – Children's Ministry Team -- Chapel
- 7:00 pm – Board of Worship – Conference Room

### Wednesday, January 25

- 5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal
- Midweek Activities

### Thursday, January 26

- 5:30 pm – Board of Deacons

### Sunday, January 29

- Annual reports in church mailboxes for those who signed up
- 9:30 am – Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Worship – Hesston Bel Canto & Goessel Elbiata Singers
- Noon potluck – see announcement

## COMING EVENTS

- Feb 5 Annual Meeting following worship and light lunch
- Feb 6 Goessel Community Blood Drive, 1:00 – 6:00 pm
- Feb 11 Alexanderwohl Women's Event – see announcement for details
- Apr 14-15 Kansas MCC Sale – Hutchinson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The children's midweek department will be participating in a service night on Wednesday, January 25.** Dwight M. Flaming will be sharing with the children about his involvement with Mennonite Disaster Service. **Parents and others are invited to join us in the Foundation Room at 6:45 pm to hear Dwight's presentation.** Following that time, the children will be involved in various service projects in the building as they become the "hands and feet" of Jesus to serve others.

**We look forward to having the Hesston College Bel Canto Singers and Goessel High School Elbiata Singers lead us in worship on Sunday, January 29.** Following the service, everyone is invited to a **potluck meal** in the fellowship hall. This is our first potluck in several years! Please plan to participate as we welcome guests that day. Bring a main dish and either a salad or dessert. We suggest generous portions so there is enough for all of our guests.

**All women and girls are invited to attend the Alexanderwohl Women's Event on Saturday, February 11, at 2:00 pm.** Come enjoy fellowship, cookie decorating with Heidi Thurston and a devotional with Jennifer Wintermote, WDC Resource Library Director. RSVP via the invitation in your church mailbox.

**Pastor daytime office hours:**

	Pastor Caleb (.9 FTE)	Pastor Lois (.75 FTE)
Monday	--	1:00-5:00
Tuesday	9:00-5:00	9:00-5:00
Wednesday	11:00-8:30	11:00-8:30
Thursday	9:00-5:00	9:00-1:00
Friday	9:00-5:00	9:00-5:00

Office hours are subject to change and don't include evening meetings, visitation, or work from home. Consider calling ahead to ensure a pastor is available.

**The Peace Committee has donated 2 books to the library** for your reading in 2023: *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* by Drew G. I. Hart which discusses the complexity and challenges of race. For the children there is *Different and Alike*. Understanding how we are all alike helps us relate peacefully to people whose handicaps make their differences more noticeable.

**All updates for the 2023 Yearbook are due in the church office on February 1, 2023.** This includes updates for boards and committees as well as addresses, phone numbers, etc.

**Plan to attend the annual meeting of the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum this afternoon (Sunday, January 22) at 2:30 p.m.** at Goessel Church. We'll begin with the business portion of the meeting, followed by a presentation from Jason Schmidt, Grazing Plains Farm and Miriam Goertzen-Regier, cheesemaker. After the program, the fropa will include cheese samples from Grazing Plains Farm. Please come early to purchase or renew your museum membership for 2023.

We wouldn't call pizza an ethnic food of this community, but the contributions of the Russian Mennonites that migrated to this area almost 150 years ago allow us to enjoy it now! **Please join the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum's board and staff for a fundraiser meal on Wednesday, February 1, from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Along with pizza, there will be fresh tossed salad, delicious cookies, and, of course, your good company! Your contributions will be gratefully accepted and used for general operating expenses.

**Thank you for sending your strong men to help us move heavy items** up the stairs for the sale at Trinity Mennonite Church! You made our impossible, possible. You made our being overwhelmed, do-able. You made our hopelessness, hope-filled. You were a God-send! You were just what we needed! Thank you! ~Trinity Mennonite Church