

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

November 26, 2023

No. 47

*WE GIVE YOU THANKS,
AND praise YOUR
glorious
name.*

I CHRONICLES 29:13, NIV

Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

We gather today to give thanks and praise to our God. "The Chronicler" has recorded one of David's most joyful and humble prayers of praise and thanksgiving. Let's join our voices and spirits with the wisdom of the ancients.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Fanfare on "Nicaea" ~arr. Cobb* Mary Schmidt
 Now Thank We All Our God ~arr. Bock

Welcome Ben Schrag

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+ (led by HS Youth) Adapted from VT 963

One: Give thanks to God, who is good.

Many: God's love is everlasting.

All: Come, let us praise God joyfully. Let us come to God with thanksgiving!

One: For the church universal, and for this congregation of your people,

Many: thank you, God.

One: For this place in which we gather for praise and prayer, witness and service, in the name of Jesus Christ,

Many: thank you, God.

One: For disciples young and old who have been nurtured here in faith,

Many: thank you, God.

One: For the faithful who have led and loved us, and by the offering of their gifts, equipped us all for the work of ministry,

Many: thank you, God.

One: For all the saints who have stood among us, whose memory still enlivens our faith and emboldens our witness,

Many: thank you, God.

All: Receive our gratitude, Holy God, for the years through which you have led us, and open us to the future you promise.

One: Give thanks to God who is good.

All: God's love is everlasting!

***Gathering Hymns** Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing VT 7
 Come, Christians, Join to Sing VT 28

Children's Story Chrystiana Miller

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Scripture I Chronicles 29:10-18 Ben Schrag

Message “David’s Praises to God” Pastor Lois

Song of Response Praise to the Living God VT 204

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

--You are invited to bring your offerings forward--

Offertory Holy God, We Praise Thy Name ~arr. Bish Mary Schmidt

***Song of Dedication** You Are All We Have VT 701

SENT AS GOD’S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending | Benediction** Praise God VT 70

***Postlude** Postlude on “Old Hundreth” ~Bock Mary Schmidt

*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: Marcia Brubaker

Greeters: North – Kyle and Justine Unruh family
South – John Janzen

Visual Arts: Anita Boese

Nursery Staff: Bri Combs, Janice Voth

Worship Technology: DeAlan Unrau, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

November 19 Attendance: Sunday School – 98; Worship -- 128 in person; 12 Zoom Households

November 19 Offering: Sunday School -- \$69.73; First Fruits – \$13,422.40

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. Scripture texts are Jeremiah 33:10-11; 14-18 and Mark 8:27-29. Can the prophet help us to see hope through despair? Pastor Lois will preach.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ Thank you, God, for loved ones and opportunities to be together.
- ❖ We pray for your Spirit of Comfort to be with those who are alone or lonely during these holidays.
- ❖ We ask for safety as many are traveling this weekend.
- ❖ O God, we continue to pray for those who are caught in the midst of war and violence in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and throughout Israel/Palestine.
- ❖ As we approach the season of Advent, give us hearts that are open to expectant waiting.

+This week pray for: Jesse and Jill Bailey, Harlan and Grace Bartel, Emily Meier, Kermit and Sandra Nikkel, Matthew, Laura, Lillian and Greyson Voth

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 26

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship -- A Service of Thanksgiving

Monday, November 27

6:30 pm – Newton Community Children's Choir rehearsal

Tuesday, November 28

9:00 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 29

5:45 pm – Fellowship meal served

Midweek Activities

8:00 pm – Gabriel's Trumpets rehearsal

Sunday, December 3 – First Sunday of Advent

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

3:00 pm – Newton Community Children's Choir Concert directed by Jill Siebert

COMING EVENTS

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| Dec 6-9 | Serve at New Hope Shelter |
| Dec 9 | Daughters of Grace Christmas Brunch - 9:30 am |
| Dec 10 | A Service of Lessons and Carols |
| Dec 10 | Christmas Brass and Elbiata Community Concert |
| Dec 11 | Goessel Community Blood Drive – 1:00-6:00 pm |
| Dec 15 | Senior Coffee - 3:00 pm |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The high school youth group will be collecting monetary donations today and next Sunday, December 3, to go shopping for supplies for the New Hope Shelter. Thank you for your generous support!

Here are three opportunities to serve at the New Hope Shelter in

December: First, sign up on the south lobby bulletin board to be an evening volunteer on Dec. 6-9. Second, give grocery items on the current needs list. Deposit them in the big grocery box in the lobby. Third, give money for small Christmas gifts for each resident at the shelter. Please send your check (with a notation for Resident Christmas) to 900 W. Broadway St., Bldg.7, Newton, KS 67114 or donate online at www.newhope-shelter.org. Thank you for your generous support and prayers!

Daughters of Grace are planning a Christmas brunch on December 9 and are looking for volunteers to decorate a Christmas-themed table for that morning. If you are willing to share your creative talents in this way, please sign up in the south lobby.

The Christmas Giving Tree: The Goessel Ministerial Alliance and the Citizens State Bank are sponsoring a “Christmas Giving Tree”. The tags will be available on the tree at the Citizens State Bank on Tuesday, November 21. All the gifts will need to be brought back to the Bank by Monday, December 11. The gifts should be wrapped and the bank personnel will assist with the “checking in” process. The gifts will then be distributed by the Ministerial Alliance.

During the Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 31, there will be a time of fellowship with donuts and cider. Children will be invited to pick up their snacks and go to their SS classes. Junior high, high school, college age and adults are invited to mingle and fellowship during this hour.

We have again received multiple copies of *The Soil and The Seed Project* devotionals for Advent/Christmas/Epiphany. These are free and include a booklet as well as a CD with original compositions. Available in the lobbies.

Roots of Justice anti-racism training is an intense 20-hour, 2.5 day opportunity to learn about racial and cultural identity, white privilege, systemic racism and more. This training will be offered on January 12-14 in Newton. The Board of Mission and Service has scholarship funds available. Talk to Pastor Lois if you're interested.

Blood Drive: Include donating blood in your holiday preparations. Make it a better holiday for those needing transfusions. Sign up at redcrossblood.org to donate a single or double unit on December 11, between 1:00-6:00 pm at Goessel Church. For more information, contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081.