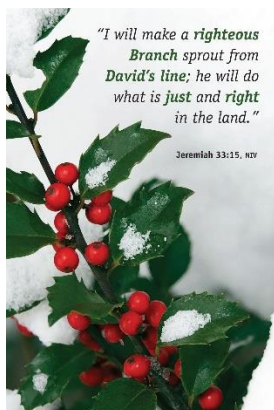


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

December 3, 2023

No. 48



Welcome to Alexanderwohl on this First Sunday of Advent! This morning we'll look at the message from the prophet Jeremiah to a people who were facing devastation and defeat. Jeremiah was reminding them that it would not end there. God would send healing and recovery.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Hark, the Glad Sound!* ~Leavitt Jason Peters
 Comfort, Comfort, Now My People ~Manz
 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel ~Engel/Leavitt

Welcome Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+ Psalm 136 - 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 Hymn** *We Give Thanks unto You* (vs. 1, 2, 3, 5) VT 117

Lighting the Advent Candle | Peace Prayer

Matthew, Laura, Lillian and Greyson Voth

Advent Hymn *Unexpected and Mysterious* (vs. 1, 3) VT 229

Children's Story Laura Unrau

Worship Music "Alleluia" from *Exsultate, Jubilate* ~Mozart
Julianna Schrag, soprano; Jacob Schrag, trumpet; Karen Unruh, piano

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Jeremiah 33:10-11; 14-18 Brendon Nafziger

Message "The Righteous Branch and The Covenant" Pastor Lois

Song of Response *Hark! the Glad Sound!* VT 217

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Comfort, Comfort, O My People* ~Fedak

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending** *We Dream of a Turning* VT 209

***Benediction**

***Postlude** Jason Peters

*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: Braden Unruh

Greeters: North – Lynel and Vickie Unrau

South – Jeremy and Maggie Schroeder

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Nursery Staff: Kim Voth, Rosie Gaeddert

Worship Technology: Myron Goertzen, Colby Nafziger, Delton Voth

November 26 Attendance: Sunday School – 00; Worship -- 00 in person;
0 Zoom Households

November 26 Offering: Sunday School -- \$0.00; First Fruits – \$1,251.00

Next Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent. It will be our Service of Lessons and Carols. The lessons will come from Isaiah 40:1-11 and the Chancel Choir will lead us in the carols.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for the family and friends of Jerry Schroeder. Jerry passed away on November 26. His service was November 30 in Arkansas City, KS. Jerry was a brother of Arlie, Jan Schmidt and Velma Hiebert.
- ❖ We pray for the family and friends of Daton Wedel who died at Bethesda Home on November 24. His services were held yesterday (December 2)

at the Goessel Church. Daton was a brother-in-law to Meribeth Schmidt and Esther Schmidt.

- ❖ We pray for the family and friends of Darlene McVey who died at Bethesda Home on November 28. She was a member of AMC and a sister to LeRoy Funk; she had lived in Indiana until a few weeks ago when she came "home" to Goessel.
- ❖ 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 thank you for safety as many of us traveled this past 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 enter the season of Advent, give us hearts that are open to expectant waiting.

+This week pray for: Alice Jantz, Dale Jantz, Merlin and Velma Hiebert, Rannie and Meribeth Schmidt, Peter Terry and Lucia Unrau

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 3 – First Sunday of Advent

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

12:30 pm – Bethesda Chapel led by Pastor Lois

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

Monday, December 4

7:00 pm – Children's Ministry Team Meeting, Conference Room

Tuesday, December 5

9:00 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 6

5:45 pm – Fellowship meal served

Midweek Activities – Children's Christmas Party

7:00 pm – Board of Trustees

8:00 pm – Gabriel's Trumpets rehearsal

Saturday, December 9

9:30 am – Daughters of Grace Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship – A Service of Lessons and Carols

7:00 pm – Christmas Brass and GHS Elbiata Community Concert

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Dec 6-9 | Serve at New Hope Shelter |
| Dec 11 | Goessel Community Blood Drive – 1:00-6:00 pm |
| Dec 15 | Senior Coffee - 3:00 pm |
| Dec 31 | Donuts and cider during the SS hour for JH, HS & adults (see announcement) |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Please sign up today (December 3) for the Daughters of Grace Christmas Brunch next Saturday, December 9 at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. Doors will open at 9:00 am to allow time to view the decorated tables. We hope you can attend this special Christmas event!

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. Place 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!

The Christmas Giving Tree: Pick up your tags at the Citizens State Bank. All gifts will need to be brought back to the Bank by Monday, December 11. The gifts should be wrapped and will be distributed by the Goessel 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 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.

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.

There will be a Sharing Time for children during the Christmas Eve program. This has been a long-standing tradition in our church--it is strictly voluntary for those who are interested in preparing a piece. Numbers could include a Christmas poem or recitation, sharing a Bible verse, a musical number etc. If your child/grandchild would like to participate, you may pick up a form from the Sunday School office downstairs. Fill it out and bring it to the Christmas Eve program. Your child will hand it to the person leading the sharing time at the program. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Nafziger (620-386-0469 or nafziger@mtelco.net).

AMC Library

New books have been added to the library; stop by the tables in the lobbies or the library to check out a book by your favorite author! Here are just a few:

Non Fiction:

- Paul Toews, *The Mennonite Story in Ukraine*

Children:

- Dandi Daley Mckall, *One Small Donkey*
- Katie Kenny Phillips, *Today I Feel Like a Jelly Donut: A Book about Emotions*
- Patricia Polacco, *The Bee Tree*

Fiction:

- Chris Fabry, *Almost Heaven*
- Cathy Godlke, *Ladies of the Lake*
- Deborah Raney, *Gifts of the Season: Christmas Then and Now*
- Janine Rosche, *With Every Memory*

Junior Fiction:

- Marianne Hering, *Sled Run for Survival (Imagination Stations Book #23)*
- Mike Nawrocki, *A Twisty-Turny Journey (The Dead Squirrels #11)*

Check complete list of new books in Friday's email or library tables in the lobby.

