

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

December 10, 2023

No. 49



Welcome to this Service of Lessons and Carols at Alexanderwohl! Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and our lessons will be from the prophet Isaiah. We'll hear familiar verses that will be followed by corresponding carols/hymns led by the choir. May we be blessed...

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering *Sleepers, Wake!* ~Behnke Marcia Brubaker
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ~Behnke

Welcome Denise Duerksen

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation

Leader: Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.

People: For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord.

Leader: Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in their midst.

People: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

All: God's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, God's dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

Lighting of the Advent Candles Kelcey & Amanda Church family

***Gathering Hymn** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* VT 218

Children's Story Aileen Esau

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois Harder

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings First Fruits Giving

Offertory *Prepare the Way, O Zion* ~Behnke Marcia Brubaker

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

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Introductory Words Renae Schmidt Peters

Reading Daniel 2:20-22 Cambry Duerksen

Advent Hymn	<i>Unexpected and Mysterious</i> (vs. 1, 3)	VT 229
Reading	Isaiah 40:1-2	Noah Schrag
	Congregational Hymn	
	<i>Comfort, Comfort, O My People</i>	VT 212
Reading	Isaiah 40:3-5	Eli Gaeddert
Choir	<i>And the Glory of the Lord from The Messiah</i> G. F. Handel	
Reading	Isaiah 40:6-8	Colby Nafziger
	Congregational Hymn	
	<i>Now the Heavens Start to Whisper</i> (unison)	VT 237
Reading	Isaiah 40:9-10	Levi Schrag
Choir	<i>Prepare the Way, O Zion</i> Charles Wesley, arr. Robert Lau	
Reading	Isaiah 40:11	Jayley Schmidt
Choir	<i>A La Nanita Nana</i> José Ramón Gomis, arr. Conrad Susa Tom Harder, guitar Translation of the Spanish text -- <i>My baby Jesus is sleepy – let him be blessed.</i> <i>Little spring that runs, clear and resounding.</i> <i>Nightingale that in the forest weeps (while) singing,</i> <i>Hush while the cradle swings, to the lullaby...</i>	
Reading	Mark 1:1-4	Laurien Berger
	Congregational Hymn	
	<i>Prepare the Way! The Prophet Called</i>	VT 220
Reading	Mark 8:27-29	Javin Schmidt
	*Congregational Hymn	
	<i>O Come, O Come, Immanuel</i> (vs. 1, 2, 7)	VT 210
*Benediction		Pastor Lois
*Postlude	<i>O Come, O Come, Immanuel</i> –Leavitt	Marcia Brubaker

*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 and Chancel Choir Director: Renae Schmidt Peters

Pianist/Organist: Marcia Brubaker

Translation reference: <https://www.riseupandsing.org/songs/la-nanita-nana>

Greeters: North – Chelan and Megan Duerksen

South – Kelcey and Amanda Church

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Nursery Staff: Aileen Esau, Cambry Duerksen

Worship Technology: Steve Unruh, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth

December 3 Attendance: Sunday School – 109; Worship -- 134 in person;
17 Zoom Households

December 3 Offering: Sunday School -- \$32.75; First Fruits – \$17,974.81

Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. The scripture text is Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13. Ezra was the priest who oversaw the rebuilding of the Temple as the Hebrew people returned after the exile. Once the Temple was built, the people celebrated and worshiped exuberantly! Pastor Rosie Jantz will be our preacher.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We continue to hold Ann Hiebert and the extended Hiebert family in our prayers as they grieve Myron's loss. His services were held here yesterday.
- ❖ We pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones.
- ❖ We pray for our college students as they finish projects and exams for this first semester.
- ❖ We're thankful for our high school students and their sponsors who purchased and delivered items for the New Hope Shelter.
- ❖ Thank you God for the gifts of art, music and poetry in this holiday season and the beautiful ways these express our faith and hope.

+This week pray for: Cindy Hastings, Erica and Rylee Schmidt, Ben and Tina Schrag family, Braden Unruh and Jill Siebert and Mia, Jeremy and Denise Voth family

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, December 11

1:00-6:00 pm – Goessel Community Blood Drive

5:30 pm – Board of Mission and Service

Tuesday, December 12

9:00 am – Staff Meeting

5:30 pm – Board of Deacons

Wednesday, December 13

No Meal or Regular Midweek Activities

Christmas Eve Program Practice – Large Group Rehearsal

6:30-7:00 pm – 3's, 4's, Kindergarten

6:30-7:45 pm – Grades 6-8, drama (note time change)

8:00 pm – Gabriel's Trumpets rehearsal

Friday, December 15

3:00 pm – Senior Coffee – Music by the GHS Elbiata Singers

Sunday, December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

COMING EVENTS

Dec 20	Christmas Eve program practice
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 pm
Dec 25	Christmas Day - Church Offices Closed
Dec 27	No Midweek Activities – Christmas Break
Dec 31	Donuts and cider during the SS hour for JH, HS & adults (see announcement)
Jan 1	New Year's Day – Church Offices Closed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Christmas Giving Tree: All gifts will need to be brought to the Bank by Monday, December 11. The gifts should be wrapped and will be distributed by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance.

The next Senior Coffee will be on Friday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m.

(NOTE: TIME CHANGE!) in the Fellowship Hall at Alexanderwohl.

Mr. Braden Unruh and the Elbiata Singers will present Christmas music.

Come to enjoy the beautiful music, good fellowship and yummy snacks - hope to see you then!

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 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. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Nafziger (620-386-0469 or nafziger@mtelco.net).