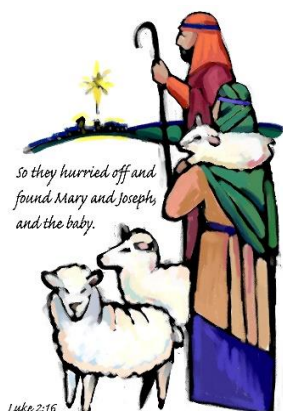


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXIX

December 31, 2023

No. 52



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!
This is the first Sunday of Christmas. This morning we'll hear some of the lessons from the gospels that tell the story of Jesus' birth. And we'll enjoy singing some of the Christmas hymns that reflect those stories.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

A Christmas Prelude ~Young

Jared Janzen

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+

Psalm 98:4-6

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

Many: break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

All: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

One: with the lyre and the sound of melody.

Many: With trumpets and the sound of the horn

All: make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

***Gathering Hymn**

Joy to the World

VT 240

Lighting the Christ Candle

Reading

Luke 1:46-55

Megan Duerksen

Hymn

Come, Join in Mary's Prophet-Song

VT 246

Children's Story

Laura Voth

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *We Three Kings of Orient Are ~arr. Langlois*

Jared Janzen

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Hymn

Night Long Awaited

VT 242

Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Hymns	<i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing</i>	VT 247
	<i>It Came upon a Midnight Clear (vs. 1,2,3,5)</i>	VT 248
Reading	Luke 2:15-20	
Hymn	<i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i>	VT 265

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Song of Sending	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>	VT 252
*Benediction		Pastor Lois
*Postlude	<i>From Heaven Above ~Held</i>	Jared Janzen

*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 – Darla Banman and Gary Lyndaker
South – Elaine Banman

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Christmas Decorations: Route 15 Sunday School class

Nursery Staff: Tammy Flaming, Laura Voth

Worship Technology: Myron Goertzen, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

December 24 Attendance: Sunday School – 80; Worship -- 146 in person;
11 Zoom Households

December 24 Offering: Sunday School -- \$42.06; First Fruits – \$7,042.13

Christmas Eve Attendance: 303

Next Sunday is Epiphany! There will be refreshments during the Sunday school hour with a time to meet and greet Pastor Luann Yutzy. She will be installed as our transitional pastor during the worship service. The texts will be Isaiah 60, Matthew 2 and Ephesians 3. Pastor Lois will preach.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for the family of Ann Boese as they celebrate her life and grieve her loss. Ann passed away at Bethesda on Thursday, December 28.
- ❖ We are grateful for the increased minutes of light in each day – and for the Light of the World, Jesus.
- ❖ Thank you God for these days of rest and celebration.
- ❖ We thank you God for the opportunities we've had this fall to learn more about your ancient, biblical prophets. Give each of us their wisdom, honesty and love as we head into this new year.

+This week pray for: Clayton and Alisha Baughman family, Wenda Black, Dwight J. and Marilyn Unruh Flaming, Lois and Tom Harder, Sherie Klassen

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 31

9:30 am – Fellowship time for JH, HS and adults (see announcement)

10:30 am – Worship

Monday, January 1, 2024

Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 2

9:00 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 3

NO Regular Midweek Activities

Sunday, January 7

9:30 am – “Meet and Greet Pastor Luann” during the SS hour for JH, HS and adults – Fellowship Hall

10:30 am – Worship – Installation of Pastor Luann

COMING EVENTS

Jan 10	Midweek Activities Resume
Jan 10	Youth Parent Meeting at the Youth House, 7:00 pm
Jan 17	Annual Reports for 2023 due in church office
Jan 21	2024 Budget Q & A during the Sunday School hour
Jan 27	Rannie Schmidt Memorial Service
Feb 4	Annual Meeting following worship and lunch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today -- There will be a time of fellowship during the Sunday school hour 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.

Thanks to Pastor Lois' family for accompanying our hymns this morning.

Luann Yutzy will begin as our transitional pastor on January 6. During the Sunday School hour on January 7, all junior high, high school youth and adult classes are invited to the fellowship hall to welcome Luann and learn more about her. Refreshments will be served. Teachers of children's classes may pick up a tray of refreshments either ahead or at the beginning of class to eat in your classroom. Heidi Regier Kreider from Western District Conference will install Luann during the worship service. Details about her shared schedule between Salina Mennonite and Alexanderwohl will be shared as they are developed.

Would you be willing to provide a coffee cake for the Sunday School hour on January 7? Please sign up in the south lobby **TODAY**. Cakes should be brought to the church kitchen by 9 a.m.

Budget Support Update - Thank you everyone for your generous support during 2023 with your First Fruits gifts. We have worked together during this year to adjust to changes and keeping the ministries of Alexanderwohl supported financially. With your support, as we finish the year, it is anticipated that we will be able to meet our expenses and support our mission partners according to our plan. Thank you!

Natalie Church is collecting non-perishable food donations and cleaning supplies for the New Hope Shelter in Newton. She has chosen this as her STAR event for FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America). Natalie's goal is to assist the homeless population of Harvey County with food bags when they leave New Hope Shelter so they do not leave empty handed. Please help her fill the wrapped box in the south lobby with non-perishable food donations and cleaning supplies through the end of the year. Thank you for your help!

If you would like a printed copy of the 2023 annual reports, please sign up in either lobby by Sunday, January 21, 2024. Reports will be emailed to those who have email.

As you have updates (addresses, emails, cell phone or land line numbers) for the 2024 Church Yearbook, turn them in to the church office.

Thank you for your continued support of the Tabor Food Pantry. Current needs include pancake and corn muffin mix, jelly, canned meat, cake mixes, and canned fruit. Monetary donations are also appreciated!