Volume LXX January 7, 2024 No. 1



Welcome to Alexanderwohl on this Epiphany Sunday!

"Epiphany comes from the Greek epiphaneia, meaning "appearance" or "manifestation" and refers to the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world." (Wikipedia) What does the Epiphany of Jesus mean for us?

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Karen Unruh

Three Settings of "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" ~Burkhardt and Hobby

Welcome Karl Brubaker

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+

Isaiah 60:1-2, adapted

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Many: Lift up your eyes and look around; they gather and come to vou.

North: You shall see and be radiant:

South: your heart shall thrill and rejoice and proclaim the praise of the

Lord.

One: The mystery of Christ has been revealed by the Spirit. We have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise of Christ through the gospel.

Many: We know this through faith in Christ. May our lights shine!

(pause as the Christ candle is lit)

All: Together we carry the light.

Peace Prayer Tim and Judy Goertzen

*Gathering Hymn What Child is This - Helpless and Hungry VT 267-8

Service of Installation for Pastor Luann Yutzy Heidi Regier Kreider

Congregational Response VT 967

Children's Story Delbert Peters

Worship Music The Star and the Wise Men Chas. H. Gabriel

Men's Ensemble, Laura Unrau-solo

Morning Prayer Pastor Lois Harder

HEARING GOD'S WORD

ScriptureMatthew 2:1-12Karl BrubakerMessageThe Light of the WorldPastor Lois Harder

Song of Response Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light VT 269

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Let Our Gladness Know No End ~Haan Karen Unruh
*Prayer of Dedication Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Song of Sending O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem VT 275

*Benediction Pastor Lois

*Postlude Karen Unruh

+ 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 – Sandy Duerksen

South – Tina and Ben Schrag

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Nursery Staff: Gretchen Schrag, Julianna Schrag

Worship Technology: Steve Unruh, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

December 31 Attendance: Sunday School – 106; Worship -- 141 in person;

12 Zoom Households

December 31 Offering: Sunday School -- \$9.10; First Fruits - \$8,051.00

Next Sunday our text will be Matthew 2:13-23, the story of what happened after the wise men "left for their own country by another road". Here we find Jesus and his parents escaping to Egypt as refugees. Pastor Lois will preach.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

We give thanks for the lives of Steve Banman's parents and for the time Steve and Sandy and their family could be together this weekend to grieve their loss and celebrate their lives.

^{*}All who are able are invited to stand.

- We're grateful for the life of Ann Boese. We pray for her family as they adjust to life without her physical presence.
- We thank you, God, for school and all the learning and opportunities it offers. Be with our students, teachers, staff and all who are involved in schools as they get settled back into this second semester. Bless their work and play, their growth and learning.
- We pray for places in our own country and around the world where there are dangerous weather events or fear created by violence.
- +This week pray for: Andy, Ashley and Lucy Bingham, Karl and Marcia Brubaker, Lee and Mary Alice Hertzler, Ruben and Analene Klassen, Oneta Unruh

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, January 8

4:00 pm - Prayer Team

5:45 pm – Board of Mission and Service

7:00 pm - Church Council

Tuesday, January 9

9:00 am – Staff Meeting

Pastor Luann's first day and orientation

5:30 pm - Board of Christian Education

Wednesday, January 10

5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal Served

Regular Midweek Activities Resume

7:00 pm -- Youth Parent Meeting in the Youth House

Sunday, January 14

9:30 am - Sunday School

10:30 am - Worship

COMING EVENTS

Jan 17	Annual Reports for 2023 due in church office
Jan 19	NO Senior Coffee
Jan 21	2024 Budget Q & A during the Sunday School hour
Jan 27	Rannie Schmidt Memorial Service, 11:00 am
Feb 4	Annual Meeting following worship and lunch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today during the Sunday School hour, all junior high, high school youth and adult classes are invited to the fellowship hall to welcome Pastor Luann Yutzy 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.

There was a wonderful response to the request for assistance with the Wednesday night Midweek meals for 2023. There is now opportunity for 2024. Please see the sign-up sheet in the south lobby for specific dates and assignments. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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!