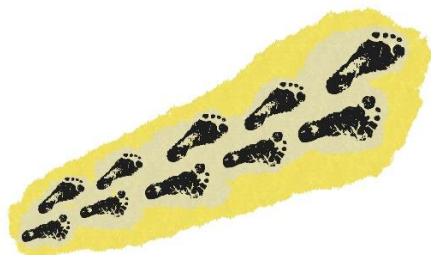


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXX

January 21, 2024

No. 3



Welcome to worship here
at Alexanderwohl! We
continue in the season of
Epiphany watching for God
in the story of Jonah and his
resistance and the calling of
the disciples. What does it
mean to follow Jesus?

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *How Firm a Foundation* ~Hobby Marcia Brubaker
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty ~Behnke

Welcome Justine Unruh

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation+

Leader: Our souls wait in silence;

People: our hope rests in God

Leader: our rock

People: our salvation

Leader: our refuge.

People: We will not be shaken.

Leader: In this time of worship,

All: we pour out our hearts

because we trust in God's steadfast love.

"By Rev. Joanna Harader, from SpaciousFaith.com."

***Gathering Hymns** *Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah* VT 95
Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore VT 283

Children's Story Chrystiana Miller

Worship Music *Jesus, Name Above All Names* Chancel Choir
~by Naida Hearn, arr. John Wilson

Morning Prayer Bryant Miller

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20 Steve Banman

Message *Run or Follow* Pastor Luann Yutzy

Song of Response *Nothing Is Lost on the Breath of God* VT 653

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision ~Bober

Marcia Brubaker

*Prayer of Dedication

Bryant Miller

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Song of Sending

How Many Times We Start Again

VT 553

*Benediction

Pastor Luann

*Postlude

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 Peters

Greeters: North – Brian and Nancy Stucky

South – Matthew and Laura Voth family

Visual Arts: Anita Boese

Nursery Staff: Chrystiana Miller, Jayley Schmidt

Worship Technology: DJ Flaming, Levi Schrag, Delton Voth

January 7 Attendance: Sunday School – 117; Worship -- 142 in person; 13 Zoom Households

January 7 Offering: Sunday School -- \$18.64; First Fruits – \$5,296.37

January 14 – No Service (weather related); Offering \$11,190.16

Next Sunday our text will be Deuteronomy 18:15-20 and Mark 1:21-28. Pastor Lois will preach. We can also look forward to the Elbiata Singers bringing us some wonderful music as part of the worship service!

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for Les and Ann Flaming as Ann continues to deal with Parkinsons. Les has recently learned that there are limited options for his cancer treatment. We pray for wisdom and mercy in the days and weeks to come. They are grateful for Zoom and the ability to worship and stay connected with the church and they offer heartfelt thanks for all who help to make church happen.
- ❖ We pray for those in our congregation and/or our community who may not have what they need to get safely through the bitter cold temperatures of these winter days. Give us raised awareness and conviction to turn our concerns into actions. Thank you for the opportunities presented to us to serve and share.
- ❖ We pray for those we know and love who are healing from illness or injury.
- ❖ We continue to pray for places near and far where fear and violence reign. We pray for peace in Gaza and the West Bank and Israel, in Ukraine, in Yemen and places closer to home where people are hurting or fearful.

- ❖ We pray for those who struggle with depression and anxiety – especially in these winter days and weeks.

+*This week pray for: Georgia, Spencer and Wren Berning, Julia Duerksen and Allan Smith, LaWanda Oblander, Lavina Schroeder, Zachary and Hailey Showalter, Nelson and Clarice Voth*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 21

9:30 am – Budget Q & A in the Sanctuary during Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

7:00 pm – Youth | Parent Meeting at the Youth House

Monday, January 22

4:00 pm – Prayer Team

Tuesday, January 23

9:00 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 24

5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal Served

Midweek Activities

Thursday, January 25

5:30 pm – Board of Deacons

Saturday, January 27

11:00 am – Rannie Schmidt Memorial Service

Sunday, January 28

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Noon Potluck Meal

2:00 pm – Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum's Annual Meeting --
See Announcement Sheet for details

COMING EVENTS

Jan 29	Fourth Monday Family History & Genealogy Group, presentation by Arlin Buller "Roots and Fruits" (see Announcement Sheet for details) – 7:00 pm
Feb 4	AMC Annual Meeting following worship and lunch
Feb 4	Area-wide JH event – Progressive Supper – 5:00–8:00 pm
Feb 5	Goessel area Blood Drive – 1:00-6:00 pm
Feb 7	Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum Pizza Fundraiser Meal
Feb 10	Comforter tying at Tabor Church
Feb 16	Senior Coffee – 10:00 am
Mar 3	Camp 412 Fundraiser at the HS cafeteria beginning at 11:30 am
Mar 13	No Midweek – Spring Break
Mar 20	Final Midweek Session

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY -- In preparation for our Annual Meeting on Feb. 4, we are offering a Question & Answer opportunity regarding the 2024 Spending Plan during the Sunday School hour in the sanctuary. Dwight M.

Flaming will present the Spending Plan and take questions. This allows us to have a better understanding of where our offerings are going and it then also allows for a smoother Annual Meeting if we have already addressed most of the questions. Plan to attend. John Fast, Chair and Dwight M. Flaming, Treasurer

The Board of Deacons would like to thank all of you who participated in the welcome for Pastor Luann during the Sunday School hour on January 7. Pastor Luann's experience and credentials are wonderful gifts that we are fortunate enough to utilize during the time that she is with us. While Pastor Luann has done "transitional" work with several congregations for a variety of reasons, "transitional" to our congregation can be thought of as "moving forward, development, refining." It is our hope, as a deacon board, that we can use our time with Pastor Luann to help guide us further through our visioning work and help prepare us for who or what we want in our next pastor. Our visioning team has done much of the heavy lifting of getting us started down the path, and this is the next step on our journey to determining who we "are" and who we "want to be." It shows health on the part of any congregation to engage in transitional work to promote communication and gain clarity together. We will continue to have conversations as a congregation, and with Pastor Luann, about how best to go about this. May this time together be one of grounding, discovery, and growth as the body of Christ at Alexanderwohl.

The Board of Worship is grateful for the many gifts and talents of this congregation that are represented in our weekly church services, and also recognize that there are many others in our congregation with gifts and interests that have yet to be utilized. The Board of Worship wants to provide opportunities for you to get involved. If you have interest in being worship leader, reading scripture, offering special music, providing children's story, offering the morning prayer, decorating, worship technology, or serving as usher or greeter don't hesitate to contact anyone on the Board of Worship or one of the pastors. If you have had interest, or would like to give it a try you might be amazed at the ways God can bless both you and the congregation!

On Sunday, January 28, the Goessel High School Elbiata Singers will join us to provide worship music during the service. The hospitality committee has agreed to host a **noon potluck meal** that day following the service, as a way to show our appreciation and welcome to the singers and their families. We hope you all are able to attend! Please plan to bring a generous main dish and either a salad or dessert. Drinks and table service will be provided.

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.

Please use this email for Pastor Luann: luannyutzy@alexanderwohl.org

Today is the last day to sign up for a printed copy of the 2023 annual reports. Sign-up sheets are in both lobbies.

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

The next area-wide jr. high event will be Sunday, Feb. 4 from 5-8 p.m. Plan to meet at the Goessel Church at 5 p.m. We will enjoy a progressive supper - each course will be at a different location! We will end the evening with some table games. Jr. high students can be picked up at 8 p.m. at Tabor Mennonite Church. *Please note the two different locations for drop-off and pick-up.*

All women and girls are invited to the Tabor Church Hospitality Hall on Saturday, February 10 for a comforter-tying event for MCC. This will be from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. If you are interested in piecing a top, contact Ruth. More details will be coming.

A BIG thank you to my Alexanderwohl Church Family for supporting my STAR project for FCCLA to help donate items to the New Hope Shelter! Together, we brought in over 100 items for their residents! Collectively, between GHS and our church, I was able to deliver over 350 items! Thank you for helping my vision become a reality! With love, Natalie Church

Make a difference by donating blood, either a single unit or a Power Red donation, on **February 5, between 1:00-6:00 pm** at Goessel Church. Sign up at redcrossblood.org to donate. For more information contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081. Thank you - your donation could save someone's life!