

# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXX

December 1, 2024

No. 47



## Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

It's the first Sunday in the season of Advent! Advent reminds us that as people of God we look to the past for the assurance of God's faithfulness - and we also look to the future in an attitude of expectancy about what God will yet do in this world.

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

**Gathering Music** *Prepare the Royal Highway* ~arr. Behnke Jared Janzen  
*Hark, the Glad Sound!* ~arr. Wilbur Held

**Welcome**

Marilyn Unruh Flaming

**Opportunities for Celebration and Service**

**Call to Worship and Invocation**

Psalm 25:1-10 adapted (NRSV)

**Leader:** To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**People:** **O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

**Leader:** Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

**People:** **Lead me in your truth, and teach me,**

**All: for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

**Leader:** Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**All: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!**

**Leader:** Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

**People:** **God leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.**

**All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

**\*Gathering Hymns**

*Restore Our Faith, O Saving God*  
*God of Our Strength*

VT 198

VT 47

**Children's Story**

Chrystiana Miller

**Peace Prayer / Lighting the Advent Candle+**

<b>Morning Prayer</b>		Pastor Lois Harder
<b>Worship Music</b>	<i>What Child Is This?</i> ~arr. Catherine Rollin	Myra Peters
<b>Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>Chorale</i> ~J.S. Bach	Jared Janzen
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

<b>Old Testament Reading</b>	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Marilyn Unruh Flaming
<b>Gospel Reading</b>	Luke 21:25-36	
<b>Message</b>	<i>The days are surely coming...</i>	Pastor Lois
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</i>	VT 411

### SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

<b>*Song of Sending</b>	<i>Peace, Be Still</i>	VT 202
<b>*Benediction</b>		Pastor Lois
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Trumpet Voluntary</i> ~Gordon Young	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 that God's shalom will prevail.

**Greeters:** North – Kyle and Justine Unruh  
 South – Radene Unruh

**Song Leader:** Marcia Brubaker

**Guitar:** Eric Schrag

**Visual Arts:** Tina Schrag

**Christmas Decorations:** Upper Room Sunday School Class

**Nursery Staff:** Laura Unrau, Aida Hartvickson, Rosie Gaeddert

**Worship Technology:** Myron Goertzen, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth

**November 17 Attendance:** Sunday School – 88; Worship -- 124 in person;  
 13 Zoom Households

**November 17 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$15.19; First Fruits -- \$11,191.00

**November 24 Attendance:** Community Thanksgiving Service – 259;  
 19 Zoom Households; AMC First Fruits -- \$2,585.00

**Next Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent.** The Chancel Choir will lead us in a service of Lessons and Carols

## *Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We're grateful, God, for the community-wide worship service last Sunday. Thank you for this community!
- ❖ We pray for those who feel sad, lonely, or discouraged in these days when darkness and longing are so present.
- ❖ We pray for those battling illnesses or pain. Grant your healing.

- ❖ We pray for peace in the world where war and fear are ravaging the people and the earth. Grant your peace.

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 1 – Advent 1

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

1:00 pm – Bethesda Chapel with Pastor Lois

### Tuesday, December 3

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, December 4

5:45 pm – Midweek fellowship meal served

Midweek Activities

### Thursday, December 5

5:30 pm – Board of Mission and Service serves the CORE meal

### Saturday, December 7

9:30 am Daughters of Grace Christmas Brunch

### Sunday, December 8 – Advent 2

9:30 am -- Sunday School

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

7:00 pm – McPherson Brass and Elbiata Singers Concert

## COMING EVENTS

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Nov 28-29 | Church offices closed for Thanksgiving                      |
| Dec 7     | Daughters of Grace Christmas Brunch                         |
| Dec 8     | McPherson Brass and Elbiata Singers Concert                 |
| Dec 9     | Goessel Community Blood Drive                               |
| Dec 24    | Christmas Eve Service                                       |
| Dec 27    | Irvin Goertzen Memorial Service, 11:00 am followed by lunch |
| Jan 19    | Spending Plan Q&A   |
| Jan 26    | Annual Meeting  |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Pastor Search Committee met last week with Heidi Regier Kreider from Western District Conference.** The search committee, along with several church boards, are working toward completing the Congregation Information Form and job description. There are tracking sheets posted in each lobby to remind you where we're at in the process. - Karen Unruh, chairperson, Megan Duerksen, secretary, Weston Hiebert, Julianna Kaufman and Tina Schrag

**The high school youth group will be collecting monetary donations on December 8 & 15 after church to help them purchase gifts for tags off the Christmas Giving Tree in Goessel and supplies for MCC relief kits.**

Your generous gifts will help make this an impactful and fun activity for the youth this Christmas season. Thank you!

**Sign up in either lobby if you would like to attend the Daughters of Grace Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 7, at 9:30 am.** If you would like to decorate a table for this event, sign up on the bulletin board.

**Many thanks from the GMA for the generous financial contributions this past Sunday.** The offering for GMA was \$2,561.00

**With grateful hearts and a spirit of thanksgiving, the board and staff of the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum would like to express our appreciation for your generous donations at our pizza fundraiser meal on November 13th.** More than \$1300 in contributions were received and will be used for operating expenses as we close this eventful and memorable year. We are also sincerely grateful for the quarterly First Fruits gifts you share with us.

**Thank you to everyone who welcomed the family from Ukraine on November 17.** They were really touched by the attendance and interest in their story. Please keep the family and the people of Ukraine in your prayers as the situation changes there every day. ~Sharolyn Flaming Jackson

**Christmas Giving Tree:** Tags are available on the tree at the Crossroads Credit Union beginning **Tuesday, November 26.** All gifts need to be brought back to the Credit Union by **Monday, December 16.** The gifts should be wrapped, credit union personnel will assist with the “checking in” process. The gifts will be distributed by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance.

The annual **Christmas Brass and Elbiata Community Concert** will be held here at AMC on **Sunday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m.** Plan to join us!