

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXX

December 8, 2024

No. 48



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

God generously pours out the Holy Spirit on all who are humble and seek God's ways. By keeping our eyes on God as we journey, despite the turmoil around us, we open the door for the flowing movement of God's Spirit.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* ~Leavitt Marcia Brubaker
 Still, Still, Still ~Cherwien
 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ~Kerr

Welcome + Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Lighting of the Advent Candle Matt, Laura, Lillian & Greyson Voth

Call to Worship and Invocation

Leader: Let us return to the Lord with all our hearts.

People: With our whole heart?

Leader: The hurting and hurtful part?

The bleeding and empty part?

People: The parts of our heart that are closed up tight and not willing to let God in?

Leader: With our whole heart,
we come to worship the Lord God,

**All: whose merciful compassion,
abundant patience, and faithful forgiving love
meet us in our need.**

***Congregational Hymn** *Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee* VT 215

Children's Story Aileen Esau

Morning Prayer

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Marcia Brubaker

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ~Behnke

***Prayer of Dedication**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

This service of Lessons and Carols is led by the Chancel Choir.
All of the readings are scripture paraphrases from *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible*. It is used with the children's Sunday School curriculum.

God Creates -- Genesis 1:1-2:3 (p. 20)

Anthem *When Long Before Time* ~ Davison, arr. David Cherwien

Swords and Plows -- Isaiah 2:1-5 (p. 108)

Congregational Hymn *View the Present* VT 407

Vs. 1, 2 – choir; Vs. 3 – congregation

A New King -- Isaiah 11:1-9 (p. 111)

Congregational Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* VT 216

Lift the Valleys -- Jeremiah 29, 31 (p. 118)

***Congregational Hymn** *Nun Ist Sie Erschienen* Sing with Joy 30

Song of Justice -- Psalm 146 (p. 154)

Anthem *With My Voice Alone* ~ Moon Seong Mo [VT 800]

Mary's Song -- Luke 1:26-56 (p. 164)

Anthem *When God Is a Child* ~ Brian Wren & John Carter

Born in Bethlehem -- Luke 2:1-7 (p. 170)

Anthem *The Hills are Bare at Bethlehem* ~ arr. Ralph Johnson
Julianna Kaufman, solo

Shepherds, Songs, and a Stable -- Luke 2:8-20 (p. 172)

Anthem *Angels from the Realms of Glory* ~ arr. David von Kampen

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Benediction: A New Beginning** -- John 1:1-18 (p. 161)

***ALL: Everlasting love and truth came through Jesus,
the One who made God known to the world.***

***Benediction Hymn** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* VT 241

Vs. 1, 2 – parts; Vs. 3, 4 – unison

Postlude *Joy to the World* ~Fedak Marcia Brubaker

*All who are able are invited to stand.

Chrissie Muecke, Jasmin Pittman Morrell, and Teresa Kim Pecinovsky. *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible*. Harrisonburg, VA: Herald Press, 2023.
Used with permission.

+ 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 – Weston and Courtney Hiebert

South – Kevin and Bonnie Gaeddert

Song Leader and Chancel Choir Director: Renae Schmidt Peters

Chancel Choir Accompanists: Marcia Brubaker and Karen Unruh

Readers: Travis Duerksen and Erica Stoltzfus

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Christmas Decorations: Upper Room Sunday School Class

Nursery Staff: Brittany Hiebert, Delaney Duerksen

Worship Technology: Steve Unruh, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth

December 1 Attendance: Sunday School – 84; Worship -- 119 in person;

10 Zoom Households

December 1 Offering: Sunday School -- \$87.82; First Fruits -- \$6,701.00

<p>Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. Pastor Luann will preach from Isaiah 61:1-11 and Luke 4:16-21 on <i>Who Belongs?</i></p>

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We pray for the family of Norman Schroeder, especially Leona and Norman's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as they grieve his loss and celebrate his long life.
- ❖ We pray for those who are struggling with illness... physical, mental, spiritual. We ask for your Spirit of healing, wholeness and peace to be present.
- ❖ We pray for students who are in the throes of final exams, semester papers and projects, concerts and other events that mark the end of the semester; give them and their teachers stamina and joy as they complete their endeavors for now.

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, December 9

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

4:00 pm – Prayer Team

5:45 pm – Board of Mission and Service

7:00 pm – Board of Trustees

Tuesday, December 10

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

No Regular Midweek Activities

6:30 pm – Christmas Eve Program Practice

7:45 pm – Gabriel's Trumpets Practice

Sunday, December 15 – Advent 3

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

4:00 pm – Youth Group Christmas shopping and dinner

COMING EVENTS

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service

Dec 27 Irvin Goertzen Memorial Service, 11:00 am followed by lunch

Jan 19 Spending Plan Q & A during Sunday School

Jan 26 Annual Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, December 8, 7:00 pm -- Christmas Brass and Elbiata Community Concert

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. Checks can be made out to the church. Thank you!

On Sunday, December 22 there will be a brief congregational meeting at the beginning of the worship service to vote on an affirmation ballot for incoming Board members.

As the Board of Worship begins preparations for 2025 we want to again encourage anyone interested in aspects of our morning worship to make us aware. We currently are looking for additional volunteers to help with visual arts throughout the year. Visual Arts does not need to feel overwhelming -- it could be creating an arrangement for a theme that's based on seasons of the calendar year, the church year or a theme suggested by the pastor(s). We are always happy for those willing to do children's time which will lighten the number of Sundays required of other volunteers. Other aspects of worship we would be happy to bolster would be worship leaders, and scripture readers. Thank you for your help in providing worshipful and meaningful Sunday morning services. If you have interest in any of these roles, or have suggestions, please let anyone on the Board of Worship know (Eric Schrag, Megan Duerksen, Kevin Gaeddert, Bryant Miller, Renae Peters), or talk with one of the pastors. Many thanks.