

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXX

December 15, 2024

No. 49



Welcome to Worship at Alexanderwohl!

We remember God's vision
of shalom and justice
depicts a kingdom in which
we radically realign
ourselves with the
marginalized and oppressed
as we celebrate the 3rd
Sunday of Advent.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music *Veni, Emmanuel* ~arr. Deasley Mary Schmidt
 While By My Sheep ~arr. Hustad
 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came ~arr. Page

Welcome + Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Lighting of the Advent Candle Kyle, Justine, Lillian and Myles Unruh

Call to Worship and Invocation (based on Isaiah 61:1)

Leader: Merciful One, you anoint us for justice, you call us to you.

People: Your Spirit is poured out upon us.

Leader: Yours is the way of release and restoration.

**People: May your love flow through us to heal the brokenhearted.
May we declare your good news to bring hope to the poor.**

Leader: You anoint us; we are yours.

People: We delight and rejoice in you.

***Gathering Hymns** *Summoned by the God Who Made Us* VT 1
 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus VT 218

Children's Story Kyle Unruh

Worship Music Julianna Kaufman, Jacob Schrag, Timothy Schrag

Morning Prayer Pastor Luann Yutzy

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 4:16-21 Brendon Nafziger

Message *Who Belongs?* Pastor Luann

Song of Response *Mountain of God* VT 11

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Humbly I Adore Thee* ~arr. Lau

Mary Schmidt

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Luann

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Song of Sending *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder*

VT 222

*Benediction

Pastor Luann

*Postlude *Adeste Fidelis*

Mary Schmidt

*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 – Bryant and Chrystiana Miller

South – DeLora Funk

Song Leader: Julianna Kaufman

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Christmas Decorations: Upper Room Sunday School Class

Nursery Staff: Janice Voth, Kara Burkholder

Worship Technology: DeAlan Unrau, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth

December 8 Attendance: Sunday School – 98; Worship -- 133 in person; 16 Zoom Households

December 8 Offering: Sunday School -- \$26.44; First Fruits -- \$7,888.37

Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Pastor Lois will preach from the prophet Micah 5:2-5 and the Gospel of Luke 1:39-55 – Mary's Song.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ In a world that seems unsteady and unpredictable, help us to remember that you are our Rock, the God of peace, who sent Jesus to teach us your ways of peace.
- ❖ We pray for those who are fearful. Help us to remember and to share our steadfast faith in you.
- ❖ We pray for those who may be lonely or sad during these days leading up to so much festivity and celebration. Send your Spirit to be comfort and joy.
- ❖ We pray for Ann Hiebert as she continues to offer care for her dad, Arlin Ratzlaff, who is at the Newton Medical Center.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 15 – Advent 3

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

4:00 pm – Youth Group Christmas shopping and dinner

Tuesday, December 17

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 18

No Regular Midweek Activities

6:30 pm – Christmas Eve Program Practice

7:45 pm – Gabriel's Trumpets Practice

Sunday, December 22 – Advent 4

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

COMING EVENTS

Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm
Dec 25	Church Offices Closed
Dec 27	Irvin Goertzen Memorial Service, 11:00 am followed by lunch
Jan 15	2024 Annual Reports due in Church Office
Jan 17	Senior Coffee, 10:00 am, Mindy Allen – Mindy's Murals
Jan 19	Spending Plan Q & A during Sunday School
Jan 26	Annual Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today -- The high school youth group will be collecting monetary donations 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.

Christmas Eve Sharing Time - The children are invited to share a recitation, musical number, etc. during the Sharing Time on Christmas Eve. If your child(ren) would like to participate, please pick up and fill out the form that can be found in the Sunday School office.

A Celebration of Life Service for Irvin Goertzen will be held on Friday, December 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. here at Alexanderwohl. Inurnment will be at the church cemetery at 10:00 a.m. A lunch will follow the service. The family will be greeting friends and loved ones in the Chapel at Bethesda Home Thursday, December 26, 2024 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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.

The Soil and the Seed Project booklets are available on the tables in the lobbies. This useful resource covers Advent, Christmas, Lent, Pentecost and Ordinary Time. Pick one up today.

Tabor, Alexanderwohl, & Goessel churches are invited to sing *Nun Ist Sie Erschienen* at the Goessel High School concert on Monday, December 16, as part of the 150 years celebration. Please arrive at 6:30 pm for rehearsal, the concert begins at 7 pm.

The **Know Jesus 2025 Youth Conference** will be February 22-23, 2025, at Hesston College. Registration is open to sign up our youth. This is for 6th - 8th graders. The Board of Christian Education will reimburse you for the cost (\$60.00) of this event. Sign up online, then turn in your confirmation of payment to Dwight M. Flaming or the church office to be reimbursed. Contact the BOE with your questions.

Just a Reminder: Bulletin announcements are intended for activities and events at our church. Community and conference announcements can be found in the weekly email or are available in print and can be found in each lobby. This is one of our attempts to conserve resources.