

# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXX

December 22, 2024

No. 50



## Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

This morning we welcome the return of Gabriel's Trumpets! In the scripture we hear the challenging words of the prophet Micah, along with Mary's brave and risky song. They were the "radicals" of their times... What can we learn from them for our times?

**Congregational vote on Affirmation Ballot for 2025 board positions.**

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

**Gathering Music**      *Carol of the Bells* ~arr. Valerio      Gabriel's Trumpets  
*Christmas Fantasy* ~arr. Frank

**Welcome**      Pastor Lois Harder

### Opportunities for Celebration and Service

**Call to Worship and Opening Prayer +**      Micah 5:2-5a NRSV

Leader: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

**People:** **Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.**

Leader: And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

**All: and he shall be the one of peace.**

**\*Gathering Hymns**      *Poor of the Earth*      VT 213  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*      VT 245

**Lighting of the Advent Candles** Jared, Laura, Ellie, Logan and Cody Unrau

**Children's Story**      Laura Voth

**Morning Prayer**      Pastor Lois

**Worship Music**      Gabriel's Trumpets  
*Angels We Have Heard On High* ~arr. Chidester

## Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

**Offertory** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ~arr. Frank Gabriel's Trumpets  
**\*Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Gospel Reading** Luke 1:39-46 Nathaniel Schmucker  
Luke 1:46b-55 VT 987 F  
**Message** *The maiden Mary, not so mild* Pastor Lois  
**Song of Response** *Come, Join in Mary's Prophet-Song* VT 246

## SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*Song of Sending** *With Mary Sing Magnificat* VT 208  
**\*Benediction** Pastor Lois  
**\*Postlude** *Joy to the World* ~arr. Marlatt Gabriel's Trumpets

\*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 – Myron and Pat Schmidt  
South – Myron and Ruth Goertzen

**Song Leader:** Braden Unruh

**Organ/Piano:** Karen Unruh

**Gabriel's Trumpets:** Eric Schrag, Jacob Schrag, Braden Unruh,  
Kyle Unruh, Aaron Ratzlaff, Evan Koch, Peter Goertzen, Arlin Buller; Karen Unruh - Organ

**Visual Arts:** Tina Schrag

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

**Nursery Staff:** Gretchen Schrag, Julianna Kaufman

**Worship Technology:** DJ Flaming, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

**December 15 Attendance:** Sunday School – 96; Worship -- 141 in person;  
14 Zoom Households

**December 15 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$15.93; First Fruits -- \$9,906.00

**Next Sunday is the first Sunday after Christmas.** Pastor Luann will bring a brief reflection on Luke 2:21-38 and we will enjoy singing Christmas hymns one more time this year!

## *Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ As we head into shorter nights and longer days we gratefully anticipate the gift of more daylight.
- ❖ We ask for your comforting presence with those for whom the darkness feels oppressive and deep.
- ❖ We thank you, God, for the biblical prophets and for the prophets of our own time whose words challenge and inspire us to be faithful followers of Jesus.

- ❖ We pray for the people of Sudan, Gaza, Syria, Ukraine and many other places around the world where there is hunger, war and fear.
- ❖ We pray for those we know who struggle with health concerns. Offer your healing of bodies, minds, and souls.

## THIS WEEK

### **Sunday, December 22 – Advent 4**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

### **Tuesday, December 24**

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service

### **Wednesday, December 25**

Church Offices Closed

### **Friday, December 27**

11:00 am – Memorial Service for Irvin Goertzen followed by lunch

### **Sunday, December 29**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

## COMING EVENTS

Dec 30	Church Offices Closed
Jan 1	Church Offices Closed
Jan 5	We will take communion together on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 5
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 (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.

**Office hours will be limited and varied this week.** Contact pastors via cell phones (on back of bulletin) with pastoral concerns.

**Thank you for generously donating \$1000 for the high school youth group to go shopping with on Sunday!** The youth spent about \$100 on each of the gift tags we had from the Goessel Christmas Giving Tree. Then the youth spent about \$800 on the following MCC relief kit supplies: 55 bath towels, 1340 Band-Aids, 42 toothbrushes, 19 nail clippers, 30 combs, 24 shampoo, 29 bars of laundry soap, 184 bars of soap, and 492 menstrual pads. This shopping trip is a highlight for the youth each year, thank you for chipping in to help the youth spend money for a good cause!

**Are you interested in learning more about Anabaptism, Alexanderwohl, why and how we do what we do?** Whether you're a formal member here or an attender who is interested in engaging conversation, questions, ideas or possibly becoming a member, all are welcome! **Saturday, January 11, 8:30-11:30 a.m. brunch and chat.** Please let pastor Lois know if you'd like to attend.

**Wednesday night meals – If you are willing to bring dessert, help serve or clean up** sign up in the south lobby for dates that work for you.

**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, children's time, worship leaders, and scripture readers. 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.

**Thank you Alexanderwohl congregation** for your support during Norman's passing. Your cards, memorials, phone calls, serving faspa and pastoral support was greatly appreciated. Christmas blessings to all. ~The Norman Schroeder family