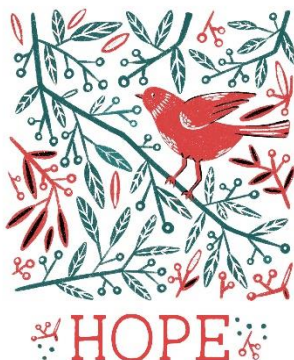


# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXX

December 29, 2024

No. 51



**Welcome to worship here  
at Alexanderwohl!**

As we read of Jesus being  
dedicated in the temple and  
the hopes and fears  
expressed, we reflect on our  
own lives.

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

**Gathering Music**

Mary Schmidt

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear ~arr. Hayes*  
*Mary Had a Baby ~arr. Hayes*  
*Behold That Star ~arr. Hayes*

**Welcome**

Pastor Luann Yutzey

**Opportunities for Celebration and Service**

**Call to Worship and Opening Prayer +**

based on Psalm 131:1-3

Leader: As we worship today,  
God, we ask this of you:

**People: Wipe pride from our hearts,  
that we might truly love one another.  
Rinse conceit from our eyes  
that we might see one another as you see.**

Leader: We rest in your promises and wait for you.

**People: Calm and quiet, we trust in you.**

Leader: **Open our hearts,**

**All: that we might let go of all that separates us  
from you and one another.**

**\*Gathering Hymns**

*Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing*  
*To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

VT 7  
VT 259

**Lighting of the Advent Candles** Bryant, Chrystiana, Emmett, Nolan & Tate

**Children's Story**

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Luann

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 2:21-38

Nancy Stucky

<b>Congregational Song</b>	<i>What Child Is This</i>	VT 267
<b>Message</b>	<i>Reflection</i>	Pastor Luann
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>Today Earth Is Singing</i>	VT 510
	<i>God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens</i>	VT 529
<b>Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>We Three Kings</i> ~arr. Bock	Mary Schmidt
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		Pastor Luann

## SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

<b>*Song of Sending</b>	<i>Joy to the World</i>	VT 240
<b>*Benediction</b>		Pastor Luann
<b>*Postlude</b>	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i> ~arr. Bock	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 – Carol and Donley Duerksen  
South – Elaine Banman

**Song Leader:** Marcia Brubaker

**Visual Arts:** Tina Schrag

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

**Nursery Staff:** Aileen Esau, Cambry Duerksen

**Worship Technology:** Myron Goertzen, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

**December 22 Attendance:** Sunday School – 89; Worship -- 159 in person;  
12 Zoom Households

**December 22 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$23.54; First Fruits -- \$8,130.76

**Next Sunday is Epiphany!** We will take Communion as part of our worship service. Pastor Lois will preach from Isaiah 60, Psalm 72 and Matthew 2 as we think about what constitutes an epiphany.

## *Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to us; we bask in the ongoing celebration of his coming into the world.
- ❖ We pray for those who are ill during this holiday season. May your Spirit of healing and wholeness be present with them.
- ❖ We pray for those whose hearts are heavy with grief. Surround them with your love and comfort.
- ❖ We offer our hopes and our fears to you, God. Guide us, teach us, and give us your wisdom as we prepare for a new year.

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 29

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

**Monday, December 30**

Church Offices Closed

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025**

Church Offices Closed

**Sunday, January 5 - Epiphany**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship with Communion

**COMING EVENTS**

Jan 8	Midweek Meal and Activities Resume
Jan 10	2024 Annual Reports due in Church Office
Jan 11	Inquiry Brunch
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**

Thank you to everyone for participating in our brief congregational meeting last week. All of the names were unanimously affirmed. John Fast, Chair

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

**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.

**If you would like a printed paper copy of the 2024 annual reports, please sign up in either lobby by Sunday, January 12, 2025.** Reports will be emailed to those who have email.

**As you have updates (addresses, emails, cell phone or land line numbers) for the 2025 Church Yearbook, turn them in to the church office.**

***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.