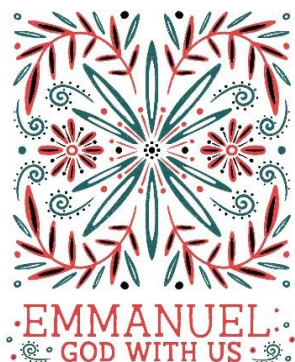


# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

January 5, 2025

No. 1



## Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

An Epiphany can be understood as "... some moment when an important truth suddenly becomes clear, and we can reinterpret our past and rethink our way forward in light of it."  
~Kendra G. Hotz in *Feasting on the Word*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

**Gathering Music** *The Birthday of a King* ~W. H. Neidlinger Jared Janzen

**Welcome**

Pastor Lois Harder

### Opportunities for Celebration and Service

**Call to Worship and Opening Prayer +** Walter Brueggeman - Epiphany

Leader: On Epiphany day, we are still the people walking,

**People: We are still people in the dark, and the darkness looms large around us,**

**All: beset as we are by fear, anxiety, brutality, violence, loss –**

Leader: a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.

We are – we could be – people of your light.

**People: So we pray for the light of your glorious presence as we wait for your appearing;**

Leader: we pray for the light of your wondrous grace as we exhaust our coping capacity;

**People: we pray for your gift of newness that will override our weariness;**

**All: we pray that we may see and know and hear and trust in your good rule.**

Leader: That we may have energy, courage, and freedom to enact your rule through the demands of this day.

**All: We submit our day to you and to your rule, with deep joy and high hope.**

**Peace Prayer**

Rosi Reimer

**\*Gathering Hymns**

*In the Beginning* (vs. 1, 4, 5)

VT 270

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

VT 265

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

Garrett, Brittany, Elliot & Reagan Hiebert

**Children's Story**

Delbert Peters

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Lois

**Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

Jared Janzen

*Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning* ~arr. Burkhardt

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Tammy Flaming

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 2:1-12

**Message**

Pastor Lois

**Song of Response**

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

VT 273

### **COMING TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**Words of Invitation**

**Sharing Bread and Juice**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### **SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**\*Song of Sending**

*As with Gladness*

VT 277

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Lois

**\*Postlude**

*Toccata on 'Boylston'* ~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 – Sandy Duerksen

South – Tina and Ben Schrag

**Song Leader:** Kyle Unruh

**Visual Arts:** Tina Schrag

**Nursery Staff:** Maryanne Esau, Myra Peters

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

**December 29 Attendance:** Sunday School – 69; Worship -- 109 in person;  
12 Zoom Households

**December 29 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$14.62; First Fruits -- \$11,979.41

**Next Sunday Pastor Luann will preach from Luke 3** on how baptism shapes the whole faith community as we look at the baptism of Jesus. Why did Jesus need to be baptized?

## *Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We praise you, God, for the arrival of baby Evelyn Grace to Brianna and Preston Combs on December 30! Silas is her big brother and Lynel and Vickie Unrau are her proud grandparents.

- ❖ We pray for the youth and pastor Lois as they begin a 14-week faith exploration series in Sunday school.
- ❖ We pray for all those affected by the violence in New Orleans this past week. May your Spirit of comfort and compassion be felt in that city.

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, January 5 - Epiphany

- 9:30 am – Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Worship with Communion

### Tuesday, January 7

- 9:30 am – Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm – Music Committee, Chapel
- 7:00 pm – Safe Sanctuary Committee, Conference Room

### Wednesday, January 8

- 5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal Served
- Midweek Activities

### Friday, January 10

- Annual Reports due in the Church Office

### Saturday, January 11

- 8:30 am – An Inquiry Brunch (see announcement)

### Sunday, January 12

- 9:30 am – Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Worship

## COMING EVENTS

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 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

**A heart-felt thank you for the many cards and Christmas greetings we've received!** It's a gift to be part of a congregation that extends such warmth and care; thank you! We pray for God's deep blessings and Light to be felt by each of us and among us in the new year. ~Pastors Luann and Lois

**Many thanks** to Pastor Luann and members of the Board of Worship (Eric Schrag, Bryant Miller, Megan Duerksen, Janice Voth and deacon Justine Unruh) who organized and led a meaningful worship service last Sunday when both pastors had illness in their families and were unable to be present. ~Pastor Lois

**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.

**Are you looking for a way to support our JH & HS youth? Having snacks and pop/drinks each Wednesday night for midweek is a highlight for the youth.** Check out the sign-up sheet in the South lobby if you'd like to help by making snacks. There is a fridge in the youth house that we also keep stocked, if you'd like to contribute towards that let Jared or Laura Unrau know. And finally, we always appreciate your prayers for the youth as they spend time together and learn more about God and their faith. Thanks for your support!

**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.

### **Registration for Summer Camps are Now Open!**

The Board of Education at Alexanderwohl is offering a \$125.00 scholarship to each camper who calls Alexanderwohl their home congregation. This is for all children Grade 3 – Grade 12 (fall of 2025).

Register at [www.campmennosch.org](http://www.campmennosch.org) for Camp Mennoscah (look for the **Register on Line** button at the top of the page) and [www.RMMC.org](http://www.RMMC.org) for Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. As soon as you have your child(ren) registered and have received your confirmation from camp, let the church office know what dates your child(ren) will be attending camp. You will then be reimbursed \$125.00 per child from the Board of Education.

We would also like to know if you are planning to volunteer as a director, cook, counselor, nurse or other staff position and the dates you will be volunteering. If you have questions, please contact your Board of Christian Education.