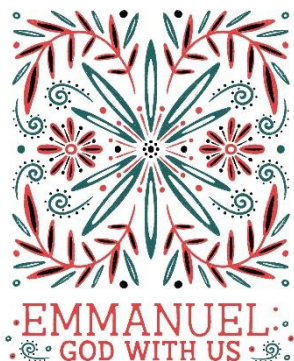


# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

January 12, 2025

No. 2



## 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** *We Three Kings of Orient Are* ~Langolais Jason Peters  
*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* ~Burkhardt

**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.**

**Lighting the Christ Candle** Garrett, Brittany, Elliot & Reagan Hiebert

**Children's Story** Delbert Peters

**\*Gathering Hymns** *In the Beginning* (vs. 1, 4, 5) VT 270  
*Angels, from the Realms of Glory* VT 265

**Morning Prayer** Pastor Lois

**Worship Music**

Julianna and Jerod Kaufman

**Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

Jason Peters

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

VT 1024

**Prayer of Blessing and Commissioning for Search Committee**

John Fast and Linda Peters, Congregational Co-Chairs

**Congregation: We recognize that the work of our search committee is difficult and sacred work and will take much effort. We pray for you and offer our support and words of encouragement throughout this time.**

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Tammy Flaming

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 2:1-12

**Message**

*The darkness is real but the Light is stronger*

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**

VT 1064

**\*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 – Delton and Janice Voth

South – Rick and Sheryl Duerksen

**Organ/Piano:** Jason Peters, Jared Janzen

**Song Leader:** Kyle Unruh

**Visual Arts:** Tina Schrag

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

**Worship Technology:** DeAlan Unrau, 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

**January 5, 2025** – No service due to inclement weather

**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 thank you, God, for the first responders and others who work to clear roads, parking lots, sidewalks and make things safer.
- ❖ We continue to pray for Pastor Luann and her family as they have gathered this week in Plain City, OH where they celebrate the life and grieve the death of her nephew Alan Schauer. Alan was the 38-year old son of Luann's sister. He suffered from muscular dystrophy and died on Friday, January 3.
- ❖ Thank you, God, for healing that continues for Pastor Lois' son-in-law, Eric Crawford, as he recovers from recent surgeries.
- ❖ We pray for Margie Young and her family as they grieve the loss and celebrate the life of Margie's sister-in-law, Aline (Young) Bachman. Aline died on December 30 at Schowalter Villa.
- ❖ We pray for all who are being affected by the fires in L.A., California and surrounding areas.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **Sunday, January 12**

9:30 am – Sunday School

### **Monday, January 13**

4:00 pm – Prayer Team

5:45 pm – Board of Mission and Service

7:00 pm – Church Council

### **Tuesday, January 14**

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education

### **Wednesday, January 15**

5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal Served

Midweek Activities

### **Thursday, January 16**

6:30 pm – Search Committee

### **Friday, January 17**

10:00 am – Senior Coffee with Mindy Allen, Mindy's Murals

### **Sunday, January 19**

9:30 am – Sunday School – Spending Plan Q & A in the Fellowship Hall

10:30 am – Worship

## COMING EVENTS

Jan 26	Annual Meeting following noon lunch
Feb 2	Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum's Annual Meeting
Feb 9	Friends and Followers Super Bowl Get-Together
Feb 23	Pastor Luann's final Sunday at AMC
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday
Mar 12	Final Midweek session

## 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 on December 29 when both pastors had illness in their families and were unable to be present. ~Pastor Lois

**The Pastor Search Committee will meet on January 16 with Pastor Luann and Church Co-chair John Fast to complete the Congregation Information Form.** Submitting the CIF and other materials to Western District Conference office will get our pastoral search process started! We invite the congregation to pray for the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance for our committee, our congregation, and for the potential candidates that we may be considering. ~Karen Unruh, Weston Hiebert, Megan Duerksen, Julianna Kaufman & Tina Schrag

**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!

**Friday, January 17 at 10:00 am - Senior Coffee speaker is Mindy Allen.** Mindy writes, "I own Mindy's Murals. I paint murals around Kansas and in other cities throughout the US. I'm looking forward to speaking with you more about my process, projects I've done and that are coming up and also answering any questions you might have for me!"

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

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

**Thank you for your generous support of our Mennonite College Scholarship Fundraiser this fall.** Your contributions totaled \$3,595. Together with the assistance of the Education Committee Budget, proceeds from the endowment account, and a \$1,000 RMD (IRA) contribution, we were able to disperse \$900 scholarships to six students for spring semester. ~Mennonite College Student Ministry Team

**The Trustees have several pieces of stained glass that are free for the taking to anyone interested.** This is the yellow glass that is in the Chapel windows and other places around the church. Talk to one of the Trustees if interested.

**The Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum has planned its Annual Meeting to be held at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church on February 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.** Come early to purchase or renew your museum membership. Following the business meeting, our featured speaker for this event will be Dale Schrag. His topic will be on the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement. Afterwards, enjoy the Fasma of zwieback and cheese and reminisce with museum supporters. Event is free and open to the public to attend.