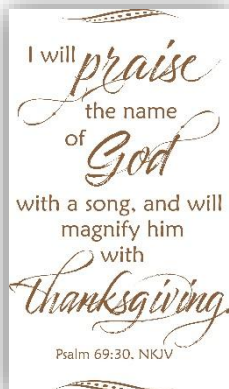


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

November 23, 2025

No. 44



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving we'll hear from both the psalmist and Paul as he writes to the church in Philippi from a Roman prison. These writers remind us that a mindset of "thanksgiving" is important for followers of Jesus.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Thanksgiving ~Callahan

Marcia Brubaker

Hymn to Joy ~Burkhardt

Fanfare on Now Thank We All Our God ~Behnke

Welcome

Justine Unruh

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship / Opening Prayer +

Psalm 100 (VT 20)

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

People: Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong;

People: we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

Leader: Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;

People: give thanks and bless God's holy name.

Leader: Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting,

People: whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

*Gathering Hymns

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

VT 28

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship

VT 29

Children's Story

Eric Schrag

Worship Music

God Is Our Refuge ~Allen Pote

Chancel Choir

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois Harder

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* ~Burkhardt Marcia Brubaker

***Prayer of Dedication** *Praise Be to God*

VT 115

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture	Psalms 46:1-3, 8-11; Philippians 4:4-9	Justine Unruh
Song of Response	<i>When Peace like a River</i>	VT 617
Message	<i>thanksgiving; a state of mind</i>	Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Song of Sending	<i>May You Be Rooted and Grounded</i>	VT 396
*Benediction		Pastor Lois
*Postlude	<i>Come, Christians, Join to Sing</i> ~Bober	Marcia Brubaker

*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 – Kyle and Justine Unruh
South – Kim Voth

Organ / Piano: Marcia Brubaker

Guitar: Eric Schrag and Kyle Unruh

Song Leader and Chancel Choir Director: Renae Schmidt Peters

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

Nursery Staff: Susan Nafziger, Travis Duerksen

(nursery care available for children age 3 and under)

Worship Technology: DeAlan Unrau, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth

November 16 Attendance: Sunday School – 102; Worship -- 143 in person; 11 Zoom Households

November 16 Offering: Sunday School -- \$50.80; First Fruits -- \$11,748.37

Next Sunday – Pastor Lois will preach from Daniel 3 – the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. It's the first Sunday of Advent! Greeters are Lynel and Vickie Unrau and Radene Unruh.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We are grateful God, that **you are** our refuge and strength, with us in the midst of chaos, in the midst of the nations in an uproar, and also in the midst of all that is honorable, just and pure, you are God.
- ❖ We thank you that you hear our cries and know the needs of our hearts.
- ❖ We pray for those grieving losses, realizing that "loss" comes in many varieties.
- ❖ We pray for the safety of those who will travel in the coming days.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 23

9:30 am -- Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Monday, November 24

4:00 pm – Prayer Team

Tuesday, November 25

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 26

8:00 am – Bulletin announcements for Sunday due in church office

No Midweek Activities

Thursday, November 27

Church offices closed

Friday, November 28

Church offices closed

Sunday, November 30 - First Sunday of Advent

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

COMING EVENTS

Dec 6	Daughters of Grace Christmas Brunch
Dec 7	Newton Community Children's Choir concert at AMC, 3 pm
Dec 8	Goessel Community Blood Drive, 1:00-6:00 pm
Dec 14	A Service of Lessons and Carols
Dec 14	McPherson Brass and Elbiata Christmas Concert, 7:00 pm
<u>2026</u>	
Jan 7	Annual Reports due in the church office
Jan 25	2026 Spending Plan presented during Sunday School
Jan 25	Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum's Annual Meeting, 2:00 pm
Feb 1	Annual Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the Congregational Meeting last Sunday. There were 110 votes for affirmation and 3 votes no, or 97% approval. Christopher Weaver has accepted the call to be our pastor and is excited to begin in January. We want to express special appreciation to the Pastoral Search Team of Karen, Tina, Megan, Julianna and Weston for their work.

Today is the last day to complete and return the pink Discernment of Congregational Leadership forms, placed in your mailbox two weeks ago. Please consider individuals to serve and place your completed survey in the box in the lobby today. Thank you very much for your participation.

Please place donations for the Mennonite College Student Ministry Team in Gretchen Schrag's mailbox or drop off at the church office by November 30. These donations are for the upcoming spring semester. Our students attending Mennonite Colleges appreciate your support, as these dollars are matched \$ for \$ by the colleges. Envelopes were in your church mailbox several weeks ago. Thank you!

Daughters of Grace invites all women and girls of Alexanderwohl to a vintage brunch on Saturday, December 6, at 9:30 am in the church fellowship hall to kick off the Christmas season.

We will enjoy a meal followed by a beginner-friendly origami Christmas craft session led by Pat Penner and music. Our offering project will benefit the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum.

Please sign up by Sunday, November 23, sheets posted in both lobbies so we know how many places to set at the tables. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Blood Drive: “Give something that means something!” Donate blood on December 8, between 1:00-6:00 pm at Goessel Church. Sign up at redcrossblood.org to donate a single or double unit. For more information contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081.

The **Goessel Ministerial Alliance** is again sponsoring the **Christmas Giving Tree. Deadline for applications is Friday, November 21.** Applicants' "tags" will be available for choosing from the tree at the Citizens State Bank on **Tuesday, November 25.** Gifts need to be returned to the Bank wrapped and ready to be received by **Monday, December 15.** For more details see the fliers on both bulletin boards and in the email. Thanks for your consideration and generosity!

Thank you for your generous donations of over \$1600 to benefit the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum at our pizza night on November 5! It was a privilege for the board and staff to serve and interact with you. We are also deeply grateful for the First Fruits Gifts from the congregation, as well as many gifts of time and talents to support the museum. ~Aileen Esau, Treasurer