

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

November 30, 2025

No. 45



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

This morning we hear the familiar story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, "in a trial by fire, trusting God with their life." At the beginning of Advent... "we wonder how long we must wait and we tell amazing stories of hope in a God who saves us."

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Jason Peters

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel ~Engel, Manz, Callahan, Held, Leavitt

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship / Opening Prayer +

Leader: God of our ancestors, you are our constant hope through all the ages.

**People: We come eager for stories of you standing among us.
We come longing to feel your presence among your people
once again.**

Leader: As the days darken around us, hope can feel a distant memory.

**People: Even in the middle of trials, we keep our eyes on you.
Our allegiance is to you alone.**

Leader: Trust in God's steadfast love. Stand in amazement, ready to recognize God already among us here, in this place.

**All: Our hope is in you, O God. Fill our hearts with the courage of
our ancestors. Ready us to enter their story and be amazed.**

***Gathering Hymns** *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* (vs. 1,3,4,7) VT 210
O God, Our Help in Ages Past (vs. 1,2,4,5,6) VT 203

Children's Story

Laura Unrau

Lighting the Advent Candle

Jared, Laura, Ellie, Logan and Cody Unrau

Worship Music

Julianna and Jerod Kaufman

Morning Prayer

Bryant Miller

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* ~Eggert Jason Peters

***Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading Daniel 3:1, 8-30 CEB Colby Nafziger

Song of Response *Be Still, My Soul* VT 664

Message *Be amazed: Hope even in the furnace* Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***Song of Sending** *Prepare the Way! The Prophet Called* VT 220

***Benediction** Pastor Lois

***Postlude** *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* ~Behnke Jason Peters

*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.

Advent-Epiphany Worship Resources from *Leader* magazine.

Many thanks to members of the Seekers and Sojourners class (and their children, Mallory Schroeder and Caiden Duerksen) for decorating our church building so beautifully.

Greeters: North – Lynel and Vickie Unrau

South – Radene Unruh

Organ / Piano: Jason Peters

Song Leader: Braden Unruh

Visual Arts: Janice Voth

Nursery Staff: Janice Voth, Laura Voth

(nursery care available for children age 3 and under)

Worship Technology: Myron Goertzen, Lynel Unrau, Delton Voth

November 23 Attendance: Sunday School – 96; Worship -- 134 in person; 12 Zoom Households

November 23 Offering: Sunday School -- \$24.32; First Fruits -- \$12,023.16

Next Sunday is Advent 2 – Pastor Lois will preach from Ezekiel about the valley of the dry bones...not a breath of wind. “Come, Holy Spirit; we pray...for peace as a renewal of body, mind, and spirit.” Greeters are Weston and Courtney Hiebert and Myron and Ruth Goertzen.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We are thankful that Phyllis Voth has returned to Bethesda and is recuperating in her new room on Willow Hall.
- ❖ We're grateful for this season of Advent; today is the first Sunday in the new church year. We pray for wisdom and patience, for courage and conviction as we wait and hope for the fulfillment of your kingdom coming fully here on earth, as it is in heaven.

❖ We pray for your peace to unfold, led by your faithful followers.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 30 - First Sunday of Advent

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Monday, December 1

Church Offices Closed

5:15 pm – Board of Worship

6:30 pm – Board of Christian Education

Tuesday, December 2

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 3

5:45 pm – Fellowship Meal Served

Midweek Activities

Thursday, December 4

7:00 pm – Grains of Glory, the Kansas Mennonite Story on PBS

Friday, December 5

6:30 pm – Newton Community Children's Choir rehearsal

Saturday, December 6

9:30 am – Daughters of Grace Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 am -- Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

1:00 pm – Bethesda Chapel with Pastor Lois leading

3:00 pm -- Newton Community Children's Choir concert

5:00 pm – Youth Group Activity

COMING EVENTS

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

2026

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 for the blessing and affirmation you have offered me in a call to serve on your pastoral team at Alexanderwohl. *I accept!*

My heart overflows with joy at the Spirit's ongoing restorative and healing work in my life, and in the lives of all of us. And I am thrilled to share the tasks of ministry and gain valuable insights and wisdom as I co-pastor with the delightful Pastor Lois Harder! I invite your prayers as I say goodbye to regular connection to my faith community at First Mennonite Church in Newton, and as I complete my work at PrairieLand Partners. I am excited about joining and slowly getting to know y'all in January, and to discovering

what adventures God may have for us as we journey onward together in the way of Jesus! ~Chris Weaver

Instant Church Directory (ICD) is now available for your use. We invite you to give this a try. A letter has been placed in each mailbox with instructions on how to access it from your computer. There are also instructions on how to download the app to your phone. We hope you will enjoy the ease of use this has to offer, and the ease to which you can make updates. We also hope ICD will be a great tool for Christopher Weaver to get to know all of us.

The high school youth group is collecting cash to go and purchase items for MCC relief kits. There will be youth in the lobbies after church on Sunday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. Thank you for continuing to support the high school youth group!

Please place donations for the Mennonite College Student Ministry Team in Gretchen Schrag's mailbox or drop off at the church office today (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. Thank you!

Share gifts that share joy! This Christmas season, we have the opportunity to give to MCC and make a difference for families around the world. Through MCC Christmas giving, you can honor your loved ones. Shop for those who already have everything they need, or live at a distance, give as host/hostess gifts, teacher gifts, etc. At the same time, you'll be choosing gifts that share essential resources — like clean water, farm animals and funds to help keep girls in school — in communities where they're needed. Learn more through the posters and ornaments we've hung in the church. Or visit mcc.org/share-joy today! Just take an ornament and give a gift. Ask Tina Schrag if you have questions.

Grains of Glory, a KPTS documentary on the Kansas Mennonite Story will be aired on Dec. 4 and Dec. 9 at 7:00 pm on KPTS channel 8.1.

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**. Applicants' "tags" are available on the tree at the Citizens State Bank. 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!