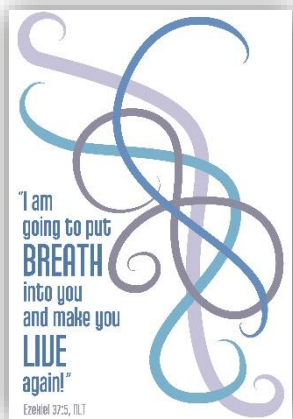


Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

December 7, 2025

No. 46



Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

This morning we imagine a valley full of dry bones – not a breath of wind. Then a noise, a rattling sound as the bones come together, bone to bone, tendon to tendon. In this miraculous vision given to the prophet Ezekiel, God breathes life into the bones so that they may dance again. Come, Holy Spirit; we pray for peace as a renewal of body, mind, and spirit.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Music

Jared Janzen

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying ~arr. Behnke

Lift Up Your Heads ~arr. Behnke

Welcome

Travis Duerksen

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship / Opening Prayer +

Leader: God in our desert, you are our peace in all places.

People: **Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.**

Leader: Thus says the Lord God: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

People: **Can these dry bones live?**

Leader: The wind of God moves among these dry bones. Stand and live! (*Everyone stand – in body or in spirit*)

All: ***We are the people of God, a vast multitude, filled with Gods Spirit.***

Leader: "I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.

I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

All: ***You are the only source of true life, O God. You breathe new life into our dry bones and fill us with your peace. We stand before you, ready to enter your story and be amazed.***

*Gathering Hymns	<i>Holy Spirit, Come with Power</i>	VT 57
	<i>Spirit of the Living God</i>	VT 740
Peace Prayer		Lillian Unruh
Children's Story		Renae and Celia Peters
Lighting the Advent Candle	Denise Duerksen, Finley and Rayah Piland	
Worship Music	<i>O Holy Night</i> ~Adam, arr. by Faber	Celia Peters
Morning Prayer		Pastor Lois Harder
Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory	<i>Once He Came In Blessing</i> ~arr. Burkhardt	Jared Janzen
*Prayer of Dedication		Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading	Ezekiel 37:1-14 CEB	Travis Duerksen
Song of Response	<i>Breathe on Me, Breath of God</i>	VT 664
Message	<i>Be amazed: Peace in the valley of bones</i>	Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Song of Sending	<i>Go, My Friends, in Grace</i>	VT 810
*Benediction		Pastor Lois
*Postlude	<i>Now Sing We, Now Rejoice</i> ~arr. Manz	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.

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. Special thanks to Alan and Sharon Boese for the lovely outside decorations!

Greeters: North – Weston and Courtney Hiebert
South – Myron and Ruth Goertzen

Organ / Piano: Jared Janzen

Song Leader: Marcia Brubaker

Visual Arts: Janice Voth

Nursery Staff: Laura Unrau, Grace Meier
(nursery care available for children age 3 and under)

Worship Technology: DJ Flaming, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth

November 30 Attendance: Sunday School – 92; Worship -- 118 in person;
14 Zoom Households

November 30 Offering: Sunday School -- \$34.86; First Fruits -- \$6,912.29

Next Sunday is Advent 3 – Renae, Marcia and the Chancel Choir will bring us a service of Lessons and Carols that includes scripture readings, choir anthems and congregational hymns that tell the Advent/Christmas story. Greeters are Bryant and Chrystiana Miller and DeLora Funk.

Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ On this 84th Pearl Harbor day of remembrance, we remember those who were killed that day and the thousands who were then killed in WW II...Lord, in your mercy, we pray for your Spirit of peace to prevail.
- ❖ Grant us perspective, wisdom and compassion as we lean into Christmas preparations.

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, December 8

- Church Offices Closed
- 1:00-6:00 pm – Goessel Community Blood Drive
- 5:30 pm – Board of Mission and Service
- 7:00 pm – Church Council

Tuesday, December 9

- 9:30 am – Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm – Grains of Glory, the Kansas Mennonite Story on PBS

Wednesday, December 10

- No Fellowship Meal
- 6:45-8:00 pm – Chancel Choir
- 6:30-6:45 – Sonshine Singers and Kid's Praise
- 6:45-8:00 pm – Pre-K – 5th grade pajama party & Christmas movie
- 8:00 pm – Final Bible Study, Conference Room

Friday, December 12

- 6:00 pm – Board of Deacons

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am – Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Worship – A Service of Lessons and Carols
- 7:00 pm – McPherson Brass and Elbiata Christmas Concert

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Dec 15 | Return Christmas Giving Tree gifts to the Citizens State Bank |
| Dec 17 | Christmas Eve Program Practice, 6:30 pm |
| Dec 22 | Christmas Eve Program Practice, 6:30 pm |
| Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Service, 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

First Fruits Update -- Thank you for your generous support of our 2025 spending plan through your First Fruits offerings during 2025. As we enter the final month of our fiscal year, we anticipate that with normal giving patterns, all of our anticipated expenses for 2025 will be covered. Currently it looks as if our gifts received will be slightly below our plan but our expenses will also be less than our plan. In addition to our local church ministry expenses, we also plan to provide our mission partners with 100% of our planned gifts. Thank you!

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 today (Dec. 7). Thank you for continuing to support the high school youth group!

Donations of socks (new or used) all sizes, underwear (new) all sizes, and light blankets will be accepted by the Board of Mission and Service for the Clothing Closet at New Life Church and Outreach Center in Wichita. The church serves a free meal each Wednesday evening for anyone who would like to come, and the Clothing Closet is open at that time for people to choose items they need, for free. Items can be placed in a donation box in the South Lobby under the coat rack.

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.

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.

Thank you to all who donated this fall to the Mennonite College Student Ministry Fund! Your show of support is greatly appreciated by our students.