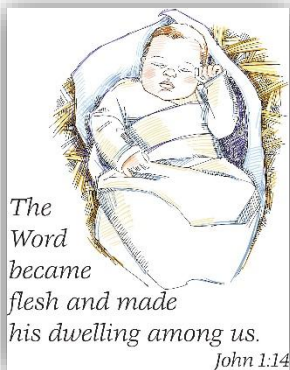


# Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

Volume LXXI

December 21, 2025

No. 48



## Welcome to Alexanderwohl!

This morning we're amazed at the Love of God coming down to Earth in the form of the infant Jesus of Nazareth. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory...

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

**Gathering Music** *Christmas Fantasy* ~arr. Rene Frank Gabriel's Trumpets  
*Angels We Have Heard On High* ~arr. Chidester  
*Joy to the World* ~arr. Marlatt

**Welcome**

Marilyn Unruh Flaming

**Opportunities for Celebration and Service**

**Call to Worship / Opening Prayer +**

**Leader:** In the beginning was love, and love was with God, and love was God.

**People:** **We gather in awe and amazement, watching and waiting for Love to come down.**

**Leader:** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**People:** **We wait with hope, longing for the gentle light of love to fill the world.**

**Leader:** The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

**People:** **We have seen his glory, Love embodied among us.**

**Leader:** Come, let us worship the God who moves among us, the Christ who draws near, the Spirit who shines in our hearts.

**All:** ***The Light is coming! We tremble in excitement and uncertainty. Watching, waiting for Love to be born.***

**\*Gathering Hymns** *Love Came Down at Christmas*  
*Noel*

VT 255

VT 256

**Children's Story**

Kyle Unruh

**Lighting the Advent Candle**

Garrett, Brittany, Elliot, Reagan and Quinn Hiebert

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Lois Harder

**Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

*Silent Night* ~arr. Chidester

Gabriel's Trumpets

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Lois

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 9:2, 6 CEB

Marilyn Unruh Flaming

**Gospel Reading**

John 1:1-18

**Song of Response**

*In the Beginning*

VT 270

**Message**

*Be amazed: Love comes down*

Eric Schrag

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

**\*Song of Sending**

*Love Has Come*

VT 258

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Lois

**\*Postlude**

*Deck the Hall* ~arr. Marlatt

Gabriel's Trumpets

\*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.

**Greeters:** North – Myron and Pat Schmidt

South – Arlin and Maretta Buller

**Organ / Piano:** Karen Unruh

**Song Leader:** Julianna Kaufman

**Gabriel's Trumpets:** Arlin Buller, Peter Goerzen, Evan Koch, Aaron

Ratzlaff, Eric Schrag, Jacob Schrag, Braden Unruh, Kyle Unruh

**Visual Arts:** Janice Voth

**Christmas Decorations:** Seekers and Sojourners Class

**Nursery Staff:** Bri Combs, Tammy Flaming, Elly Mai

(nursery care available for children age 3 and under)

**Worship Technology:** DeAlan Unrau, Caiden Duerksen, Delton Voth

**December 14 Attendance:** Sunday School – 104; Worship -- 148 in person; 15 Zoom Households

**December 14 Offering:** Sunday School -- \$67.71; First Fruits -- \$10,953.47

**Next Sunday** – James Klassen will bring the message on the “12 Rocks” of our faith from Joshua 4. Greeters are Carol and Donley Duerksen and Elaine Banman.

## ***Praying for Our Congregation and Beyond***

- ❖ We pray for those who are grieving losses in this holiday season. We think of DeWayne Voth and his family at the loss of his mother, Phyllis Voth. We also pray for LaVern Goosen and his family as they grieve the

loss of LaVern's sister, Maryann Longuevan who passed away on Thursday evening. She lived in Grand Junction, CO.

- ❖ We pray for those with chronic health issues, those undergoing medical treatments or testing. May God's healing hand and comforting presence be felt.
- ❖ God, in a world of violence and fear, help us to trust your Love and the ways of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:30 am -- Sunday School  
10:00 am – VBS Update Meeting in the Foundation Room  
10:30 am – Worship  
After Worship – ICD Photos in the Chapel

### **Monday, December 22**

10:00 am – Memorial service for Phyllis Voth at Bethesda Home  
6:30 pm – Christmas Eve Program Practice

### **Tuesday, December 23**

9:30 am – Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 24**

7:00 – Christmas Eve Program

### **Thursday, December 25**

Church Offices Closed

### **Friday, December 26**

Church Offices Closed

### **Sunday, December 28**

9:30 am – Sunday School  
Ballot to affirm Gift Discernment positions for 2026  
10:30 am – Worship

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **2026**

Jan 2	Welcome Pastor Chris Weaver!
Jan 9	Annual Reports due in the church office
Jan 25	2026 Spending Plan Q & A during Sunday School
Jan 25	Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum's Annual Meeting, 2:00 pm
Feb 1	Annual Meeting

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**VBS Update!** There will be a brief meeting at **10:00 a.m. this Sunday morning, December 21, in the Foundation Room** to give an update on the VBS conversation.

**Instant Church Directory (ICD) -- If you wish to update your photo for the church directory, Mallory Schroeder will be available after the worship service today (December 21) in the chapel to take your photo.** Also, Ruth, Nancy and John will be available in the chapel after

church for anyone wanting assistance downloading the Instant Church Directory app.

**There will be a Sharing Time for children during the Christmas Eve program.** This is on a voluntary basis for those interested in preparing a piece. It could be a Christmas poem or recitation, sharing a Bible verse, a musical number etc. If your child/grandchild would like to participate, you may pick up a form from the Sunday School office downstairs. Please fill it out and bring it to the Christmas Eve program. Your child will hand it to the person leading the sharing time. If you have questions, please contact Karen Unruh.

**Next Sunday, December 28, we will have a very brief congregational meeting to affirm the ballot for the new board members.** This will occur after the Sunday School hour, just prior to worship in the sanctuary. We hope you can attend.

**Our children need a few more Sunday school teachers! And the teachers need a few more helpers!** If you would be willing to take a turn teaching and/or helping once or twice a month please let Sheryl Duerksen, Maryanne Esau, Alma Unrau or Ann Hiebert know. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

**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.

**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](http://mcc.org/share-joy) today! Just take an ornament and give a gift. Ask Tina Schrag if you have questions.

**MANY THANKS to Eric Schrag** who has willingly and skillfully preached a thoughtful and challenging sermon every month since March. This was a huge help to me and a blessing for all of us! ~ Pastor Lois

***The Soil and the Seed Project*** booklets are available on the tables in the lobbies. This useful resource covers Advent, Christmas, Lent, Pentecost and Ordinary Time. Pick one up today.