Christmas Eve

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church December 24, 2025 ~ 7:00 pm



Organ Prelude Selections from Christmas Collection ~Paul Fey Jason Peters
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
In the Bleak Midwinter
Silent Night, Holy Night
Joy to the World
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Welcome Pastor Lois Harder

Song Away in a Manger (VT 257) 2-Year Olds & Congregation

(sing first verse twice)

Fingerplay Shhhh! It's Christmas 3 & 4 Year Olds

SongJesus, Baby JesusSonShine SingersPrayerA Christmas PrayerKindergarten & Grades 3-5

Poem Star of Hope Grade 2

*Congregational Carol Singing Good Christian Friends, Rejoice VT 261

O Little Town of Bethlehem VT 245
Sharing Time with Children Lynel Unrau

*Congregational Carol Singing Nun Ist Sie Erschienen SWJ 30

Nun Ist Sie Erschienen is a traditional favorite Christmas hymn in this congregation. It harkens back from when there were one-room school houses in the area and each school had an annual Christmas Eve program. This German hymn was often sung at the program by everyone in attendance. We continue this tradition. You are welcome to sing the hymn in English or German.

A Child Shall Lead Them

A New King (Isaiah 11:1-9, from The Peace Table Storybook Bible)
Christ Is Born Kids Praise
My Soul Proclaims with Wonder Kids Praise with Elly Mai
Night Long Awaited Myra Peters & Jacob Schrag
Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow Eric, Jacob, & Timothy Schrag
Love Has Come Kids Praise Girls
O Come, All Ye Faithful (with congregation)

Candle Lighting Service

John 1:1-5, 10-14 Marilyn Unruh Flaming, Noah Schrag

Congregational Song Silent Night, Holy Night VT 244

*Benediction Pastor Lois

Postlude Angels We Have Heard on High ~Wolaver Jason Peters

^{*}All who are able are invited to stand

VT - Voices Together Hymnal (purple) **SWJ** - Sing With Joy (red)

Please leave the candles and candle holders in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary or in the lobbies as you leave.

All children through the 12th grade are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a Christmas sack after the service.

2-Year Olds: Luka Stoltzfus Duerksen, Cody Unrau, Mia Unruh-Siebert

3-Year Olds: Haydin Hiebert, Reagan Hiebert **4-Year Olds:** Cameron Esau, Nolan Miller

Kindergarten: Elliot Hiebert, Wyatt Hiebert, Logan Unrau, Myles Unruh **2nd Grade:** Kennedy Esau, Emmett Miller, Lillian Unruh, Greyson Voth

3rd Grade: Ellie Unrau, Lillian Voth

5th Grade: Celia Peters

Characters (in order of appearance)
Narrator: Marilyn Unruh Flaming

Gabriel: Travis Duerksen

Mary: Elly Mai

Joseph: Levi Schrag

Shepherds: Laird Goertzen, Peter Voth, Nathaniel Schmucker **Angels:** Grace Meier, Aida Hartvickson, Delaney Duerksen

Magi: Eli Gaeddert, Rosie Gaeddert, Lilly Mai

Choir Members: Delaney Duerksen, Kennedy Esau, Grace Meier, Emmett Miller, Bella O'Neill, Celia Peters, Myra Peters, Ellie Unrau,

Lillian Unruh, Greyson Voth, Lillian Voth, Paige Webber

Christmas Eve Program Committee: Megan Duerksen, Sheryl Duerksen, Maryanne Esau, Bonnie Gaeddert, Ann Hiebert, Alma Unrau, Karen Unruh

Children's Sunday School Teachers: Denise Duerksen, Sandy Duerksen, Sheryl Duerksen, Tammy Flaming, Emma Graber, Kara Hernandez, Courtney Hiebert, Chrystiana Miller, Susan Nafziger, Timothy Schrag, Alma Unrau, Justine Unruh, Radene Unruh, Janice (Funk) Voth, Laura Voth

SonShine Singers Leaders: Bryant & Chrystiana Miller; Kyle and Justine Unruh

Kids Praise Leaders: Kevin Gaeddert, Jason Peters, Eric Schrag

Organ/Piano: Jason Peters Song Leader: Renae Peters

Tech Crew: DJ Flaming, Myron Goertzen, Colby Nafziger, Delton Voth

Greeters: North – Mary & Jim Schmidt South – Janice & Verney Voth

Biblical passages are adapted/quoted from the NRSV Bible; songs are selected from *Voices Together*.

Cover art: A Child Shall Lead Them by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. Inspired by Isaiah 11:1-10. © A Sanctified Art LLC

From the artist:

The image of the stump of Jesse might have knocked the air out of those first hearing these words. The stump represented the end of the Davidic dynasty, the family line believed to carry Yahweh's goodness. The monarchy was either thwarted by the Babylonian exile or the Assyrian empire—historically, we're not exactly sure. Regardless, Isaiah names what no one wants to say out loud—Jerusalem's political future feels dead, cut off, stunted by despair.

The image of a stump might accurately represent how we feel about our own future. Greenhouse gases and sea levels continue to rise. No place—schools, sanctuaries, theaters, malls—is safe from mass shooting attacks. Our government leaders fight like lions and wolves starving for dominance. We also need Isaiah's vision for a reordered world where creation exists in harmony, not as a threat to itself.

When reading this poetry of peace, I found myself pausing at the line "and a child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6). The example of Naomi Wadler came to mind. After the Parkland, Florida school shooting, Naomi, an eleven-year-old at the time, organized a walkout at her elementary school to honor victims of gun violence. In addition to those slain in Parkland, Naomi and her fifth grade classmates also recognized people of color who are killed by gun violence every day and never make news headlines. Naomi went on to speak courageously before crowds in DC and on TV shows about the need for gun reform. When she spoke, she held the nation—and much of the world—captive with her passion, her insight, and her urgency.

Where is new life shooting up? Perhaps in the places where God can't wait for peace. Perhaps in the voices of our children, who urge us to find a better way.

—Lisle Gwynn Garrity

We wish everyone a blessed and joyful Christmas Day!