

# *Christmas Eve*

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

December 24, 2025 ~ 7:00 pm



\*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 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a Christmas sack after the service.*

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**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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Kennedy Esau, Emmett Miller, Lillian Unruh, Greyson Voth

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Ellie Unrau, Lillian Voth

**5<sup>th</sup> 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

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***We wish everyone a blessed and joyful Christmas Day!***