

Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church

Pastors: Matthew & Hendrike Isert Bender

Church: 519-662-3520, Home: 519-684-6957

nvmc@sympatico.ca www.nithvalleymennonite.com

“Love God with all our being and love others as ourselves”

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Worship Leader: Lois Cressman

Pianist: Bethany Ruby

Chorister: Janna Lynn Cressman

Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn # 199The first Noel, the angel did say

Hymn # 189To us a child of hope is born

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story

Song by the ChildrenThe Friendly Beasts

Hymn # 215What child is this

Scripture ReadingJohn 1-5; 14

Sermon 'pitch His tent among us'

Turn to Jesus

Hymn # 197Angels we have heard on high

Offering

Announcements

Hymn # 174Bless'd be the God of Israel

Sharing Time & Prayer of the Church

Go with the Spirit

Hymn # 32 (S the S)Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem

Benediction

Time of Reflection

Postlude

Sunday School Class

1. Preschool & Primary (ages 2 – gr. 3)

2. Intermediate (gr. 4-7)

3. Youth Class

4. Young Adult Class

5. Adult Bible Study Class

6. Discussion Class

Coffee/Juice Prep: Ralph Cressman

Location

Downstairs

Balcony

Pastors' Office

Sanctuary

Library

Downstairs Hall

Clean up: Judie Bowlby

Next Sunday – December 29

Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Coffee/Juice Prep: Karen Bearinger

Clean up: Gloria Richardson

Ushers: The Isert Bender family

Nith Valley Events:

- Tues. Dec. 24, 7:00 pm. Christmas Eve Service with Communion.
- Fri. Jan. 10, 2014, 12: noon. Dinner for seniors (and would be seniors). For those who will be coming please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. Payment can be made on the day of the event. Feel free to invite your friends. Speaker is Victor Krueger Kischak who will speak about his journey to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Feb. 21-23. Nith Valley Retreat at Camp Shalom (near Cambridge). Reserve the date and watch for more info.

Bible Reading Program for 2014. You are encouraged to read your Bible regularly in the coming year. Various options and combinations are available on the information sheets in your mailboxes. For those who enter some part of this program, please sign up on the sheet posted in the foyer. Copies of the pamphlets MY BIBLE and ENCOUNTER THE WORD are also on the shelf in the foyer. Help yourself. We will obtain further copies if these run out.

Financial Update:

Dear Nith Valley Family,

As we anticipate the birth of Jesus this Christmas season, may this ancient Advent prayer be our shared prayer. "Let not our souls be busy inns that have no room for You or Yours, but quiet homes of prayer and praise, where You may find fit company. Where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away, and wide sweet spaces kept for You; where holy thoughts pass up and down and fervent longings watch and wait Your coming." Julian of Norwich (1340-1426)

As 2013 draws to a close, we give thanks for our Nith Valley Church family, for the many ways that we are supported and cared for as your Pastors and as a family, Thank you! At the dawning of 2014, may each one of us continue to keep our arms open to receive Christ, each other and our neighbours near and far.

From our home to yours a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. Love the Isert Bender's.

100% of Budget: \$ 164,700.00
Givings to Dec. 8/13: \$ 118,618.74
Shortfall: \$ 46,081.26

Please note that Sunday, December 29 will be the last opportunity to make a contribution for your 2013 tax receipt.

Winter Retreat - February 21-23 at Countryside Camp and Conference Centre

Church Council has identified this as an important church family event. It is hoped that as many people as possible can attend for all of the weekend or as much of the weekend as possible. With this in mind, Church Council has decided to not charge a fee to attend this weekend. To cover the cost, a Visioning Fund has been established, if you are able you are encouraged to contribute to this fund. The money raised will be used to cover the cost of the retreat and miscellaneous costs related to implementing our new vision, mission and values statements.

Community Events:

- Mon. Dec. 23, 2-8 pm. Blood Donor Clinic at Waterloo Oxford. Call 1-888-236-6283 to schedule an appointment. Drop ins also welcome.
- Fri. Jan. 17, 12:30-1:30 pm. The Institute of Anabaptist Mennonite Studies hosts a book launch for Rob Zacharias, author of *Rewriting the Break: Mennonites & Migration in Canadian Literature*. Join us at Conrad Grebel, Rm 1301.
- Thurs. Feb. 13. Join Grebel friends and alumni for An Evening with Bruce Cockburn at the Humanities Theatre. Tickets are \$49. Tickets are available at the Theatre box office.

