

Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church

Pastors: Matthew & Hendrike Isert Bender

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

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Pianist: Bethany Ruby **Chorister:** Lois Cressman
Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Gather to Worship

- Prelude
- Welcome
- Time of Anticipation
- Call to Worship
- Invocation
- Hymn # 199The first Noel, the angels did say
- Hymn # 197Angles we have heard on high

Hearing God’s Word

- Scripture ReadingPsalm 148
- Hymn # 215What child is this
- Sermon ‘Waiting for Jesus’
- Gospel ReadingMatthew 25: 34-36
- Hymn # 26 (S the S)Helpless and hungry
- Sermon ‘The work of Christmas’

Turn to Jesus

- Hymn # 189To us a child of hope is born
- Offering
- Announcements
- 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

Next Sunday – January 5

Worship Leader: Donna Hartzler Guest Speaker: Tim Bryson
Pianist: Susan Cressman Chorister: Jeannette Cressman
Children’s Story Leader: Heather Cressman
Coffee/Juice Prep: Arlene Hoke Clean up: Bethany Cressman
Ushers:

Nith Valley Events:

- Tues. Jan. 7, 9 am – 3 pm. Nith Valley Sewing Circle.
- 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.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins,
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Financial Update:

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

Please note that today is the last opportunity to make a contribution for your 2013 tax receipt.

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.

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:

- 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.

Prayer Requests from MC Canada:

Please pray for all those in central and eastern Canada who remain without power and heat after devastating ice and snow storms, and especially those who are new to Canada, marginalized populations, and the homeless. Pray also for all who will work through Christmas to restore power and those who will work to provide food and shelter. "Come, awake to the birth of our Saviour, our helper, and the one who dwells with us in our troubles. God, thank you for showing your saving mystery to all kinds of people, and for dwelling with us in Jesus. Help us share the hope, love, joy, and peace of knowing Jesus with the people we meet."

Mennonite Church Canada's Future Directions Task Force consists of church leaders from across the country. Thank you for your prayers and support as this team of committed and faithful leaders discern a sustainable future for the national church, MCBC, MCA, MC Sask, MCM and MCEC.

As the New Year approaches, pray for the spiritual health and well-being for the community of Mennonite Church Canada congregations. May the Holy Spirit bring joy and hope to all. "Come, awake to the mystery that in Christ all kinds of people are one! May God's saving mystery shine in and through us."

From MAX Canada:

MAX is unique among insurance enterprises. We contribute one percent of all premiums collected, plus your gifts, to this one-of-a-kind ministry. Our founders' philosophies of caring and reciprocity guide us as we help hundreds of children, families and seniors every year.

We invite you to go to <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/mutual-aid-ministries-2013-campaign> to see a short video that will explain more about Mutual Aid Ministries and how you can make a difference.