

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”

Vol. 34 November 9, 2014 No.27

Worship Leader: Donna Hartzler

Pianist: Susan Cressman **Chorister:** Janna Lynn Cressman

Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Hymn # 113 (S the S)I will stand in the congregation

Hymn # 41 (SP&W)We are the church

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hearing God’s Word

Children’s Story

Hymn # 17 (SP&W)Give thanks

Parent – Child Dedication

Hymn # 90 (S the J)Lord, we bring to you our children

Scripture Hebrews 13: 7; I Corinthians 11: 1

Sermon ‘Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember’

Turn to Jesus

Hymn # 95 (S the S)Jesus has done so much for me

Offering

Announcements

Sharing Time & Prayer of the Church

Go with the Spirit

Hymn # 14 (S the J)Lord Jesus, you shall be my song

Benediction

Time of Reflection

Postlude

Sunday School Class

1. Preschool & Primary Class (ages 2–5)

2. Intermediate Class (ages 6-9)

3. Youth Class (ages 10-17)

4. Young Adult Class

5. Adult Bible Study Class

6. Sermon Discussion Class

Coffee/Juice Prep: Ralph Cressman

Location

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

Sanctuary

Library

Downstairs Hall

Clean Up: Brenda Kirkland

Next Sunday – November 16

Coffee/Juice Prep: Janna Lynn Cressman

Clean Up: John Ilett

Ushers: Ross & Glenda Roth

Eternity Sunday. On **Sun. Nov. 23**, the last Sunday in the Christian calendar we will take time in our worship to remember our losses of the past year. Most specifically we will light a candle for the six people from our church family who have died during the past church year, Willard, Eloise, Martha, Elma, Ken, and Lisa, celebrating their life and lamenting their loss. May God walk with each of us as individuals and as a community as we grieve our losses and seek new life.

Nith Valley Events:

- Mon. Nov. 10, 7 pm. Worship Ministry Team meeting.
- Wed. Nov. 12, 9:15-11:15 am. M.O.P.S.
- Wed. Nov. 12, 7 pm. Pastoral Ministry Team meeting at the Isert Bender home.
- Sat. Nov. 29, 5 pm. Advent Dinner with an evening of games to follow. Please sign up on the bulletin board and don’t forget to bring games and snacks for the evening.

Do you have any pictures? 40th Anniversary of Nith Valley.

On Jan. 11, 2015 we will celebrate our 40th anniversary as we worship together. There are a few pictures in the church office documenting the last 40 years, but it would be great if we could collect a few more. These will be used in a slide show, posters on display, on that particular Sunday and throughout the year. Please bring pictures to church throughout November. Any questions, talk with Matthew.

Volunteers needed:

If you would be willing to make loaves, cookies or squares for the Theatre of the Beat presentation of 'A Bicycle Built for Two' that Nith Valley is hosting at Steinmann Mennonite on Friday, November 21, please sign up on the bulletin board.

Peace Sunday Follow-up:

a) Call for action - urge Canada to ratify the Arms trade Treaty (ATT). As we are involved in "... demanding justice for all," consider taking a form letter, signing it and mailing it to The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister Canada, House of Commons, Ottawa Canada, K1A0A6. No postage required. Letters are on small table at the back and downstairs on a table.

b) Last Sunday, Nov. 2, we lit a peace candle, received from MacKeeley Shantz. The candle and its story began in Russia with an elderly Russian woman's hope for peace to be spread far and wide, she gifted a candle to a visiting pastor from North America. As an expression of our commitment to the vital task of working and praying for peace, you are invited to take a candle and its story with you when you visit another congregation or to give a candle to a visitor who is worshipping with you. There are candles on the back table outside the sanctuary.

From New Hamburg Thrift Centre:

Volunteer Receivers Needed: Greet donors, receive donations & perform initial sort. Various shifts on weekdays and Saturdays. Call 519-662-2867 for more information.

The World Council of Churches invites you to Fast for the Climate - an interfaith initiative bringing people of different faiths together in an ancient spiritual exercise to show solidarity with victims of climate change. People are invited to fast on the 1st of each month. Details at <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/fast-for-the-climate>

Interested in Creation Care? Register for a FREE online course on Environmental Education and Faith, offered Nov 3 – Dec 3, through Cornell University, recommended by Mennonite Creation Care Network. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/ee-and-faith>

Mennonite World Conference needs you! Volunteers are needed before, during and after the gathering to assist from near and far. Volunteers during assembly receive a discounted registration rate. More information can be found at <http://www.mwc-cmm.org/article/volunteer-application>

Community Events:

- TODAY, 2:30 pm. 3rd Annual Men's Chorus and Gospel Sing at the Detweiler Meetinghouse. See poster for details.
- Mon. Nov. 10, 7 pm. Peace Quest presentation and discussion at Conrad Grebel (chapel). See poster for details.
- Wed. Nov. 12, 6:30-8:30 pm. Living Room peer support group (supported by the Mennonite Ministerial). This meeting will take place at Mannheim MC. For more info, contact Gord mmpastor@golden.net or Alexa jaliyajuji@yahoo.ca
- Thurs. Nov. 13 and Fri. Nov. 14, 7:30 pm. 2014 Bechtel Lectures at Conrad Grebel featuring Dr. Jeff Gundy. See poster for details.
- Sat. Nov. 15, 9 am – 12 noon. Explore and experience the Labyrinth at Steinmann MC. Walking the Labyrinth clears the mind and gives insight into the spiritual journey. Cost is \$25.
- Sat. Nov. 15, 7:30 pm. Menno Singers & Mass Choir present Ein Deutsches Requiem and Nanie by Johannes Brahms at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (49 Queen St. N, Kit). See poster for details. Tickets (\$30 adults, \$10 child) available at MSCU, Music Plus, www.mennosingers.com or from Jeannette Cressman, Susan Cressman, Arlene Hoke, Lorrie Koch or Bonnie Stemmler.
- Thurs. Nov. 20, 7:30-8:30 am. MEDA Breakfast at The Working Centre (43 Queen St. S., Kit).
- Fri. Nov. 21, 7 pm. Theatre of the Beat presents, 'A Bicycle Built for Two: a Playful Reflection on Marriage' at Steinmann Mennonite Church.
- Sat. Nov. 22, 10 am – 2 pm. Maker's Market at Steinmann MC. Come and browse local handmade goods for your holiday needs.
- Sat. Nov. 22, 2-4 pm. Nithview Community Christmas Tea, Craft and Bake Sale. Donations of home baking would be greatly appreciated. (Please drop donations off by 10:30 on sale day.)
- Sat. Nov. 22, 7 pm. MennoHomes Annual General Meeting at Waterloo North MC. More info at www.mennohomes.com
- Sun. Nov. 30, 2:30 pm. 'Welcoming Advent' at Detweiler Meeting House featuring Lifted Voices.

**Litany of
Parent and Child Dedication
November 9, 2014**

It is always an exciting time when parents decide to dedicate their children to God and their faith community. Parents and families don't create faith. Faith comes from God and God has planted the seed of faith in each child. "...For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Ps. 139:13-14a). We praise God for Ezra and Zachary and the seed of faith planted deep within them.

Parents and families have a major role in how faith is nurtured. But, we don't create faith, possess faith or control it. Faith is a relationship like the relationship between a vine and its branches. Faith flows. Our main task is to encourage this flow and not block it. This morning we commit ourselves to let this flow happen.

In parent-child dedication we are not making a child Mennonite for we believe that each child will at some point need to choose his/her own faith. Parent-Child Dedication is a service of three-fold blessing and commitment. In the celebration of this ritual:

1. We acknowledge each child as a gift from God, entrust him/her to God's love and care, and pray for God's blessing in his/her life.
2. Parents commit themselves to nurturing this child within a Christian context in such a way that he/she grows in faith.
3. We recognize that families are not solely responsible for the nurture of a child and so the church community commits to participating in the task of faith nurture by providing a community in which each child can grow to the potential God has placed within him/her.

Elder:

When parents present their child to God before the congregation, they come to thank God for the life entrusted to them, to offer their child back to God and to ask for God's blessing on their life together. We as a congregation come to share this joy, to pray with them for the child's well being and to receive the child into the care of the church.

Parents:

We celebrate the miracle and gift of life. We want to teach (*child's name*) the way of faith in Christ by example and by our words. We ask for your support in our task of parenting. We need your encouragement and we entrust our children to your loving care.

Pastor:

I invite all of you to stand and show your support to Jesse & Steph and Mark & Stacey.

Congregation:

We want to share responsibility for the nurture and care of Ezra and Zachary. We are prepared to support these families with our love, encouragement and prayers. We promise to enfold them all with Christian love and acceptance.

Pastor:

Ezra and Zachary, we hope that you will be comfortable here in this place. We hope and pray that through the people you meet here you will experience God's love in wonderful ways. We want this to be a place where you experience joy, peace, fun, laughter and hope. We hope that this is a 'good news' place for you.

Act of Dedication

It is a privilege, on behalf of everyone here at Nith Valley, to welcome you into this family of faith. We are so glad that God has blessed us with you.

Hymn: Dedication Hymn - Hosanna, Jesus loves....

Prayer (congregation)

You have offered your children to the strong and tender providence of God. We rejoice with you and give thanks for the gift of your child. We promise, with humility and seriousness, to share in your child's nurture and well-being. We will support, by our example and words, your efforts to provide a loving and caring home, where trust in God grows and Christ's way is chosen. Our prayers will be with you and for you. May our shared life and witness help make your task both joyful and fruitful. Amen.

Presentation of Faith Chests (Elder):

As a symbol of the congregation's partnership with you in nurturing a relationship with God, we present you with this Faith Chest. In this chest are some items for the journey of faith. As Ezra and Zachary grow in their faith, they can collect more items that are significant to them as they grow in their awareness of God's presence and love in their lives.

Blessing (all)

Ezra and Zachary, may the love of God, the gracious Spirit of Christ, and the fellowship of God's people bless your life today and in the days and years to come. Amen

Hymn # 90 (S the S) - Lord, we bring to you our children