

Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church

Pastors: Matthew & Hendrike Isert Bender

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

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

Vol. 36 February 21, 2016 No.8

Worship Leader: Matthew Isert Bender

Pianist: Bonnie Stemmler

Chorister: Lois Cressman

Speaker: Jamie Gerber

Gather to Worship

Prelude

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hymn # 97 (green)The Lord is my light

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Hymn # 238 (blue)Hosanna, loud hosanna

Scripture ReadingEphesians 4: 11-16; James 1: 19-27

Sermon

Turning to Jesus

Hymn # 598 (blue)A wonderful Savior is Jesus

Announcements

Offering

Go With the Spirit

Hymn # 420 (blue)Heart with loving heart united

Communion

Benediction

Postlude

Next Sunday – February 28:

Worship Leader: Kathryn Cressman Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Music Leaders: Praise Team

Children’s Story Leader: Tricia Cressman

Coffee/Juice Prep: Janet Cressman

Clean Up: Judie Bowlby

Nith Valley Events:

- Wed. Feb. 24, 9:15-11:15. MOPS.
- Thurs. Feb. 25, 7 pm. PCR meeting.
- Fri. Mar. 4, Nith Valley Youth Event – going to see “Back to the 80’s Musical” at WO, featuring our very own Brandon Wall and Kogan Shantz! Please contact Stacey Keller for details.
- Fri. Mar. 25, 9:45 am. Good Friday service
- Sun. Mar. 27. Easter Sunday. Join us for a potluck Easter Breakfast at 8:30, followed by our Easter worship service at 10:00.

To the Women of NVMC:

We have decided to put our women's retreat on hold. Unfortunately, our guest speakers had to cancel. We have recognized that there have been some opportunities for women to gather this winter and if you have missed your friends I encourage you to find some time to visit while we revisit and let you know what our next plan is. Winter blessings to all.

From Hidden Acres:

Our 34th Annual Fundraising Bowlathon will be held on Sat. Mar. 5. This is the camp’s main annual fundraising activity. Last year \$28,913 was raised! This money will be used for Capital expenses. Please show your support by sponsoring Dan Cressman. Thank you!

From MCC:

Interested in serving with MCC in your local community? Have lots of energy and enjoy working with volunteers? This job may be for you! The New Hamburg Thrift Centre is currently recruiting for a full-time staff position Assistant Manager, Household Goods. A full description can be found at www.newhamburgthrift.com. Applications accepted until March 4.

From Rockway Mennonite Collegiate:

We invite applicants for the position of Attendance Secretary. Visit www.rockway.ca for further information.

Community Events:

- Tues. Feb. 23, 7:30 pm. St. George Anglican Church (3 Byron St., NH) hosts the discussion: 'You, Me and Climate Change: Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events in Canada.'
- Wed. Feb. 24, noon. 'Soup, Sandwich, Sermon and Song,' at Zion United Church (215 Peel St, NH).
- Thurs. Feb. 25, 7 pm. Tri-County Mennonite Homes invites you to a presentation on Legacy Giving, with Erv Wiens and Marlow Gingerich in the Nithview Auditorium. All are welcome.
- Feb. 26-28. Women's Retreat at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp with resource person Tanya Dyck Steinmann. For more info, visit www.slmc.ca/retreats or call 519-422-3200.
- Sat. Feb. 27, 7:30 pm (pre-concert talk at 7:00). Menno Singers presents, 'Music from the Royal Saxon Court of Dresden, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Tickets are \$25 (\$5 student), at Music Plus, at the door or at www.mennosingers.com
- Sat. Feb. 27, 7:30 pm. Skylight Festival – featuring Matt Epp in concert at First United Church (16 William St. W, Wloo). Tickets are \$20, at the door.
- Mon. Feb. 29, 6:30 pm. Mennonite Savings and Credit Union's Special General Meeting at Creekside Church (660 Conservation Dr, Waterloo).
- Sat. Mar. 12, 6:30 pm. MEDA Annual Spring Banquet at Steinmann MC. See poster for details.
- Mar. 14 or Mar. 15. Hidden Acres Grandparent – Grandchild (gr. 1-6) Days. For more info, email info@hiddenacres.ca or call 519-625-8602.

From MCEC:

Sacred Trust... Fostering safe space in congregations. This is an educational series on Sexual Misconduct in the church. It is a MCEC initiative in collaboration with SMARRT, authored by Carol Penner. Go the Mennonite Church Eastern Canada website and check it out. www.mcec.ca

From Canadian Mennonite University:

Voices of Harmony and Dissent: How Peacebuilders are Transforming Their Worlds, a book of peacebuilding tools, stories and wisdom authored by instructors of the Canadian School of Peacebuilding, is now available for FREE download in e-book format. Go to csop.cmu.ca and click on the Free E Book slider for information about how to download your copy.

NV Congregational - Pastoral Review:

"Instead, we will lovingly follow the truth at all times—speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly and so become more and more in every way like Christ who is the Head of His body, the Church. Under His direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." **Ephesians 4:15-16**

Blessings all, hopefully everyone is feeling informed of our process and has already received the survey. Your **Survey Responses** are required by end of day **February 14th**. Our Pastors have completed their self review, and Ministry Teams are already submitting their collective responses. Also, we very much look forward to our special time together on **Feb 21st** when we gather to **Worship, and have Focus Groups** discussions.

We are grateful to all those participating in the process, and uphold this entire process in prayer and thoughtful consideration. "We need each other... we are each other... and we're more than just ourselves because of each other..."

Finding God in My Neighbourhood Photo Showcase

Dust off your camera or cell phones! You are invited to submit photos for the **MCEC Finding God in My Neighbourhood Photo Showcase**. We ask you to focus on finding God in your neighbourhoods in ordinary and surprising ways. What does that look like? Where do you discover God? This showcase will be part of the MCEC Annual Church Gathering with Stuart Murray on April 29 & 30, 2016 at UMEI Christian High School in Leamington, ON. Send your jpgs to photos@mcec.ca

From Mennonite Disaster Service:

MDS ON Family Project at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp

Last 2 weeks in July and first 2 weeks in Aug 2016

- Enjoy the outdoors with your family and experience an MDS project for a week in a camp setting
- Multi-generational families encouraged to participate
- Various building projects planned to benefit Silver Lake Mennonite Camp
- Volunteers required to provide own sleeping accommodations, limited on site cabin space. Registration fee \$75/family To register or for info call Evelyn 1-866-261-1274.

Refugee update for Wilmot Ignited Churches:

Most frequent question? When is the family coming? We still don't know. We will spread the word when we do.

New development: Open house at 290 Huron St. in New Hamburg on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2:00 -4:00 p.m. Anyone from the four churches is welcome to drop by. (No snacks will be served.)

The house for the Reh/Meh family is nearly ready. There are beds and bedding for all family members; living room, kitchen and bathroom are close to being fully equipped. We may still discover other needs but for now the list of needs includes:

- a 30" 240 volt electric kitchen stove
- living room floor lamp
- area rugs and mats
- laptop computers (for communication and for school)
- some toys for the children (girls 7, 9, and 16; boys 11 and 13) that don't require knowing English such as puzzles, lego, craft supplies, soccer ball, ping pong table

We also need volunteers for property management such as clearing snow (we are responsible and the house should not look abandoned, inviting vandals). Other needs may arise. Check with Carman Albrecht if you can help with any of these needs (ccalbrecht@bell.net or phone 519-662-1023).

Trinity Lutheran, which has been on a similar journey, continues to be helpful. Contact between the family Trinity has settled in New Hamburg and the Reh/Meh family, still in the Thai camp, particularly about the house awaiting the Reh/Meh family, has raised the level of excitement for both families.

For background information on the people and region of origin of the Reh/Meh family go to:

Karenni Overview - <http://www.karennirefugees.com/>

Refugee Fund Update:

Currently \$7990.00 has been donated to this Fund. \$5000 have been forwarded on to the Wilmot Ignited account administered by Mannheim. The initial projection is that \$10,000 (our 25% share of the estimated \$40,000 budget) will be required to support this family for one year. Your continued donations are welcomed to this fund. At the end of our one year sponsorship all unused funds will be used to support local refugee sponsorship in our community. Thank you very much for your financial contributions to this fund and all the other ways individuals have helped to prepare us to welcome the Reh/Meh family.