

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”

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Worship Leader: Donna Hartzler

Pianist: Susan Cressman

Chorister: Terry Keller

Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

Gather to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Hymn # 21(duotang)Shout to the Lord

Hymn # 5 (blue)There is a place of quiet rest

Call to Worship

Invocation

Hearing God's Word

Hymn # 9 (duotang)Oh how I love Jesus

Children's Storyled by Doris Zehr

Parent –Child Dedication

Hymn # 90 (green)Lord, we bring to you our children

Scripture 1John 4:7-12

Sermon ‘It's about love, love, love’

Turn to Jesus

Hymn # 39 (purple)Will you come and follow me

Offering

Announcements

Sharing Time & Prayer of the Church

Go with the Spirit

Hymn # 427 (blue)You shall go out with joy

Benediction

Time of Reflection

Postlude

Sunday School Class

1. Preschool & Kindergarten Class (ages 3-SK)

2. Primary Class

3. Junior Class

4. Young Adult Class

5. Adult Bible Study Class

6. Sermon Discussion Class

Coffee/Juice Prep: Glen Cressman

Location

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

Sanctuary

Library

Downstairs Hall

Clean Up: Lara Shantz

Next Sunday – May 22

Join together with the other Wilmot Ignited churches for a worship service at **Wilmot Mennonite Church**, beginning at **9:30 am** (1967 Erbs Rd.). **There will be no service at Nith Valley that day.**

We congratulate Floyd and Wilma Good on their 60 th wedding anniversary. On this special occasion, we wish them God's richest blessing.
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Community Events:

- Tues. May 17. Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's Spring concert. (6:45 for grade 7/8 choir and 8:00 for grade 9-12 choir). See poster for details.
- Wed. May 18. Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's Annual Golf Tournament at Willow Valley Gold Course. Visit www.rockway.ca to register.
- Thurs. May 19, 7:30 am. MEDA breakfast at the Stone Crock in St. Jacobs, with speaker Jim Loepp Thiessen.
- Thurs. May 19, 7 pm. Shalom Counselling fundraiser at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, featuring choirs from Mennonite Collegiate Institute. Freewill offering.
- Fri. May 20, 7 pm. East Zorra hosts the choirs from Mennonite Collegiate Institute for an evening of music. Freewill offering to support Youth in Attawapiskat.
- Tues. June 14. Annual Hidden Acres Chicken BBQ. (Regular - \$15; small - \$11).
- Sat. June 18, 10 am. Spring Meeting of the Mennonite Historical Society at Conrad Grebel. See poster for details.
- Sun. June 19, 3 pm. Rockway Collegiate's Alumni Reunion Choir. Freewill offering. To join the choir, register at www.rockway.ca before June 3. See poster for details.

From Hidden Acres:

Summer Camp Staff Needed – We are looking for guys who want a rewarding, fun, challenging and growth-filled summer filled with opportunities to impact the lives of young people. If that's you, go to www.hiddenacres.ca or contact Chris (chrispot@hiddenacres.ca or 519-625-8602) for more information (Must be 17 by Dec. 31, 2016).

Relief Sale News:

Cookie makers, fillers, and sellers are needed for the 50th annual Mennonite Relief Sale!! Nith Valley will once again run the Cookie table on Saturday, May 29 at the Relief Sale in New Hamburg. We need volunteer bakers to prepare dozens of different cookies to sell. We need 'fillers' to meet at Susan Cressman's at 6am that morning to prepare the date-filled cookies. And we need volunteer sellers to sell the cookies to happy customers! All proceeds go o MCC. Please sign up on the posted list for any or all of these roles. Or contact Lara Shantz at kiria@golden.net for more information. Thank you

Run for Relief! Consider competing in the 5K run or the 2K fun run/walk. See poster and registration forms on bulletin board.

Bring your yeast baking (with name and contact info) to our Yeast Baking venue. Contact Darlene at ddriedger@simplycreative.ca for more information.

Gardeners, bring your extra perennials. The Plant Tent sells houseplants, perennials, and seedlings for vegetables and herbs. **Drop them off at our Drop Off Tent at the entrance to the Sale.** For questions contact Ruth Zehr at 519 662 1556 or rrzehr@netflash.net.

Martin Family Singers: Martin Family Singers with the Waterloo Chamber Players perform Haydn's The Creation at Steinmann's Mennonite Church today at 7:30pm. Soloists include Sarah Dufresne – Soprano, Elaine Pearce – Mezzo Soprano, Brandon Leis – Tenor, Dylan Langan – Baritone. Proceeds raised for the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale. Tickets available at MCC Ontario or at the door.

See our website for more details: nhmrs.com/news

Litany of Parent and Child Dedication May 15, 2016

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 Orië, Owen and Evelyn 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 each 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 Matthew & Stephanie and Greg & Shelley.

Congregation:

We want to share responsibility for the nurture and care of Orie, Owen and Evelyn. 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:

Orie, Owen and Evelyn, 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 Orie, Owen and Evelyn. We promise, with humility and seriousness, to share in their 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 Orie, Owen and Evelyn 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)

Orie, Owen and Evelyn, 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 (green) - Lord, we bring to you our children