

**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. 37 December 10, 2017 No. 43

Pianists: Susan Cressman & Andrea Yantzi

Choir Director & Chorister: Les Neufeld Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

**Gather to Worship**

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn # 212 ..... O come all ye faithful

Call to Worship

Candle Lighting

Invocation

Choir .....Come to Bethlehem (instrumental)

Christ is Born Today (children)

I wonder as I wander

**Hearing God’s Word**

Children’s Story .....led by Tammy Shantz

Hymn # 201 .....Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Scripture Reading .....Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

Sermon ..... ‘Let it be so’

Drama

**Turn to Jesus**

Choir .....The Little Cradle Rocks (instrumental)

A Question for Christmas

Ukrainian Bell Carol

Offering

Announcements

Confession

Words of Assurance

Prayer of the Church

**Go with the Spirit**

Choir .....On that Hallelujah Night (instrumental)

Candlelight Carol

Hymn # 318 .....Joy to the World

Benediction

Postlude

A heartfelt thanks to all those in the choir who have committed themselves to singing over the past two months, they have blessed us with the gift of music this morning. May all our hearts continue to swell with praise as we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child this Christmas season.

Following the Service everyone is invited to join for refreshments and fellowship in the basement. Children's Sunday School classes will be held for all ages.

**Sunday School Class**

1. Preschool & Kindergarten

2. Primary Class

3. Junior Class

Coffee/Juice Prep: Amzie & Doris Brubacher

Clean Up: Bill & Linda Barker

**Location**

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

**Next Sunday – December 17**

Worship Leader & Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

Pianist: Janna Lynn Cressman

Chorister: Terry Keller

Children’s Story Leader: Tammy Shantz

Coffee/Juice Prep & Clean Up: Mark & Stacey Keller

**Nith Valley Events:**

- Fri. Dec. 22, **6:30 pm.** Caroling at Nithview. This event is open to all Nithview residents and will be held in the Auditorium. Come join in an evening of carols and music. (Please note the change in starting time.)
- Sun. Dec. 24, 4 pm. Christmas Eve Service.

**From the Church Office:**

The last day for givings to be included with your 2017 tax receipt is Sunday Dec 31/17.

**Community Events:**

- Tues. Dec. 12, 7:30 pm. Rockway Mennonite Collegiate presents their Christmas concert at St. Matthew’s Lutheran church. Freewill offering.
- Sun. Dec. 17, 3 pm. Menno Singers hosts a Messiah sing-a-long at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church. Admission by donations (tax receipts issued for donations of \$20 or more).

On behalf of Church Council and the Canada Day Brunch Committee,

After this year's Canada Day Brunch, there was some discussion among some of the volunteers as to whether Nith Valley should continue hosting the Canada Day Brunch. In response to that, some weeks ago, Jackie spent some time talking with each of the adult Sunday School classes regarding the continuation of Nith Valley hosting the Canada Day Brunch. The Canada Day brunch started more than 20 years ago as a Nith Valley event to raise funds to send NV youth to annual conferences. Since that time, it has evolved into an event where the proceeds have been given to local organizations within our community. Over the years, we have supported the Wilmot Family Resource Center, Interfaith Counselling, House of Friendship, Aldaview and Reception House to name a few. Our support of these organizations has been greatly appreciated.

In 2015, when there was conversation if we should continue with the brunch, a survey was circulated to ask that very question. At that time, not only did 95% of people say that the brunch aligned with NV's mission & vision, but 88% said they would like to see it continue and 87% said they would volunteer at the event. At some of our previous church retreats, the Canada Day Brunch has been mentioned as one of NV's most important events.

However, even if there was considerable support in the past, that does not mean that support is still there. The brunch can be seen as a missional church event, going outside our church walls and offering something to the community. But it's time to evaluate whether this is still an important event or whether it is time to discontinue it. So in order to decide its importance and its future, and following a suggestion that some of you brought forward in the discussions during the Sunday School classes, we are asking each of you to think about whether you are committed to continuing this event by indicating whether you would volunteer on Sunday, July 1, 2018 to help with the event.

Please take some time to consider whether you want to sign up as a volunteer or not, and be honest with yourself when thinking about it. Please do not do so from a sense of guilt or obligation. However, if you would find the event energizing, life-giving, would see this as a way for Nith Valley to be missional and give back to the community, and are excited to be a part of it, please consider signing up.

You will have until Dec 17 to sign up (either at the back of the church or by emailing Carolyn at [nvmc@sympatico.ca](mailto:nvmc@sympatico.ca)). Please indicate whether you would be available for either Sat. June 30 or Sunday, July 1 or both. Based on volunteers used in the past and assessing the individual roles that need to be filled, at least 8 volunteers for the day before the event (set up, pickup of food/supplies, decorating) and 30 for the day of the event are required in order for the event to run smoothly (these are adult volunteers, but of course children in addition to this would be most welcome). As of Dec 17, we will see if there is enough commitment to continue the brunch based on the number of individuals that have signed up, but if there is not, then we will not host the event moving forward, and the Canada Day Committee will be informed of our decision.

Thanks very much and God bless.

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