

**Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church**

Pastors: Matthew & Hendrike Isert Bender

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

nvmc@sympatico.ca www.nithvalleymennonite.com

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

Vol. 37 December 17, 2017 No. 44

Pianist: Janna Lynn Cressman

Chorister: Terry Keller

Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

**Gather to Worship**

Prelude

Welcome

Time of Anticipation

Call to Worship

Candle Lighting

Invocation

Hymn # 60 v. 1-4 (duotang) .....A Candle is Burning

Hymn # 59 (duotang) .....Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

**Hearing God’s Word**

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

Hymn # 180 (blue) .....The angel Gabriel

Scripture Reading .....Luke 1: 46-55

Sermon ..... ‘Mary’s Justice Hymn’

Hymn # 181v. 1-3 (blue) .....My soul proclaims with wonder

**Turn to Jesus**

Offering

Announcements

Confession

Words of Assurance

Sharing Time & Prayer of the Church

Hymn # 178 (blue) .....Come, thou long-expected Jesus

**Go with the Spirit**

Benediction

Time of Reflection

**Sunday School Class**

1. Preschool & Kindergarten

2. Primary Class

3. Junior Class

4. Current Affairs Class

5. Sermon Discussion Class

6. Bible Study Class

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

**Location**

Downstairs

Downstairs

Balcony

Sanctuary

Downstairs Hall

Upstairs Library

**Next Sunday – December 24**

Worship Leader & Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Pianist: Bonnie Stemmler

Chorister: Lois Cressman

Children’s Story Leader: Tammy Shantz

**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.

**Financial Update:**

100% of Budget	\$159,200.00
Budget givings to Dec 10 7	\$101,101.60
Shortfall	\$58,098.40

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

**From Mennonite Central Committee:**

Share the joy of giving this Christmas! Choose a gift that is a personal and meaningful expression of God's love this Christmas. Give your swimming instructor the gift of water, your favourite chef the gift of an eco-stove or your nephews and nieces a gift of rabbits and chickens. Browse and purchase gifts in the MCC Christmas Giving catalogue online at [mcco.ca/christmas](http://mcco.ca/christmas), or call 1-800-313-6226 for a copy today.

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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### **Community Events:**

- TODAY, 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).
- Thurs. Dec. 21, 7 pm. Ecumenical Longest Night Service at St. James Lutheran Church (66 Mill St, Baden).
- Sun. Jan. 14, 2-5 pm. Rockway Mennonite Collegiate hosts a retirement celebration for Dennis Wikerd. All are welcome.

### **From Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp:**

We are seeking someone to serve in a part time year-round housekeeping staff position. This position is for approximately 10 - 18 hours/week with a January start date. You can view a job description at: <https://hiddenacres.ca/site/opportunities/employment> For more information please contact Campbell Nisbet at [director@hiddenacres.ca](mailto:director@hiddenacres.ca) or phone 519-625-8602.

### **From Silver Lake Mennonite Camp:**

**Fathers and Kids Retreat:** *Jan. 12-14.* Don't miss out on this great winter experience! Skating on the lake, building snowmen and igloos, snowshoeing through the woods, roasting smore's over the campfire, playing board games and mini-sticks in the dining hall and watching Hockey Night in Canada on the big screen! Dad's enjoy some free-time on Saturday morning on the couches by the fire (newspapers and coffee will be in abundance) while our staff provide some outdoor programming with the kids. NOTE: Father can be defined as any male adult role model or mentor. For more information and to register visit [www.slmc.ca/retreats](http://www.slmc.ca/retreats) or call 519-422-3200

**Women's Retreat:** *February 9-11, 2018 at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp.* Relaxing, snowshoeing, stargazing and savouring exceptional food.....those are just a few of things to look forward to at the Women's Retreat. Resource person is Tanya Dyck Steinmann. For more information and to register visit [www.slmc.ca/retreats](http://www.slmc.ca/retreats) or call 519-422-3200.