

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”

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Pianist: Bonnie Stemmler Chorister: Lois Cressman
Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender

Gather to Worship

- Prelude
- Welcome
- Time of Anticipation – Special Music.....Mary did you know?
- Call to Worship
- Candle Lighting
- Invocation
- Hymn # 211 (blue)Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

Hearing God's Word

- Scripture ReadingIsaiah 9: 2-7
- Children's Storyled by Nick Shantz
- Hymn # 189 (blue)To us a child of hope is born
- Confession
- Words of Assurance
- Offering – Special MusicWhere you there on that Christmas Night?
- SermonUndoing the wrath of God
- Hymn # 208Love comes down at Christmas
- Drama – Let it be now, God!
- Reading of the Christmas Story
 - Hymn # 194 (blue)Away in a manger
 - Hymn # 195 (blue)It came upon a midnight clear
 - Hymn # 32 (purple)Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem

Turn to Jesus

- Christmas Eve Prayer: Fragile God Born in the Night
by Dr. Susan M. Elliott
- Hymn # 212 (blue) ,,,,,,.....O come, all ye faithful

Go with the Spirit

- VideoLong ago in Bethlehem
- Candle Lighting
- BenedictionSilent Night
- Time of Reflection

Many thanks to those who contributed their talents during this service, by providing special music (Susan Cressman, Larry Bearinger, Bonnie Stemmler, Jeannette Cressman); drama (Thomas Isert Bender, Doris Brubacher); and candle lighting (Alen & Lorelai Vollmer).

Next Sunday – December 31

Worship Leader & Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender
Pianist: Bethany Ruby Chorister: Jeannette Cressman
Children's Story Leader: Nick Shantz

Financial Update:

100% of Budget	\$159,200.00
Budget givings to Dec 17/17	\$106,076.60
Shortfall	\$53,123.40

The last day for givings to be included with your 2017 tax receipt is Sunday Dec 31/17. Envelopes can be left in Andy's mailbox during the week.

From Mennonite Central Committee:

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, or call 1-800-313-6226 for a copy today.

From Tri-County Mennonite Homes:

Tri-County Mennonite Homes is seeking women and men of any age interested in a career as a Personal Support Worker (PSW). Accredited training will be provided at Nithview Community and graduates will receive a PSW Certificate recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and permanent employment at either Nithview Community or Greenwood Court. Financial assistance for the training is available. An information session will be held at Nithview Community, 200 Boullee Street, New Hamburg, on Wednesday January 10th at 10:00 a.m. To reserve a place, or for more information, please contact Sandy Hall, Nithview Executive Director (519-662-5101), or Joyce Penney, Greenwood Executive Director (519-276-3302).

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 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 or call 519-422-3200.

From Mennonite Conference of Eastern Canada:

You have gifts that the MCEC community needs!

The MCEC Gift Discernment Committee has begun its work of filling vacancies on the MCEC slate in preparation for the 2018 Annual Church Gathering. If you would like to share your gifts with MCEC, please contact Joan Schooley to complete a nomination form.

Likewise, if you know of someone you would like to nominate, call Joan with their name and contact information.

You are also welcome to talk to anyone on the MCEC Gift Discernment Committee about exploring how you can partner with MCEC: Jeff Taylor, Gladys Bender, Peter Janzen and Gao Hlee Vang.

Michel Monette responds to Haitian neighbours

MCEC facilitating resources - Your opportunity to help

Michel Monette, co-pastor of Hochma an MCEC church in Montreal, has rallied dozens of church leaders in his neighbourhood to respond to the flood of Haitian refugees into his city, and he could use your help.

Haitians fled their homes after the earthquake of 2010 and their country's slow recovery thereafter. Many of them went to the United States, but now they are uprooting once again to come to Canada because they fear President Donald Trump's named policy to end their 'temporary protected status.' Since July of this year 7000 asylum seekers have crossed the Quebec-New York state border to come to Montreal.

The coalition Michel has formed has plenty of hardworking hands, good ideas, and time to listen to stories of the uprooted Haitians, but they lack some crucial necessities.

MCEC is facilitating donations. Please go to www.mcec.ca and click on the Donate button. Designate your contributions "Haitian Montreal" and it will go to Michel and his network of other churches so that they can continue this important work.