

Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church

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

Vol. 38 February 11, 2018 No. 6

Pianist: Janna Lynn Cressman Chorister: Lois Cressman
Speaker: Hendrike Isert Bender

Gather to Worship

- Prelude
- Welcome
- Time of Anticipation
- Call to Worship
- Invocation
- Hymn # 12 (blue)Come, let us all unite to sing
- Hymn # 121 (purple)Nothing is lost on the breath of God

Hearing God’s Word

- Children’s Storyled by Tammy Shantz
- HymnIf I were a Butterfly
- Parent-Child Dedication
- Hymn # 90 (green)Lord, we bring to you our children
- Scripture ReadingI Corinthians 9: 24-27
- Sermon
- Hymn # 546 (blue)Guide my feet

Turn to Jesus

- Offering
- Announcements
- Sharing Time & Prayer of the Church

Go with the Spirit

- Hymn # 89 (green)I was there to hear your borning cry
- Benediction
- Time of Reflection

Sunday School Class

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| 1. Preschool & Kindergarten | Downstairs |
| 2. Primary Class | Downstairs |
| 3. Junior Class | Balcony |
| 4. Elective – Importance of Inclusion | Downstairs Hall |
| 5. Current Affairs and Sermon Discussion Classes | Sanctuary |
| 6. Bible Study Class | Upstairs Library |
| Coffee/Juice Prep: Janet Cressman | Clean Up: Andy Kirkland |

Next Sunday – February 18

Worship Leader: Tammy Shantz Speaker: Matthew Isert Bender
Music Leaders: Praise Team
Children’s Story Leader: Tammy Shantz
Coffee/Juice Prep: Ross & Bethany Ruby
Clean Up: Jeannette Cressman

Nith Valley Events:

- TODAY. During the Sunday School hour, Jessica Rivers will be leading a discussion on inclusion. We invite all members who are interested to think and hear about our desire and hope to be a community who deeply cares for our most vulnerable young people to join in this discussion.
- Wed. Feb. 14, 7 pm. Ash Wednesday Service. This service will give you time for contemplation and introspection and will follow the same format at the last few years.
- Sat. Feb. 17. Annual Nith Valley Women’s Retreat. Plan to join us in the church basement. Our theme is "Celebrating Gardens". In the midst of cold, wintry days we hope to lift your spirits with renewed excitement for the promise of new life and warm weather. A sign up sheet is posted in the foyer for attendance and food donations. We'll start the day at 10:00 am and end mid-afternoon.

From Christian Formation Ministry Team:

A Sunday School teacher, or team of teachers is needed to lead the Sermon Discussion class, beginning March 11.

Volunteer Needed:

We need a volunteer to be the Relief Sale Cookie Table Convener. Lara Shantz will pass on some supplies, and information to help the new person get oriented.

Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp and Retreat Centre's 36th Annual Bowlathon will be held on Saturday, March 3. This is the camp's main fundraising activity. Last year, \$34,000 was raised! This money is used for capital expenses. Please show your support by sponsoring Dan Cressman, or donating online at hiddenacres.ca/bowlathon
Thank you!

Community Events:

- Tues. Feb. 13, 5-7 pm. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at the Wilmot Rec Centre. Cost is \$10 (adults), \$5 (child). For tickets call 519-662-9372.
- Thurs. Feb. 14, 7-9 pm. The Living Room Peer Support Group will discuss, 'What type of love are we looking for on Valentine's Day?' Group meets once a month at Mannheim Mennonite Church.
- Sat. Feb. 24. Coldest Night of the Year Walk. Gather some friends and walk 2, 5 or 10 km. Call the Wilmot Family Resource Centre (519-662-2731) for more info.

Update from PCRC & Church Council:

In the last few months we have begun the process of a pastoral transition. Matthew and Hendrike will have their final Sunday on March 4th. This will be a Sunday of celebration to reflect on their past 17 plus yearsfo. with Nith Valley! There will be a potluck following Sunday school and an open mic for sharing memories.

PCRC ministry team has met multiple times with MCEC and with approval from church council have submitted an application seeking an intentional interim pastor for a 24 month period beginning sometime after March 4th when a suitable candidate is made available for our church. If you have any questions about this process please see any member of PCRC: Dan, Brenda, Lyle, Janet, or Jackie.

Susan Cressman will be putting together a photo memory album to present to the Isert-Bender family on March 4th. If you have any photos from the past 17 years that you wish to contribute please email her : cressman7@gmail.com or give her hard copies. The deadline for contributing phots is Feb. 15.

Nith Valley Camp Sponsorship Fund:

The Christian Formation Ministry Team along with the Sunday School Team are committed to supporting faith formation beyond our Sunday morning Sunday School hour. As a Church we recognize and affirm that summer camp is one such opportunity. Camp is an important faith forming experience for many children. We believe a camp experience is unique as it allows children and youth an opportunity to explore God's creation in new ways.

The Camp sponsorship Fund exists to encourage all children to experience at least one year of summer camp at an MCEC affiliated camp (Hidden Acres, Silver Lake, Fraser Lake, and Ontario Mennonite Music Camp.) All children between ages 6-18 can draw upon this fund once every five years. The amount given will be \$250 each time the fund is used. To enquire more about this fund speak with Treasurer, Andy.

**Litany of
Parent and Child Dedication
February 11, 2018**

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 Levy-James and the seed of faith planted deep within him.

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 this 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.

Elder:

When a parent presents her child to God before the congregation, she comes to thank God for the life entrusted to her, to offer her 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 her for the child's well being and to receive the child into the care of the church.

Parents:

I celebrate the miracle and gift of life. I want to teach Levy-James the way of faith in Christ by example and by my words. I ask for your support in my task of parenting. I need your encouragement and I entrust my children to your loving care.

Pastor:

I invite all of you to stand and show your support to Susan.

Congregation:

We want to share responsibility for the nurture and care of Levy-James. We are prepared to support this family with our love, encouragement and prayers. We promise to enfold them all with Christian love and acceptance.

Pastor:

Levy-James, 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 child to the strong and tender providence of God. We rejoice with you and give thanks for the gift of your child. We promise, with humility and seriousness, to share in your child's 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 Chest (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 Levy-James grows in his awareness of God's presence and love in his life, he can collect more items for the faith chest; items which are significant to him.

Blessing (all)

Levy-James, 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 (S the J) - Lord, we bring to you our children