

Welcome to Nith Valley Mennonite Church

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

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Worship Leader: Tammy Shantz

Pianist: Janna Lynn Cressman **Chorister:** Lois Cressman

Speaker: Greg Yantzi

Focus Statement: On this third Sunday of Advent we rejoice and join with the voice who calls out from the wilderness, converting us to the way of God’s justice. Out of this rejoicing comes the call to make changes in the way we live so that this justice may be shared with others.

Gather to Worship

Prelude
Welcome
Time of Anticipation
Call to Worship
Invocation

Hearing God’s Word

Hymn # 318 (blue)Joy to the world
Hymn # 13 (green)My soul is filled with joy
Children’s Storyled by Lois Cressman
Scripture Reading - Luke 3:7-18 "A Voice"
(from "Jesus: A Novel" by Walter Wangerin Jr.)
Hymn # 30 (purple)Arise, your light is come!
Sermon ‘Rejoicing in God's Justice’

Turning to Jesus

Hymn # 124 (purple)O worship the Lord
Offering
Announcements
Sharing Time and Prayer of the Church
Hymn # 427 (blue)You shall go out with joy

Go With the Spirit

Benediction
Time of Reflection
Postlude

Sunday School Class

	Location
1. Preschool & Kindergarten	Downstairs
2. Primary Class (gr. 1-5)	Downstairs
3. Junior Class (gr. 6-12)	Balcony
4. Worship Discussion Class	Downstairs Hall
5. Current Affairs Class	Sanctuary
6. Bible Study Class	Upstairs Library

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

Next Sunday – December 23:

4th Sunday of Advent: Blessing and Restoration
Worship Leader: Kathryn Cressman Speaker: Greg Yantzi
Pianist: Susan Cressman Chorister: Terry Keller
Children’s Story Leader: Lois Cressman
Please note: There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 23.

Nith Valley Events:

- Tues. Dec. 18, 7 pm. The Fellowship Ministry Team has planned a carol service at Nithview Home for all residents. Everyone is invited to join us in the Nithview auditorium (main floor). Bring your singing voices and plan to fellowship with our Nith Valley family who call Nithview home.
- Fri. Dec. 21, 6-8 pm. Gym night: Join us for some Christmas themed games at Bethel Church in New Dundee.
- Mon. Dec. 24, 7 pm. Christmas Eve service. Invite your neighbours and friends to join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ with music and readings in a candle-lit setting.
- Sun. Dec. 30, 9:45 am. Joint worship service with Wilmot Ignited Churches at Wilmot Mennonite Church with special music, carols and readings. Bring leftover Christmas goodies to share with coffee, tea and apple cider following worship. There will not be a service at Nith Valley that morning.

Financial Update:

Budget givings to Nov 30/18	\$100,855.28
43/52 of 2018/19 Budget	\$117,960.58
Shortfall	\$17,105.30

Donations are still needed for the Retreat Fund as it contains a \$2,300 deficit. Deadline for givings eligible for a 2018 tax credit will be Sun. Dec. 30.

From PCRC Ministry Team:

Coming sometime in the new year Greg Yantzi (interim pastor) will plan to meet with each family unit. Here are some questions to ponder or take notes on in preparation for this:

- *When do you feel closest to God or when are you at peace in your life?
- *What helps your faith to feel real?
- *What is one thing you love about Nith Valley currently?
- *What is one thing you would like to see in the future that is different?
- *What does the physical building and meeting place mean to you and your family?
- *What do you think is God's Vision for Nith Valley 5 years or 10 years from now?
- *Or, if we were just starting Nith Valley as a church, what would it look like? Where would we meet? What would worship services look like? What programs/activities would there be?

Please speak to anyone on the PCRC ministry team (Greg, Jackie, Janet, Brenda, Lyle & Dan) with your questions/comments or suggestions.

Community Events:

- Fri. Dec. 21, 6:00 pm (soup supper), 7:00 pm (service). Longest Night of the Year service at St. George Anglican Church (3 Byron St, New Hamburg). Join us for a service of lament and hope.

From MCEC - International Witness Workers Update:

Tany Warkentin, former mission worker in Burkina Faso, shares about the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso's 40th anniversary: From November 23 to 25, at least 1,000 people gathered, including members from all of the 25 churches and over 30 international guests. Worship, teaching, feasting, singing and dancing filled these three days. Matching outfits were worn by each church and women stayed up all night cooking for the final meal together (for which two cows were butchered). Praise God for the joy and commitment with which the Burkina Faso churches serve God and share God's love with others. Pray that the people will receive the presence of God in times of joy and difficulty."