

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

Second Advent ~ December 6th, 2015

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Gathering	Bethany Bell Choir
Call to Worship & Candle Lighting	Joachim Dau
Worship in Song	
“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” HWB #178	
“To us a Child of Hope is Born” HWB #189	
“We Will Know Him”	Choir
Congregational Life & Announcements	Joachim Dau
Offering Focus- MCC Christmas Gifts	
Musical Offering	Bethany Bell Choir
Proclamation	
Children’s Moment	Katrina Metsa
“Advent Meditation”	Choir
Scripture: Luke 1:26-38, pew Bible p. 991	Ingrid Dau
“Picture of Mary”	Marty Misener
Sending	
“Walk in the Light”	Choir
Postlude	Bethany Bell Choir

Today’s Nursery Helpers: Kathe Wiens & Wendy Janzen

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*“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”* expresses our desire to share our faith and love of Jesus Christ with all we meet. We welcome you and hope that your time with us will be enjoyable and enlightening. Families with children are invited to worship together with us in the service. For children 5 yrs old or younger who are not able to sit through the church service, there is a nursery downstairs, or a glassed-in room behind the sanctuary where you may sit with your baby and still follow the service. If you feel a sense of belonging, you are most welcome to be with us. Talk to us about how you can participate.  
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German Worship Service – 10:00 am

Andachtsleiter: Lani Gade – Grusswort: Gal.4:4-5

Orgelspiel: Giesela Doerwald

Chorlied: “Ich Klopfe An”

Opfergaben Fokus: MCC Christmas Gifts

Lied: GB #42 " Gott sei Dank durch alle Welt"

Chorlied: “Hoer den Fremdling an der Tuer”

Schriftwort: Luk. 21:25-33; Jak.5:7-8

Botschaft: “Advent-- trotz allem” – Hans H. Dau

Lied: GB #46 "Mit Ernst o Menschenkinder"

JOYS & CONCERNS:

Daniel and Ana Janzen joyfully announce the arrival of Elijah Liam, born on November 10th. Proud grandmother is Helena Janzen and great-grandmother, Susanne Janzen.

Werner Janzen sends along his sincere thanks to everyone, especially Rudy & Sharon Dirks and John & Kaethe Tiessen, for all of the visitations, prayers and well-wishes. He looks forward to seeing you all soon.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Today we welcome Marty Misener who joins us as our guest preacher! Marty currently resides in Welland Ontario with his wife, Chelsea, and two children. He was the Associate Pastor at Bethany Mennonite Church for four years. He now works at the Southridge Shelter as a Resident Service Manager and helps reveal the love of Christ to some of the most vulnerable people in the Niagara region who are experiencing homelessness. He is currently in his final year of his Masters of Divinity at Tyndale where he is specializing in Mission and Intercultural Studies. Thank-you, Marty, for ministering to us today!

Welcome to the Bethany Handbell Choir who are joining the Worship Service this morning! Under the leadership of Tracey Frena, the choir performs at various events throughout the Niagara Region and their slogan is "Children Helping Children." Thanks for joining us this morning!

Please note that Pastors Rudy & Sharon Dirks are on vacation until December 30th, visiting their children Keith & Shawna and granddaughter Noelle in New Zealand. Please direct pastoral concerns during this time to Pastor Stephen Cox.

Interactive sermons will resume on **January 3rd**.

Copies of the December Church calendar are available at the Welcome Centre.

Refugee sponsorship update 6: News about the family we have agreed to sponsor is hard to come by. So far, we are expecting a couple in their late forties, two young men aged 19 and 20 (who will be government-sponsored but are related to our case), a 10-year-old boy, and two girls, 9 and 13. Altogether, 23 privately-sponsored Syrian refugees are being processed for resettlement in the St. Catharines area; we just don't know when they will arrive.

Donation of household goods: please check the sign-up sheets in the mailbox area to see if there are needs unmet. If you have winter clothing to give away, please hang onto it for a while longer. Thank you for all your support!

Turkey Supper tickets are on sale! Two Turkey Suppers are being offered this year: **Fri. Dec. 11th & Sat. Dec. 12th**. Tickets are \$15 each and are available in the foyer before and after the service and in the office through the week.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Please note there will be a change to the traditional 7:00 p.m. start time of the children's program. This year it will be starting at 6:00 p.m. Evelyn and Donna have been very busy getting the Sunday School kids ready for Christmas Eve.

Have you been baptized? Beginning **January 10th**, baptism classes will be held on Sunday mornings at **10:00 am** in the boardroom. These classes will focus on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, and to prepare for baptism. The class is open to anyone who has made a commitment to follow Jesus, or who wishes to do so, and who wants to take the next step of obedience to Christ in baptism. If you are interested please call the office at 905-468-3313 or email office@redbrickchurch.ca

Thank-you to all of the dedicated volunteers who ever so generously fold the bulletins for us each week! We truly appreciate your service in this way! As we near the end of our calendar year, our current bulletin folding schedule also ends. Please kindly consider if you would be willing to help serve in this way in 2016. All current volunteers will automatically be included on the next schedule unless they contact the office by **December 15th**, requesting not to continue. Any new volunteers, please contact April before **December 15th** to be included. Thanks again to all of the volunteers from our 2015 schedule!

Church Use Reminder: We have a great many activities that run in the church on a regular basis, as well as many specially scheduled one-off events. All of the scheduling and coordination for the use of our church facility is managed in our church office. Please keep in mind that all meetings, gatherings, events, etc. must be booked through the church office. We have Reservation Request forms on the table outside of the office, or you can phone or email the office to request your booking. Thank-you.

We need approximately \$94,000 (\$23,500 per week) by the end of December to meet our budget of \$422,600. Please be generous so that we can meet all of our obligations. Donations can be made conveniently online, by debit, by direct bank or internet transfer, and of course by cash or cheque. Thank you.

Offering of November 29th: \$13,359.50			
Budget	\$9,324.50	MCC General	\$1,295.00
Capital Fund	\$530.00	MCC Food	\$100.00
NUMC Refugee Sponsorship	\$1,210.00	MCC School Kits	\$320.00
Christian Witness	\$180.00	Menn. Cntr Ukraine	\$400.00
Attendance November 29th: Joint Worship Service – 230 Adventsfeier Service - 223			

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (December 7th – December 13th)

Tuesday: No Women in Service this week

Wednesday: 6:30 pm Pioneer Club
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting

Thursday: 7:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday: 6:00 pm Turkey Supper

Saturday: 6:00 pm Turkey Supper

Next Sunday, December 13th - Third Advent

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice- in the Sanctuary

9:45 am Primary & Junior Singing – on the 1st and 3rd Floors

10:00 am Sunday Morning Youth – in the Youth Room

11:00 am Worship Service– Message by John Tiessen

Next week's Nursery Helpers: Matt & Melanie Scott

For a complete listing of church events, please see our online calendar on our church website.

YOUNG ADULTS:

Serving and Learning Together – SALT Are you between the ages of 18 and 30? Looking for ways to use your skills to make a difference in the world? Consider living out your faith as you learn and serve alongside MCC partners in countries around the world! Be challenged! Be changed! Explore MCC's SALT program.

CMU Study Tour to the Middle East (Jordan and Israel/Palestine): April 25-May 16, 2016. Join Prof. Gordon Matties on a journey in time to the land of the Bible. Meet people working for peace and reconciliation today. For more information visit cmu.ca/studytour or email gmatties@cmu.ca.

Advent Sermon Series: "Called to Christ"

This advent season we remember that God is taking action in our lives. God not only sees us, understands our situation, and cares; but He acts within our lives to bring about good purposes. During advent we will encounter God's calling action on several of the main characters in the Nativity story. These encounters will help us to discover how God is at work in our lives. As we are 'Called to Christ' this Christmas, may we be blessed by the goodness of God's divine plan through Christ, and encouraged by God's continuing action in our lives.

November 29th – Zechariah's Call – Message by Stephen Cox

December 6th – Picture of Mary - Message by Guest Speaker Marty Misener

December 13th - Joseph – Message by John Tiessen

December 20th - The Shepherds – Message by Guest Speaker Al Rempel (MCEC)

December 25th - Jesus the Christ – Message by Stephen Cox

December 27th - The Wise Men – Message by John Tiessen

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA:

Your gift to Mennonite Church Canada this Advent season is an extra special expression of generosity to those around the world whose lives are being transformed by biblical literacy for peace building in the way of Jesus. Visit www.mennonitechurch.ca to give.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

The Canadian government has indicated it will provide matching funds for donations from individual Canadians to relief efforts in Syria until December 31st. ***To be eligible for matching dollars, cheques must be made out to MCC directly by the donor.*** You can mail your cheque, made out to Mennonite Central Committee to: **Mennonite Central Committee, 203-50 Kent Ave, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 3R1.** You can also donate online at: mcccanada.ca/syria-iraq. You are welcome to place your cheques in the offering bag on Sunday morning and we will forward them to MCC, but please remember to make them out to MCC as funds made payable to our church will not be eligible for the matching program. Thank-you for your eagerness and generosity in helping to support this cause.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

Thank You!! Thank you to everyone who baked, helped and attended the Pleasant Manor Christmas Bake Sale and to the Auxiliary for all their work and volunteered time. The sale was a huge success, **\$5,054.18** was raised.

OP Young Adults (ages 18-30ish) are hosting a Christmas event called "Connecting Young Adults in Niagara!" on **Sunday, Dec. 6, 6:30 pm** for an evening Worship, Word and Food. Please bring a non-perishable food item for Newark Neighbours. Find us on Facebook: YAM Niagara Christmas Edition. For info. contact Eric & Laura Dick at 905-357-4697 or dick.eric@gmail.com

A Night in Bethlehem: Experience the sights, sounds, and excitement of the very first Christmas. Bring friends and family to Redeemer Bible Church, 3017 Montrose Road, Niagara Falls, **Saturdays, December 5 and 12 from 6 pm to 8:30 pm or Sundays, December 6 and 13 from 1 pm to 4 pm.** This is a free indoor family event to experience first-hand the excitement of a first-century marketplace. Meet Bethlehem's citizens. Create interesting crafts. Enjoy delicious treats. A joyous walk-through experience for everyone with non-perishable food donations gratefully welcomed for Project SHARE.

St. Catharines 25th Annual Civic Carol Concert: **Tuesday, December 8th** at St. Thomas Anglican Church. Doors open at 11:30 am. Concert begins at noon. Free Admission. Various singers and high school choirs perform classic Christmas carols. Concertgoers are encouraged to sing along with the performers. Susan Venditti, director for Start Me UP Niagara, will offer her perspective on the meaning of Christmas. A free will offering will be taken. Since 1990, \$75,000 for Community Care has been raised.

The Torchmen Quartet presents A Christmas Homecoming Concert- Come and enjoy this free concert as we celebrate with the music of the Christmas season- all are welcome. **Friday, December 11th @ 7:00 pm** at Bethel Baptist Church, 10 Arlington Ave., St. Catharines. See poster for further details.

Christmas Coral Concerts: On **December 20 @ 4:00 pm** enjoy an early evening of Christmas carols and classics at the Fairview Mennonite Church, Geneva St., St. Catharines by the Fairview Choir, guest instrumentalists and vocal soloist, NUMC's own, Jonathan Bradnam. A freewill offering will be taken to support local and global charities. Join us for light refreshments following the concert. Follow this up by attending NUMC's Candle Light concert at our church beginning at 7:00 that evening to complete a beautiful day of blessed Christmas music.

Do Anabaptists have their own unique theology, or do they "just" have Christian theology? What is theology, anyway? Join us for this one-day participatory workshop on "Exploring Anabaptist Theology" on **Saturday, January 9** at Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church (cost \$40). Roberson Mbayamvula is the instructor, and so you can expect a very fascinating

day! Both laypeople and pastors warmly welcome. For information or to register, contact Matthew Bailey-Dick (Anabaptist Learning Workshop) at mrbailey@uwaterloo.ca or 519-885-0220 ext. 24267.

Fathers & Kids Retreat: January 15-17, 2016 at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp: Skating on the lake, building snowmen and igloos in the field, following animal tracks through the woods, roasting smores over the campfire, playing board games by the fire in the dining hall and just being at camp is loads of fun, but the best part is doing it with dad! For more information and to register visit www.slmc.ca/retreats or call 519-422-3200. Please note “father” can be defined as any male role model or mentor.

Registration is now open for the Canadian School of Peacebuilding, June 13-17 & 20-24. Go to csop.cmu.ca or e-mail csop@cmu.ca for more information and to apply for your choice of five-day courses on topics such as indigenous peacebuilding, peace skills, arts and peacebuilding, trauma healing, community development, peacemaking circles, and biblical hope and healing.

NUMC Services & Sermons are available online.

Individual Sermons or Sermon Series are available for purchase, formatted on CD or DVD. Please place your order through the church office.

If you have missed a sermon and wish to go back and review it, all of these are available to you on our church website. If you require assistance with this, please contact April in the office.

Live Streaming Privacy Notice – Our church services are live streamed over the internet, capturing the stage and up to the front half of the church in the picture that is transmitted. We encourage all ages to sit towards the front of the church to showcase our lively and active congregation! Thanks for your support.