

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

November 26th, 2017

~ *Eternity Sunday* ~

“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 3 years 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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Our Lighthouse program, which is a time of fellowship and learning for those aged 4 years to Grade 6 is held each Sunday during the Worship Service. Those in Grade 7 and 8 are also welcome to attend. The children will be called to the front for the Children’s Moment and then released after that. Parents may pick up their children in the Education Wing at the end of the service.

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Current Mini-Series...

Giving to Your Heart’s Content Series

At a time of the year when giving is so much on our minds, today Pastor Dave wraps up a two-part sermon series entitled – ***Giving to your heart’s content*** – the crucial matter of bringing God into your giving plans. This series explores the following topics:

The Spirit of Giving - Giving is the overflow of joy in God that gladly meets the needs of others. (*November 19th*)

What to Give - Percentage giving is a heartfelt choice to honour God from the resources He has entrusted to our care. (*November 26th*)

Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.

Gathering	Rachael Peters
Congregational Life	Joachim Dau
Worship in Song	Praise & Worship
Children’s Moment	Sue Fast

Children exit for Lighthouse

Offering

Offering Focus – see financial section

Proclamation

Scripture Reading

Erika Froese

“What to Give”

Pastor David Lewis

(2 Corinthians 9 :6 - 15)

Sending

Pastor David Lewis

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German Worship Service - 9:50 am

Andachtsleiter: Joachim Dau – Psalm 30, 12-13

Orgelspiel: Giesela Doerwald

Lied: GB #273 “Es ist ein Born”

Chorlied

Opfergaben Fokus: MCC

Lied: GB #406 “Befiel du deine Wege " verse 1, 2, 4

Schriftwort: Lukas 7,11-17

Botschaft: “Der Jüngling zu Nain” – Ramona Neufeld

Upcoming Sermon Series: ‘iChristmas’

We all come at Christmas from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, memories and perhaps, hang-ups. However, there is one reality about his season that cannot be ignored – we can’t get away from its grip. What is it that tugs so strongly? Through a look at the stories of those who actually saw Jesus, we get a glimpse of the compelling nature of the Christmas story and how ‘seeing’ Jesus as they did points to the Jesus that “I” can know. ‘iChristmas’ is a series of talks that will invite you to imagine the impact that living from the perspective of seeing, hearing and knowing Jesus will have on what draws you through this season and beyond.

JOYS & CONCERNS:

Today is Eternity Sunday. We remember those who have passed away over the past year:

David Kopeschny	78	Nov. 24
Justine Konrad	93	Nov. 28
Kaethe Esau	90	Mar. 19
Susanna Schroeder	79	Mar. 18
Margaret Warkentin	89	Mar. 28
Henry Epp	53	Apr. 11
Jacob Neufeld	83	Apr. 23
Elizabeth Schachowskoj	78	Jul. 6
Elisabeth Köhn	91	Aug. 2
Christa Witt	81	Aug. 9
Heinz Dyck	65	Sept. 19
Jacob Reimer	92	Oct. 17

We pray for God's peace and healing to continue to bring comfort to families and friends who continue to grieve the loss of loved ones.

The flowers at the front of the church today are in memory of David Kopeschny who passed away one year ago on November 24th. He is lovingly remembered by his family.

The flowers in the front are in memory of Jake Enns who passed away five years ago on November 30th. He is deeply missed by his wife Anne Marie, children, grandchildren and great-grand children.

The Harder family would like to provide an update regarding John's health. Although John has fought valiantly to recover from heart surgery, the strokes he has suffered have made recovery impossible. As his current quality of life is not maintainable, he and his doctors have decided, with the support of his family, to discontinue the routine of dialysis and transition into palliative care. We are so grateful for the prayers and support we have felt from the congregation during this difficult time. We have felt God's presence and love throughout this ordeal, a testament to the prayers going out on our behalf. We ask that you continue to pray for peace and acceptance of the reality we are facing over the coming days and weeks.

Else Kretschmar (nee Epp) sister to Egon Epp has been called to the Lord on November 19, 2017 at the age of 95. Else was a member of the Krefeld Mennonite Church in Germany.

With much excitement, the Pastoral team shares the joyous news of April Michon's recent engagement to Alan Dohn this past week. A November 2018 wedding is being planned. May God continue to bless their relationship. Heartfelt congratulations to the happy couple!

We have several known members of our direct and extended church family who need to be lifted up to God. Let us remember them with great love as we take them to the Lord in prayer: Audrey Epp, Ernie Pries, Henry Riediger, Rosemary Marshall (stepmother to Debbie Fast), Vern Riediger- may they all be blessed by our God and surrounded by his love, peace, and eternal hope. May the healing spirit of Jesus be present to each one of us today, and may those of us who are walking in health and strength can carry those around us who are experiencing more difficult days.

WITHIN NIAGARA UMC CHURCH:

Youth & Education Director – Job Opening

NUMC is looking for a candidate to fill the position of Youth & Education director. The core responsibility is to plan, organize and co-ordinate the Youth Program. This person is also a resource for the Junior Youth Sponsors and Lighthouse Superintendent.

Details are as follows:

- Part time position - 20 hours per week
- Six-month contract from January 1 – June 30, 2018
- See office for a copy of the Job Description or talk to our current director Ellery Rauwerda.
- Interested individuals should submit their resume to the church office by **Tuesday, November 28th**.

Youth Room/Sunday School Department & Storage Room Clean Out -

The youth room, Sunday School department and some storage rooms received a major clean-out! In addition to some less-than-lovely "treasures" (we'll spare you the details), we have discovered a small abundance of materials that are no longer needed but that may be of interest to YOU! Everything on the tables in the Youth Room is free to a good home. Donations are welcome and will go towards the youth winter retreat in February. Anything left after Sunday, December 3rd will be removed from the church. Come on by any time!

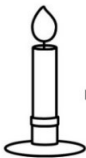
Senior Youth Castle-Building Dodgeball Extravaganza - You know all those boxes in the youth room? It's time to put them into action! Come out for a night of dodging, defending, and demolishing!!! Meet at Niagara UM on **Friday, December 1st at 7:30pm**. Bring friends! See you there!!

Attention! EVERYONE who is working with children, youth or vulnerable persons is **REQUIRED** to attend our church's Safe Places Seminar every two years. ***We still have approximately 35 individuals who are currently serving in ministry roles who have not done this.*** Two seminars were held in September, and due to the high number of people who did not attend, we are holding a third and **FINAL** seminar on Sunday, **December 3rd from 8:45-10:45 am**. If you or someone you are related to or work with has not yet done this, please gently remind them that this is a requirement of our church's policy to work with our church's vulnerable populations and encourage them to register with April for it.

First Advent: Sunday, December 3rd is our First Advent Worship Service. We love to celebrate this important day in the church calendar in various ways!

- Please join us for this Communion Service, at our regular Worship service time, **10:45 am**.
- The Spiritual Council invites everyone to the annual German Christmas Program (Adventsfeier) on **Sunday, December 3rd, at 3:30 p.m.** Celebrate Christmas with the German Church Choir and sing along with your favourite German Christmas carols. Refreshments will be served in the gym/auditorium after the program.
- Please bring cookies and squares to the Adventsfeier at church on the morning of Dec 3rd (before the Worship Service). Please drop off in the kitchen if possible.

Parent Conversations - Parents of children between Grades 6 and 12! Please don't miss out on a chance to share in conversations about the spiritual equipping and nourishment of our youth at NUMC. **Sunday, December 10 at 12:00pm in the 1st floor common area** (area outside the kitchen). A light lunch will be provided! Please sign up by e-mailing Ellery Rauwerda (ellery@redbrickchurch.ca) by **Sunday, December 3rd**.



**The musical
highlight of the
Christmas
season!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday December 16th 7:00pm - Bethany

Sunday December 17th 7:00pm - Niagara

Keep Someone Warm - As the cold of winter sets in, we have a chance to help keep our neighbours warm through this Community Care initiative. Until December 17th, we will be collecting & decorating our sanctuary with warm clothes for all ages. Donations of NEW hats, gloves coats, boots, slippers, PJs, socks, and long underwear for ALL ages are needed. Please leave donations in the Community Care barrel in the bottom foyer. Our youth will take care of the decorating! Any questions, contact Ellery. Thank you for your generosity!

Library News! Check out the new books in the library on the windowsill.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Debit Machine – It was brought to our attention this week that the debit machine has not been working. It is all fixed now. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Thank you for all your generous donations! God brings us together as a church community in such a way that each of us has something unique to contribute. By supporting our church financially, we are encouraged to grow in our faith, discover our gifts and share them with our community. We need approximately \$109,000 (\$18,155 per week) by the end of December to meet our budget of \$410,000. 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.

Offering of November 19th: \$12,341.40			
Budget	\$ 11,069.40	MCC General	\$ 420.00
Christian Witness	\$ 285.00	MCC Food	\$ 330.00
Teenage Evangelism in		MCC School Kits	\$30.00
Niagara Region	\$107.00	Menn. Disaster Service	\$ 100.00

Offering Focus –In addition to your budget commitment, this month we encourage your support of MCC. Donations can be directed to their overall operations (where most are needed), or you can specify specific projects such as food for the hungry, school or other relief kits, Generations at Risk (HIV/AIDS) or disaster relief. Please mark your envelope accordingly. Any church donations not allocated to a specific cause will be directed to our budget.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

Rohingya Refugee Crisis: The Canadian government announced that it's matching donations designated for the Rohingya refugee crisis. For every eligible dollar donated by individual Canadians until **November 28**, the government will contribute an equal amount to the Myanmar Crisis Relief Fund. Learn more about MCC's response at mcco.ca/stories.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

Interested in studying at CMU? Apply before November 30th and have your application fee waived. See cmu.ca/apply.

Festive Fare St. Andrew's invites you on **Saturday December 2nd from 9 am- noon** to their Festive Fare for a variety of holiday treats. *Please see their poster on our Community Board for more info.*

On Sunday, December 3, at 7:00 pm, the Niagara Community Male Chorus will present its annual Advent concert, at St. Catharines United Mennonite Church. Free will offering in support of MDS.

Sing Ye Noel You are invited to attend the Advent – Christmas Choral Festival at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 323 Simcoe Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake on **Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m.** The evening will be filled with Carols the church has sung for centuries. Participating are the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Choir, guest choir Evergreen Singers, Esther Giesbrecht conductor, a brass ensemble, all accompanied by piano and organ and directed by Dr. Gerzinus E. Hoekstra. In lieu of admission, a freewill offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

Fairview Community Church invites you to a Choral Christmas Concert featuring guest soloists and musicians on **December 17 at 4:00pm** (455 Geneva St. St. Catharines). Light refreshments will be served following the program.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (November 27th – December 3rd)

Monday: 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study
7:30 pm Niagara Community Male Chorus Practice

Tuesday: 9:00 am Women in Service + Devotions
7:00 pm Adventsfeier Practice

Wednesday: 6:30 pm Pioneer Club

Thursday: 7:00 pm Praise & Worship Practice

Friday: 7:30 pm Sr. Youth

Sunday, December 3rd – First Advent & Communion

8:45 am Safe Places Seminar

9:45 am Choir Practice

10:45 am Worship Service – Message by David Lewis

3:30 pm Adventsfeier/German Advent Program
Followed by Fellowship Time

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

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.

Online Filming Privacy Notice – Our church services are recorded for streaming 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.