

Do You See  
What I See?

Do You Hear  
What I Hear?

Listen To  
What I Say

i Christmas

# *“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”*

## **Niagara United Mennonite Church**

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 ~ *First Advent* ~

**“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.

### **Current 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.

- |             |                                                                                  |                       |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| December 3  | “Do you see what I see?”<br><i>John 1:1-14</i>                                   | Pastor David Lewis    |
| December 10 | “Do you hear what I hear?”<br><i>Luke 2:25 – 32</i>                              | Pastor David Lewis    |
| December 17 | “Do you know what I know?”*<br><i>Luke 2:36 – 40</i> <i>*potential to change</i> | Pastor David Schrader |
| December 24 | “Listen to what I say”<br><i>Luke 2:8 – 14</i>                                   | Pastor David Lewis    |

**Worship Service – 10:45 a.m.**

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Gathering           | Laury Willms  |
| Congregational Life | Linda Friesen |
| Worship in Song     | Choir         |
| Children’s Moment   | Jon Bradnam   |

*Children exit for Lighthouse*

Offering

*Offering Focus – see financial section*

Proclamation

Scripture Reading

Peter Janzen

“Do you see what I see?”

Pastor David Lewis

(John 1:1-14)

Communion

**Sending**

Pastor David Lewis

\* \* \* \* \*

**JOYS & CONCERNS:**

**We have several known members of our direct and extended church family to lift to Heaven as we pray to our Lord above.** Let us continue to stand by our cherished brothers and sisters in Christ with great love as we take them to our God in prayer: Audrey Epp, Ernie Pries, Henry Riediger, John & Lucy Harder, Rosemary Marshall (stepmother to Debbie Fast), Vern Riediger. May the healing spirit of Jesus be present to each one of us today. We are encouraged to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who have experienced joy. How blessed we are to be in God’s family!

**WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:**

**The Search Committee for Leading Pastor is happy to introduce the candidate for Leading Pastor, David Schrader.** There is an insert in today's bulletin with a short bio and also the schedule of activities for the Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> candidating weekend. Details regarding the membership meeting that will take place in the week following December 17<sup>th</sup> will be in next week's bulletin. We continue to be blessed by your prayers and support; let us also keep David and his wife Betty in our prayers as they prepare for their weekend with us.

**Our Adventsfeier Program** will take place **this afternoon at 3:30 pm.** Please join us for our German Choir's performance, followed by refreshments in the gym.

**We have a wonderful Advent-at-Home resource that has been made available for you!** This is suitable for families of all shapes and sizes and is available at no cost to you. Please stop by the Welcome Centre to pick up a copy to take home for your family today!

**The December Church calendar is now available.** Please pick up your printed copy today from the Welcome Centre. The electronic is also always available to you on our website and remains the most accurate and up to date version.

**Please note that the 2018 yearly calendar of German services** has been released. This is available at the Welcome Centre. Please pick up a copy to take home today!

**Thank-you to all of the dedicated volunteers who so generously fold and compile 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 2018. All current volunteers will automatically be included on the next schedule unless they contact the office by **December 14<sup>th</sup>**, requesting their names be removed. All new volunteers, please contact April before **December 15<sup>th</sup>** to be included. Thanks again to all of the volunteers from our 2017 schedule! ☺

**Youth Room/Sunday School Department & Storage Room Clean Out** - The youth room, Sunday School department and some storage rooms received a major clean-out! New items have been added this week. 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 lower hallway just outside 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 **this Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** will be removed from the church. Come on by any time!

**Women in Service:** There is no quilting this week. Instead, please come at **2:00 pm** for our Christmas Tea this **Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**.

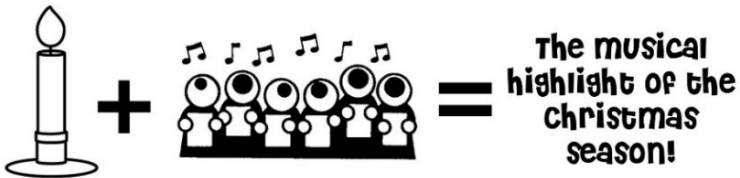
**Ladies Breakfast Reminder!** ALL LADIES are invited to join together for a time of fellowship over breakfast this week on **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, at **9 a.m.** at the Red Rooster in NOTL.

**Senior Youth Pancake-Off: Iron Chef Round 2: Breakfast Edition.** Sweet, savoury, syrupy, salty... What will YOU bring to the ultimate pancake-off?! Some supplies provided. Bring your own to up your game. 7:30pm

at NUMC on **Friday, Dec. 8**. Bring a friend and see you there!! (Waffles also accepted.)

**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**.

**VERY Special Musical Guests Coming to Niagara UM!!** The Music Committee is excited to welcome some wonderful musical guests this Christmas Season. On Sunday December 10th, the **Niagara Community Male Chorus**, under the leadership of the Rempels, will provide music in the 10:45 service. Then on Sunday December 17th, we are thrilled to welcome back **Will Friesen** (all the way from Garden City, Kansas!!) to lead a special music group with Rachael. Join us in filling the pews with friends and family, filling the sanctuary to the rafters with a joyful noise, and in turn, we hope to fill and uplift your spirit in worship! We can't wait!



**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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**CANDIDATING WEEKEND**  
**Friday December 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**CANDIDATE: Pastor David Schrader**

After many years in the role of National Pastor, David Schrader feels called back to pastoral ministry. In early spring, he contacted MCEC to see if there might be ministry opportunities in the Mennonite Church. He learned that our church would have such a position opening up, and felt led to respond to our advertisement for a Leading Pastor.

David says “I came to Christ as a direct result of my grandmother and uncle’s influence.” He was baptized, and shortly after, received his call to the ministry.

He is originally from the Atlantic Provinces and has served in various ministerial roles from Youth Pastor, Hospital Chaplain, Associate Pastor to Senior Pastor. Currently, he serves as the National Pastor for the Congregational Christian Churches in Canada whose mission statement is “Proclaiming Jesus Christ, Making Disciples, Growing Healthy Churches”.

The Search Committee reviewed and discussed David’s MCEC documents and Ministerial Leadership Information and met with David and his wife Betty, on November 8<sup>th</sup>, following up with a formal interview held on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Several comments from the Search Committee members include “the candidate resonates with passion for the Christian faith”; “both the candidate and his wife have a warm and caring openness to them”; “from our conversations and his previous experiences he has a strong sense of calling to carry out God’s work”.

David Schrader and his wife Betty live in Brantford. They have four children and five grandchildren.

The Word of God is alive and powerful.  
---David Schrader

# Schedule for Candidating Weekend

## FRIDAY

### **7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Stop in at the church kitchen to greet the Junior Youth and Sponsors; and the Youth and Sponsors in the youth room.

### **8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Business meeting with Church Council Executive. David Brubacher present.

## SATURDAY

### **9 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

Meet with Church and Spiritual Councils.

### **10:30 a.m. to noon**

Brunch with Young Adult Study Group.

### **1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.**

An Open Invitation to the congregation and all committees, to meet the candidate and his wife. By way of introduction, the Church and Spiritual Councils will present a brief Question & Answer with prepared questions, after which light refreshments will be served. This is your opportunity to meet and greet the candidate and his wife firsthand.

### **Supper**

Invitation received from church member.

## SUNDAY

### **10 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.**

Walk throughout the church and sanctuary to get a feel for Sunday morning.

### **10:25 to 10:35 a.m.**

The pre-worship service meeting for all those involved in the service, takes place in the Meeting Room. John Tiessen is Worship Leader.

### **10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**

Worship Service. Pastor David Schrader has the sermon.

### **12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Lunch.

### **2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Sightseeing and supper.

### **6/6:15 p.m.**

Back at the church.

### **7:00 p.m.**

Candlelight Service.

Refreshments following.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:**

**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 \$95,000 (\$19,000 per week) by the end of December to meet our budget of \$410,000. Please be generous so that we can meet all our obligations. Donations can be made conveniently online, by debit, by direct bank or internet transfer, and of course by cash or cheque.

| <b>Offering of November 26<sup>th</sup>: \$9,570.01</b> |             |                 |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Budget                                                  | \$ 8,055.01 | MCC General     | \$ 575.00 |
| Christian Witness                                       | \$ 20.00    | MCC Food        | \$ 730.00 |
| Menn. Cntr in Ukraine                                   | \$ 20.00    | MCC School Kits | \$120.00  |
| Menn. Disaster Service                                  | \$ 50.00    |                 |           |

**Offering Focus** –In addition to your budget commitment, this month we encourage your support of MCC Christmas Gifts. Any church donations not allocated to a specific cause will be directed to our budget.

## **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, \$5,318.02 was raised.

**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 St., Niagara-on-the-Lake on **Sat. Dec. 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 (December 4<sup>th</sup> – December 10<sup>th</sup>)**

**Tuesday:**     **2:00 pm** Women in Service Christmas Tea  
                  **3:30 pm** New Parents Fellowship with Care Committee  
                  **6:30 pm** Education Committee Meeting  
                  **7:30 pm** Candlelight Choir Practice

**Wednesday:** **6:30 pm** Pioneer Club

**Thursday:**  **9:00 am** Ladies Breakfast @ Red Rooster  
                  **7:00 pm** Praise & Worship Practice  
                  **7:30 pm** Candlelight Choir Practice @ Bethany

**Friday:**       **7:30 pm** Sr. Youth – Pancake-Off

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Second Advent**

**9:20 am**       German Choir Practice  
**9:45 am**       Choir Practice  
**9:50 am**       German Worship Service  
**10:45 am**     Worship Service – Message by David Lewis

*\*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.