

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

## **Niagara United Mennonite Church**

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 ~ *Second 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 this 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.

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|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 | Candidating Sermon<br><i>Scripture to be announced</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 Kathy Rempel  
Congregational Life Erv Willms  
Worship in Song Niagara Community Male Chorus  
Children’s Moment Katrina Metsa

*Children exit for Lighthouse*

Offering

*Offering Focus – see financial section*

Proclamation

Scripture Reading

Rick Froese

**“Do you hear what I hear?”**

Pastor David Lewis

(Luke 2:25 – 32)

**Sending**

Pastor David Lewis

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**German Worship Service - 9:50 am**

**Andachtsleiter: Ramona Neufeld – Grusswort: Psalm 100**

Orgelspiel: Giesela Doerwald

Lied: GB #41 “ Wie soll ich dich empfangen”

Chorlied

Opfergaben Fokus: MCC Christmas Gifts

Lied: GB #46 “ Mit Ernst, O Menschenkinder”

Chorlied

**Schriftwort: Jesaja 40:1-11**

**Botschaft: “ Was soll ich verkündigen?” – Renate Dau Klaassen**

**JOYS & CONCERNS:**

Let us remember the many individuals of our direct and extended church family who covet the support of this praying community as we lift them to our Lord God above. May God continue to minister to and heal our brothers and sisters in Christ who are known to us to be suffering: Audrey Epp, Ernie Pries, Henry Riediger, John & Lucy Harder, Rosemary Marshall (stepmother to Debbie Fast), Vern Riediger. We also trust that Christ knows and heals those who are not listed in the bulletin, and do not publicly come forward, and so we pray for them also. There are always people in our community who need our prayers and the touch of God in their lives. Please lift up one other in prayer and in love, and when possible or potentially helpful, make a visit or a telephone call to cheer someone up. May we be the hands and feet of Christ to each other.

**Please also pray for our post-secondary students** who have reached the end of their semesters and are now in examination periods. May God continue to guide them through their studies and help them to prioritize self-care during this very demanding academic time, especially those living away from home. Let our students look to God for strength and to Christ for their true identity.

**WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:**

**A warm welcome to the Niagara Community Male Chorus this week!**

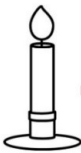
Thank you for your service to our congregation!

**Advent-at-Home family devotional** available at the Welcome Centre to take home for your family today!

**Parent Conversations TODAY!** Parents of youth between grade 6 and grade 12! Today is the day! We are gathering to talk about the spiritual equipping of our youth here at NUMC. Meet at **12:00pm in the 1st floor commons area**. A light lunch will be provided. Even if you didn't sign up, **you are still welcome to join!** Hope to see you there.

**Thank-you to all of the dedicated volunteers who so generously fold and collate 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 by **December 14<sup>th</sup>** to be included. *Thanks again to all of the volunteers from our 2017 schedule!* 😊

**Senior Youth Christmas Party and SUPER SPECIAL GUEST!** We are SO lucky to get a chance to meet our possible new pastor! Pastor David Schrader is coming just for us junior and senior youth on **Friday, December 15 at 7:30pm** sharp - don't miss this chance to show him how AWESOME our youth are! The rest of our night will be a celebration of the season! Gingerbread house decorating, cookies, Christmas movies, and all of us gathered together... what more could we ask for? :) Bring friends! See you there!



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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Saturday December 16th 7:00pm - Bethany**

**Sunday December 17th 7:00pm - Niagara**

**The Return of Will Friesen!!** Will makes the long trek from Garden City Kansas on Wednesday! He'll be practicing with a special music group this week and leading worship next Sunday. We hope to fill the pews with enthusiastic worshipers to sing praises to God, and also to show our thanks to Will for visiting his Niagara family! Mark your calendars!

**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 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. Any questions, contact Ellery. Thank you for your generosity!

**Calling all Bakers!** Please consider bringing cookies and/or squares to share with all who come to socialize after watching the Candlelight Service on **Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>** at the reception in the gym afterwards. Please bring these baked goods in the morning to the kitchen. Thank-you for your generosity!

**Christmas Eve:** Our children in Lighthouse will be performing a play, "*The Cattle are Lowing*" in the evening on Christmas Eve. **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm.** All are welcome.

**Christmas Morning Worship Service-** Our Christmas Day Worship service will begin at **10:45 am on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**. Please feel welcome to invite friends and family.

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### **Special Membership Meeting – December 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm**

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Acceptance of Agenda
- 3) Appointment of Tellers Committee
- 4) Discussion and vote\* to hire Pastoral Candidate David Schrader as Lead Pastor
- 5) Other Business
- 6) Close

\*There will be an advance vote for members that can't be at the membership meeting. Members can vote in advance through the church office on Dec. 18 & 19<sup>th</sup> during office hours.

## LIGHTHOUSE:

- There WILL be Lighthouse **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Christmas Eve-- Lighthouse parents**: please have children at NUMC (3rd floor) **by 5:30 pm** for the play that starts at 6:00 pm.
- There WILL NOT be Lighthouse on **Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**.
- Lighthouse will resume **January 7, 2018**.

## 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 \$84,000 (\$21,000 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 December 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$12,657.00</b> |              |             |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| Budget                                                  | \$ 11,392.00 | MCC General | \$ 775.00 |
| Christian Witness                                       | \$ 420.00    | MCC Food    | \$ 20.00  |
| 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:

**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.

**Niagara Sings!** - Mark calendars for the next Niagara area Mennonite hymn sing on **Sunday, December 31, 3 pm** at Grace Mennonite Church [refreshments following]. An hour-long service of congregational singing and choirs. End the year in song!

## 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

**Special Membership Meeting – Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 7:00 pm.**  
to vote on the Pastoral Candidate.

Advance voting is available for members who can't be there for the Membership Meeting. **Members can vote in advance** through the church office on December 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> during office hours (9am-3pm), by telephone, or by email. No proxy voting is permitted.

# 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.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (December 10<sup>th</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup>)**

**Monday: 7:00 pm** Church Council Meeting  
**Tuesday: 7:00 pm** Candlelight Choir Practice  
**Wednesday: 6:30 pm** Pioneer Club  
**Thursday: 6:00 pm** Wedding Rehearsal  
**7:00 pm** Candlelight Choir Practice @ Bethany  
**Friday: 7:00 pm** Jr. Youth – Cookie Bake & Movie Night  
**7:30 pm** Sr. Youth – Christmas Party & Special Guest  
**Saturday: 1:00 pm** Meet and Greet Q &A with Pastoral Candidate  
Pastor David & Betty Schrader  
**4:00 pm** Wedding Ceremony:  
Bryan Neufeld & Catherine Rougoor  
**6:45 pm** Candlelight Service @ Bethany

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Third Advent**

**9:45 am** Choir Practice  
**10:45 am** Worship Service – Message by Pastoral Candidate Pastor  
David Schrader  
**6:45 pm** Candlelight Service

*\*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.