



Sunday, November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Communion

Worship Service — 10 am

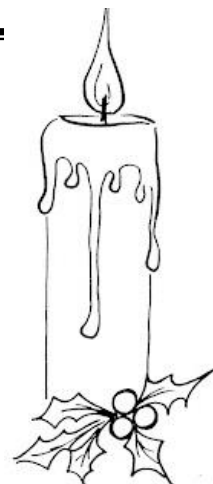
Worship Leader — Chani Wiens

Speaker — Ken Driedger

Growing relationships, in Christ.

Order of Worship

Watch: The day is almost here



Prelude

Announcements

Words of welcome

VT #210, *O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

Call to worship

Candle lighting — VT #219, *Prepare Ye the Way*

Scripture reading — Isaiah 2:1–5

Children's time

Offering with VT #218, *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Offering prayer

Scripture reading — Romans 13:11–14

Message — Clothing ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ

VT #715, *Longing for Light*

Communion

Sharing time

Congregational prayer

VT #215, *Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee*

Benediction



Thank you to our participants today including: *Greg Driedger, Ken Driedger, Debbie Janzen, Mary Krueger, Bob Tiessen, Chani Wiens.*

Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the worship service.

Today . . . The early church combined the celebration of Communion with a program of offering food to the less fortunate. The Missions Team recommends that we follow a similar practice through the donation of grocery cards. Today, come to celebrate Communion and drop off a grocery card for SECC.

Donations can also be made at <https://www.secc.on.ca/donate/>.

Church Life . . .

◆ Community Health Update

On Monday, November 14, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, strongly recommended that people start to wear masks in all indoor public settings, including in schools and child-care settings. The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit also supports this practice and states “mask use in public settings is one small action that can help to mitigate the concerning respiratory illness trends we have seen rising in our community since early November.” We, at NLUMC, feel it is necessary to follow public health recommendations and so we also suggest wearing a mask indoors in public settings. Masks are available in the church foyer for the benefit of all.

◆ Senior’s Christmas Social

Join us on **Tuesday, November 29** at 3 pm at NLUMC for Christmas carol singing and refreshments.

◆ Second Sunday of Advent, December 4

Join us for worship at 10 am on Second Advent when Maida Tiessen will lead worship and Dawne Driedger will bring the message.

◆ Congregational Discernment Exercise

Pastor Al Rempel, MCEC Regional Minister will be leading NLUMC in a Congregational Discernment Exercise. **Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 11, 2022 and Sunday, January 15, 2023.**

Our hope is to be candid about the challenges we are facing and find new energies for what the Holy Spirit is calling us to. There are probably a lot of assumptions that people have, and we want to openly name how each of us may be feeling and what we are thinking during this time of transition. (taken from: “How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going” by Susan Beaumont)

Timeframe: Part 1, December 11, 2022, Message: *Liminal Spaces - What are our blessings and what continues to be energizing to us at NLUMC?*

Congregational exercises (very low threshold items) to be carried out in the four-week timeframe from December 11 to January 15 - eg. creating a sticky note tree with congregants’ ideas, in order to follow emerging themes.

Part 2, January 15, 2023, Message: *Aspiring to follow God in our discipleship* followed by potluck lunch and then a short afternoon talk session: What is already part of our DNA that creates a context for support and encourages us in our aspirations moving forward?

Church Council will continue our discussions as we prepare for these conversations, and we look forward to Pastor Al Rempel facilitating us through

this journey. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please contact someone on Church Council to discuss further.

◆ **Christmas Eve Service is coming up soon!** We are looking for children and adults to participate by singing solos. Also if your family has any “heart songs” or favourite Christmas hymns from the *Voices Together* hymnal, let us know your favourite and what makes it special!

◆ **Coffee Time**

We all love coffee time following the worship service! Volunteers are needed to assist with preparing the coffee. Please contact Nadine Driedger at jerrynadine.driedger@gmail.com if you are able to help. The following date is available; December 18. . . *The Hospitality Team*

◆ **Missions Team News**

► **Keeping Heads Warm! Toques for Kids!** According to Major Judi Wickens at The Salvation Army in Leamington, there are many children, adolescents and adults in our surrounding communities that do not have winter wear. The Missions Team is launching a collection of these warm items **for the months of November and December**. They must be new items...purchased or hand knit. There will be a bin in the church foyer ready for your donations. Let's make the world a better place by helping our neighbours to keep warm this winter. Thanks!

► **Community Meals.** We are grateful for ongoing congregational support for the Community Meals program in which we participate at St. John's Anglican Church. Our church continues to plan, prepare and package meals on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Need has increased, and we now plan for between 140 and 150 meals. Costs have also increased, although thanks to excellent meal planners, we are still able to provide healthy, satisfying meals.

Thanks to those who help by making desserts, and to those who come to prepare, cook and package the meals. Inside dining is not yet taking place.

A big thanks to Dino DiLaudo and Topline for their donations of fresh, healthy produce. These donations allow us to prepare meals that are nutritious and appealing!

We still have a good balance in our meal account, so we will not be setting the community meal table this year. Donations are still very welcome throughout the year and can be made in the offering envelope by referencing Community Meals on the subject line.

◆ **Budget Update**

December 1, 2021 – November 25, 2022 (98.6% of year) \$280,100 (96.7%) of our \$289,718 unified church budget has been donated. Give prayerfully, joyfully and generously as God has given to you.

◆ Donations to NLUMC are Accepted by —

- 1) Automatic transfers – contact Susan
- 2) E-transfer – email treasurer@nlumc.com - include member # in message
- 3) Mail donation to church address
- 4) Offering on Sunday morning

Contact Susan Klassen, office@nlumc.com; or Brenda Klassen, treasurer@nlumc.com

Community/Conference Events . . .

◆ UMEI Christian High School News

▶ **Let us cook dinner for you!** UMEI is holding a community cabbage roll fundraiser. Delicious cabbage rolls, packaged in your choice of six or a dozen per tray and ready to heat and serve. Please place your order by contacting Shelley UMEImeals@gmail.com or 519-796-0252 **before Monday, November 28**. Orders can be picked up from UMEI Thursday, December 1 from 2-5 pm or from the Heritage Center 2-4 pm.

▶ **Christmas Concert is Thursday, December 8** at 7 pm in the chapel. All are welcome to attend.

▶ **UMEI Senior Drama** presents *The Giver*; book by Lois Lowry, adapted by Eric Coble, directed by Jill Suta. Opens **Friday, December 16**, 7 pm. Matinee **Saturday, December 17**, 2 pm. Tickets on sale at the door. Attention teachers, daytime performances to host your class, Grade 6+ are now listed at www.umei.ca/theatre

◆ Erie Shores HealthCare's 28th Annual Lights of Life

tree-lighting and memorial service on **Sunday, December 4** at 7 pm at Erie Shores HealthCare, 194 Talbot Street West, Leamington. Dedicate a bulb and let the Christmas spirit shine on your hospital and your community. Forms are available at Shoppers Drug Mart (Leamington) or Kingsville IDA Pharmacy. Funds raised are being used for spiritual care for families and friends in their time of need.

◆ Intergenerational Christmas Musical

The Bank Theatre and Faith Mennonite Church present “*Boogie Down to Bethlehem*” with director, Linda Collard, and musical director, Janice Founk. Performances are **December 9, 10 & 11**, at The Bank Theatre. The event is FREE, however you need to have reserved a seat ahead of time. This is to ensure that no one is left out who wants to see it, and that the seats can be filled to capacity for each performance. To register online for your tickets. Go to <https://banktheatre.com/project/boogie-down-to-bethlehem/>

◆ **Soli Deo Gloria Singers News**

Choral concert “Moving Forward in Hope” on **Sunday, December 11** at 3 pm at Leamington United Mennonite Church. Suggested donation of \$15 at the door. Everyone welcome.

◆ **South Essex Community Council (SECC)** is once again putting together a Christmas Giving Project to give gifts and grocery cards to refugee and newcomer families in need in our community. In 2020 and 2021 with the help of community donations, SECC supported 80+ families and 30+ individuals. We are looking for interested individuals and businesses to sponsor families by purchasing gifts for the children and grocery gift cards for the families. For more information or to sponsor a family, contact Debbie at 519-326-8629 or by emailing ddaher@secc.on.ca.

Junior Youth News

Junior Youth (grades 5-8) will have our Christmas party on **Friday, December 9**, 6:30-8:30 at the church. It will be a time of fun Christmas games and snacks. You won't want to miss it!

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the traditional territory of indigenous peoples. In Leamington, we gather on the traditional, unceded territory of the Caldwell First Nation, and the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi and Huron/Wendat peoples. We give thanks to the Creator and to those peoples who have stewarded this land for generations.

Prayer List . . .

Neighbouring Congregation — Today, in our cycle of prayer, area churches are remembering **Leamington Evangelical Mennonite Church** and their pastor Jacob Enns.

Each week MCEC, **Mennonite Church Eastern Canada**, prays for one of our congregations. This week we are praying for **Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church**, in Kitchener, Ontario.

Connect . . .

- Check out our church website at nlumc.com, including YouTube videos of our past services.
- Watch our Sunday morning service via YouTube livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCdn1sLuXDZYqHsEyd92k0g/featured>
- Get updates on our ministries by joining our Facebook group.

- See photos of what we are doing on our Instagram page.
- Contact the church office, pastor or Council members for more information.

Care . . .

If you are aware of any crises needs or visitation needs within our community of faith, please contact the church office or Linda Driedger, Caregiving Team chairperson, 519-733-6130.

Contacts . . .

Ken Driedger cell 519-329-6215 ken@nlumc.com

David Hrynyk..... cell 613-743-9299 youthleader@nlumc.com

Church Council Chairperson; Brenda Fischer; Council members; Dennis Dick, Dennis Driedger, Brenda Klassen, Sandra Warkentin, Sonya Cornies, Paul Tiessen, Louise Neufeld, Fred Driedger, Linda Driedger, Kevin Fischer, Barb Fischer, Ken Hamm, Lindsey Ecker, Joanne Brown, Maida Tiessen, Greg Driedger.

Church phone: 519-326-7928 Email: office@nlumc.com

Facebook: North Leamington United Mennonite Church.....

Website: www.northleamington.com Instagram: [wethenorthchurch](https://www.instagram.com/wethenorthchurch)

Office hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9 am – 3 pm