



Sunday, December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship Service — 10 am

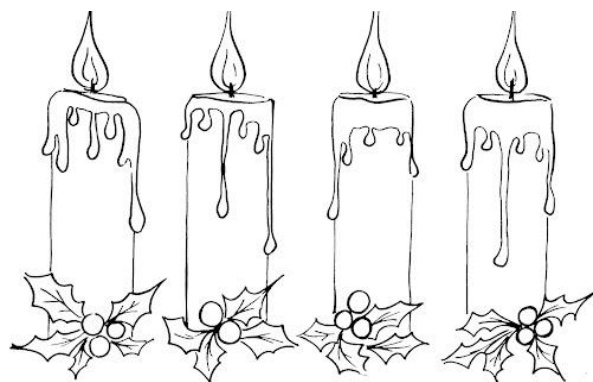
Worship Leader — Joel Epp
Speaker — Ken Driedger

Growing relationships, in Christ.

**10 minutes prior to the worship service,
we will sing a few Christmas carols**

Order of Worship

Do Not be Afraid



Prelude/Carol singing

Announcements

Words of welcome

Hymn VT #265, *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

Call to worship

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

Scripture reading — Isaiah 7:10–16

Children's time

Offering with hymn VT #243, *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Offering prayer

Worship music — Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)

Congregational Prayer of Discernment

Scripture reading — Matthew 1:18-25

Worship music — O Holy Night

Message — Faith in a Time of Fear

Hymn VT #259, *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

Sharing time

Congregational prayer

Hymn VT #249, *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Benediction

Thank you to our participants today including: *Harry Dick, Greg Driedger, Ken Driedger, Helga Enns, Joel Epp, Jordan Neufeld, Justin Neufeld, Sandra Warkentin, Joan Willms.*

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

Church Life . . .

◆ **Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24**, 7 pm. The Christmas Eve service will be a night of music and scripture readings by children and adults from the NLUMC congregation to remind us of the beautiful message of Christmas.

◆ **Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25**, 10 am. Join us for worship as Joanne Brown leads worship and Pastor Ken Driedger shares the message.

◆ **Congregational Discernment Exercise**

Everyone is invited to watch the YouTube worship service from Sunday, December 11 to follow Pastor Al Rempel's message regarding Liminal Spaces. Here is the link to the recording of the NLUMC December 11 service - [NLUMC 12-11-2022 - YouTube](#)

NLUMC is in a time of transition and re-start in 2022/23. How do we find new energy going forward and can we be candid about any challenges we are facing? We have invited Pastor Al Rempel, MCEC Regional Minister to lead us through a Discernment approach outlining the many strong gifts that our congregation envelops.

Timeframe:

1. Launch on December 11, 2022 - message: Appreciating our Liminal Spaces.
2. **Congregational Exercise - now through the Christmas timeframe (low threshold item - placing your thoughts on a sticky note - and placing on the 3D tree at the front of the sanctuary.)**
3. January 15, 2023 - Follow-up sermon, Pot-Luck Lunch, afternoon meeting with congregational input and creating next steps.

We will be following a Discerning Approach

Following is the underlying method of a Discerning approach:

Appreciative Inquiry is a tool that invites people into a space that looks for what is going well and where energy and positive things are happening. Central to the method is a belief that God is already at work in our community in wonderful ways and our task is not to invent opportunities for God to work but to recognize and align with God's moves today and in the future. Our approach is not to look at what we are not, but to appreciate who we are and what we are uniquely and well gifted to become.

The following outline of assumptions helps individuals to appreciate the difference between a common Deciding approach to a Discerning approach.

A Deciding Approach — Assumptions:

- Most problems are solvable if approached carefully and logically.
- We have the capacity to understand and solve our own problems and embrace our own opportunities

- Maximizing the use of available resources is important
- Maintaining or restoring order is important

A Discerning Approach — Assumptions

- God is not neutral about our mission or our choices
- God is self-disclosing
- The Holy Spirit is our indwelling and ongoing guide.
- Openness of spirit and attitude is required
- God’s will is revealed in community.

(Taken from “How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going” – Susan Beaumont)

2. Congregational Exercise:

What is it about NLUMC that has been a blessing to you - and continues to be energizing to you as an individual?

We are invited to take part in a Prayer Exercise - and the building of a “sticky note tree!”

Each person should listen for God to share with them how NLUMC has been a gift and blessing to them.

Each individual is invited to write a short description of that on a sticky note which can be stuck to our 3D tree at the front of the Sanctuary. The multiple colours of sticky notes will be a wonderful image representing our diversities!

3. Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 15, 2023 to take part in the worship service, pot-luck lunch and afternoon meeting. More details to follow.

We are grateful to God for leading us. We are grateful to God for His unending Grace! With thanks, NLUMC Church Council

◆ Community Building Team News

► The Community Building Team is planning an **inter-generational Games Night** for **Wednesday, December 28** at 6:30 - 8:30 pm. We will have several games and crokinole boards set up and we invite anyone to bring along a new game that they receive at Christmas that they would like to play with others. This is for all ages. Bring along a friend! Coffee and juice boxes will be provided. Bring along plates of Christmas cookies if you have any leftover!

► The Community Building Team is re-introducing ‘**Pizza Night**’ at the Roma Club. Let’s plan for the **second Friday of each month** (mark your calendars!) Bring your family - everyone orders and pays for their own pizza and drink. **Friday, January 13** is the kick-off and we are happy to share that our very own Kim DiLaudo will be the featured live music! (Nick assures us that he can set up extra tables so we can sit together as #wethenorthchurch!)

Doors open 6 – 10 pm. Come as you are available.

◆ **New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1**, 10 am. Join us for worship as Hayden Epp leads worship and David Hrynyk shares the message.

◆ **Thank you to —**

▶ the men who have stepped forward again this year to do the snow removal of our church parking lot, as needed. We appreciate that Dennis Driedger, Len Driedger, Jerry Driedger, and Gerry Willms are committing their tractors and their time for snow removal this winter season.

▶ Ingrid Unger for donating her gently used keyboard to our Sunday School department. Considering the current keyboard would just suddenly cut-out in the middle of a song, this donation from Ingrid could not have come at a better time, as the children are preparing for the Christmas Eve service. Heartfelt thanks to Ingrid, from NLUMC.

◆ **Missions Team News. Keeping Heads Warm! Toques for Kids!**

Thank-you from the Salvation Army for our recent donation of 46 gloves/mittens, 8 scarves and 75 toques/winter hats. Our church community has made our community a WARMER place this winter! Donations for this project will be accepted for one more week. Thankyou.

◆ **Community Health Update.** We, at NLUMC, feel it is necessary to follow public health recommendations and so we also suggest wearing a mask indoors in public settings. We welcome the use of reusable masks. Disposable masks are available in the church foyer.

◆ **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

— **Church Office Holiday Hours** —

Open

Friday, December 23, 9 am – 12 noon

Thursday, December 29, 9 am – 3 pm

Friday, December 30, 9 am – 12 noon

Wednesday, January 4, 9 am – 3 pm

Closed

December 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, January 1, 2, 3.

Community/Conference Events . . .

◆ **Mennonite Burial Society. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held both in person at Scott Street Church, St. Catharines, (www.scottstchurch.ca) and online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7404216638> on **Saturday, January 14** at 2 pm. Agenda will be similar to past AGMs, discussing 2022 results, 2023 levies and benefit payments, and future plans. Board and committee positions are available. Further details available at www.mennoniteburialsociety.com, or Barry Boese at 905-228-1850 or email info@mennoniteburialsociety.com

◆ **UMEI Christian High School News. Experience Day is Friday, January 20.** This event is for Grade 7s and 8s and it is a PA day in the GECDSB board. We will have "preview" classes and chapel in the morning, lunch included, and then games, dodgeball, and prizes in the afternoon. Details and registration are here: <https://umei.ca/experience-day/>

◆ Employment Opportunities

▶ **Part-Time Activity Helper at the Leamington Mennonite Home.** This part-time social-recreational position includes portering to activities, doing crafts and playing games with residents, meal assistance, snack deliveries and companionship. The position can be combined with school attendance – but there also day shifts available during the week, so applicants with daytime availability are also welcome. Applicant should enjoy working with seniors. Shifts include daily, weekend, and early evening activities. Interested applicants should forward their resume to Judy Ferrari at judy@mennonitehome.ca by December 28, 2022.

▶ **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp** is growing and looking to fill three year-round positions: **Fundraising Manager, Program Director and Maintenance Coordinator.** For more information click here:

slmc.ca/about/board-of-directors/ Come make an impact that lasts a lifetime!

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 Christian Centre** and their pastor Dan Tamburo.

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

Our prayers go out to the family of *Eric Tiessen*, husband of Sue, father of Josette Wigle (Chris) and Jen Mastronardi and brother of Annie Neufeld and Rudy (Louise) Tiessen, who passed away Wednesday, December 14. Visitation will be at Reid Funeral Home, Leamington, on Monday, December 19, 2-5 and 7-9 pm. The funeral will take place at Reid Funeral Home on Tuesday, December 20 at 10 am.

Thank you to the many people who came out in support of John Driedger's family. It was truly a celebration of a life well lived. . . *The Driedger family*

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.
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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