



Sunday, December 25, 2022 Christmas Day

Worship Service — 10 am

Worship Leader — Joanne Brown
Speaker — Ken Driedger

Where have you met God this week?

Order of Worship *Sing for joy: Your God reigns*



Announcements
Words of welcome
Hymn VT #261, *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*
Call to worship
Candle lighting with hymn VT #252, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
Congregational Prayer of Discernment
Scripture reading — Psalm 98
Hymn VT #240, *Joy to the World*
Scripture reading — John 1:1–14
Children's time
Offering with hymn VT #254, *O du fröhliche*
Offering prayer
Message — The Foundational Miracle
VT #247, *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*
Sharing joys and concerns
Congregational prayer
VT #241, *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
Words of sending

Thank you to our participants today including: *Joanne Brown, Ken Driedger, David Hrynyk, Debbie Janzen, Keith Klassen, Linda Regehr, Bob Tiessen, Phil Warkentin.*

Church Life . . .

◆ 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.

◆ 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

◆ **Faith Exploration Class.** Early heads-up: For all who may be interested in getting baptized this spring, David and Ken are planning to lead Faith Exploration classes beginning on **February 5**. Stay tuned for more details!

◆ **Missions Team News.** Thanks again from The Salvation Army for our total donation this week of 86 gloves/mittens, 8 scarves and 100 toques/hats. Thanks for all the cozy and colourful hand knit items! Many children in our community are enjoying warmer playtimes this winter because of you!

◆ **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

Thursday, December 29, 9 am – 3 pm

Friday, December 30, 9 am – 12 noon

Wednesday, January 4, 9 am – 3 pm

Closed

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

Community/Conference Events . . .

◆ **Leamington Mennonite Home News**

Starting this week and moving forward, we request that anyone wishing to hold a group gathering with our residents contact the Front Office in advance to make the necessary arrangements. Your request for a group gathering will be reviewed to ensure that it meets the health and safety requirements of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

◆ **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/>

◆ **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp News. Winter and Spring Retreats now open for registration.** Come to Silver Lake in 2023 for some fun camp experiences! Coming up soon are... Dads & Kids Retreat (Jan 13-15), Winter Snowshoe Hike (Jan 20-22), Women's Retreat (Feb 3-5), Couples Retreat (Feb 10-12). Go to [SLMC Retreats & Events](#) for more info and to register. These camp getaways make fantastic Christmas gifts!

◆ **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 **St. Michael's Parish (Roman Catholic)** and their pastor Tom Ferrera.

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

Thank you to all who helped set up tables, bake, and serve at the funeral of John Driedger. It was much appreciated. . . *Marion Driedger and 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.

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 . . .

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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.

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