

Coming Up

Sunday, December 24 at 11:00 am: Worship Service
at 7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service



PASTORAL STAFF

Susanne Guenther Loewen, Co-Pastor
Patrick Preheim, Co-Pastor
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**Gathered to Worship on Treaty 6 Territory
December 24, 2023 at 11:00 am**

In Person and Live Stream Worship Service
Worship Leader: Jared Regier
Accompanist: Susan Ens Funk
Ushers: Eric Neufeld and Audrey Kampen

Advent 4

Children's Song lyrics

**The Virgin Mary had a baby boy (3 times)
And they say that his name is Jesus**

**The angels sang when the baby was born (3 times)
And they sang that his name is Jesus**

**The shepherds came where the baby was born (3 times) And
they say that his name is Jesus**

**Chorus: He come from the Glory,
He come from the Glorious Kingdom.
Oh yes, believer, oh, yes, believer,
He come from the Glory, He come from the Glorious
Kingdom.**

Nutana Park Mennonite Church welcomes into fellowship and membership all persons who confess faith in Jesus Christ, without regard to their race, ethnic background, gender, age, sexual orientation, income, education, ability, and other factors that give rise to discrimination and marginalization.

Prelude		
Welcome, Announcements and Land Acknowledgement		
Call to Worship	Hark! the Glad Sound!	VT #217
Lighting the Advent Candle		Rachel, Jane and Arla Regier
Lighting the Peace Lamp		
Hymn	It Came upon a Midnight Clear	VT #248
Joys and Concerns		
Congregational Prayer		
Hymn	What Child is This	VT #267
With the Children		
Children's Song	The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy	Jake and Barb Ens
Scripture	Isaiah 9: 6-7 Ezekial 34 excerpts	
Sermon	Everlasting Father	Patrick Preheim
Hymn	Away in a Manger	VT #257
Benediction		
Hymn	Joy to the World	VT #240
Postlude		

December 24, 2023: Advent 4- Eternal Protector

Just as today's four Advent candles shed light, O God, illuminate our minds as we expect the coming of Emmanuel, Eternal Protector. By your Spirit, give us the joy and assurance of your everlasting presence. Empower us to carry forward your family promises as your church, showing your love to those most excluded and in need. Amen.

NPMC Announcements

There will be no Christmas Day service at NPMC this year. If you would like to attend a worship service on Dec 25, **Christmas Day service at Bethany Manor at 10:30 am**

DIRECTORY UPDATES - For those of you who have a hard copy of the directory, please find the updated directory inserts in your mailboxes. If you have a hard copy and did not receive a set of inserts, please let Gwen know.

For those of you who were not able to attend the Christmas Banquet OR if you just want another look at the slideshow, you will find it on the private side of the website under the heading Church Life and the tab Christmas Banquet 2023.

SAVE THE DATE - January 19th & 20th - CREATIVE COMMONS - Are you looking for a time and space to let your creative juices flow in the company of friends and uninterrupted by household distractions? Bring your favourite project (quilting, sewing, knitting, organizing photos, scrapbooking, etc.) and enjoy working in a relaxing environment. This retreat is for anyone and everyone and will take place at Nutana Park Mennonite Church and will run on Friday evening from 7:00PM to 10:00PM and Saturday from 9:00AM until 4:00PM. There is also a **DROP IN** option for those who would like to participate but are not available for the entire time. Register with Gwen and let her know what you will need in terms of space to set up (i.e. table, electricity, etc.) and if you are a drop in, when you plan on attending. There will be a registration fee of \$25.00 to cover Saturday lunch and snacks and any other costs incurred.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE is January 14th. If you have any questions, you can ask Fern, Geraldine, Anita or Denelda.

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, February 25th - Come out for an afternoon of winter fun! We will enjoy walking, cross-country skiing, tobogganing and skating in Harold Tatler Park (just steps from church), a parking lot shinny game or crokinole (or other board games) indoors. You can participate in one OR all of the activities! There will be hot chocolate and hot apple cider and popcorn/goodies provided.

Community Announcements

The Youth Farm Bible Camp is inviting you to a Drive Through event this Christmas season. Get tickets online at www.youthfarmcornmaze.com Lights, hand painted billboards, Bethlehem town, and much more. Check out when we are open online. You can also purchase tickets at the gate when you arrive. They are \$22 online or \$25 at the gate.

This Season of Giving (McSask), a portion of your donations are going to support the work of MC Canada. We send over \$8,000 each month to MC Canada for their work, which includes International Witness, Indigenous Relations, Climate Action and CommonWord. Donate at <https://mcsask.ca/giving>

MCC Connects: Looking for ways to be creative this holiday season? MCC Thrift has put together a free resource called 12 Days of Christmas Crafting. Visit this link for twelve crafts that you and your loved ones can create together: <https://mccthrift.com/christmas-crafting>

Prayer Requests from the Shekinah Board of Directors:

- **We give thanks that \$18 000 has already been donated to meet our \$40,000 CEBA loan payment.** Meeting this loan commitment by mid-January greatly reduces our future financing costs. We have been promised another donation of \$10 000 if we are able to raise the remaining \$12 000.

We ask for your continued prayers as we continue to search for a permanent Executive Director. We are thankful that Amy Peters will continue as interim director until the end of January. Audrey Kampen will take on the interim role at that time.

Financial Summary January - November 2023

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Donations	\$348,765	\$401,316	-\$52,551
Expenses	\$387,504	\$401,316	-\$13,812
Surplus (shortfall)	-\$38,739	\$0	-\$38,739
Unfunded Roof Balance	\$1,587		