

NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH
PASTORAL STAFF

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December 6, 2015
Advent 2 -- John the Baptist Sunday
Journey Through the Bible -- Malachi

Vol. L **11:00 a.m.** No. 49

Worship Leader: James Friesen
Accompanist and Special Music: Sharon Klassen, Rhonda Krahn
Advent Candle Lighters: Evelyn Roden, Ruth Wiens
Greeters: Sue & Ron Schellenberg
Ushers: Donna & Ernie Epp

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Prelude  
Welcome and Announcements  
Opening Prayer  
Hymn **Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee** HWB No. 182  
Lighting of the Advent Candle Ruth and Evelyn  
Special Music Rhonda and Sharon  
Lighting of the Peace Lamp  
Children's Time/Song **Mary Had a Baby** insert  
*Child care is provided for young children*  
Offering  
Joys and Concerns  
Congregational Prayer  
Special Music Rhonda and Sharon  
Hymn **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear** HWB No. 195  
Scripture Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5, 6  
Mark 1:2-8  
Sermon **Advent Questions** Patrick Preheim  
What keeps us from experiencing divine grace?  
Who is the messenger preparing the way?  
Where does the refining and soap job get done?  
Will we journey to the wilderness?  
Hymn of Response **On Jordan's Banks** HWB No. 183  
Spoken Benediction  
Sending Hymn **God Be With You** HWB No. 430

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Spotlight on Community Life

Henri Nouwen writes this in his Advent readings: "The mystery of our religion is great". He tells of the revealing in the trinity like this, "In Exodus, God is revealed as a God-for-us, guiding us. Later, in the story of Jesus, God is revealed as a God-with-us, a companion. In the story of Pentecost, God is revealed as a God-within-us, who breathes the divine life into us". This trinity invites us into the inner life of God. How wonderful. He comes to be our companion once again at Christmas. Emmanuel: God is with us.

Spotlight on Nonviolent Change

Nonviolent campaigns addressing brutal regimes succeed nearly half the time as opposed to a 20% success rate for violent movements. On Nov 8 Myanmar experienced significant electoral change and today Venezuela holds parliamentary elections. May the Prince of Peace continue strengthening those working for a just peace.

Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5, 6

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until

they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. ⁶He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.

This Week

Today	8:55 am	Contemplative prayer in the sanctuary.
	9:25 am	Choir rehearsal for all ages in the sanctuary.
	9:45 am	Adult Ed: <i>Advent Reflections: Learning about Incarnation from Eastern Christianity.</i>
	11:00 am	2 Advent Worship: Patrick Preheim speaking on the Book of Malachi. Creative church activity -- creating a collage.
	2:30 pm	The Saskatoon Men's Chorus will be presenting its Advent Concert, <i>Carols Everywhere</i> at Grace Westminster United Church. Guest musicians are Louella Friesen and Audrey Falk Janzen.
7:30 pm	Rosthern Junior College Choir Concert; Knox United Church. Admission is free; a collection will be taken in support of RJC. Everyone is welcome.	
Tuesday	1:30 pm	Women's Coffee & Conversation time; lounge.
Wed.	7:30 am	Men's Breakfast; Jerry's Food Emporium, 8 th Street.
Saturday	7:30 pm	A Buncha Guys Christmas Concert with the Friesen Family Band at Shekinah Retreat Centre.

Coming Up

Next Sun.	9:00 am	Choir rehearsal for all ages in the sanctuary.
	10:30 am	3 Advent Worship: Choir; Anita Retzlaff Potluck -- A-H, bring salad and dessert, help with set-up; I-Z, bring casserole, help with clean-up.
Dec. 18	7:00 pm	Rosthern Junior College Christmas Concert in the school auditorium. A time of refreshments will follow the concert. Everyone is welcome.
Dec. 19	7:30 pm	Station Singers presents <i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i> at Station Arts Centre, Rosthern. Tickets (\$20 adults, \$10 students, \$5--12 & under) from Station Arts - 232.5332.
Dec. 20	4:30 pm	Christmas Banquet at NPMC - Social at 4:30 pm, supper at 5:30 pm. Last chance -- sign up by Dec. 10.
Dec. 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve service.
Dec. 25	11:00 am	Christmas Day service.

Mark 1:2-8

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out: "in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"'. ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and

were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

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Intergenerational Activity Nights

December Theme is Christmas. Activities will take place on Thursday nights. There is a sign-up sheet in the Education Wing.

Dec. 10: Create a Christmas production to include in the choir Christmas program on December 13. Young Families -- come join the fun.

Dec. 17: Baking treats to share at the Christmas banquet on Dec. 20.

"Creative Church" is an intergenerational, multisensory, participatory worship alternative to the formal sermon during the second half of our worship service. Anyone, ages 4 to 94 is invited to participate.

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.

Announcements

Christmas Collections:

Friendship Inn: needs **300 gifts for children; food, clothing.**
Please see the poster on bulletin board or visit www.friendshipinn.ca.

The Bridge: see items listed on the bulletin board.

The Lighthouse: needs **socks, underwear, mitts, togues** and **jackets** for both men and women. They also appreciate **cash donations.**

EGADZ: needs **togues, gloves, mini mitts, deodorant, razers, toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, boxers, socks, etc.**



From Earthkeepers: Average house size varies a great deal depending where it is in the world. In Russia the average floor space per resident is 237 sqft, while in Sweden it is 425 sqft, and in Canada it is 779 sqft. What are we doing with all of our extra space?

Note from Mennonite Church Saskatchewan: The Annual Delegate Sessions 2016 will take place on March 11 and 12 at Osler Mennonite Church.

MCC Connects: MCCS is now accepting applications for the salaried 0.8 FTE position of Material Resources & Building Maintenance Coordinator. To apply visit: <http://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/openings/material-resources-building-maintenance-coordinator> or call Erica Baerwald, Human Resources Coordinator (306) 665-2555 at the MCCS office for more information.

Message from MCC Relief Sale: Our **COINS** project this year is for water needs in Mozambique. Remember to keep collecting your coins -- see <http://mcccanada.ca/stories/urgent-search-water-mozambique> for information.

The refugee crisis in Syria has highlighted the stories of tragedy and desperation of refugee people not only in Syria, but around the world. MCC would like to encourage you to prayerfully consider how you can get involved in helping refugees. Turn compassion to action. Visit our website at mccsk.ca or contact the MCC office at 306-665-2555 to find out how you can get involved.

Prairie Centre for Ecumenism is announcing their 2016 session of the Program in Ecumenical Studies and Formation. See www.pcecumenism.ca.

Engage Difference! *Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry* is a 6 day interactive and engaging program at Queens House; to register see the bulletin board or www.ccforum.ca/duim.

Mary had a baby

Mary had a baby (My Lord)
Mary had a baby (Oh My Lord)
Mary had a baby (My Lord)
Sing Glory Hallelujah to the new born King.

Where did she lay him?
Laid him in a manger
What did she name him?
Named him King Jesus
Who heard the singing?
Shepherds heard the singing
Star keeps shining

Refugee Assistance Opportunities

Last week the RAP committee presented in an insert the proposed sponsorship of the Syrian family of five and the financial assistance of another group sponsored by St Phillip Neri church. In this insert we want to present opportunities of involvement of our church community in these two very worthwhile projects.

There are basically two ways to participate; financial assistance, volunteering in the settlement process, or both. Financial help can either be a single contribution or a pledge of money over a period of a year. For example \$50 to \$150 a month over a year is manageable and in the end results in a considerable donation of \$600 - \$1800. Donations should be designated 'refugee fund'.

Ad hoc volunteerism in refugee settlement is short term and rewarding. There are about thirteen different jobs required as follows:

- co-ordinator- involves overall supervision. Duration - 1 year
- treasurer - fund distribution, family banking, etc. duration 1 year
- documentation - assist in document processing, e.g. health cards. duration, busy for two weeks then occasionally for a year.
- clothing - collection and purchase. needed for one month.
- furniture - collection , purchase and moving...duration one month
- health - medical appointments and support depending on needs - one year
- education and language - English testing appts, school and language placement, duration 1 - 2 months
- domestic support- shopping and household orientation. duration 1 - 2 months
- housing - house rental and moving duration 1 - 2 weeks
- transportation - conveyance as necessary, bus passes etc. duration 1 -2 weeks
- social - social and community activities - duration - one year
- counselling - depending on emotional needs - duration one year
- employment - job search. intensity depends on worker skill sets and English language ability - duration 3 months

The intensity and duration of the assignments vary according to the needs of the family. A volunteer opportunity sign-up sheet will be posted in the foyer. A reminder that the family will not be arriving for 9 to 12 months, so we should plan for mid 2016.

Thank you for considering to become involved.

Saskatoon Food Bank: Fruit juice; peanut butter