

**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH
PASTORAL STAFF**

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Gathered to Worship on Treaty 6 Territory

**December 25, 2016
Christmas Day**

Vol. LI

11:00 a.m.

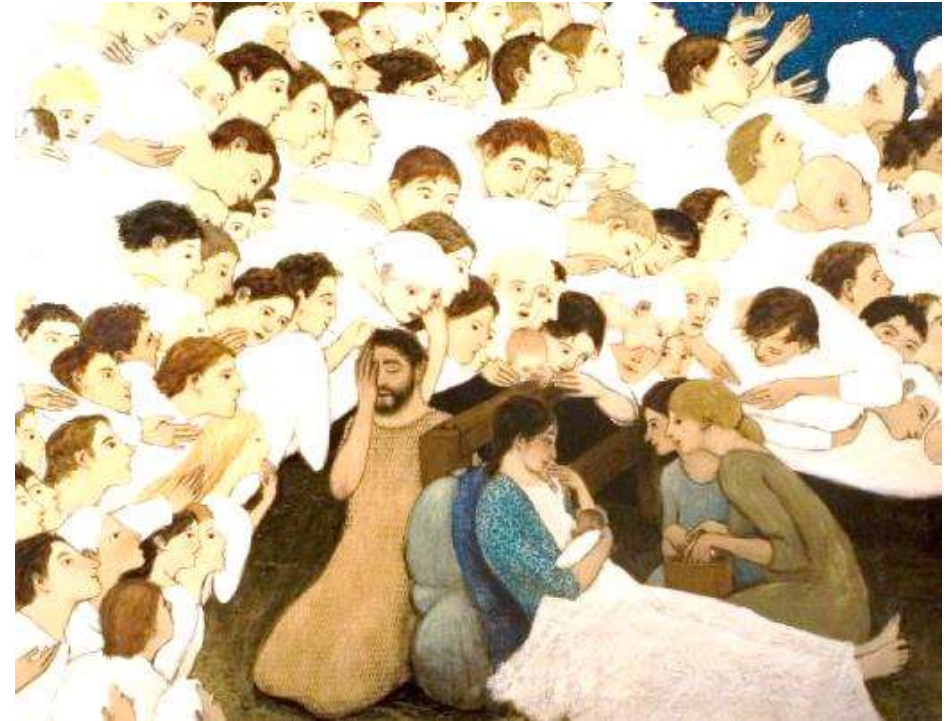
No. 52

Worship Leader: Denelda Fast
Accompanist: Evelyn Roden
Song Leader: Ron Peters
Greeters: Lydia & Peter Schroeder

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|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Welcome and Announcements                  |                                       |                         |
| Call to Worship                            | Lighting the Christ Candle            |                         |
| Gathering Carol                            | <b>The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy</b> | HWB No. 202             |
| Joys and Concerns                          |                                       |                         |
| Prayer of the People                       |                                       |                         |
| Children's Time/Song                       | <b>The Friendly Beasts</b>            |                         |
| Offering Our Gifts and Resources/Offertory |                                       |                         |
| Carol                                      | <b>On This Day Earth Shall Ring</b>   | HWB No. 192             |
| Lighting of the Peace Lamp                 |                                       |                         |
| Scripture                                  |                                       |                         |
|                                            |                                       | Deuteronomy 24:17-21    |
|                                            |                                       | Luke 2:1-7              |
|                                            |                                       | Matthew 2:13-18         |
| Sermon                                     | <b>Welcoming the Stranger</b>         | Susanne Guenther Loewen |
| Carol                                      | <b>Holy Child Within The Manger</b>   | StS No. 28              |
| Benediction                                |                                       |                         |
| Sending Hymn                               | <b>Go, My Children</b>                | HWB No. 433             |

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Welcoming the Stranger

Photo: "Nativity" by Brian Kershisnik

Spotlight on NPMC Refugee Sponsorship

For the past several decades, Nutana Park Mennonite Church has been sponsoring refugees through Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan and helping them settle in the Saskatoon area. As we think of the hardships faced by Mary, Joseph, and the Christ-child, may we be grateful for this ongoing ministry of welcoming "strangers" and newcomers into our community.

The church office will be closed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday of this week.

We thank everyone for their generosity at the fundraiser last Sunday evening; our total donation came to \$18,914.45.

This Week

Today 11:00 am Christmas Day Worship; Susanne speaking.

Coming Up

Next Sun. 11:00 am New Year's Day Worship; Communion, Patrick speaking.

January 8 9:25 am Choir rehearsal for all ages.

9:45 am Adult Ed: Contemplation and Action: Mary and Martha.

January 9 2:00 pm Ecumenical Bible Study; lounge.

Jan. 13-14 Rosthern Junior College Tournament of Memories; Basketball and Hockey. Alumni, family and friends should register by January 6th by email deneldafast@hotmail.com. Basketball will include a friendly skills competition in addition to the usual fast paced court action! Hockey will consist of current students, young alumni and not so young alumni (figure out where you fit!) Reconnect with old classmates and friends and exercise your mind, body and spirit at the same time! Your alumni bulletin "RJC CONNECT" has details. Contact Denelda at 306-221-2846 for information.

January 17 10:00 am Women's Bible Study; lounge.

Jan. 20 & 27 The Academy of Discipleship Course, What have you to do with Peace? is taking place on 2 Fridays at The Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road. See poster and register for this free course at www.academyofdiscipleship.org. Email aod.saskatoon.sask@gmail.com.

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

MCC Connects: Christmas Blessings to you from the Board and Staff of MCC Saskatchewan! May our celebrations of the birth of the Christ child nurture and strengthen our living and serving in the name of Christ throughout the coming year.

Bethany Manor: There are two 710 sq. ft. suites available for Life Lease in Bethany Place Assisted Living. See the bulletin board for all the details.

Attention all theatre-lovers and actors! This Spring, from March 10-11, 2017, our congregation is co-hosting the Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Annual Delegate Sessions with Pleasant Point Mennonite Church. We would like to put on a play on Friday evening called "The Gospel According to Food" with members of Pleasant Point and Nutana. We need actors of various ages and a director/coordinator for Nutana folks involved. Please let Susanne know if you're interested or for more information.

Future Directions: Covenant New. The next phase in the Mennonite Church Canada Future Directions process has begun, with a new website containing updates regarding timeline, personnel, and more. The most recent article focuses on diversity in leadership. Visit www.futuredirectionsmc.ca for regular updates, or join the discussion group on Facebook.

Nutana Park Mennonite Church November 30, 2016			
	Actual	Budget	Difference
	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov
Revenue	342,237.56	364,098.00	-21,860.44
Expenses	<u>333,700.09</u>	<u>364,098.00</u>	<u>-30,397.91</u>
Surplus (loss)	<u>8,537.47</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>8,537.47</u>

Church Renovations - Property Improvements November 30/16:

	Budget	Actual
Revenue		
General Donations		9,520.00
Expenses		
Sewer Project	12,000.00	12,576.84
Flooring	66,574.00	67,612.51
Painting	4,426.00	2,326.84
Miscellaneous		<u>1,199.76</u>
Total Expenses	83,000.00	83,715.95
Capital Reserve	<u>58,022.09</u>	<u>58,022.09</u>
Net Capital Reserve	<u>-24,977.91</u>	<u>-16,173.86</u>

Deuteronomy 24:17-21

17 You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow's garment in pledge. ¹⁸Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this. ¹⁹When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall

be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings. ²⁰When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. ²¹When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

Luke 2:1-7

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of

David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Matthew 2:13-18

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' ¹⁶When Herod saw

that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'