

December 17 2017

3rd Sunday of Advent
God's Love in Action

Welcome

Singing: HWB 13 *Blessed Jesus, at your word*

Call to worship: (Isaiah 49:13; Psalm 95:1)

Leader: Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth;
burst into song, O mountains!

**People: For the LORD comforts his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.**

**All: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**

Opening prayer

Singing SS 1 *Praise the One who breaks the darkness*

HWB 182 *Oh, how shall I receive thee*

Confession HWB 695

Offering

Prayer

Singing HWB 180 *The angel Gabriel*

Children's feature

Scripture reading – Luke 1:39-56 Laura Thiessen

Message – Kelvin Dyck

Singing SJ 13 *My soul is filled with joy*

What now?

Sharing/announcements

Prayer

Sending

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Greeter/Usher – Marlene Wiebe **Music** – Betty Enns

Visuals – Roxana Enns, Betty Enns, Rita Wiebe

Monthly Cleaning (December) – Doug and Pearl Braun-Dyck

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This Sunday

- ❖ **9:45 a.m.: Covenant Middle Years Children's Connection:** Classes continue.
- ❖ **The Pre-school Class and Primary Classes:** Class is held during the service.
- ❖ **9:45a.m.: Covenant Youth Connection:** Class as usual.
- ❖ **9:45 a.m.: Covenant Adult Connection:** *Norman Braun* leading the class.
- ❖ **11:00 a.m.:** Sunday Worship: Speaker: Kelvin Dyck. Worship leader: Garry Bueckert

The Covenant Calendar

December 17: Third Sunday of Advent

December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 10:30pm: Christmas Eve Vigil and Communion.

December 25: Christmas Day. No service.

December 28, 5:30pm: Covenant Christmas Party. Supper served. Bring table games, old and new, and spend an enjoyable evening together with friends.

December 31: Epiphany Sunday

January 7: Written report to be handed in to the Congregational Chair in preparation for Annual Meeting.

Here at Covenant

On Sunday, December 24, at 10:30pm, Covenant will again hold its annual Christmas Eve Vigil and Communion Service. Everyone is invited to come and participate by singing, listening, lighting a candle, sharing communion, or offering a reading or special musical number. Invite friends and listen to the Scriptures telling of the Christmas Story, followed by a midnight communion service.

Christmas Giving Project: Our special Christmas giving this year is going to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) projects selected by the Children's Connection class. Donations can be made to these projects until Sunday, December 24. Cheques should be made out to: "Covenant Mennonite Church" with Memo Line reading "Christmas Giving."

In our Community

"Could you survive a month of poverty?" Central Station together with Garden Valley School Division, the GVTA is inviting you to participate in a local poverty simulation to be held at the Emerado Centennial School on February 2. Please RSVP by December 22 if you wish to participate in a morning or afternoon session by calling 204-325-0257 or emailing info@winklercentralstation.ca. Further info available on the bulletin board in the church foyer at the back of the church.

Recovery of Hope Counseling, together with the Neufeld Institute – Manitoba Chapter, is proud to announce that **Dr Gordon Neufeld, author of "Hold On to Your Kids: Why Parents Need to Matter More Than Peers,"** is coming to **Morden on Saturday, Feb 10, 2018** to deliver a new full-day workshop called **"Keeping Children Safe in a Wounding World."** Parents, educators, youth workers and caregivers will be interested to learn from Dr. Neufeld, one of Canada's leading developmental psychologists, as he uncovers the keys to helping children thrive while living in a wounding world. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.edenhealthcare.ca or call 1-866-493-6202.

Covenant Mennonite Church

MC Manitoba

Purchase gift certificates towards the payment of 2018 summer camp. A great way to encourage children (grandchildren?) to attend Camps with Meaning! Please contact the camp office for more information. Call 204-895-2267, email camps@mennochurch.mb.ca

MC Canada

Fantastic news! Bill C-262, the Indigenous Human Rights Bill, was endorsed by the ruling Liberal party at second reading on December 5, 2017. You can watch the debate here—<https://goo.gl/jkzqhi>. MP Romeo Saganash expresses his sincere gratitude to our Mennonite community for all the work we've done to get things this far. We're encouraged to keep sending the free Walk the Talk postcards (www.commonword.ca/go/1283) to all MPs, encouraging them to stand up for justice and reconciliation

Encourage winter reading! CommonWord can send you 12 different books on loan for a 6-week period – at no cost. This Cheaper by the Dozen program is a great way to augment your congregational library, inspire a church committee, or profile a worship or educational theme. For more information, see www.commonword.ca/go/1428.

CMU

Thinking about a unique option for after high school? **Outtatown** is a unique, one or two-semester certificate program of CMU. It's an incredible year for recent high school grads looking to travel, serve others, learn more about God and the world, make lifelong friends, and experience 'once-in-a-lifetime' adventure. For more info:

Outtatown.com.

Invitation to Prayer

Pray for our friends in care: Bill and Marlene at Salem.

Pray for Colin getting treatment for pain relief. Pray for the skill of the surgeons, the support of the family and the efficacy of the treatment.

Pray for the many in our broken world who are suffering from famine, war, and earthquakes and other disasters.

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Prayer: Lord, we cannot dwell in both light and darkness. Each day we have a choice. Help us to choose light, and when we fail in faithful decision-making have mercy on us. Amen

Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals

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