
Litany

- L: It gets dark so early! I don't like this deep, foreboding darkness.
- P: The Light is coming.**
- L: I keep looking down, trying not to stumble and fall.
- P: The Light is coming!**
- L: I don't know what to expect. I am pressured on all sides to be here or there and to do this or that. I have no time, no peace, no hope.
- P: The Light is coming. Look up! Do not be afraid.**
- L: But if I look up, I might stumble. I don't know what's ahead for me.
- P: The Light is coming. Do not be afraid!**
- L: Lord, where is the light?
- P: It is here, on your path so that you won't stumble. It is here in your heart so that you will not fear. It is here in your soul to give you Hope.**
- L: Lord, help me to see and feel the presence of your light.
- All: Oh my beloved friends, the Light is given to you and to all the World. Trust in the Light. Wait and watch, it is already here!*

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Ephesians 1:1-2

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Education

Children’s Sunday School will resume on Jan. 13/19.

Adult Ed | Today, at 11:15 am. A special welcome to Dave and Hildi Regehr, who will be introducing us to Altona Mennonite Church.

Bethel Announcements

Sunday, Jan. 13 | Young adults are invited for a fellowship lunch in the Lower Lounge following the morning service (11:30 am). Food will be provided.

Bethel Basketball | Jan. 13 at 3:00-5:00 pm at the Westgate gym. This is an all-ages, all-abilities game.

Sunday, Jan. 20 | Baptism and membership Sunday.

Invitation from the Care-Giving committee: “How to have a meaningful conversation with people suffering with dementia.” Thurs., Jan. 24 at 2:00 pm in the Lower Lounge. Guest speaker: Michelle Barr (chaplain at Pembina Place PCH). This may be of special interest to our volunteer visitors and others in the congregation. Refreshments will be served, so please RSVP to the office by Jan. 22.

Campership Fundraiser Every year we support neighbourhood and church children to attend camp, through our annual fundraiser. This year’s fundraiser will take place after worship on January 27. If you have children who are interested in going to camp this summer and you would like to participate in the fundraiser, please contact Pastor Kathy.

Volunteer Opportunities in 2019!

Share a meal with our neighbours! Our Alpha group of 10-12 people meets every second Monday after Winnipeg Harvest to share a simple meal of soup or chili, and study Scripture together. Volunteers provide food for one of these meals, and help with clean up after the meal is done. If you enjoy cooking and would be interested in feeding our guests, this might be a great opportunity for you to explore.

Invest in the lives of children in our neighbourhood! Bethel Kidz Club meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 until the end of April. The children who attend are in grades 1 to 6. We have a great time, and love the fact that the kids who attend consider Bethel to be their church too! Volunteers of all ages are welcome... come invest in the life of a child!

Tax season is coming... In the past, we have provided income tax assistance to low income individuals and families in our community. This program is in need of new leadership if it is going to run again this year. If you are one of those rare gems who likes filing taxes, this might be right up your alley!

*For more information on any of these opportunities, get in touch with
Pastor Kathy.*

Children's Ministry Position | Bethel invites applications or nominations for a 6-month (January to June, 2019), .2 FTE position in Children's Ministry. Potential responsibilities will include developing and leading a children's worship time during the sermon time slot, thereby freeing their parents for full participation in our regular worship services. If interested, or for further information, contact Darrel Toews at 204-992-5431 or darrel@bethelmennonite.ca.

Library update | *Stories From the Selkirk Thrift Shop*, by Pete Peters, brings to life the history of the MCC store in Winnipeg's north end where many folks from Bethel have volunteered their time. Other books in the library that provide histories of Mennonite institutions are *Hope Healing and Community*, the story of Eden Health Care Services, and *Die Schule Muss Sein-A History of the Mennonite Collegiate Institute*, by Gerhard Ens.

Important Note for Small Groups. It has come to our attention that the Loretta Ross DVD that was distributed to care groups is formatted in a way that it will not play in many DVD players. We are working on a fix to that issue and hope to have something available as soon as possible. In the meantime, the video is best viewed via computer. If you did not receive a copy of the disc and would like an email link to download the video file for viewing as a care group or individual, please email Pastor Kathy. ~ *From the Witness Committee.*

Carter Early Learning Centre is pleased to announce that a new Executive Director, Aricelle Mateo, will be starting this position Jan. 21. Aricelle's studies in early childhood education and more recently in leadership, together with fifteen years of experience in working with children, families and community make her a valuable addition to the team. We very much look forward to welcoming Aricelle. Until then, Irene Patterson will continue to fill this position on a temporary part-time basis.

You are invited to a conversation with Elyssa Warkentin about her new novel *A Land So Wild*. It's available at McNally-Robinson. When? Sat., January 26, 10:30 am. Please contact the church office.

Partners in Ministry

Mennonite Church Manitoba

mennochurch.mb.ca

Youth winter retreats | Sr. High: Jan. 25-27; Jr. High: Mar. 8-10; at Camp Assiniboia, speaker Paul Loewen. Please let Phil know if you are interested.

Day away at Assiniboia +55 | Jan. 2 and Mar. 5. Enjoy lunch, skiing, hiking, conversations, and more. Call 204-864-2159 ext 104, or 204-895-2267.

Mennonite Church Canada

mennonitechurch.ca

Indigenous-Settler Relations | The Student Christian Movement of Canada is seeking a Winnipeg Coordinator to prepare and promote a weekly ‘Experiments in Decolonization’ study group using Mennonite Church Canada’s new book *Unsettling the Word*. If you are interested in this position (honouraria available), please see the following for more info:

<http://scmcanada.org/.../seeking-winnipeg-coordinator-jan-20.../> .

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate

westgatemennonite.ca

Save the dates: Open House, Thurs., Jan. 17, 2019, 7:00 pm. | Grade 5 & 6 Day, Fri., Feb. 1, 2019, 9:00 am-12:15 pm.

Canadian Mennonite University

cmu.ca

Crossroads, by Janet Shaw-Russell, is on exhibit at the MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. It runs until Jan. 19.

Opportunities | *Campus Visit Day*, Fri., Feb. 2. | *Discover Outtatown*, Sat., Feb. 9. Info at: cmu.ca/compusvisit.

CMU Vespers | Sun., Jan. 20, 7:00 pm, Laudamus Auditorium.

CMU educational tour to Israel/Palestine, led by Gerald Gerbrandt, Apr. 26-May 13. See: cmu.ca/met, or contact: ggerbrandt@cmu.ca.

Other

AMBS | See their January 2019 announcements *on the bulletin board*.

The Companions in Grief Program is offering a 7 week Grief Support Group beginning Jan. 29. If you have recently experienced the death of a loved one and are struggling with loneliness, hopelessness and uncertainty then you are welcome to join a supportive, safe and confidential group. To register or enquire further, please call Bob Milks at 204- 294-5562 or respond through email: griefcare@mymts.net . Deadline for registration is Thurs., Jan. 24.