

“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”

Niagara United Mennonite Church

September 5, 2010

Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Gathering ~

Lawrence Eady

Worship in Song ~ “To God be the glory” HWB #102
“Dona nobis pacem” HWB #346

Congregational Life

Erv Willms

Offering ~ MCC
“God of the Bible”
Assembly Highlights

Pastor Rudy Dirks

Proclamation

“We are people of God’s peace” HWB #407

“Ruled by the Peace of Christ”

Pastor Rudy Dirks

(Colossians 3, pew bible pg. 1144)

Sending ~ “Jesus, help us live in peace”

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*“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”* expresses our desire to share our faith and love of Jesus Christ with all we meet. We welcome you and hope that your time with us will be enjoyable and enlightening.

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Special Music for this morning’s service led by the Janzen family.

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

May God give Anneliese Belau grace and strength while she is being cared for by Kurt and Kathe Wiens at their place. Pray for her, and her caregivers, including her brothers who are very involved in her care as well.

Irma Loewen is in the hospital following her surgery longer than anticipated as she is battling an infection. We pray for God's healing mercies during this time, while celebrating that no treatments for cancer will be necessary.

John Epp (Heritage Place) is also in frail health and appreciates your prayers and concern. May God's love and peace be his strength.

Henry & Margarete Pauls covet our prayers as Henry’s health is steadily failing. May God’s mercy and love give them peace.

WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:

Fall hours resume next Sunday, **September 12th**. German service begins at 10:00 am and the Worship Service begins at 11:00 am.

Choir Practice starts Thursday **September 9th - 8:00 pm** - come meet your new conductor and pianist.

Choir Social- Ok all you **Choir members Praise and Worship members Easter or Christmas joiners** get ready to have a rip snorting time sending and blessing John and Kathy Rempel onto their next stage in life. No sad sacks, they have served God and our church well and are not leaving us. Be prepared to have a sharing time (or roast) as we celebrate around our fellowship table. Join us on **Friday September 10th 6:00 pm** in the church gym. R.S.V.P. before September 5th to any of the following Martha Bartel, Sue Fast. Lani Gade or Bev Devolin.

The Niagara Community Male Chorus will begin its new season on **Monday, September 13**. Practices will be held every Monday evening at **7:30 pm** at our church. We welcome new members.

Pioneer Clubs will start on Wednesday, **Sept. 15th** from **6:30- 8:00pm**. For boys & girls, SK to grade 8. Registration fee is \$35.00/child. A place where your child can have fun, study God's word, develop Christian values, and so much more. Please see the Pioneer Clubs display in the foyer.

The 2nd Annual Men's Canoe Weekend in Haliburton will take place on **Sept 24 to 26**. We have room for 16 people so please register with John Thiessen or Joachim Dau as soon as possible. (We will need a \$20.00 deposit to cover reservation costs).

Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and we have so far not had any volunteers to take charge of the display at the front of the church. Take a moment to search your heart if this is an opportunity for you use your talent in a labour of love and thankfulness for God's goodness in your life. Please give Rita Epp a call, and she will provide further clarity to the task. "Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God".

Recording of Church Services - Starting in September 2010, the worship services will no longer be recorded on cassette tapes, due to the increasing difficulty of finding replacement cassettes and the extensive maintenance required to continue this service. Both the German and English church services are and will continue to be available on DVD and the church's website.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS:

Youth Kick-Off Night: Are you in grade 9-12? Come start the year off with a bang at our Kick Off night Friday **September 10th** from **7:30-10:30pm** at the Redekopp's 1536 Four Mile Creek Rd. If you have questions ask Stephen Cox.

Youth Executive: meeting Sunday **September 12th** after service in the youth room. Yes, pizza will be there. All grade 9's welcome.

JUNIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We are looking forward to the fall. We have a very active primary and elementary department. The children are an absolute delight to be around. If you want to be in on the grassroots end of the church, plug into this very rewarding ministry. We are still looking for some teachers and assistants. Please contact Stephen Cox if you feel a calling to this ministry.

Contract Renewal Vote –

Pastors Rudy & Sharon Dirks' contracts with our congregation expire on December 31, 2010. We will be holding a membership vote after the church service on September 19, 2010 on whether to offer them a third term.

Rudy & Sharon have indicated that if we offer them another contract they will be taking a four month sabbatical during this next term. This has been reviewed by both Church & Spiritual Councils who support their sabbatical plan and have prepared an information package for church members.

The information package includes material that was presented at the Spring Membership Meeting and is available at the Welcome Centre, the mail area and on the church web site under the "News" tab.

"Subverting the Empire" **Colossians 1-4**

Caesar ruled the world. Pax Romana governed the affairs of every nation, racial group, family, and person. Rome demanded everyone's ultimate allegiance. The Emperor was to be worshipped above all other religions. It is in this context that Paul wrote his letter to the churches of Colossae and Laodicea. A warm, personal, powerful letter to a small group of Christians who were just trying to figure out how to live as an outpost of the kingdom of God within a dominant, seemingly invincible empire.

Over the next few weeks we will explore this letter and discover how remarkably relevant its message still is for us in our age of empires:

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| August 1 | <i>"Small Church: Big Empire"</i>
Colossians 1:1-14 |
| August 8 | <i>"Subverting the Empire"</i>
Colossians 1:15-23 |
| August 15 | <i>"Giving it Everything"</i>
Colossians 1:24-2:5 |
| August 22 | <i>"Disarming the Powers"</i>
Colossians 2:6-15 |
| August 29 | <i>"Don't Get Religious"</i>
Colossians 2:16-23 |
| September 5 | <i>"Ruled by the Peace of Christ"</i>
Colossians 3
(the rest of the sermon series - to be announced) |

As we study this letter together, I invite you to read the passages on your own as we study them. Read them in different Bible versions. Think of one question for each passage. Underline a key phrase or verse in each passage in your own Bible. Ask God to speak to you through His Word,

so that you too can grow in wisdom and faithfulness to the gospel just like the Colossian believers – and by extension, so that we as a congregation (just another outpost of the kingdom of God living among our empires) can increasingly be ruled by Christ in everything.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE Sept. 5-11/2010)

Monday: OFFICE CLOSED
 Young women's bible study 7:00 pm
Tuesday: Church Council Meeting 7:30 pm
Wednesday: Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday: German Choir Practice 7:00 pm
 Choir Practice 8:00 pm
Friday: Choir Social 6:00 pm
 Youth Kick-off night at the Redekopps 7:30 pm

Next Sunday, September 12, 2010 – Fall hours resume

8:45 am Praise & Worship Practice
9:30 am **Primary & Junior Sunday School Singing**
9:45 am Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room
10:00 am Sunday School Classes (ages 3 to Grade 8)
 Grade 9 - 12
10:00 am German Worship Service ~ message by Hans H. Dau
11:00 am Worship Service ~ message by Stephen Cox

Nursery volunteers **Sept. 12:** James & Carolyn Berg, Austin Penner.

Offering of August 29, 2010: \$ 7,266.87			
Budget	4,826.87	MCC General	335.00
Christian Witness	250.00	MCC Africa	10.00
Pakistan Flood Relief	1,240.00	MCC Food	100.00
MDS	250.00	MCC School Kits	85.00
Refugee Sponsorship	170.00		
Next Week's offering (Sept. 12): Budget			
Attendance August 29, 2010: German Service ~87: Worship Service ~ 166			

IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:

Hope Furniture Bank is holding a Neighbourhood Drop-off Day at the Cornerstone Community Church at 1570 Niagara Stone Rd, Virgil on **September 11th** between **10:00 am and 2:00 pm**. See bulletin board for what is accepted and not.

A Musical Soirée at Vineland UM Church on **September 11th** @ **6:30 p.m.** –Tickets \$25. Come and enjoy an evening of 17th Century Baroque Music with scrumptious desserts to follow. See bulletin boards for more details. Tickets are limited and available from Rita Boldt 905-468-4486.

CHRISTIAN BENEFIT SHOP VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENING: **Monday, September 20, 6:00 p.m.** at the Cornerstone Community Church, 1570 Niagara Stone Road, Virgil. Volunteers are invited and asked to bring a large salad or a large dessert. Other necessities will be supplied. After our supper, we will have a short program. **It is very important to notify your church representative by September 19th** if you plan to attend. Also, if you need a ride, please contact your church representative before the above date.

The Alpha Course is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life and the Christian faith. It will be held for eight Monday evenings, starting **September 27th, from 6:30—9:00 p.m.** at Bethany Mennonite Church, 572 East & West Line. Each evening begins with a meal followed by a video presentation. For more information call 905-468-7155 or visit www.alphacanada.org.

The Marriage Course is designed to help build a healthy marriage that will last a lifetime. It will be held for eight Monday evenings, starting **September 27th, from 6:30—9:00 p.m.** at Bethany Mennonite Church, 572 East & West Line. Each evening begins with a meal followed by a video presentation. For more information call 905-468-7155 or visit www.themarriagecourse.ca.

Do you live with depression? Do you struggle with severe mood swings or anxiety? Living Room is a faith-based support group for people like you. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at the Vineland United Mennonite Church on 3327 Menno St. in Vineland from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.. For more information, contact Ester at 905-562-4422 or at livingroomsupport@gmail.com.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

We are not helpless before the flood. While MCC itself has no office nor personnel in Pakistan, any aid we provide will be channelled through Canada Foodgrains Bank or Church World Service to support relief projects there. Donations made to MCC by September 12 will be matched by the Canadian government which has created a Pakistan Floods Relief Fund. If contributing, please mark your offering envelope "Pakistan Flood Relief".