



## LISTOWEL MENNONITE CHURCH

Dec. 1, 2024

Worship Bulletin

Vol. 61 No. 48



### *First Advent - Between a rock and a hard place*

*How do we continue on?*

The rock in front of the first advent candle represents difficult times in our life journey. As we journey through life, we inevitably encounter situations where the way forward seems blocked. In these times of trouble, we long to be able to patiently trust and obey God, no matter the risks. This depth of faith grows from daily seeking God's wisdom and choosing God's ways as we learn to rely on God.

**December 1, 2024**

LMC will meet at 10am for Sunday Worship, followed by coffee fellowship and Sunday School for all ages.

The entire worship service will also be live streamed from the LMC sanctuary on YouTube from 10:00-11:15am. Click on [www.lmchurch.ca](http://www.lmchurch.ca) a few minutes before 10am, and click on the "Livestream" button.

You can view the livestream afterwards by going to our website under the "Past Sermons" page.

<https://www.lmchurch.ca/past-services.html>

Usher-Robin B, Greeters - Arllin & Penny, Coffee - Ernie & Esther R, AV - Sid & Elijah, Desk Duty - Kayleen

#### **GATHERING**

**9:50am - Pre-service Caroling (Tian Ip)**

**Welcome & Announcements** (Bruce Yoder)

#### **Call to Worship**

Leader: Responding to the call of the living God,

People: our rescuer and Savior,

Leader: we welcome the Holy Spirit's presence,

People: among and within us.

Leader: In the name of Jesus, our risen Lord,

All: we offer ourselves in worship.

#### **Opening Prayer**

**Advent candle lighting** (Dorothy Tymchyshyn & Sebastian Martin)

Reader 1: When we find ourselves between a rock and a hard place, we may ask how to continue on.

Reader 2: When Daniel's persistent prayers brought him between opposing laws of the land and the mouths of hungry

lions in a stone-covered den, despite the risk, he chose to trust God.

Reader 1: When Jesus found himself faced with persecution and false accusations, he chose forgiveness over self-defense.

Candlelighting (first Advent candle is lit)

**All: Our path may meander through rocky situations, but we will hold Christ as our centre as we journey together.**

### **SINGING, PRAISING, THANKING**

Led by Tian Ip

Comfort, comfort o my people (VT 212)  
Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus (VT 218)  
How Many Times We Start Again (VT 553)

#### **Prayer of confession** (Daniel 9)

O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame. We have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor upon us. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your people bear your Name.

#### **Words of Assurance** (Psalm 16)

The Lord **is** our chosen portion and our cup.

We **bless** the Lord who gives us counsel and instructs our heart.

We keep the Lord always before us; because he **is** with us, we shall **not** be moved.

Therefore, our hearts are **glad**, our souls **rejoice**, and our bodies rest **secure**.

The Lord shows us the path of life; in his presence there is fullness of **joy!**

AMEN

#### **Offertory Prayer**

**Skit - His name is John** (Tim Martin & Nancy Frey)

#### **Moments for Children** (Ernie R)

**Scripture:** Daniel 6:6–27; Luke 23:1–5

##### **Daniel 6:6-27 New International Version**

6 So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! 7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. 8 Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” 9 So King Darius put the decree in writing. 10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. 11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. 12 So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?” The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” 13 Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” 14 When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him. 15 Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.” 16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!” 17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet

ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. 18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. 19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. 20 When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" 21 Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! 22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty." 23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. 24 At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. 25 Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly! 26 "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God

and he endures forever;  
his kingdom will not be destroyed,  
his dominion will never end.  
27 He rescues and he saves;  
he performs signs and wonders  
in the heavens and on the earth.  
He has rescued Daniel  
from the power of the lions."

### **Luke 23:1-5 New International Version**

23 Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king."  
3 So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"  
"You have said so," Jesus replied.  
4 Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."  
5 But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."

**Sermon "Kiss the Wave"** by Melanie Koch Nichol

**Song of response: VT 213 Poor of the Earth**

### **WITNESSING & PRAYING**

**Baby Dedication for Macy Elizabeth Horst** (Pastor Nancy, Josh & Lorelei, Nora and Macy)

#### **Sharing Time**

We will have "Open Mic Sharing" time. This will not be part of the livestream.

#### **From MCEC**

- Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we pray for **North Leamington United Mennonite Church**. Chris Hutton provides pastoral leadership to this congregation. Please pray for this church community found in Leamington.
- **Chinda Kommala** will be Ordained at **Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church** on December 1, 2024. Pray for Chinda and the congregation as they celebrate his calling to ministerial leadership. To share your words of encouragement and support with Chinda, you can reach him at [chindakommala@gmail.com](mailto:chindakommala@gmail.com).
- Lord, we lift up **all who are impacted by war around the world**. Bring comfort to those who mourn, healing to those who suffer, and hope to those in despair. Surround the displaced with safety, provide strength to caregivers, and inspire leaders to pursue justice and peace. Let your peace take root in every nation, renewing hearts and guiding us toward reconciliation and an end to all violence.

#### **Congregational Prayer**

**Sending Song:** VT 416 Beyond a Dying Sun

## **Benediction**

Go, borrowing the courage of Daniel,  
in the sure and certain hope of God's faithful presence.  
May the praise of God be on our lips,  
the Holy Spirit at our side,  
and the peace of Christ within our hearts. Amen.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Listowel Mennonite Church**

465 Maitland Ave S Listowel, ON, N4W 2M7

[www.lmchurch.ca](http://www.lmchurch.ca)

Office: 519-291-2350

**Pastor: Nancy Frey** cell 226-622-3487 [pastor@lmchurch.ca](mailto:pastor@lmchurch.ca)(New)

**Administrative Assistant:** \*Dorothy Tymchyshyn cell: 519-731-1978 [office@lmchurch.ca](mailto:office@lmchurch.ca)(New)\*

**Treasurer:** Robert Sider 519-418-1624 [treasurer@lmchurch.ca](mailto:treasurer@lmchurch.ca)(New)

Please send **e-transfer offerings** to the treasurer.

**Church Council Chair:** Jessica Carter 519-505-7563 [lmccchair1963@gmail.com](mailto:lmccchair1963@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Tian Ip 778-883-1437 [tianipmusic@gmail.com](mailto:tianipmusic@gmail.com)

**Vision & Guidance Team:** Ernie Reesor, John Ellison, Linda Weber, Jackie Hesselink

**Ministers:** Each Member of the Congregation

\*If you would like to **receive this bulletin by email**, please contact Dorothy T. (above)



# LISTOWEL MENNONITE CHURCH

## Announcements Sheet

### Upcoming:

Mon Dec 2 - Shuffleboard. 9:30am for women; 1:30pm for men.  
Thu Dec 5, 6pm - Community Suppers. Helpers needed starting at 2pm.  
Fri Dec 6, 6pm - Adult Christmas Banquet.  
Tue Dec 24, 7pm - Christmas Eve Service.

### LMC Announcements

- Today! Sunday Dec 1, **12:00 - 12:45 Choir Rehearsal with Tian**
- **Last Day to Sign up is Dec 1! - Euchre 2025:** We will run Euchre Club again this winter, from January to May (playing once a month) with a Finale Potluck & Game on Sat May 31st, weather permitting at our house. Sign up on the foyer table or online below. Thanks! Penny & Arlin  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sEeDjoaLkWDEvf101LTu\\_CDZQNpXtKu7irvCPgSuxwg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sEeDjoaLkWDEvf101LTu_CDZQNpXtKu7irvCPgSuxwg/edit?usp=sharing).
- **Jessica Carter** will be stepping down as **Church Council Chairperson** on Dec. 31, 2024. If you are interested in serving as Church Council Chairperson or would like to recommend someone for that role, please speak with a member of the Executive Council: Peggy Bauman, John Ellison, Robert Sider, Nancy Frey.
- **From Canadian Mennonite:** With the Canada Post strike, your December print issue will be delayed. Sign up for digital delivery to get it by email instead. Canadian Mennonite sends an email each Friday and attaches a PDF copy of the magazine once per month. Contact Lorna at [office@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:office@canadianmennonite.org).
- **Until Dec 8! - November/ December Sunday School Offering project :** Our November/ December Sunday School offering project is Salvation Army Hamper Items. This year they are requesting cozy clothes (hoodies, track pants etc) for ages 12-14 and hats and mitts for the younger ages. Not comfortable purchasing these items? Feel free to make a monetary donation, and Christian Ed will gladly purchase items. All items can be placed in the house in the foyer from now until mid December. **Please bring in all donations by December 8th!** Thanks! Christian Ed
- **Community Suppers** every Thursday at 6pm! Helpers needed starting at 2pm. Volunteers needed for setting up tables and chairs, food prep, serving food, clean up. This is also an opportunity for high school aged youth to gain volunteer hours. If you want to be part of this amazing program, please speak with Shirley Koch.
- **Invitation:** You are invited to come celebrate **Pearl Wideman's 90th birthday on Sunday, January 5, 2025** – an open house , 2-4 pm -- at 1414 King St. East Kitchener in the Community Room on the Main Floor. There will be a short program at 3 pm; light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, you can email Louise ([louisewideman@gmail.com](mailto:louisewideman@gmail.com)) or Janice ([janiceklassen12@gmail.com](mailto:janiceklassen12@gmail.com)). We hope you can come.
- **In the week up to Sunday Nov 24, 2024 we offered \$ 10,196.00 in worship before God.**
  - General Fund \$ 2463.00      Pre-authorized Monthly Giving PAR \$7575.00
  - Sunday School offering (Hoodies, Hats & Mitts) \$158.00
  - Nov 24 attendance: 82
  - Nov 24 Sunday School: 61
  - Nov 24 livestream viewers on Sunday: 18 (views after one week: 78)

### Community Announcements

It's Kettle time! The **Salvation Army Kettles** are out starting November 21st until Christmas (excluding Sundays). We are at four locations: Walmart, Giant Tiger, Food Basics and Zehrs. Our shifts are 10-12, 12-2, 2-4, 4-6 and 6-8. If you are able to help us out this year please give us a call or email. Again thank you. **Ray & Diane Homewood** Volunteer Coordinators (email: [homewood@wightman.ca](mailto:homewood@wightman.ca) Telephone: 226 622 6989)

**Basement Apartment available in Listowel** - new one bedroom, separate entrance. \$1950/month. Contacts are Dan & Karen Bender [dkgsbender@gmail.com](mailto:dkgsbender@gmail.com), 519-616-3159. There is a flyer on the bulletin board.

**Sun, Dec 1 at 7pm.** There is a worship night at The Village Table, 295 Main St W, Listowel. **Graham Lichti and Melba Voskamp** will lead this special **Christmas night of singing and worship**, to include a spontaneous Hallelujah Chorus. There is no cost for this event.

Students of **Rockway Mennonite Collegiate** invite you to their annual **Christmas Concert** to be held at Rockway on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 7:30 pm. For more information, please visit our Concert Webpage:

<https://rockway.ca/events/christmas-concert/>

**Christmas with the Salvation Army, Saturday Dec 7, 7pm at Trinity United Church, Listowel.** Benefit concert for the Salvation Army Community & Family Services. Freewill offering.

**Swiss Choir Thames Valley** is offering an **Advent Concert** at the Bethel Christian Reformed Church, **Sunday Dec. 8th at 1pm.** It has been 5 years since last time and we are happy to be back with the yodel group, the brass band, Alphorns and more. All are invited to come and enjoy an afternoon of music.

The annual **“Music of Christmas” concert** will be presented at Knox Presbyterian Church, Listowel, on Sunday, **December 15th, 2024** at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. with a free-will offering at the door.

**Sat, Dec 21 at 7pm** there is a worship night at The Village Table, 295 Main St w, Listowel. This special Christmas service will be led by Lauren Koersen, from Palmerston CRC, and will include a choir. There is no cost for this event.

**Silver Lake Mennonite Camp Retreats registration opens** December 1 at 12pm! Come to Silver Lake in 2025 for fun camp experiences! On the calendar are... **Fathers & Kids Retreat (Jan 17-19), Women’s Retreat (Jan 31-Feb 2), Winter Camp for Grown-Ups (Feb 28-Mar 2), Staff Alumni Retreat (Mar 21-23), Music Retreat (Mar 28-30), Family Camp (May 16-18).** Go to [slmc.ca/retreats](http://slmc.ca/retreats) for more info.

**Summer Camp:** Registration for overnight camp and day camp opens **February 1** at 8am. Outtrip registration opens Jan 7 – sign up before Jan 30 to get \$100 off! Visit [slmc.ca/summer-camp](http://slmc.ca/summer-camp) to have a sneak peek at the 2025 schedule.

**MCEC Introducing: Transformed. Inspired. Called. – An MCEC Devotional!** This brand-new weekly online devotional brings heartfelt reflections from MCEC pastors straight to your inbox every Wednesday. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to deepen your faith journey with insights rooted in our shared MCEC mission. [Sign up today for MCEC Connect and be part of this transformative experience!](#)

**MCEC Intercultural Volleyball Tournament, Feb 1st, 2025,** Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, 110 Doon Rd., Kitchener. Come on out for a fun day of intercultural, intergenerational volleyball, fellowship and fun with MCEC congregations. This event has been growing since it started with more teams each year!

**MCEC Annual Church Gathering ONLINE 2025,** Saturday, April 26, 2025, 10 - 11:30 a.m. This year, our Annual Church Gathering will take place as an online business meeting—a chance to connect and collaborate as an online community. Together, we’ll discuss important updates, including slate positions, new structures and finances. Plus, don’t miss the opportunity to meet Anthony Siegrist, MCEC’s newly appointed Executive Minister.

**MC Canada Gathering 2025, July 2-5, 2025, Kitchener, ON.** You’re invited to the MC Canada Gathering next summer, where our theme, “Each Gift,” celebrates the unique gifts each person brings. Rooted in 1 Peter 4:10, we’ll explore how our diverse talents and perspectives enrich the ministry of an intercultural church. [Here is Doug Klassen's invitation to congregations and delegates!](#)