

**WILMOT MENNONITE CHURCH**

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**Dec 14, 2025 Advent 3**

**The Will to Dream: Unexpected Joy (Elizabeth)**

Music Lisa Demerling, Mary & Cliff Bauman

Call to Worship Anne Thaler

We gather together in this place:  
prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,  
**we who dare to imagine a world renewed;**  
**we who dare to dream God's dream.**

We sing with Elizabeth and Mary.  
Our spirits rejoice in God, our savior!  
**We bless the God of justice and joy,**  
**who lifts up the lowly and vulnerable.**  
God's mercy is upon us all,  
from generation to generation.

Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.  
**We have come to wonder and praise.**

Opening Prayer

Song O Come, O Come, Immanuel VT 210

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy Lil Quanz and Jaxson

Affirmation of Joy

Let us affirm God's gift of life-giving and justice-seeking joy.

**We believe "joy is the justice we give ourselves."**

**Because God's joy dwells with the humble and is rooted in justice, we find its warmth and light shine brightest through shared witness and sacred disruption.**

We believe joy grows through blessing others and fostering authentic relationships.

**We believe joy is more than a feeling or the things we possess. Joy is our faith made visible and something we share by choosing connection.**

We believe joy is truth and truth-telling.

**We believe joy is active resistance, Spirit-filled solidarity, and the bringing of God's dream.**

We believe true joy is not the opposite of heartache, but lives right within the swirl of our grief and hardest emotions. We celebrate the depth of God's joy and how it can hold our pain.

When we are filled

with this kind of joy, we celebrate what God is birthing now, even amid a world where so much appears to be ending.

**We believe joy is freedom and healing, redemption and return.**

We believe joy comes from knowing God is close, even when life is hard. God's joy shows up not just in breathtaking beauty but in moments we hurt so much we can't breathe.

**We choose justice. We choose love.**

**We choose each other. We choose joy.**

Scripture Luke 1:39-45 & Psalm 89:1-4

Song My Soul Proclaims with Wonder VT 222

Scripture Luke 1:39-49 & Psalm 89:1-4

Character Narrative Elizabeth Fern Good

Sermon Danielle Rambault

Song of Response Light Dawns on a Weary World VT 205

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Carols Hark! the Herald Angels Sing VT 247  
O Come, All Ye Faithful VT 241

A Call to Advocacy

Sending

Postlude

We welcome Danielle Rambault to our service today. Danielle has served as a pastor at Wanner Mennonite Church and Listowel Mennonite Church.

**Advent Worship: The Will To Dream**

Advent 1 Vigilant Hope (Isaiah)

Advent 2 Prophetic Peace (Zechariah)

Advent 3 Unexpected Joy (Elizabeth)  
Luke 1:39-45 & Psalm 89:1-4 Danielle Rambault

Advent 4 Dec 21 Merciful Love (Joseph)  
Matthew 1:18- 2:15 & Is 9:2-7 Susan Allison-Jones

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service (4 pm)

Dec 28 Christmas Carol Service  
at Mannheim Mennonite Church

Epiphany Jan 4 Generational Praise (Anna)  
Luke 2:22-40 & Psalm 148 Susan Allison-Jones

## Upcoming Events

Dec 17 Christmas Lunch (rescheduled)  
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service 4 pm  
Dec 28 Wilmot Ignited Worship Service 9:45 am  
at Mannheim Mennonite Church

## Birthdays

December 15 Pat Jantzi  
December 17 Maritta Dreschke  
December 20 Floyd Gerber

## Prayer Requests

Remember people in our congregation who will miss their life partner during this Christmas season: Carol Barton, Sandra Bean, Ray Brenneman, Sharon Heipel, Frank Hinz, Barb Janzi, Lorraine Ramer, Florence Scheerer, Jean Schwartzentruber, Mary Schwartzentruber, Jean Shantz, Ross Shantz, Ed Wagler, and Sharon Witt. Also keep Michael and Lia Fewkes in your prayers as they experience their first Christmas season without Jay.

Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**. This week we are praying for **Bethany Mennonite Church**. Herb Sawatzky provides pastoral leadership for this community. Pray for this congregation in Virgil, ON as they follow their mission of serving each other and the world.

## Congregational Notes

**Christmas Tree Offerings** The winter months are hard for those not properly housed or on limited incomes. During the Advent season we will be collecting warm socks, coats, mittens, scarves, hats, and food. Designated financial donations are also welcomed. Place your donations under the Christmas tree.

**Christmas Lunch** has been rescheduled to Wednesday, Jan 17. Same place. Same time. (Doors open at 12. Meal served at 1.) If the change in date means that you can't come please let Lorraine know. For any who weren't signed up, if this new date means you can come talk to Lorraine.

**Longest Night Service** The holiday season is usually a time of joy and celebration. However life's circumstances can get in the way of all that joy whether it be sickness, a death in the family, loss or grief of any kind or a sense of despair of the state of our world. This season is hard for those who are hurting. You are not alone. A Longest Night service is a gentle and reflective service for all who are carrying pain, loss or fear during this season of celebration. Please join us on Sunday December 21, 2025 at 4:00 p.m at Zion United Church, 215 Peel Street, New Hamburg. (The service is led by pastors from the Wilmot Eccumenical Ministerial and the Executive Director of Interfaith Counselling.)

Susan is away and will return on Monday. For pastoral care needs please contact Lil Quanz or Ross Shantz.

## **Beyond the Congregation**

**Interfaith Counselling Centre** - Year-End Giving Campaign. Act Now: Bring Hope and Healing This Holiday Season. Give the gift of Mental Health! Support Interfaith Counselling Services as we work to ensure all in Wilmot and surrounding Rural Communities have access to professional counselling services. Donations can be made through: e transfer to [admin@interfaithcounselling.ca](mailto:admin@interfaithcounselling.ca); Canada Helps through our website, [www.interfaithcounselling.ca](http://www.interfaithcounselling.ca); Mailing or dropping off a cheque at the office. Thank you!

## **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp | ([slmc.ca](http://slmc.ca))**

Retreat Registrations: 2026 Retreat registration is now open! For more information and full list, visit [slmc.ca/retreats](http://slmc.ca/retreats). Here are a few retreats coming up this winter:

Fathers and Kids Retreat (Jan 16-18): Currently waitlisting.

Women's Retreat (Jan 30-Feb 1): Wendy Janzen is returning to lead this incredible weekend of rest, relaxation and connection.

Winter Wanders (Feb 24-26): Three days of adventuring in the Bruce Peninsula while staying at camp! Skiing, snowshoeing or hiking planned at different trails. Food and accommodations included. Staff Applications: Know someone who is interested in joining the SLMC summer staff team? We are now accepting applications for both overnight and day camp programs.

Applications are due Dec 30 ([slmc.ca/staff](http://slmc.ca/staff))

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**Ministry Team Leaders** Ross Shantz (chair), Fern Good,  
Florence Scheerer

**Finance** - Lia and Michael Fewkes

**Worship** - Bonnie Lee Bowman

**Facilities** - John Good

**Pastor:** Susan Allison-Jones; [wilmotpastor@gmail.com](mailto:wilmotpastor@gmail.com)  
226-808-4353

**Office Hours:** Tuesday afternoon & Thursday morning  
To Book the Church call the Church Office @ 519-634-5030