

WILMOT MENNONITE CHURCH

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519-634-5030

Dec 21, 2025 Advent 4
The Will to Dream: Merciful Love (Joseph)

Prelude Delphine Schwarzentruher

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer Bonnie Lee Bowman

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 listen with Joseph,
guided by faith and dreams.
In fear or in flight,
God is our refuge.
By the light of a star,
God guides us on the way.

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

Song Blest Be the God of Israel VT 223

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love Stan & Sylvia Gallian

Affirmation of Love

Let us affirm God's gift of bold and liberating love.

We believe in the power of love, a love that not only comforts but liberates. A love constructed with care, compassion, and courage, providing shelter and safety for all God's children.

We believe in love's guardrails of grace and mercy. Love does not demand or wait for perfection, but scoops us up in arms of unconditional care, where we are, as we are.

We believe, with gratitude, in a legacy of love, a long thread of memory recalling who we are and whose we are, stitching us into its tapestry of belonging.

We believe love is not earned. Love is not control. Love is care and connection.

We believe love holds no secrets. Love does not shame. Love speaks up. Love makes space.

Because God's love doesn't give up on us, we will not give up on ourselves or each other.

We will remember and bless.

We will fix what is broken.

We will look for the dawn of God's love in and around us.

Song Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VT 216

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25

Character Narrative Joseph Dave Bowman

Sermon Susan Allison Jones

Song of Response Love Came Down at Christmas VT 255

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Carols	Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	VT 243
	Away in a Manger	VT 257
	O Little Town of Bethlehem	VT 245

A Call to Advocacy

Sending

Postlude

Advent Worship: The Will To Dream

Advent 1	Vigilant Hope (Isaiah)	
Advent 2	Prophetic Peace (Zechariah)	
Advent 3	Unexpected Joy (Elizabeth)	
Advent 4	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	
	<i>at Mannheim Mennonite Church</i>	
Epiphany Jan 4	Generational Praise (Anna)	
	Luke 2:22-40 & Psalm 148	Susan Allison-Jones

Upcoming Events

Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service 4 pm
Dec 28	Wilmot Ignited Worship Service 9:45 am at Mannheim Mennonite Church

Birthdays

December 21	Verda Cook
December 27	Florence Scheerer
December 27	Carol Barton
January 1st	Trish Moores-Merritt

Prayer Requests

Celebrate with Verda Cook on the milestone birthday of 90 years. Give thanks for her long life and the many ways in which she has expressed God's love to the people she encountered. Pray that she will continue to feel God's presence with her as she supports Stanley and copes with her own health issues.

Erma Shantz died one year ago on December 27th. Please pray for Ross and his family as they remember Erma's life and acknowledge their loss.

Congregational Notes

To the church family: Thanks for the beautiful Poinsettia plant. Bob and Pat

Christmas Tree Offerings The winter months are hard for people who are not properly housed or on limited incomes. Warm socks, coats, mittens, scarves, and hats are essential during these cold months. During the Advent season we will be collecting these necessary items. Designated financial donations will be designated for the purchase of such items. Place your donations (including food) under the Christmas tree.

On December 28, Wilmot Ignited congregations are invited to worship with Mannheim on the first Sunday in Christmas. The *Be Amazed!* theme will continue under 'God Among Us'. The choir composed of our congregations will be singing and there will be Christmas carols sung as well. Mark your calendars to come out and worship together on that Sunday, beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Beyond the Congregation

New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale Feature Quilt

Reveal January 27, 2026 at 9:30 AM, MCC, 50 Kent Ave.,

Kitchener Each year, a talented individual or team creates the feature quilt for the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale. Feature quilts have depicted historical churches, the play of colour and light across fabric, a journey through Africa, among other innovative designs. On January 27, the curtain will be removed and the 2026 feature quilt will be revealed. Join us in the lower atrium at 50 Kent Ave, Kitchener or on the [NHMRS Facebook page](#). Learn more at mcc.org/events.

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; Canada Helps through our website, www.interfaithcounselling.ca; Mailing or dropping off a cheque at the office. Thank you!

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
226-808-4353

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