

Coaldale Mennonite Church

2316 – 17 St., Coaldale, Alberta

***“Rooted in Jesus, Growing in Grace, Connected in
Community, Branching into the World”***

Keeping in Touch – December 17, 2021



4th Sunday of Advent

- ✓ **At CMC, masks are mandatory while in church. We will continue to physically distance in the sanctuary. Every other bench will be available for seating. We are allowed one-third seating capacity in the sanctuary (75 people). Hand sanitizing stations will remain throughout the church. Registration ahead of time is no longer required. Please do not attend in person if you are experiencing the most common symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat).**

- ✓ **There is no Sunday School this week. Sunday School will resume January 9th, 2022.**


- ✓ **Our Sunday Worship Services (in-person and Live Stream) will begin at 10:45am. You will be able to find the Live Stream on **You Tube** and searching **Coaldale Mennonite Church**.**

- ✓ **No Men’s Prayer time** this week. Will resume in the New Year.

- ✓ **No Bible study on Thursday.** It will start up again in the New Year.

- ✓ **Christmas Season services:**
 - Friday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Service at 7pm**
 - Saturday, December 25th – Christmas Day Service at 10:30am**
 - Sunday, December 26th – Sunday Service with Communion at 10:45am**

The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be livestreamed as well as in person. Please remember Covid protocols only allow for one-third capacity in the sanctuary.

- ✓ **Communion** – We will be having communion **next Sunday, December 26th** during the morning service. If you are joining us via the Live Stream, please have the communion elements ready with you at home. Please prepare your hearts and minds to share the Lord's Supper.
- ✓  **It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and...** Time for the 2021 annual reports. Please get your reports to Jodi by **Wednesday, January 5th, 2022**.
- ✓ **The church office will be closed Monday, December 27th, Tuesday, December 28th and Monday, January 3rd.**
- ✓ **Gary will be out of the office the week of December 27th – 31st.**
- ✓ **Prayer Week Services** – January 17th, 19th, & 21st, 2022 via Zoom. More details to follow.
- ✓ **Annual Congregational Meeting** – Friday, January 28th, 2022
- ✓ **A BIG THANK YOU** for the wonderful Sunday we were given this week. We're very grateful for all the volunteers who did the service and set up the displays in the gym. I went home with a song in my heart. Liz Ens
- ✓ There is an **update from Amy Janzen** on the bulletin board for you to read. Amy is working with YWAM (Youth with a Mission) in Amsterdam. The link to Amy's blog is <https://onthewaywithamyj.wordpress.com/2021/12/14/autumn-update/>
- ✓ **Givings for December 12, 2021:** \$7500.96 Budget: \$7095.96 Street's Alive: \$100.00
Christmas Hampers: \$305.00
 - There is an **offering basket** on the back table in foyer for your tithes.
 - **E-transfer** is available for your donations to the church email: cmchurch@telusplanet.net
 - **Financial Update as of December 13, 2021**

Total Budgeted for 2021:	\$241,924.00
Donations Received to Date:	<u>\$213,312.37</u>
Amount needed to meet Budget	\$ 28,611.63
- ✓ **There was a donation made on the debit machine last Sunday, Dec. 12 without a name or tithe number. If this was yours, please let Jodi know.**
- ✓ **Any end of the year donations need to be into the church office by Thursday, December 30th.**

Leading us in Worship this Sunday:

Worship Leader: Andrew Janzen

Music: Kelsey Janzen

Speaker: Gary Giesbrecht

Scripture: I Samuel 2:1-11; Luke 1:39-56

Sermon: "Mary's song of Joy"

Sound: Mike Marriott

Media: Nic Groenheide

Usher Team: Team 3

Advent Readers: The Willms family



PRAYER FOCUS



Pray for:

- † **David Giesbrecht** who is recovering in the hospital with ongoing health concerns.
- † **Our seniors at the various lodges and those in their homes.**
- † **Street's Alive**
- † **Our hospitals and health care workers**
- † **Students and staff at R. I. Baker Middle School.**
- † **Our families in our congregation as we prepare for Christmas, whether we are gathering with family and travelling.**

(If you would like to have a prayer request in this weekly update, please contact Jodi at cmchurch@telusplanet.net or 403-345-3363.)

Participants next Sunday, December 26, 2021

Worship leader: Gary Giesbrecht

Sound: Stacey Marriott

Music: Peter Janzen

Speaker: Eric Giesbrecht

Media: Nic Groenheide

Usher Team: 4

Due to scent sensitivities, please help us make our church a scent-free environment and refrain from wearing cologne and perfume.

Note from Rob Wedel

Covid and Coaldale Mennonite

Unfortunately, this Pandemic has significantly influenced how we 'do church' at Coaldale Mennonite over the past 2 years. Even though we are getting very tired of all of this, it appears a new variant is on the horizon once again. This new variant, Omicron, is proving itself to be even more contagious than the last. Alberta has had only a few cases so far, but based on our previous experiences, we need to remain vigilant, as it is likely that it will come our way soon. *As a result, we will continue with the current restrictions in place at our church for the moment.*

To date, we have been very conscious of our Christian responsibility to care for each other and our community by adhering to reduced activities. I am so appreciative of how our congregation has accepted these restrictions, even though there are differences in opinion. Above all else, we desire to be gracious to one another and to not allow our differences to cause disunity among us.

Our CMC Council and Ministerial, along with our EMC conference, does not believe that we can advocate for a religious exemption for vaccine use, and as a result, encourage people to be vaccinated. However, we also respect the right of individuals to make health decisions in accordance with their personal beliefs.

Our provincial government has made self-administered rapid Covid testing available to all Albertans. They are very accurate at reassuring us that we are not carrying the virus without knowing it. Whether you chose to be vaccinated or not, please consider taking a test just prior to visiting households that include vulnerable elderly, children, and those with other illnesses. *This will help protect loved ones around us during this Festive season.* These test kits are available at AHS sites and eventually at various pharmacies.



To Contact the Church

Admin Assistant: Jodi Reed

Office Hours: 9am – 12noon, Monday – Friday

Church Office: **403-345-3363** & **403-345-5255**

Lead Pastor, Gary Giesbrecht: **403-795-0350**

Pastor to Seniors, Lil Thompson: **403-331-0297**

Lay Pastor, Eric Giesbrecht: **403-345-3946**