



Pastor's Corner

Chris Marchand, Lead Pastor



A senior in my Bible study commented about aging. "Bah!" he said. "I don't know why anybody calls these the golden years." He was complaining about his failing health, his losses including his spouse and home. After a few moments of lament, he summarized his thoughts rather demonstrably: "Ain't nothin' golden about it!"

Being more of a realist, I've not often been criticized for being optimistic, but Advent is the season for hope! Even hope for those disappointed by 'less-than-golden' years. Advent is our reminder, that Jesus comes to us in a manger. That

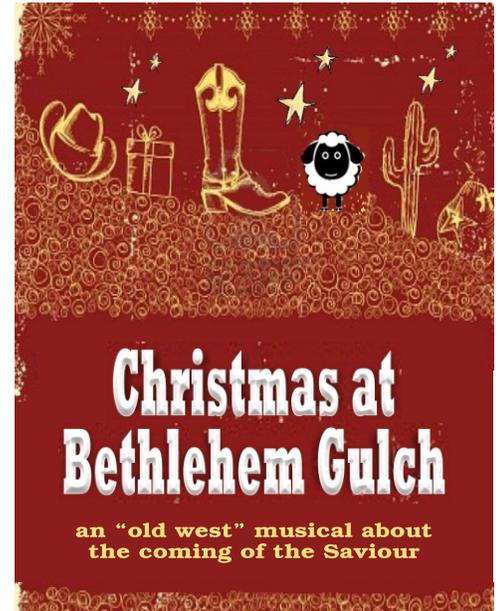
Jesus comes into Herod's world – a place full of treachery, poverty, oppressors, and war. He comes to a world not unlike our own. A world waiting for hope.

One of our oldest Advent hymns finds its roots in the 5th century. In 1851, a young minister took an ancient Latin text and crafted them into what we sing today: "*O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel; that mourns in lonely exile here. Until the Son of God appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*"

Waiting for hundreds of years for Messiah was probably as much reason to grumble as experiencing the aches and pains of old age. But Advent calls us to Rejoice! Not because life is always good, but because God is with us. This Advent, instead of complaining about your disappointments, why not prepare your heart for the gift of Jesus by practising thankfulness, kindness, and prayerful attentiveness.

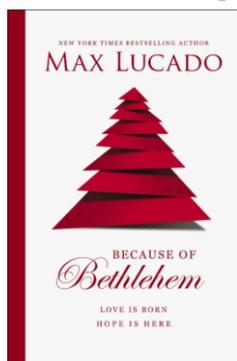
Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve Program



Christmas at Bethlehem Gulch is an "Old West" Musical about the Coming of the Savior. The story begins as a group of kids arrive at Bethlehem Gulch for their annual Christmas party. Miss Diane, the owner of the ranch, Betsy and the ranch sidekicks welcome them and everything is going great until the kids realize there isn't a horse or any cattle around. They have mistakenly chosen a sheep ranch! Miss Diane and her sidekicks convince the kids to stay long enough for her and Betsy to share the message of Jesus' birth, and the children find out about the very best Christmas gift ever... JESUS! Join us for a rip-roarin' down home country-style Christmas.

eXplore & More Class



In *Because of Bethlehem*, Max Lucado explores how the One who made everything chose to make himself nothing and come into our world. Jesus' birth gives us the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always within us--and that we no longer need to have marks on our record.

Join the adult eXplore & More Class for this Advent DVD Series. Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. (Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2017)

**December 24th
6-7 pm at NCF** 

Link to watch the program live online:
<https://livestream.com/nivcf/Christmas2017>



Notes from the Elder Board

Since the birth of NCF in 2009, Mennonite Church Manitoba (MCM) has been a part of our church. So it is with a sense of sadness that NCF now will end our formal affiliation with MCM. We want to thank MCM for the resources and services that they have provided to NCF over these 8 years and we pray for MCM, its volunteers, staff, and the 40+ congregations in Manitoba they continue to serve.

This change does not represent a change to what we believe, why we believe it, or how our beliefs impact our lives, our walk with Christ and our witness in the world. The Statement of Faith of NCF affirms the Scriptures as the final and supreme authority and we adhere to The Confession of Faith – Evangelical Mennonite Mission

Conference that we believe is faithfully anchored in scripture. (See EMMC website link: www.emmc.ca/about/confession-of-faith).

Although the end to our affiliation with MCM will bring an end to a piece of the NCF journey, it also signifies a start to a new chapter. As we start this new chapter we look forward to focussing on the Vision of NCF and our priorities of Worship, Love, Grow and Serve.

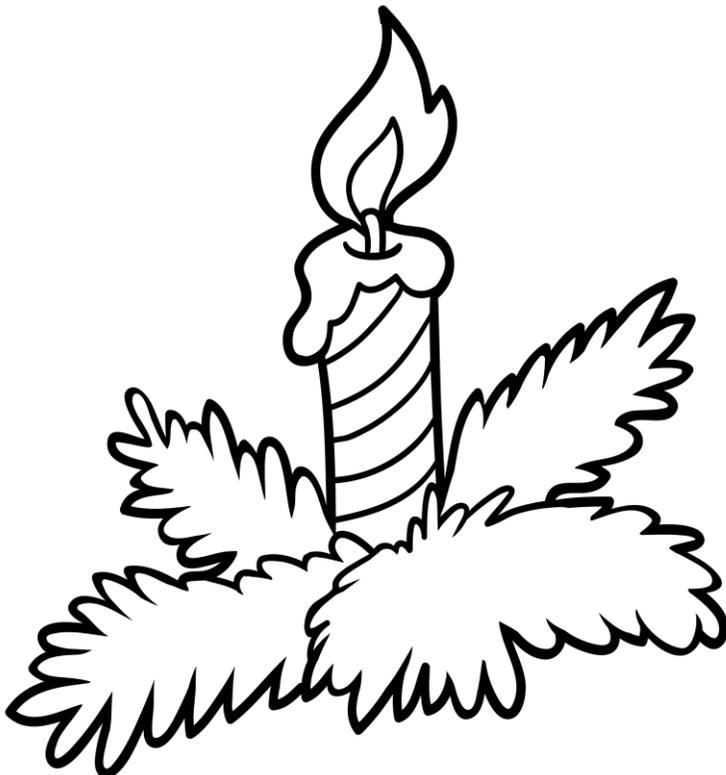
Hebrews 10:23 - "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

- Submitted by Darcy Pauls, Board Chair

Activity Corner



Color the big candle to match the small candle



Find your way to the star at the top of the tree