

Beyond the Congregation

• **Marafiki Pamoja Fundraiser** - support Marafiki Pamoja by purchasing a calendar of Amanda's safari pictures (\$25 each) or a branded water bottle (\$20 each or 2 for \$30). Email Amanda to order Lsnyder.amanda@gmail.com

• **Advent 2025 Jazz Vespers** - Carols in jazz settings with readings on Thurs Dec 18, 7pm, at Rockway Mennonite Church, 47 Onward Avenue, Kitchener. All are welcome!

• **Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's** grade 7&8 production of *Humpty-Dumpty is missing!* They will make great last minute Christmas gifts!!

Visit rockway.ca/events for a show synopsis and to buy your tickets for this comedy whodunit. Show dates: March 5 & 6, 2026

• **Serving And Learning Together (SALT)** is a year-long service experience with one of **Mennonite Central Committee's** international partners for 18-30 year olds looking for job experience in their field. SALT opportunities for 2026-2027 include multimedia, community development, nursing, project management, climate advocacy, agriculture, teaching and more. For more information and to apply, [visit here](#). Learn more about SALT and explore assignments visit mcc.org/salt.

• **Mennonite Mass Choir** along with Menno Singers to perform Johannes Brahms's Schicksalslied (Song of Destiny) and Karl Jenken's The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace on Thurs May 21 at Centre in the Square with soloists and members of the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony, conducted by Brandon Leis. Rehearsals are on Monday nights, beginning Feb 23. Sign up to join at www.mennosingers.com

• **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp** (slmc.ca)

Retreat Registrations: For more information and full list, visit slmc.ca/retreats.

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)

Check out the bulletin board across from the Church office for more Beyond the Congregation announcements and events.

Ministers: All Persons in the Congregation

226 Woolwich Street South, Breslau ON N0B 1M0
519-648-2501 www.breslaumc.ca [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

Pastor Eleanor Epp-Stobbe (she/her) eleanor@breslaumc.ca

Administrative Assistant Doris Gingerich office@breslaumc.ca

Office Hours Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10am-2pm

BMC phone & email are regularly checked.

Elders	Nick Betik	Jean Lehn Epp	Brenda Hallman
	Glenn Martin	Justin Martin	Dale Wombwell



BRESLAU MENNONITE CHURCH THIRD ADVENT Sunday December 14, 2025

BE AMAZED: Joy in the desert
Find rest, comfort, and joy in God,
in places where you least expect it.

GATHERING AND PRAISING GOD

Pre-Worship Advent Singing

Prelude

Gathering Hymn

We Dream of a Turning #209 VT

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Come all who hunger and thirst – God calls us to the feast!

We long for home, caught in a world that drains our hope.

“Listen so that you may live! My covenant is everlasting, my promise sure.”

Can joy reach us here, in this place of waiting?

God's vision is higher than the heavens, stretching beyond what we can see.

The invitation is for all people, from the farthest reaches of the earth.

The word of God does not return empty – it brings life!

The mountains and hills will burst into song; the trees of the field will clap

their hands. You are the source of joy, O God. You expand our vision,

lifting our eyes beyond the moment, beyond despair into amazement.

We gather ready to enter your story and be amazed.

Prayer of Gathering

Hymn

Come to the Water #35 VT

Advent Candle Lighting

We have been wandering.

Come, Joy of the world. Come amaze us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Giving Our First Fruit Offerings

Children's Offering Project – BMC Winter Giving Project

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-5; Luke 2:8-20.

Hymn

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

Jr Sunday School Christmas Program

Children's Story

Matt Rappolt

Hymn

It Came upon a Midnight Clear #248 VT

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Praying Together

Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus #218 VT

Benediction

Postlude

VT – Voices Together

Welcome!

Following the worship service

all are invited for coffee, tea, church juice cookies and conversation.

Worship Leader	Pastor Eleanor
Accompanist	Janice Klassen
Chorister	Karl Braun
Advent Candle Lighters	Betik Family
Sound & Tech	Matthew VanderMeer
Greeters	Carol & Murray Shantz
Ushers	Sharon Nichols, Andre Charette
Coffee	Patti Hobler
Nursery	Amy & Daryl Good

We acknowledge with gratitude the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishnawbe, and Neutral peoples upon our church stands. We seek a new relationship with Indigenous peoples, one based in honour and deep respect.

Nursery – The nursery is staffed and available for infants and children to use.
Worship Service sound assistance available. Please check with an usher.
Children's worship bags are available in the foyer for use during the service.
Scent Sensitivities – Please refrain from using scented products.
Voices Together Hymnal large print - Check with an usher.

No BMC Education Classes December 14

Calendar of Coming Events

Dec 14	9:45am	Worship Service - Advent 3 Be amazed! JOY Joy in the desert. Children's Christmas program Isaiah 55:1-13; Psalm 42; Isaiah 40:1-5; John 4:13-14
Dec 14	11am	BMC Christmas Eve choir practice
Dec 14	12noon-3pm	BMC Youth Christmas Party in the library and gym
Dec 21	9:45am	Worship Service - Advent 4 Be amazed! Love comes down recorded worship, Pastor Eleanor preaching John 1:1-18; Psalm 130:5-8; Isaiah 9:2, 6
Dec 21	11am	BMC Christmas Eve choir practice
Dec 24	7pm	Christmas Eve Service
Dec 28	9:45am	Worship Service - Be amazed! God among us Karl Braun preaching John 1:19-34; Psalm 32:1-2; Isaiah 40:3

Check out the BMC online calendar for a complete listing of all meetings and rentals <https://www.breslaumc.ca/calendar/>

Joys and Concerns

- Pray with joy for the birth of **Charlotte Anne Shantz** on Sunday November 30 to Mac and Rachel Shantz. Great grandparents are **Murray** and **Carol Shantz**.
- **Thank you** for your interest and prayers for newborn Mya Hope. She is home with her family in Grand Prairie, AB. More surgery is expected for Mya in 2-5 weeks. - from Great Grandma Alice Gascho.
- **Prayer for the Longest Night (Dec 21):** *Gracious God, the Good News isn't just that God loves us, but that God is Love, a love that never lets us go. Thanks be to God!*

Birthdays

Dec 14 Luanna Martin (Happy 99th)

Dec 16 Maya Steingart

Dec 19 Fern Balzer

Dec 19 Eleanor Epp-Stobbe

Dec 19 Floyd Gingerich

Announcements

- **Thank you BMC** for a fabulous farewell!! Your gratitude with kind words, tasty cake & other goodies, awesome rappin grannies, melodic Gingrich Berg family singers, meaningful video tribute including Covid worship bloopers, and generous gifts are appreciated. My ❤️ is full. - Eleanor Epp-Stobbe
- **Pastor Eleanor** will be on vacation Dec 25-31, and her term of service as BMC Pastor ends Dec 31. From Dec 25 - Jan 4, in case of a care emergency please contact an Elder. **A Covenant of Release with BMC and Pastor Eleanor** is posted on the bulletin board.
- **BMC office is closed Dec 25 - Jan 1.** In case of church matters, please contact Lily Hiebert Rempel, Council Chair, or leave a message with office@breslaumc.ca
- **BMC Winter Giving Project until Jan 25.** Let's share the warmth by donating **new socks and mittens**, for distribution to The Welcome Centre (Guelph), The Bridges (Cambridge), A Better Tent City (Region of Waterloo). For more information contact a BMC Missions committee member: Andre Charette, Pauline Gingrich, Karen Good, Art Mueller, Sharon Nichols, Pastor Eleanor.
- **Pastor Bruce Yoder (intentional interim pastor)** will begin pastoral leadership on January 4, 2025. Information about Bruce is available in the login section of the BMC website. www.breslaumc.ca
- **Extending the BMC Community Celebration Lunch, Sunday January 11 at 12noon:** The Alyounes family and the Refugee Sponsorship group warmly invites you to come enjoy a delicious Syrian meal prepared by the Alyounes family, get to know the family a little, and learn about their story. BMC has generously supported the Alyounes family since their arrival to Kitchener in May 2025. This is an opportunity for the family to express their gratitude, and to raise the funds necessary for their financial support for the remainder of their first year in Canada. If you are not able to join us, your donation to the Sponsorship Fund is welcome. Please send an e-transfer to donations@breslaumc.ca or donate by cheque written to BMC memo "Alyounes Family".
- BMC is looking for a **2026 BMC Summer Camp Director or Co-director?** For more information talk with Lily Hiebert Rempel or Hannah Snider.

November 2025 Financial Snapshot

- Total income: \$269,313 (includes donations of \$23,935 for the universal washroom)
- Total expenses: \$253,763
- Deficit: -\$8,385
- Based on budgeted revenue for 2025, our December giving target is at least \$60,000

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of BMC. Donations can be mailed/delivered to the church office, delivered electronically using E-transfer to donations@breslaumc.ca or via monthly AFT donation. To set up monthly AFT, please contact Sharon Brown at 519-239-7741 or sharondbrown@rogers.com