

December 9, 2018

Ministry Information & Contacts

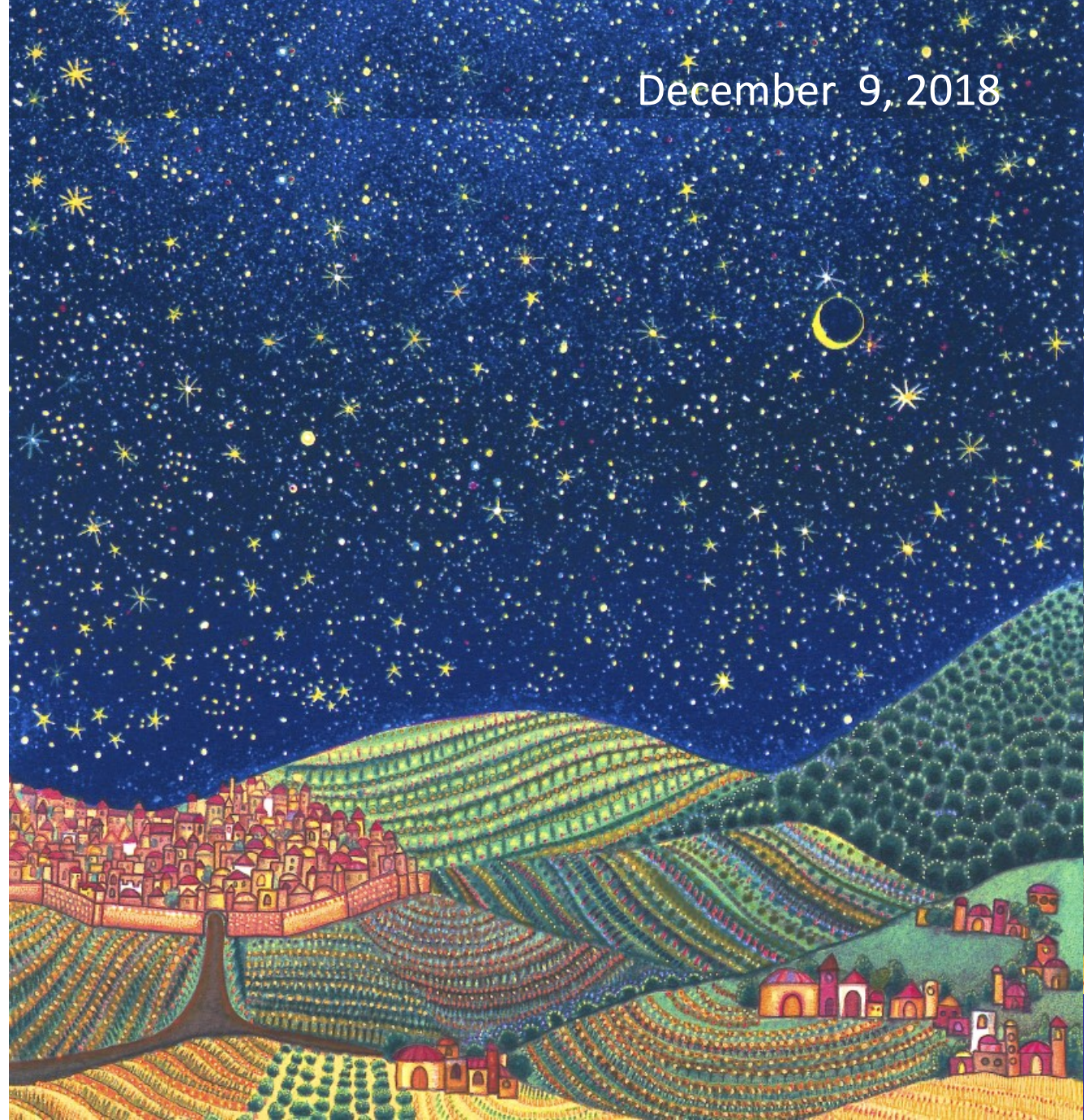
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am-3pm

Phone: 780-986-4119 Email: office@ebenezercrc.com

Website: www.ebenezercrc.com

Bulletin Deadline: 10am Thursdays

Council Clerk Email: clerk@ebenezercrc.com



Welcome to Ebenezer!

Good morning and welcome to week #2 of Advent. Today we have the joy and blessing of welcoming 9 new members into our church family. We also want to extend a warm welcome to The Mighty Power Singers who will be singing during the offertory. And we will continue our theme of the light overcoming the darkness by considering the life and ministry of John the Baptist. Please join us for cake and coffee or juice after this very special service.

Cover Art: Nativity by John Swanson

Welcome & Call to Worship

Song: Here I Am To Worship

God's Greeting
Lighting of the Advent Candle

Song: Will We Know Him?/O Come O Come Emmanuel

Welcome New Members, Baptism & Profession of Faith

Song: Oh How Good It IS

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Thank Offering - **Special Music by The Mighty Power Singers**

1 - Ebenezer Ministries

2 - Open Doors

Scripture: Serving Elder, Herman Bulten

John 1:1-8

Sermon: Witness to the Light

Song: A Christmas Alleluia

Parting Blessing

Song: Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

Church Family

Congratulations to **Brad & Lauren T** in the birth of their son, born Saturday, November 30., We rejoice with you and your family in this precious blessing.

Please see the [Deacon's Corner Bulletin Board](#) for the latest newsletter from our Missionaries Albert and Carolyn Strydhorst. If you'd like a copy contact the office.

If you are experiencing physical or emotional difficulties, please speak to Pastor Jason, your district Elder, a Deacon or contact the church office. We want to support you in your journey. We pray that God will provide you with peace, comfort and healing.

HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS The Church Office will be closed from December 24 until Jan 3 except for Friday December 28 when we will be open from 9 - 3.

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW: Pictures needed of events from this past year for year end power point. Please email Jen F. Questions? Talk to Jen F. for more info.

RESERVED PARKING STALLS - We have reserved and numbered parking stalls along the sidewalks for those with mobility issues. This way those in need of these spots can be assured they are open and available before church services and other functions. If you are in need of a reserved spot - whether long term or temporary (while recovering from surgery or injury, etc.) please call the office! The rest of the stalls along the sidewalks remain designated for seniors. Thank you!

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA? Ebenezer [Youth Group](#) is selling hand crafted crosses for \$20 each to raise money for their upcoming missions trip this March. These small wall hangings would make great Christmas gifts for those hard to buy for people on your list. These would not only be a blessing to the people you are giving them to, but also for our Youth Group. To purchase one, contact a member of our Youth Group or Jamie B or Kelly L

CHRISTMAS DINNER: All Seniors are invited to a Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 18th. Singing and devotions will begin at 11:30am, dinner will be served at noon. Sign-up sheet is on the table by the mailboxes or contact Alice (T) V or Linda H

The **SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS** have been practicing for the candlelight service Carolfest on December 23 and have also been practicing a song for Christmas Day. Parents are invited to practice the song for Christmas Day by searching it: "What a Glorious Night!" by the Sidewalk Prophets.

Ebenezer Ministry Opportunities

NURSERY IS LOOKING FOR food and dishes for the toy kitchen. These donations can be dropped off at the church office. If you have questions or need more information you can call either Carol W or Alesha S.

FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY: We are looking specifically for a male to be a mentor to a young man who would like to join our group. If you think you may be that person please talk to Wendy B.

Our **FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY** is also looking to develop an adult costume and props trunk that can be used to aid with the acting out of the Biblical text being studied each Monday. Some examples of those materials are house coats, head cloths, crowns, staffs, etc. Acting out the Bible stories helps our Friends to understand and remember God's word. Please give these items to Ineke, Wendy or Carolyn. Thank you!

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE FIRST EVER OLIEBOLLEN CUP! A co-ed volleyball tournament in support of our Youth Group's service trip to Mexico this march! Mark your calendars for January 4th at Covenant Christian School and start gathering your team! There's room for 8 teams! Entry fee is \$250.00. Ages 15+. Want to donate money or food for the concession or volunteer to ref/lines games? Looking for a team or ready to register? Talk to our tournament coordinator, Nicole V!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The GEMS counsellors served an amazing and delicious array of desserts which were enjoyed by all who participated. The funds raised by the donations given will go towards their leadership training.

The general meeting was opened with prayer and a song.

Gord introduced the visioning work done to date and round table discussions were held to try to gain a measurement of the need and content of a possible new vision statement.

The budget was presented and after discussion received approximately 96.5% support.

After another break for more dessert, the topic of our growing church family was discussed and recent work by a "Facilities Use Committee" was put forward along with possibilities for addressing the need for additional space for worship, nursery, youth, storage and classrooms. Small group work around this occurred at round tables.

The results of both the visioning work done tonight as well as the work around facilities use will be tabulated and formulated into a report which will be shared later.

We received yet another invitation to enjoy more dessert and then the meeting closed with a singing of the doxology with all members present forming a circle throughout the fellowship hall.

Coming Up @ Ebenezer

Sunday, Dec 9
 @ 9:15 am Weekly Prayer Meeting in the Library
 @ 10:00 am Worship Service - New Members
 @ 11:45 am Catechism for Grades 7-10
 @ 7:00 pm CarolFest Practice
 @ 7:30 pm Youth Group

Monday, Dec 10 @7:00 pm Friendship Ministry

Wednesday, Dec 12
 @ 9:30 am Coffee Break Women's Ministry
 @ 6:30 pm Cadets Club

Sunday, Dec 16
 @ 9:15 am Weekly Prayer Meeting in the Library
 @ 10:00 am Worship Service Baptism
 @ 7:00 pm CarolFest Practice

Sunday, Dec 23 @ 7:00 pm Christmas CarolFest Service



CHRISTMAS COOKIE BOXES - Thank you to all of the cookie bakers. We have cookie boxes for sale. If you would like a box (5 dozen cookies/box) they are \$30.00 each. If there's any questions or would like to purchase a box you can contact Bea M. Thank you.

Calendar Announcements

CAROLFEST NEWS: There will be choir practice this evening. If you would like a CarolFest Flyer to post in the community, contact the church office. Also, consider sharing the event on FaceBook. The event is listed on Ebenezer's FaceBook page.

PIATTA FORMA SINGERS: present A Concert For Christmas with special guests - Sunrise String Quartet. Additional concert on Sunday, Dec 9th at 7pm at Peace Lutheran Church in Leduc.

INGLEWOOD CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH is hosting a **Young Adults (18-35ish) retreat** February 8-10, 2019 at Camp Warwa. Young adults from across the city are encouraged to attend as we get back to basics and learn a new way to make the most of our Bible and assistive resources. The cost for the weekend is \$150.00, which includes meals, lodging, activities, speaker, and materials (yours to keep). Carpooling is available. With questions and to register, please contact Emily Erin: icrcprogcoor@telus.net. Please register by December 20th, 2018.

Deacon's Corner

1st Offering - EBENEZER MINISTRIES - This offering is used to cover the day-to-day expenses of the church, fund the various ministries at Ebenezer, cover the salaries of staff, and contribute to the ministry shares that we are committed to as members of Classis Alberta North and the CRC Denomination.

2nd Offering - OPEN DOORS - strengthening Christians in the world's most oppressive and restrictive countries to stand strong in the face of persecution and equipping them to shine Christ's light.

Next Week - BETHANY HOMES WETASKIWIN

FOR NADC UPDATES AND NEWSLETTERS you can subscribe to receive email updates on the Classis website or check out new posts at www.classisalbertanorth.ca/nadc. Also like the NADC facebook page or friend Ab North to follow on social media.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 6, 2018

The meeting opened with devotions and the prayer bowl, where Council takes the opportunity to pray for individuals and families.

Council discussed some feedback on our recent Thanksgiving service, and it was subsequently decided that the Thanksgiving Day service on Monday will be re-instated.

A protocol will be followed to improve on providing the congregation with advance notice of communion.

Various items of correspondence were addressed.

At council's request, several options for expanding our facility use were presented and then discussed. Council was appreciative of the volunteer work to provide these options for consideration. These options will in turn be reviewed and worked at the upcoming congregation meeting to obtain peoples' feedback.

The Finance Committee was thanked for all their diligent work on the budget which will also be presented at the congregational meeting for approval.

As always, this is just a snapshot of the discussions at our council meeting. We hope you know and feel our love for this church, its members and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ in our service to our King.

Clerk of Council.

Denominational News

More news and encouragement can be found at <http://www.ebenzercrc.com/news>.
A paper copy is posted on the Bulletin Board.

CHRISTMAS DAY CAROL SINGING Each year on Christmas Day, St. Peter's Lutheran Church participates in carol singing to the patrons at Blackjack's Roadhouse. The patrons enjoy this immensely while they participate in this free Christmas meal. Many are alone and benefit from the company of the carolers. This year we would like to extend an invitation to all congregations to come and join us. We sing between 12 noon and 4 pm. Also musicians are welcome to play. We stick with the tried and true, nothing complicated. If you have any questions, please call Susan Perry at 780-719-1403.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Ushers: Marilyn & Andy Z

Next Week: Tim C, Bev C

Greeters: Dick & Judy O

Next Week: Dennis & Ineke V

Coffee Duties: Glen & Christine H, Jon & Janna P, Rudy & Karen G

Next Week: Jan & Marischa Kriel, Ted & Joanne K, Troy & Michelle C

Serving Elder: Herman B

Next Week: Wilbur H

Worship Team: Marianne & Team

Next Week: Alice VDK

Projection & Audio: Mike R/Nicole VDK **Next Week:** Pete V/Wes V

Nursery Supervisor - Carol W

Inf: Carol W, Jamie B, Grace B, Kaitlyn M.

Tod: Mike D, Laura A, Kevin Ba

Next Week: Nursery Supervisor - Tammy M

Inf: Tammy M, Janna P, Beth Ga, Amy A

Tod: Dan H, Wendy B, Daniel Bo

Questions about Serving? Contact the office for more information or to be added to the Volunteer List.