

December 24, 2017



ADVENT 2017

Ministry Information & Contacts

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am-3pm

Phone: 780-986-4119 **Email:** ebenezer@xplornet.com

Website: www.ebenezercrc.com

Bulletin Deadline: 12pm Thursdays

Council Clerk Email: clerk@ebenezercrc.com



for unto us a child is born



EBENEZER
Christian Reformed Church

Restoring all people
to God's living truth
and equipping them
to passionately live it out!

Good Morning and Welcome to Ebenezer!

Good morning and welcome to Ebenezer! During this Advent season we've been considering some of the Messianic prophecies that Isaiah gave 700 years before the birth of Jesus. Today we leap ahead to the time when Jesus was born. We'll go to the temple and hear from a prophet named Anna who has been waiting for Jesus her whole life.

Luke 2:36-38

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Welcome and Prayer

Call to Worship

Song: Joy to the World

Greeting

Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Time of Confession

Song: Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

Prayer of Assurance

Lighting of Advent Candle

Song: Go tell it on the Mountain

Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Thank Offering:

1 - Ebenezer Ministries

2 - The King's University College

Children's Time

Scripture: Luke 2:36-38

Message: Awaiting a Savior

Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Parting Blessing

Song: Ere Zij God/Glory to God

Church Family

Happy Birthday and congratulations to **Andy Lukas** who celebrates his **80th Birthday** December 26! We rejoice with Andy & Shirley and their family this special day and wish them God's blessing all year through! Please join us for birthday cake after the service today!

Congratulations to **Per & Bernice Sakstad** who celebrate their **15th Wedding Anniversary** December 28! We wish God's blessings for you and your families as you celebrate this special milestone!

We realize this season of Christmas brings special difficulties and challenges for those who are struggling with illness or injury, are recovering from surgery, and especially for those who are grieving, struggling with depression, or facing other difficult life circumstances. We pray that God will surround you with His peace, comfort, and healing. Please connect with someone in the church family, an elder, deacon or staff if you are going through a hard time. There are names and phone numbers on the back page of every bulletin. **We are here for each other.**

2017 DONATIONS - The cut off for 2017 donations will be Sunday, December 31. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS - The church office will be open 9:00am - 12:00 pm December 28-30, January 2-5.

CUSTODIAN - Ebenezer will be hiring a new Custodian/Caretaker in the new year. Approximately 16 hours per week. If you have any questions about the position, please contact Pete Vlieg or Fia Bruinsma. Please submit a resume and cover letter to the church office by January 7, thank you. If no applications are received by that date we will begin advertising externally.



2017 HIGHLIGHTS - We would like to put together a PowerPoint of 2017 in review to be shown at the service on December 31. If you have photos of babies born, baptisms, weddings, and other special events of 2017, please email or contact the church office.

WIDOWED LUNCH BUNCH - We will meet on January 7, at 12:30, for lunch at the home of Lieuwe and Fia B. We welcome anyone who is a widow or widower.

Coming Up @ Ebenezer

Monday	10:00 am	Christmas Day Service
Thursday - Saturday	9 am	Craft Retreat (see announcement)
Sunday (Dec 31)	9:15 am	Weekly Prayer Meeting in Library
	10:00 am	Worship Service
Monday (Jan 1)	11:00 am	New Year's Day Service

CRAFTING RETREAT - Our next 'crafting retreat' is right around the corner...Thursday, December 28th through to Saturday, December 30th at the church. We will be starting on Thursday morning at 9:00 am and go till about 9:00 pm on both Thursday and Friday. On Saturday, we will start again at 9:00 am and will finish up by 4:00 pm. You can craft (scrapbook, knit, weave, sew, quilt, crochet, embroider, etc.) for all three days, two days, one day, partial days – whatever works for you! We will have potluck meals (or turkey leftovers:) and snacks for all three days so please let us know if you are planning to attend so we can prepare accordingly. If you have any questions and/or would like to help with set up and food preparations, please contact either Wendy T, Jan W, or Freda MO



MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY - On February 4 we will be welcoming a group of new members into our faith family here at Ebenezer. There is still time to be part of this group. If you are interested in becoming a member or if you would like more information, please contact Pastor Jason and he would love to meet with you about membership.

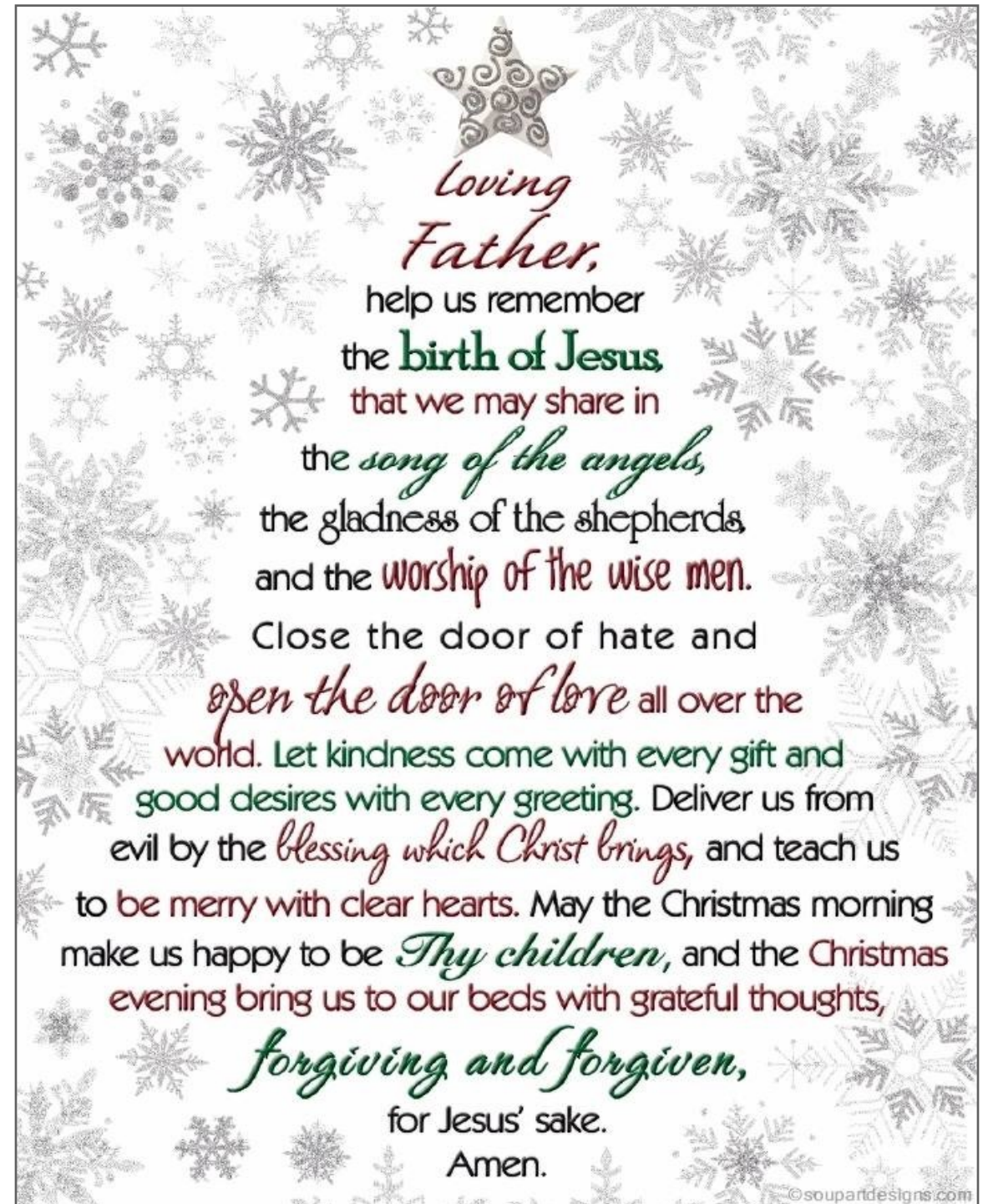
Deacon's Corner

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 contributes to the ministry shares that we are committed to as members of Classis Alberta North and the CRC Denomination.

2nd Offering - KINGS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE - TKUC's mission explains that they are here to exist to provide university education that inspires and equips learners to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life as followers of Jesus Christ, the Servant-King. They aspire to flourish and grow as a university community faithful to the biblical vision of the restoration of all things in Jesus Christ, characterized by creative teaching, passionate learning, rigorous scholarship, compassionate care, and joyful service. For more info see kingsu.ca

Christmas - WORLD RENEW or designate to your choice - World Renew Free a Family helps families overcome poverty through community programs in agriculture, health, nutrition, literacy, and more! You can sponsor a family on a monthly basis or give a one time donation. For more info see worldrenew.net/faf

Next Week - DEACONATE - Deacons are church officers whose main job description is to administer the mercy of Christ to all people. The deacons are also called upon to motivate the members of Christ's church to faithful, obedient stewardship of their resources on behalf of the needy. Along with loving deeds and with gifts of money and assistance, the deacons serve the needy with counsel, leading people to see the grace of our loving Savior and recognizing the Lord through whom all blessings flow.



Community and Denominational Announcements

BENEFIT FOR LIFE BANQUET - You're invited to attend Alberta's 6th annual Benefit for Life Banquet in Edmonton on April 7th, 2018 at 4:30pm. Join us to learn how you can Create History with The Wilberforce Project (previously Alberta Pro-Life) as we share our plan to create Canada's First Abortion Law. RSVP by calling 587-806-5112 or email admin@twp.life to reserve your FREE seat.

STAND IN THE GAP WITH WORLD RENEW THIS CHRISTMAS - God's power is made visible in His son Jesus Christ, who stood in the gap to offer us salvation. Give a powerful gift to someone in need this Christmas – one duckling, a flock, or a whole barnyard filled with animals. Find these and other life-changing items at worldrenewgifts.net, or call 800-730-3490 to receive your printed catalogue in the mail.

A THEOLOGY OF STAR WARS - Are you excited about Star Wars: The Last Jedi? Some of the sharpest thinkers on theology and pop culture explore key themes in the preceding films in "A Theology of Star Wars," an ebook from Think Christian. Simply sign up to receive Think Christian articles by email and the ebook is yours! Learn more at thinkchristian.net/starwars.

MARY'S MIRACLE - Kids Corner presents this dramatic presentation of the miracle of Jesus as seen through the eyes of Mary. Check out KC's new Christmas coupon book for a great gift idea at www.kidscorner.net.

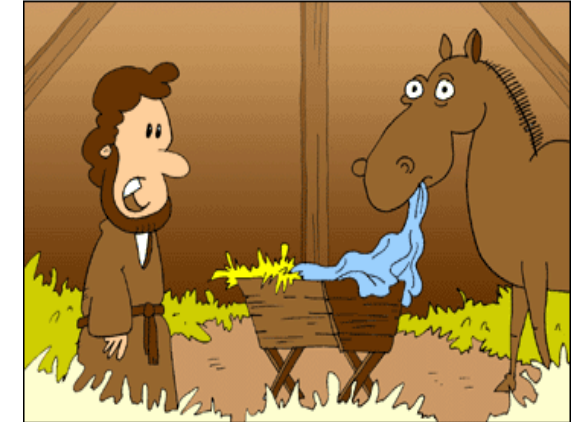
PRINCE OF PEACE - What does it mean to declare and proclaim Jesus as the Prince of Peace? Considering the present brokenness and pain in our world, when can we expect this peace to prevail? Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:2-7 and Isaiah 11:1-9 to discover the meaning of this final title Isaiah gives the Messiah. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com

ADVENT THANKS - During the Advent season we are reminded of the knowledge of our Christ entering into the world as a servant. Consequently, I become very aware of the servant posture that our churches and members have taken on an ongoing basis. Thank you for the ways and means by which all of you serve as Christ followers in and through the Christian Reformed Church in all of its places across Canada. I can confidently say that the impact of our Christian expression is well respected and being used by God in mighty ways. - Rev. Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CHURCH CONSTRUCTION - Join together with the local church in Los Alcarizos, Dominican Republic to construct a new church building. Their current building is too small, in very poor shape, and has little ventilation. Church members have been gathering materials together and are really hoping for a team to come and help them this year. For more information visit resonateglobalmission.org/go or contact Bill Thornburg - bthornburg@crcna.org. Deadline is January 5, 2018.

BRIAN DOERKSEN IN CONCERT - The Juno and Dove Award winning Christian singer/songwriter Brian Doerksen is coming to Edmonton! Doerksen penned many of the most well-loved contemporary songs sung in our churches today including "Hope of the Nations," "Refiner's Fire," "Faithful One," and many others. Hear Brian Doerksen in concert alongside The King's University Choirs and A Call to Worship band for a powerful night of uplifting contemporary praise and worship! Tickets can be purchased at fixonthesquare.ca. The concert is Saturday, January 20 at 7 p.m. at South Pointe Community Centre.

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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-21-2001

HEY MARY, IT'S YOUR TURN TO CHECK THE SWADDLING CLOTH

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Ushers: Ruby P, Dennis P, Luke K	Christmas: Dennis V, Tim C, Bev C
Next Week: John T, Howard O, Ted K	New Year's: Ruby P, Dennis P, Luke K
Greeters: Roy & Teena V	Christmas: John & Wendy T
Next Week: Gary & Jenny F	New Year's: Hank & Henny G
Coffee Duties: Ed & Grace B, Roger & Barb G, Aaron & Heather D	
Next Week: Joel & Candice P, Dan & Emily M, Elly M	
New Year's: Rudy & Karen G, Andy & Arja T, Dale & Karen H	
Worship Team: Grace & Team	Christmas: Marianne & Team
Next Week: Youth	New Year's: Alice & Team
Projection & Audio: Jamie & Matt	Christmas: Nicole & Mike
Next Week: Dan & Ted	New Year's: Wes & Pete
Serving Elder: Gord W	Christmas: Herman B
Next Week: Norm H	New Year's: Jordan S
Nursery: Supervisor - Lisa K	Christmas: Supervisor - Glen H
Infants: Jay K, Linda T, Edson V	Infants: Kelly L, Alesha S, Jolene V
Toddlers: Ben M, Angelica G, Amy A	Toddlers: Janna P, Warren T, Sam K
Next Week: Supervisor - Carol W	New Year's: Supervisor - Carol W
Infants: Carol W, Linda H, Sophie C	Infants: Alinda B, Grace B, Lois D
Toddlers: Jon L, Christina P, Grace C	Toddlers: John W, Charlene V,

