

December 3, 2017



# ADVENT 2017

## Ministry Information & Contacts

**Office Hours:** Tuesday - Friday 9am-3pm

**Phone:** 780-986-4119 **Email:** [ebenezer@xplornet.com](mailto:ebenezer@xplornet.com)

**Website:** [www.ebenezercrc.com](http://www.ebenezercrc.com)

**Bulletin Deadline:** 12pm Thursdays

**Council Clerk Email:** [clerk@ebenezercrc.com](mailto: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!

Welcome to the first Sunday of Advent! Advent is a season to look back with joy and remember the arrival of our Savior and to look forward with hope as we await the return of our King. This year we will be focusing on the prophet Isaiah's anticipation of the coming Messiah. 700 years before Jesus came to earth Isaiah prophesied that one day unto us a child would be born. 2000 years ago that child was born. Praise the Lord! Thank you for joining us today and please stay and join us for coffee and juice after the service.

## Isaiah 7:10-17

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz,  
"Ask the Lord your God for a sign,  
whether in the deepest depths or in  
the highest heights."

But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will  
not put the Lord to the test."

Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you  
house of David! Is it not enough to  
try the patience of humans? Will you  
try the patience of my God also?  
Therefore the Lord himself will give  
you a sign: The virgin will conceive  
and give birth to a son, and will call  
him Immanuel. He will be eating curds  
and honey when he knows enough to  
reject the wrong and choose the  
right, for before the boy knows  
enough to reject the wrong and  
choose the right, the land of the two  
kings you dread will be laid waste.  
The Lord will bring on you and on  
your people and on the house of  
your father a time unlike any  
since Ephraim broke away  
from Judah—he will bring  
the king of Assyria."

Welcome and Prayer

**Songs: O Come O Come Immanuel**

**For Unto Us**

God's Greeting

**Song: Joy Has Dawned**

Call to Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**Song: Psalm 23**

Children's Message

Announcements

Congregational Prayer

**Thank Offering:**

**1 - Ebenezer Ministries**

**2 - Calvin College**

*(Children ages 3 - Grade 3 leave for Children's Church)*

**Scripture: Isaiah 7:1-17**

**Message: God With Us**

**Song: Your Name**

Parting Blessing

**Song: Hope of the Nations**

## Church Family

Thank you so much to our church family for your prayers, words of encouragement, cards, visits, food, and flowers. It has truly been amazing how God has placed it on your hearts to help us through this difficult time. Thank you once again.

**-Dennis & Ineke V**

Please remember in prayer those who are struggling with illness or injury, are recovering from surgery, or who are grieving. We pray God's peace, comfort, and healing for you all.

**MUSTARD SEED CHRISTMAS DINNER** - Today we will be taking a collection at the sanctuary doors after the service for the Mustard Seed Christmas Dinner. The money collected will be used to cover our cost for the supplies and food that will be bought. Any leftover money will be donated. Thank you for your support.

**WIDOWED LUNCH BUNCH** - Today at 12:30 at the home of Abel & Tena H.

**SENIORS CHRISTMAS DINNER** - All seniors are invited to our annual Seniors Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 19 @ 11:30. It would be great if you could RSVP to the church office! Hope to see you all there!

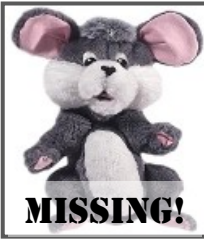


**2017 HIGHLIGHTS** - We would like to put together a PowerPoint of 2017 in review to be shown at the service on December 31. If you have photos of babies born, baptisms, weddings, and other special events of 2017, please email or contact the church office. Thank you for your help with this!



**FAITH @ HOME** - Each Children's Church family has an Advent Devotional in their mailboxes (there are more on the table in the foyer for anyone who wants them). This is an awesome project to do at home together as a family! There are four weekly devotionals and a Christmas decoration to colour and hang in your home each day during advent. Find extras on the table near the mailboxes or ask the church office!

**ELDER VISITATION** - Council has felt led to resume the practice of elder visitation here at Ebenezer. This is for the purpose of exercising care, giving encouragement and listening to the ideas and concerns of the congregation. Our hope and prayer is that these visits will be a blessing to the congregation and will help us to continue to grow together as we seek to be the church that God is calling us to be. You can expect your district elder to contact you to schedule an elder visit.



**MISSING** - Last seen Oct 15, 2017. Whiskers, our Story Hour Mouse puppet is missing! If you know of his whereabouts, please help him find his way back to classroom #1 or return to the church office. Thank you!

**A CONCERT FOR CHRISTMAS** - Piatta Forma Choir and the Black Gold Community Band present A Concert for Christmas here at Ebenezer Friday, December 8 @ 7pm. The concert is free but there will be a donation box at the door. For more info see the poster on the bulletin board.

**FREE ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** - Advent starts today. Is your heart ready? - Celebrating Christmas isn't a day, it's a season. Welcome Immanuel, Incarnate in 2017 with Advent devotions from World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, starting tomorrow, Dec. 4. Join an exploration of the Incarnation of Christ and his presence in our lives as we prepare to celebrate his birth. To sign up, go to [crcna.org/advent](http://crcna.org/advent).

**FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS** - Winspear Centre - Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. U of A Mixed Chorus & Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers, Director Robert de Frece, Organists Marnie Giesbrecht & Joachim Segger. All Seats: \$18 (plus service chg.). Winspear Box Office: (780) 428-1414. Sponsors: U of A Interfaith Chaplains, U of A Mixed Chorus, and U of A & King's University Depts. of Music. A Benefit for Student Mental Health

## 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 - CALVIN COLLEGE** - Calvin College is a comprehensive liberal arts college in the Reformed tradition of historic Christianity. Through our learning, we seek to be agents of renewal in the academy, church, and society. We pledge fidelity to Jesus Christ, offering our hearts and lives to do God's work in God's world. For more info see [calvin.edu](http://calvin.edu)

**Next Week - OUR MISSIONARIES** - Caspar & Leanne Geisterfer - One of the missionary families we support in our church are the Geisterfers, based in Honduras. Each year we commit to giving \$3000.00 towards their ministry work. For more info about their missions, please visit the Christian Reformed World Missions website.

## Coming Up @ Ebenezer

<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Friendship Christmas Dinner
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	Youth
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	Coffee Break
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Cadets
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6 - 10 pm</b>	Worship & Choir Rehearsals
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Piatta Forma Choir Concert
<b>Sunday (Dec 10)</b>	<b>9:15 am</b>	Weekly Prayer Meeting in Library
	<b>10:00 am</b>	Second Sunday of Advent Service
	<b>11:45 am</b>	Junior High Catechism Class

**Dec 16 - Mustard Seed Dinner Prep**

**Dec 25 - Christmas Day Service**

**Dec 19 - Seniors' Christmas Lunch**

**Dec 28-30 - Craft Retreat**

**Dec 22 - Candle Light Service (7pm)**

**Jan 1 - New Year's Day Service**

**THE LEDUC & DISTRICT GROWING PROJECT** - for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is hosting an Appreciation Dinner on December 6, 2017 at 6:00 pm at the Rollyview Hall. Everyone is welcome. For more information, see the Poster in the Foyer.

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE & SILENT AUCTION** - to support residents of Emmanuel Home has been re-scheduled to Saturday, December 9, 2017, 9:30 am-2:00 pm. at Trinity CRC (13429-57 St). Come out and enjoy a festive time of craft sales, Dutch food, interesting auction items and great fellowship! For more information contact Aria at 780-822-1274, [aria@emmanuelhome.ca](mailto:aria@emmanuelhome.ca).

**THE ADVENT WREATH** - Advent wreaths are circular, representing God's infinite love and are made of evergreen leaves, which represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus Christ. Within the Advent wreath are candles that represent the four weeks of the Advent season as well as the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus Christ. In our tradition the candles specifically symbolize HOPE (week one), PEACE (week two), JOY (week three) and LOVE (week four). The white candle in the centre, known as the "Christ Candle," symbolizes the arrival of Jesus and is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.



# Community and Denominational Announcements

**WORLD RENEW** - This Advent, World Renew asks you to stand in the gap with people in need. - With your help, World Renew can fill the poverty gap with literacy, agriculture, and good health. Include a gift catalogue item on your Christmas list this year. There's a catalogue in your mailbox or request additional copies online at [worldrenewgifts.net](http://worldrenewgifts.net) or call 800-730-3490.

**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. Sign up to receive Think Christian articles by email and the ebook is yours! Learn more at [thinkchristian.net/starwars](http://thinkchristian.net/starwars).

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL SERIES** - Looking for more meaning in the midst of a busy Christmas season? This Advent, ReFrame Media offers a special email devotional series just for you. With daily devotions and encouragements from Today, Family Fire, Groundwork, and the fun of Kids Corner, we designed it to help your whole family experience the true wonder of Christmas, the coming Christ. Subscribe at [reframemedia.com/advent](http://reframemedia.com/advent).

**THE KNIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS** - When Liz and Lucille see a homeless family in front of church, they tell Liz's dad. The church decides to help them, but then they find out that all is not what it seems. Check out KC's Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and Devotional and invite your whole family to join you in giving daily gifts of kindness at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net).

**WONDERFUL COUNSELOR** - In the famous passage in Isaiah 9:6, the prophet begins by describing the Messiah as our Wonderful Counselor. As we look toward Jesus Christ's birth, join us in studying Isaiah 9:2-6, John 14:15-17, and John 16:12-15 to discover the divine wisdom and help we receive from Jesus Christ our Messiah. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**SOUTH AFRICA PRAYER SAFARI** - Explore life and ministry as you pray for those living in South Africa on the Global Prayer Safari, Wednesday, January 31 - Monday, February 12. You'll be hosted by Resonate missionaries and partners, and see the power of prayer! Visit [Resonateglobalmission.org/Safari](http://Resonateglobalmission.org/Safari) to sign up or for more information.

**CALVIN SYMPOSIUM ON WORSHIP** - Attend the annual Calvin Symposium on Worship, January 25-27, 2018, at Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary. This conference brings together a wide audience of artists, musicians, pastors, scholars, students, worship leaders and planners, and other interested worshipers. There are excellent rates for students and groups from churches. All worship services are free and open to the public. For information and to register, go to [worship.calvin.edu/symposium/](http://worship.calvin.edu/symposium/).

**CRC CANADA POSITION OPENING** - The denominational Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee (EIRC) has a vacancy to be filled by a person from Western Canada. The Committee is appointed by Synod of the CRC to engage and participate in the life of the global church, particularly interacting with churches and ecumenical organizations that share the heritage of the Reformed understanding of the Christian faith. Members of Classis Alberta North should send their nomination to Henk Van Anandel, Classis Nominations Coordinator, at [henkva@telus.net](mailto:henkva@telus.net) before December 15, 2017. Nominees are to have some ecumenical experience and interest, and nominations should be accompanied by a brief biography demonstrating this experience and interest.

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Jonah 1-4) 12-12-2008

HONESTLY JONAH, IF YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GO WHALE WATCHING WITH ME YOU COULD HAVE JUST SAID SO

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Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Genesis 6-8) 12-05-2008

NOAH BEGAN TO FEEL THE URGENCY OF HIS CALLING

## Thank You to Our Volunteers

**Ushers:** Andrew V, Andy Z, Marilyn Z **Next Week:** Dennis V, Tim C, Bev C

**Greeters:** Ed & Monica V

**Next Week:** Dennis & Ineke V

**Coffee Duties:** Jon & Rikki L, Wilbur & Linda H, Andy & Joanne V

**Next Week:** Stephen T, Dick & Judy O, Johan & Tammy M

**Worship Team:** Alice & Team

**Next Week:** Grace & Team

**Projection & Audio:** Wes & Pete

**Next Week:** Jamie & Matt

**Serving Elder:** Henk S

**Next Week:** Frank V

**Nursery: Supervisor** - Linda K

**Next Week: Supervisor** - Linda K

**Infants:** Linda K, Jordan S, Ashley T

**Infants:** Laura A, Leanne K, Andrea K

**Toddlers:** Sam G, Yoka T, Owen V

**Toddlers:** Alex B, Karen H, Shane K

