

December 10, 2017



ADVENT 2017

Ministry Information & Contacts

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am-3pm
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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 second 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. During the ministry of the prophet Isaiah, Israel was in a dark and difficult time. And yet, Isaiah prophesied of a day when God's people would receive good news of great joy. 700 years later, the Prince of Peace was born bringing joy to the world! This morning we reflect on the joy that is ours in Christ our Lord. Thank you for joining us today and please stay and join us for coffee and juice after the service.

Isaiah 9:2-3

The people walking
in darkness
have seen a
great light;
on those living
in the land of
deep darkness
a light has dawned.

You have enlarged
the nation
and increased
their joy;
they rejoice
before you
as people rejoice
at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the
plunder.

Welcome and Prayer

Song: Hark the Glad Sound

God's Greeting

Song: What Can I Do

Call to Confession

Song: Let There Be Peace on Earth

Assurance of Pardon

Song: Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Advent Prayer & Lighting of Advent Candle

Children's Message

Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Thank Offering:

1 - Ebenezer Ministries

2 - Our Missionaries, the Geisterfers

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

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7

Message: Jesus, Our Joy

Song: Joy Has Dawned Upon the World

Parting Blessing

Song: Go My Children With My Blessing



MAGIC OF LIGHTS BUS TOUR - Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun family evening as we take a bus to visit the Magic of Lights at Castrol Raceway this Thursday, December 14. The bus will leave Ebenezer at 7pm and return at around 8. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served at the church afterward! Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost. A sign up sheet is on the table by the mailboxes or you can call or email the church office so we know how many people to expect, thank you!

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.

BAPTISM - Next Sunday, Lord willing, we hope to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism as Josh & Michelle K bring their son, Josiah Romke, to be baptized!

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.

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!

MUSTARD SEED COLLECTION - Thank you so much for your generous contribution towards the Mustard Seed Christmas Dinner. Your donations far exceeded our expectations. Thanks to all of you who volunteered to help out, even more than were required. Have a joyous Sunday. - Joyce, Mennie and Margaret

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 or call 800-730-3490.

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!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! - Please contact the church office if you are able to help with this lunch, thank you!



CHURCH LIBRARY

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind."



CHURCH LIBRARY UPDATE -

The library has a wonderful new selection of fiction books that are available to take out. We will also be purchasing a variety of

non-fiction books in the New Year! If you have any suggestions for non-fiction book titles, we would love to hear them! Please submit your favourites to Jenny Ruysch or Lisa Kugyelka. (Ideal Topics: Resources, Biographies, Christian Living, Parenting, Devotions, Family, Financial, etc.) We would also like to express our deepest thanks to those who have graciously donated books and DVD's to the library! They are greatly appreciated and allow us to provide an excellent selection for the congregation. When renting from the Library, please be sure to return items on time and in original condition. If you have previously borrowed books or DVD's, we would be immensely grateful if you could check your DVD cases and book shelves at home to see if any have been mistakenly misplaced. A number of cases have been returned empty and several books are missing. Lastly, please ensure that all children in the library have adequate supervision so that we can better maintain the organization and condition of the items we provide. Thank you! Jenny R & Lisa K

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.

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 - 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.

Next Week - YOUTH UNLIMITED WETASKIWIN - The programs of Youth Unlimited Wetaskiwin are designed to connect with youth where they are: lunch time programs at junior high and high schools, hosting concerts, camping and canoe trips in summer, ski trips in winter and a floor hockey league for Millet, Wetaskiwin and Hobbema youth. Wetaskiwin and Millet also have youth drop-in centers. Our programs give opportunities to get kids off the streets or off their computers and engaged in life. Through this we hope to encourage these young people to take their negative experiences and turn them into something positive for the future. For more info see youthunlimitedwetaskiwin.com

Coming Up @ Ebenezer

Monday	7:00 pm	Friendship
Wednesday	10:00 am	Coffee Break
	6:45 pm	GEMS
Thursday	7:00 pm	Christmas Light Bus Tour & Hot Chocolate
Saturday	11:30 am	Mustard Seed Dinner Prep
Sunday (Dec 17)	9:15 am	Weekly Prayer Meeting in Library
	10:00 am	Third Sunday of Advent Service & Baptism

Dec 19 - Seniors' Christmas Lunch

Dec 28-30 - Craft Retreat

Dec 22 - Candle Light Service (7pm)

Jan 1 - New Year's Day Service

Dec 25 - Christmas Day Service

DAYS FOR GIRLS THANK YOU! – Thank you! We would like to pass along a huge thank you to everyone who was part of our Days for Girls Work Bee on November 25th. We had a great turn-out (over 50 people!) and together we were able to finish 65 kits and also complete a lot of preparation work for our next Work Bee which will be held in February 2018. We would also like to thank the entire Ebenezer congregation for the very generous collection on November 12, 2017 which raised over \$1700! These dollars will be directed to our continued work in helping provide re-usable and sustainable feminine hygiene products to girls around the world and by doing so, support these girls to stay in school all month long and complete their education. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for Days for Girls and for helping to break the chain of poverty for girls in developing countries.

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

TRAUMA AND HOW IT SHAPES REFUGEES AND OTHER DISPLACED PEOPLES -

At this year's Day of Encouragement there was a workshop presented on this topic that many who work or worked with traumatized migrant peoples found very enlightening. Maranatha Christian Reformed Church has arranged for that speaker to give a similar presentation in their building to anyone interested. It is planned for December 18 starting at 7pm. If you are reading this announcement, you are invited to attend. Our presenter, Karin Linschoten is an experienced therapist and is clinical director at the Edmonton Mennonite Center for Newcomers (EMCN). She brings a lot of experience and insight to bear on the subject. This will be of interest for anyone in your congregation who has helped out with any ministry among Refugees, but also to those whose parents may have been immigrants from Europe after WWII and who were traumatized but never talked about it much. Attendance is free. A freewill offering will be taken to support the ministry she works for as a token of our appreciation for her time.

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.

MIGHTY GOD - As we continue to anticipate and think about the birth of Jesus Christ, we encounter Isaiah's second name for our Messiah: Mighty God. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:6-7 and Colossians 2:15 to discover how a baby who will later appear weak as he dies on a cross really is our Mighty God. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com

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.

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.

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 to sign up or for more information.

SUPPORT CHURCH-BASED REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP - Many CRC churches have sponsored refugees, and Canada's private sponsorship program is admired around the world. But sponsors know that it can take years for a sponsored refugee to arrive, due to system backlogs and wait times. Advocate with World Renew and the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue for change by visiting bit.ly/halfwelcomeadvocacy.

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 for application is January 5, 2018.

SIGN UP FOR ADVENT DEVOTIONS

TODAY - It's not too late! Take time to prepare for Immanuel, Incarnate at Christmas time with Monday, Wednesday, and Friday reflections sent to your email inbox from World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice through Christmas Day. Join this exploration of the Incarnation of Christ and his daily presence in our lives as we prepare to celebrate his birth. Don't miss out: Sign up today at crcna.org/advent.

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Thanks to Julie Seeto 11-14-2002
WHY DON'T YOU STOP WONDERING WHAT'S
WRONG WITH THE WORLD AND READ THE
MANUAL

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Ushers: Dennis V, Tim C, Bev C

Next Week: John T, Howard O, Ted K

Greeters: Dennis & Ineke V

Next Week: Dick & Judy O

Coffee Duties: Stephen T, Dick & Judy O, Johan & Tammy M

Next Week: Dan & Emma H, Wes & Candice V, Brad & Lauren T

Worship Team: Grace & Team

Next Week: Youth

Projection & Audio: Jamie & Matt

Next Week: Dan & Ted

Serving Elder: Frank V

Next Week: Pete V

Nursery: Supervisor - Linda K

Next Week: Supervisor - Lisa K

Infants: Laura A, Leanne K, Andrea K **Infants:** Kara B, Birgit M,

Toddlers: Alex B, Karen H, Shane K

Toddlers: Lisa K, Mike D, Seth A

