

December 17, 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 the third Sunday of Advent. This morning we are considering the question: "Why did Jesus come to earth?" Hopefully our answer will take us beyond the sphere of our own lives and give us a glimpse of God's glory. May you be blessed and ministered to by God Himself as you worship Him this morning. Thank you for joining us today and please stay for coffee and juice after the service.

Isaiah 11:1-3

The Branch

From Jesse

A shoot will

come up from the

stump of Jesse;

from his roots a

Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the

Lord will rest on him—

the Spirit of wisdom

and of understanding,

the Spirit of counsel

and of might,

the Spirit of the

knowledge and fear of

the Lord—

and he will delight in

the fear of the Lord.

Welcome and Prayer

Songs: Go, Tell it on the Mountain

O Come, All Ye Faithful

God's Greeting

Song: You are Holy

Time of Confession and Assurance

Advent Prayer

Song: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

Baptism of **Josiah K**

Song: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Thank Offering:

1 - Ebenezer Ministries

2 - Youth for Christ Wetaskiwin

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

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-3

Message: Glory to God in the Highest!

Song: Angels from the Realms of Glory

Parting Blessing

Song: My Friends, May You Grow in Grace

Church Family

Last week a close friend of Charlene V, Carla, passed to her heavenly father. Carla had worshipped with us on occasion and some may remember her. We remember her friends and family in prayer and ask that God surround them all with His comfort and peace.

Thank you for all the love, support, and encouragement following the passing of my close friend Carla. I appreciate my church family so much and am thankful to God for His mercies and peace. - **Charlene**

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.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS GATHERING - All youth in grades 8-12 are invited to a Christmas gathering Tuesday, Dec 19 at 7:30pm here at the church. Please bring a wrapped \$5 gift for a gift exchange. Any questions contact Kelly L.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE - The bulletin deadline for the December 24 Bulletin will be Wednesday, December 20, at noon. Thank you!

2017 DONATIONS AND EXPENSE RECEIPTS - If you have any receipts or reimbursements for 2017, the deadline to have them into Jenny is Friday, December 22, 2017. The cut off for 2017 donations will be Sunday, December 31. Thank you!

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE - Please invite your neighbours, friends and family to our annual candle Light service this Friday, December 22 at 7:00pm. There will be a time of refreshments and fellowship after the service!

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

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 V or Fia B. 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.

SENIORS CHRISTMAS DINNER - All seniors are invited to our annual Seniors Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 19 @ 11:30. Hope to see you all there!



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.

CONVENANT CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - Covenant Christian School primary students would like to invite you to their Christmas program, "Meet Me at the Manger, Wise Men Still Seek Him", Wednesday, December 20. Performances are 1:30 and 7 in the school's auditorium.

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 - 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

Next Week - 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

Coming Up @ Ebenezer

Monday	7:00 pm	Friendship
Tuesday	11:30 am	Seniors' Christmas Lunch
Friday	7:00 pm	Candlelight Service
Sunday (Dec 24)	9:15 am	Weekly Prayer Meeting in Library
	10:00 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent Service

Dec 25 - Christmas Day Service 10 am **Dec 31 - Sunday Worship Service**

Dec 28-30 - Craft Retreat

Jan 1 - New Year's Day Service

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - DECEMBER 5, 2017

Council opened with devotions and prayer. This was followed by prayers for families and individuals within the church as drawn by Council members from a bowl that contains pieces of paper with each family's or individuals' name on them, with the intent that over time, we will have prayed for every person within Ebenezer.

The congregational meeting minutes were approved and the ballots for the vote on the budget at that meeting will be destroyed.

We joyfully accept the membership transfer of Matthew B from a local church and this is approved in accordance with Church Order.

We discussed church visitation and direction provided by Melle P. When the time comes, council members will be asked to visit both Rimbey and Ponoka church congregations to hear concerns, joys and encourage the members of those congregations.

A membership audit has been performed and council has determined a process for caring for inactive members (those who don't attend regularly). All these members will be visited.

As shared at the congregational meeting, Council was previously polled for their thoughts and comments on our current vision statement for Ebenezer. The results indicated an openness to revisiting the vision, which is consistent with our previous church survey where many members were supportive of vision renewal. It was also agreed that any work on vision renewal must have wide participation by Council and the church congregation, and Gord W has offered to facilitate the process.

Council did a preliminary review of some strategic considerations that support the good work of Church ministries, facility utilization and finance.

As you have likely read elsewhere in previous bulletins, family visiting is being re-instated. Council has committed to visiting all the members of the congregation – you may expect your elder to connect with you soon.

As we hold you, the congregation, in prayer, we ask that you also, hold us up in prayer. It is our pleasure and honor to serve but we cannot do it in our own strength.

Blessings to each of you! Grace B, Clerk of Council

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@twplife to reserve your FREE seat.

EVERLASTING FATHER - As Isaiah continues to describe the Messiah, he calls him "Everlasting Father." Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 1:16-18, and John 14:1-11 to find out what this title would have meant to its original Israelite audience and why it really is an appropriate title for Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com

JANUARY SERIES 2018 - Coming this January for the 31st year, Calvin College presents the 2018 January Series – the award winning free liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekly, lunchtime lectures. This year the series begins on January 3 and continues weekdays through January 23 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. EST. with topics ranging from millennials and faith to restorative justice, confident pluralism, radical generosity and so much more by top experts in their fields. Thousands in west Michigan will join us on Calvin's campus for the daily noontime lectures, others will join the conversation by watching the live feed at more than 50 remote webcast sites across the continent (including 16 sites in Michigan), while others will listen online. For more information about the speakers, topics, remote sites and listening options, visit our website at www.calvin.edu/january.

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.

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.



Thank You to Our Volunteers

Ushers: Dennis V, Tim C, Bev C

Candle Light: Andrew V, Andy Z, Marilyn Z

Next Week: Ruby P, Dennis P, Luke K **Christmas:** Dennis V, Tim C, Bev C

Greeters: Dick & Judy O

Candle Light: John & Joyce D

Next Week: Roy & Teena V

Christmas: John & Wendy T

Coffee Duties: Dan & Emma H, Wes & Candice V, Brad & Lauren T

Candlelight: Tony & Monique T, Pete & Birgit M, Roy & Teena V

Next Week: Ed & Grace B, Roger & Barb G, Aaron & Heather D

Worship Team: Youth

Candle Light: Alice & Team

Next Week: Grace & Team

Christmas: Marianne & Team

Projection & Audio: Dan & Ted

Candle Light: Pete & Wes

Next Week: Jamie & Matt

Christmas: Nicole & Mike

Serving Elder: Pete V

Candle Light: Grace B

Next Week: Gord W

Christmas: Herman B

Nursery: Supervisor - Lisa K

Candle Light: Supervisor - Glen H

Infants: Kara B, Birgit M,

Infants: Brett L, Michelle T, Susan V

Toddlers: Lisa K, Mike D, Seth A

Toddlers: Glen H, Kathleen M, Lane T

Next Week: 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

