

Office Information & Contacts

Church Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Phone: 780-986-4119

Email: office@ebenezercrc.com

Website: www.ebenezercrc.com

Council Clerk Email: clerk@ebenezercrc.com

Deacons Email: deacons@ebenezercrc.com



EBENEZER

Christian Reformed Church
Glorifying God & Loving All People

Welcome

Ebenezer is now livestreaming our church services. To access the Livestream, visit our website: <https://www.ebenezercrc.com> and click on the Livestream button that appears at the top of the page.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG — *Joy Has Dawned Upon the World*

GOD'S GREETING

SONG — *Advent Hymn*

ADVENT LITURGY

SONG — *Arise, Shine for Your Light Has Come*

READING OF ASSURANCE

SONG — *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Song*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

THANK OFFERING

1 - Ebenezer Ministries 2 - The Leduc Hub

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE — **Matthew 2: 1-12**

SERMON — **A Rival to the Throne**

SONG — *Christmas Offering*

PARTING BLESSING

CLOSING SONG — *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Church Family

Our condolences go to **Joyce D** and her family as they grieve the loss of her mother, Johanna K. We pray that God will grant you peace and comfort at this time.

A Note of thanks from **Renee O**: We want to say thank you for the prayers, support, love, meals, texts, phone calls etc we were given when I was off work with a broken foot this fall. We appreciated it so much! We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas despite how different Christmas will be this year! With love, the O family

Please also continue to pray for the ongoing health concerns of **Arlene Lien's** daughter Debbie, **Alyse K, Liz D,** and **KerryAnne H.**

*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.

BUDGET UPDATE Dear members of our Ebenezer church family:

On behalf of Council and the Finance Team, I would like to thank everyone for your donations thus far throughout this difficult year! Your generous contributions have helped us to meet our ongoing expenses to date. As of November 30, we had collected a total of \$350,278.27 allowing us to pay all of our operating expenses including all of our Classical and Diaconal Ministry Shares as well as 70 percent of our Denominational Ministry Shares. Our total expenses to the end of November were \$350,432.83. With a couple of weeks left in the month of December we have our regular expenses plus \$34,650.00 of Denominational Ministry shares yet to cover. We realize that 2020 has been a particularly challenging year for many, both mentally and financially! If you are able we ask that you prayerfully consider your ability to make an additional contribution before the end of the year to enable our Ebenezer ministries budget to balance income and expenses. The following is a paragraph from an article from CRCNA (our denomination) that I would like to share with you.

"So as we feel the frustrations and sorrows which have been added to the holiday season this year may we be comforted by the reminder that we can be honest with God about how we are feeling and that He understands why we might not feel like singing or might not be as excited about Christmas as we have in years past; He acknowledges our frustrations, He understands what it like to experience them and, like He did that first Christmas night, He loves us enough to enter into those frustrations and be beside us regardless if we are singing or not."

Praying that you will feel the joy and blessing of this Christmas season,
Jen F, On Behalf of Council and the Finance Team

Deacon's Corner

1st Offering: EBENEZER MINISTRIES - This offering is used to cover 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 CRC Denomination.

2nd Offering - THE LEDUC HUB - The Leduc HUB is intended to be a connector between the community and available services. Volunteers provide referral information to persons seeking community, social, health and government services. Clients are supported while accessing local services and helped to identify what is available in our area. The HUB works together with non-profit organizations, religious organizations, government agencies and social businesses in greater Leduc.

NEXT WEEK - OUR MISSIONAIRES - The two missionary families Ebenezer supports are the Geistefer's and the Strydhorst's. The Geistefer's are working in Honduras and the Strydhorst family is now in Michigan working out of the Timothy Leadership Training Institute. Each year we commit to giving each family \$3000.00. For more information please visit the Global Resonate website.

POSTAL STAMPS Remember to save and collect the postal stamps on your Christmas cards/mail! Your last donations were recently sold and we made \$75. There is still money in used stamps! Contact Bea M if you have questions.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE (ebenezercrc.com) for a **LINKS** page where you can find links to News, Resources and Announcements for our Classis (AB North), CRCNA, CRC Network, World Renew, the Today Devotional, The Banner and many other resources. **Limited copies of the December Banner are now available at the Church Office.**

Our Volunteers

WORSHIP TEAM: Grace

NEXT WEEK: Renee/Susan

PROJECTION & AUDIO: Matt/Jamie

NEXT WEEK: Pete/Wes

Coming Up @ Ebenezer

Sunday, Dec 13 @ 10:00 am **Worship Service**
3rd Sunday of Advent
In-person or Livestream

Wednesday, Dec 16 @ 7:00 pm GEMS online meeting

Thursday, Dec 17 @ 7:00 pm last EHD Zoom meeting

Sunday, Dec 20 @ 10:00 am **Worship Service**
4th Sunday of Advent
In-person or Livestream

Special Services

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| Candlelight Service | Sunday, December 20 | @ | 7 pm |
| Christmas Day | Friday, December 25 | @ | 10 am |

Special Hours

The church office will be closed from Dec 21st - Jan 1st. We will reopen on Tuesday, Jan 5th. If you need assistance, please contact your District Elder. Bulletin announcements can still be sent via email. Thank you!

NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS It is time to begin the process of installing new elders and deacons. We have 4 elders and 2 deacons who have faithfully completed their 3 year terms of service. In fact, they've now served 6 months beyond their 3 year terms! So we would like to invite the congregation to prayerfully consider if you would like to suggest someone in our congregation who is qualified and called to serve in one of those positions. The biblical qualifications for those offices can be found in the following passages: For elders--1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9; 1 Peter 5:1-3; For deacons--1 Timothy 3:8-13. Suggestions for nominations to these offices will be considered by council at our council meeting on January 5. Thank you.

NOTICE FROM ADMIN TEAM: We are looking for a new member for the Admin Team. If you are interested or for more information, please contact the church office.

Denominational News & Resources

CALVIN UNIVERSITY JANUARY SERIES – Coming this January for the 34th year, Calvin University presents the 2021 January Series – the award winning free liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekly, lunchtime lectures. This year the series begins on January 6 and continues weekdays through January 26 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. EST with topics ranging from the future of the Supreme Court, climate change, the era of intelligent technology, civil discourse, racial tensions, the arts as a healing balm and so much more by top experts in their fields. And access to the award-winning lecture series will be easier than ever. This year, due to the realities of COVID-19, the January Series will have a completely virtual audience. Attendees will be able to watch and listen to the 15 presentations on their own personal devices, in their own locations, or gather at small remote sites available across the continent. For more information about the speakers, topics, remote sites and to register for personal viewing, visit our website at www.calvin.edu/january

JUSTICE AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT VIRTUAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE - The Justice and Global Relationships Virtual Experience is being offered in partnership between World Renew and The King's University. This 9-session virtual learning experience is open to all Canadians who are committed to learning about and promoting justice and advocacy.

Contact ibuisman@worldrenew.ca or Jonathan.Nicolai-deKoning@kingsu.ca for more information. Register by Dec. 31, 2020.

HYMNARY.ORG - Hymnary.org announces next-generation mobile hymnal apps for iOS and Android, including Lift Up Your Hearts. The apps are free, and no purchase is necessary to access a number of features, including the full score of all public domain hymns, audio recordings of most hymns, and more. More info, including links, at hymnary.org/node/42126

ONLINE WORSHIP LEARNING - You are warmly invited to register for a free online learning experience held January 6-26, 2021, on key themes in worship and the Christian life. Register for free at worship.calvin.edu/symposium/. This experience is designed for all kinds of learners: students, artists, musicians, pastors, scholars, teachers, worship leaders and planners, and all worshipers around the globe. Sponsored by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and the Center for Excellence in Preaching

Christmas News & Resources

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE - TONIGHT! While there is good reason for the 'celebrative' atmosphere of Christmas, it can also be a challenging, even painful, time for those who live with the reality of brokenness or loss in their lives. That is even more so this year with all the direct and indirect implications of COVID. A "Blue Christmas Service" is a service that allows that reality to be acknowledged and brought before the Lord, while at the same time recognizing the one who is bigger than a season. You are invited to participate in such a service (with communion) held at West End CRC on Sunday, Dec 13 at 6:30 p.m. For in-person worship, please register at the West End website (<https://www.westendcrc.ca/>) or simply join us via livestream using the link on the West End website.

ADVENT MEANS HOPE - With World Renew's 2020-2021 Gift Catalogue, you can help a family plant seeds to grow food after COVID-19 lockdowns, give a child the supplies they need for health with a nutrition kit, or provide safety for a disaster survivor. Choose a gift that gives someone who is poor and hungry the opportunity for a better life today and hope for the future. Give online at worldrenew.ca/gifts or call 1-888-WRLD-RNW.

CHRISTMAS WITH WORLD RENEW - Celebrate Christmas with us! Join World Renew for a virtual celebration on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:30 PM EST. You'll have the opportunity to hear from key leaders about how World Renew is continuing to share Christ's hope during a pandemic, in the face of disaster and injustice. Following that, choose two 20 minute break-out rooms to learn more and connect with us. Visit bit.ly/WRChristmas to register today!

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL - A new twist on a favorite Calvin University tradition! The Campus Choir, Women's Chorale, and Capella have professionally recorded five sessions, which will debut on the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship's YouTube channel at 7 p.m. EST each Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Each service is 30-40 minutes long and contains songs, Scripture, and prayer. worship.calvin.edu/news-events/events/

SIGN UP FOR ADVENT DEVOTIONS TODAY - It's not too late! Take time to reflect on Christ's birth during this season of Advent with Monday, Wednesday, and Friday devotions sent to your email inbox from World Renew, Resonate, and the CRC Office of Social Justice through Christmas Day. Don't miss out: Sign up today at justice.crcna.org/advent

DEVOTIONS FOR A BLUE CHRISTMAS - In the midst of hard times, find strength and encouragement through God's word. A set of fourteen encouraging Today devotions reassure you that even during the darkest of Christmas seasons, you're not alone. Receive this free email series and ebook when you subscribe to Today at todaydevotional.com/bluechristmas