

ADVENT 2019

December 8, 2019

Ministry Information & Contacts

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am-3 pm

Phone: 780-986-4119 Email: office@ebenezerCRC.com

Website: www.ebenezerCRC.com

Bulletin Deadline: 10am Thursdays

Council Clerk Email: clerk@ebenezerCRC.com



Welcome to Ebenezer!

Good morning and welcome to Ebenezer. On this second week of Advent we take a big picture look at the Christmas story and trace the connections between the story of Joseph and the story of Christmas. May the Lord bless each one of us with faith and peace during this festive season. - Pastor Jason

WELCOME & PRAYER

SONG — *Here I Am to Worship*
Christmas Offering

GOD'S GREETING & WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

ADVENT READING - JESSEE TREE

SONG — *Emmanuel Medley*

TIME OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

SONG — *O Come Emmanuel*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

THANK OFFERING

1 - Ebenezer Ministries 2 - Calvin College

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *(Children ages 3 to Grade 3 leave for Sunday School)*

SCRIPTURE — **Genesis 37**

SERMON — **Christmas Peace**

SONG — *Faithful One*

PARTING BLESSING & CLOSING SONG — *A Christmas Alleluia*

ADVENT RESOURCE - *It's not too late to join in!* Pick up your Jesse Tree packet today at the Welcome Center! Daily devotionals and "ornaments" are meant to guide you through the Advent season. Follow along at home the same material we will be celebrating at church on Sunday mornings.

Church Family

Please continue to be in prayer for **Beth N.** She is currently in the Hospital and welcomes visitors.

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.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Candlelight Service, December 22 @ 7pm;
Christmas Day, December 25th @ 10am; New Year's Day , January 1st @ 11am.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The budget was presented to those in attendance. There were a few items that brought about discussion including seeing the actuals to give more context to the budget at hand. The budget was motioned for approval and was voted in.

We began a discussion regarding a second pastor at Ebenezer. Pastor Jason discussed various ways this might positively impact our ministry as a congregation, and we discussed this in small groups. Feedback was received and this dialogue will be ongoing as we consider together how the Lord is leading our congregation.

The visioning work that has been done was updated by Gord followed by roundtable discussions regarding the proposed new vision statement.

Gord updated what has happened since the last congregational meeting on the use of the church facility and different ideas of expansion. The ushers have also been collecting data on church attendance and will keep doing this. We considered a proposal from the Home Missions Committee that Ebenezer partner with the River CRC in a church plant three years from now in the Ellerslie area. We also considered the possibility of planting a church in Millet. The conversation about a potential church plant will require much prayer and conversation as church plants take a long time to unfold.

We concluded by gathering hands and singing the Doxology and thanking God for all the wonderful work that He is doing at Ebenezer. Thanks to each one of you who attended and participated.

Delight In Creation

Our DELIGHT journey in learning about God in Creation continues this month as we hear stories about sun, moon and stars, in the context of the Christmas story. Next month we will be learning and sharing experiences about plants and food. And in February we will explore how we experience fish and birds.

Do you have an experience or special hobbies or work around flowers, trees, grain, food of various kinds? Or perhaps a fish story? Bird watching? Everything from canola to sushi to dahlias to hot dogs! And then whales to chickadees to starfish to yellow-tail hawks! We would love to hear your story. Do sign up for your opportunity to give us this gift!

ATTENTION PARENTS: December 22nd will be the last Sunday School class of the year.
Regular classes will resume on Sunday, January 5th. Thank you!

THANK YOU FROM GEMS - A big thank you to our church family for supporting the GEMS Club in recent fundraisers! We sold a record number of poinsettias - all money raised will go towards funding our GEMS club. The Cookie Walk was also a success - all money raised will help our counsellors attend the GEMS Conference this summer. A special thank you to those who helped us out by baking!

EBENEZER & THE MUSTARD SEED - *Thanks to all those that have volunteered to help at the Mustard Seed Dinner! We are still in need of a person or group to serve as the contact person/coordinator. If you are interested, please speak to someone at the Welcome Desk or contact Margaret T, Joyce D or Mennie S.*

LIBRARY NEWS Interested in learning out more about God's creation? Our church library recently received the donation of a number of books and DVDs on the topic of creation, science and the Bible. Feel free to check them out.

STAMPS, STAMPS, STAMPS. Bea M is still collecting used postage stamps from around the world to raise funds for the church. With Christmas mail comes stamps. Please don't throw them away. *There is a jar at the welcome centre for anyone who wants to drop them off at the church.* For more information, contact Bea M.

MISSING: 4 black folding chairs were mistakenly removed from the Church building. If you know of their whereabouts, please contact the church office. Thank you!

UPDATE: We have a **volunteer for sidewalk snow removal.** Thank you to Roy V.

Coming Up @ Ebenezer

Sunday, December 8	@	9:15 am	Weekly Prayer Meeting
	@	10:00 am	Worship Service
2nd Sunday of Advent			
Monday, December 9	@	7:00 pm	Friendship (Caroling)
Wednesday, December 11	@	9:30 am	Coffee Break
	@	6:30 pm	Cadets
Sunday, December 15	@	9:15 am	Weekly Prayer Meeting
	@	10:00 am	Worship Service
			3rd Sunday of Advent
	@	11:45 am	Catechism
	@	1:30 pm	Youth Mall Hunt
Thursday, December 19	@	11:30 am	Senior's Christmas Dinner

YOUTH MALL HUNT - The youth are looking for eager members to participate in a mall hunt. You will get to dress up and hide around the mall while the youth group races to find you! It will take place December 15, 2019 from 1:30 - 4:30 pm. Please call Kelly or Jamie.

The **ANNUAL SENIOR'S DINNER AND PROGRAM** will be held on Thursday, December 19 @ 11:30am. Please call the church office if you are able to come.

EBENEZER FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER If you find yourself with no plans on Christmas Day, come join us for a potluck-style dinner here at the church on December 25 at 6pm! Last year we had a lovely time of fellowship and feasting and we would love to have you join us! Please sign up at the welcome desk with your name, how many people, and what dish you will be bringing so we know numbers and can make sure we have enough food! Any questions, contact Jordan or Alesha S or Jan or Maricha K.

OFFICE HOURS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON The Church Office will be closed December 24th - January 3rd. We will re-open for regular Office Hours (Tuesday - Friday, 9-3pm) on January 7th. We hope you all enjoy the Christmas season with your family and friends! If pastoral concerns arise, please contact Pastor Jason or your District Elder. *Please note: Bulletins will still be printed for December 29th and January 5th. If you have an announcement, please email the office at office@ebenezerchrc.com or leave a message on the Office phone, 780-986-4119. Thank you!*
- your Office Staff, Wendy & Marco

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

NEXT WEEK: RISEUP SOCIETY ALBERTA - Established in 2007 Riseup Society Alberta is an equipping and healing women's outreach centre responding to the reality of domestic violence and abuse. Riseup provides group support, counselling and resources for women impacted by intimate partner abuse, and educates individuals and community groups about preventing and responding to abuse. For more info see riseupsociety.ca

Community News

West End Church invites everyone to our **JOY TO THE WORLD Nativity Display** showcasing hundreds of nativity sets, taking place on Thursday, December 12 (6-9), Friday, December 13 (6-9) and Saturday, December 14 (3-9). Please invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers! Come and share in the wonder of our Savior's birth! Live music...refreshments...crafts.(10015 – 149 St.)

COMMUNITY CAROL SING - Friday, December 13 at Peace Lutheran Church in Leduc. See Bulletin Board for details.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: 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. 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 15 at 6:30 p.m.**

**More news can be found at www.ebenezercrc.com/news.
A paper copy is posted on the Bulletin Board.**

Thank You To Our Volunteers!

Ushers: Dennis P, Ruby P

Next Week: Howard O, Ted K

Greeters: Dick & Judy O

Next Week: John & Wendy T

Welcome Centre: Wendy T

Next Week: Charlene V

Coffee Duty: Sandy & Jon V, Jordan & Alesha S, Evelien T

Next Week: Johan & Tammy M, Josh & Nicole V, Nathan V

Serving Elder: Freda MO

Next Week: Jordan S

Worship Team: KerryAnne H

Next Week: Sandy V,

Projection & Audio: Dan V/ Ted K

Next Week: Mike R/

Nursery Supervisor - Tammy M

Inf: Tammy M, Mike D, Sadie H, Kaitlyn M

Tod: Brendan B, Dale H, Levi M

Next Week: Nursery Supervisor - Alesha S

Inf: Alesha S, Dan H, Leanne K, Ashley T

Tod: Natasha D, Linda H, Ethan V



If you have a conflict, please arrange for a substitute. If you need help with this, please don't hesitate to call the office. You can find the volunteer schedules online at ebenezercrc.com.

NURSERY HOURS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON Parents of infants and toddlers, please note: There will be no nursery provided for the following service times: Candlelight Service (Dec 22nd @ 7pm), Christmas Day (10am) and New Years' Day Service (11am). The Nursery facility will, of course, be available for parents to use during these times.