

FRIENDED

JOHN 15:15

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Friendship Matters. But friendship is not every girl's story.

Our girls live in a culture that is unprecedented in both its digital connection and its social isolation. Researchers name the growing problem "The Loneliness Epidemic" and that was before a global pandemic kept them at a distance from one another.

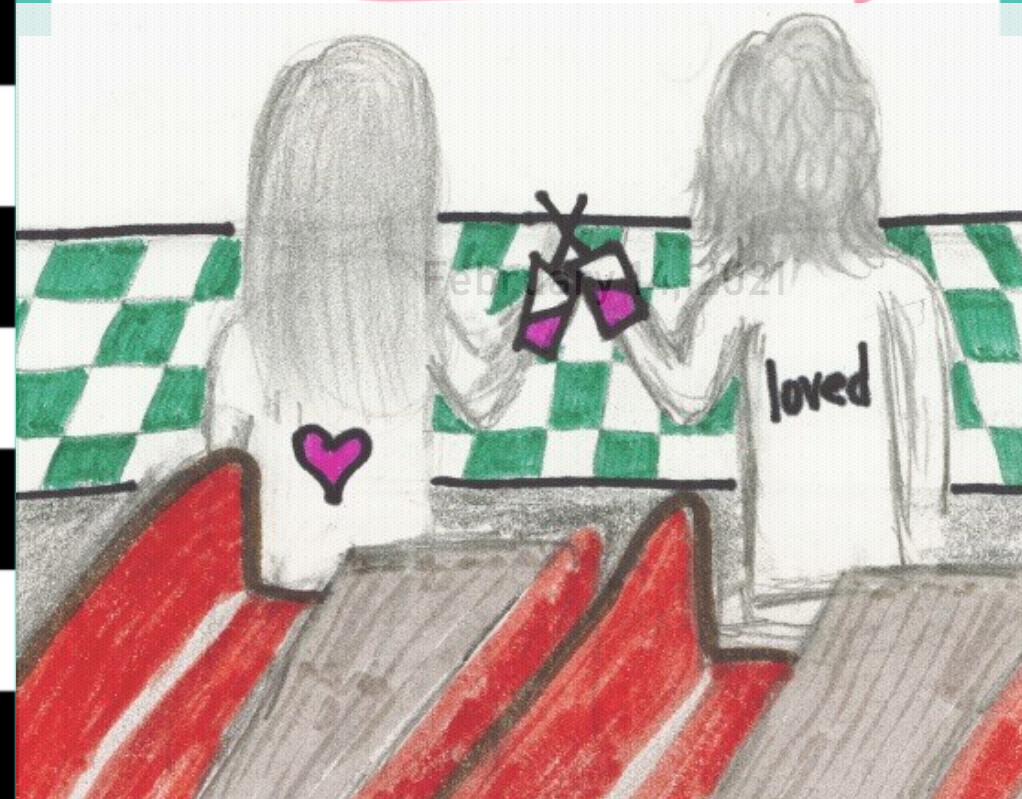
We see girls desperate search to find a place to belong and loved, whether it's at school, on the sports field, or through their innumerable Snapchat streaks. We dry their tears and ache over the loneliness and isolation that will always be a part of their lives until they hear about a Friend who changes everything.

His name is Jesus. Our deepest need is for Him to be our Savior, Lord, and Friend.

I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you (John 15:15).

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JOHN 15:15



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

SONGS — *Waymaker*
Who You Say I Am

GOD'S GREETING

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

SONG — *King (Friend of Mine)*

GEMS MESSAGE & SLIDESHOW

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

THANK OFFERING

1 - Ebenezer Ministries 2 - GEMS Girls Clubs

SCRIPTURE — JOHN 15: 12-17

SERMON — *Friendship With Jesus*

SONG — *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

PARTING BLESSING

SONGS — *We Receive Your Blessing*
Christ Be All Around Me

Church Family

Congratulation to **Andy Z** who celebrates his 75th birthday today! May God grant you peace and joy today and in the coming year.

Congratulations to **Johan & Tammy M** who will be celebrating their 10th Wedding Anniversary this week! We rejoice with you and pray God's continued blessing on your marriage and family.

Our condolences to **Ab & Tena H** and **Gary & Jen F** on the passing of their brother-in-law **Vern S** last Sunday afternoon. May God's presence surround you and your family at this time.

An update from **Per & Bernice S**—This week our doctor said that Per's vitals indicate no danger to his life, which is good news for us. We are grateful to God and to all of you who pray for him and encouraged us with cards and phone calls. His sleep apnea and heart condition will not improve and his dementia increases. We are very thankful for family support and for the encouragement and ongoing prayers from you. We wish we could hug all of you in person, say thank you, and then have coffee with you. We love you folks at Ebenezer.

A note from **Dennis and Ineke V**—Ineke is doing much better! Still on some pain meds, but is up and about doing things. Thank-you so much for all the prayers, cards, flowers, plants and meals.

Please continue to pray for **Margaret T** as she recovers in hospital.

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS. It's that time of year again for those new office-bearers to be selected. We are thankful for the following lists of people who have agreed to let their name stand for office.

Elder: Quentin A, Dan V, Matthew B, Harold H, Emily M, Harry D, John W, Scott K, and Graeme B.

Deacon: Ed V, Bea M, Warren T, Dale H, Ruby P, and Brett L.

Due to our current situation, the congregational affirmation will be done through email. This will be followed by the drawing of lots on February 21st. The Installation of New Office-bearers will happen on February 28th.



Our sincere thanks to those men and women who have completed their term of office. We thank you and your families for giving sacrificially to the church over the past three years. Thank you to Henk S (Elder), Jordan S (Elder), Herman B (Elder) and Gord W (Elder & Chair of Council), Christina V (Deacon) and, Gerard B (Deacon).

Deacon's Corner

E-transfer Information: to send a donation via e-transfer, please use Jen Fiebich's email—jen@ebenezercrc.com. Thank you!

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 contribute to the ministry shares that we are committed to as members of CRC Denomination.

2nd Offering - GEMS GIRLS'S CLUBS — GEMS is a ministry devoted to bringing the Good News of Jesus to girls around the world. The mission of GEMS Girls' Clubs is to help bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

2nd Offering NEXT WEEK - PASTOR CHURCH RESOURCES (PCR)

Council Highlights—February 9th, 2021

Alyse led us in a reflection on John 15 where Jesus talks about the true vine and the pruning of the branches which allows the plant to fight diseases and yield more fruit. COVID restrictions were compared to the pruning, and even though we have had to surrender many good things, we have the hope of good fruit like greater energy, joy and wonder when we are once again able to worship together.

Dealing with understanding COVID and how to keep our congregation safe has taken up considerable time in council. It was proposed that council executive committee be tasked with considering COVID related issues, outside of council meetings, and then bring recommended actions for council to discuss. Several members of our congregation have put much thought, research and work into safely restarting nursery and children's church which will hopefully be implemented soon.

A church Dashboard spreadsheet was discussed, as a way to track all of the different ministries and meetings at our church, with the hope that what we say we are going to do actually gets done. Ebenezer church strategy development was reviewed from three years ago to our current situation. This overview included strategic positioning, supporting congregational spiritual growth, vision, COVID response and performance management just to name a few. The whole review revealed much good work done by wonderful people.

All of our elders (Henk, Jordan, Herman, Gord) and deacons (Christina, Gerard) whose term is complete have assisted council and the church by using the gifts God has given them and their hard work and dedication is much appreciated. Gord, as our council chair has provided excellent leadership and put in many long hours of diligent preparation for our meetings. As a council we have prayed for the congregation and we thank you for your prayers for council. Please continue to pray for those who have let their names stand to join council in the next few weeks.

Coming Up @ Ebenezer

Sunday, Feb 14	@	10:00 am	Worship Service <u>GEMS Sunday</u> In-person or Livestream
Wednesday, Feb 17	@	7:00 pm @ 7:30 pm	GEMS Online Meeting Coffee Break gathering
Sunday, Feb 28	@	10:00 am	Worship Service In-person or Livestream



Coffee Break

COFFEE BREAK 2021 - Attention Ladies! Join us Wednesday evenings, from 7:30-9pm. We will meet weekly for fellowship and great conversation. We ask that you come prepared to observe AHS guidelines - we will wear masks and observe social distancing. If you have any questions please contact Alicia B or Alex A. Thank you!

Opportunities to Serve

NEW—REFUGEE SUPPORT TEAM AT EBENEZER The need for placement for refugee families is great. An opportunity to help in resettling a family would require dedicated volunteers. We are considering how Ebenezer CRC may work towards setting up a refugee support team to give refuge and help. If you are interested in being a member of such a team contact Joanne K or one of the deacons.

ADMIN COMMITTEE SEEKING A NEW MEMBER—Are you interested in getting involved and serving the church? Join the Admin Committee and help us as we help direct decisions regarding the administrative work of the church and maintaining our building and grounds. Interested? Contact the Church Office. Thank you!

USED POSTAGE STAMPS NEEDED: Please save your used postage stamps! Bea M is able to sell them for a profit to raise money! Bring in your used stamps to the Welcome Center at church. Thank you!

Denominational News & Resources

LENT CREATION CARE CHALLENGE - This Lent, we're inviting you to join us in a journey of Creation Care. We want to live out our faith by investing in the flourishing of God's creation. Each week, we'll share practical challenges and Scriptural reflections on how we can be faithful stewards during this season of worship. Get the full details here: www.justice.crcna.org/lent-2021

FOCUS ON THE CROSS - LENTEN DEVOTIONS - Lent is a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today devotional email series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Or download the e-book! Subscribe at www.todaydevotional.com/lent.

DISABILITY CONCERNS WINTER BOOK CLUB IS STARTING SOON! - Join us VIA Zoom on Tuesday evenings **from February 2 through March 9 at 7pm EST** for the Disability Concerns winter book club, where we'll explore John Swinton's new book: Finding Jesus in the Storm. Finding Jesus in the Storm is a call for the church to be an epicenter of compassion for those experiencing depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and related difficulties. To find out more information on the club and to sign up, check out the network article: Disability Concerns Winter 2021 Book Club (<https://network.crcna.org/disability-concerns/disability-concerns-winter-2021-book-club>)

NADC: Did you miss the Day of Encouragement? Email yournadc@gmail.com and ask for a link to the recordings.

KING'S ENCOUNTER WEEK — March 11-13, 2021 Join us on-campus for a full weekend to experience what being a King's student is really like. Talk to professors, sit in on classes, and more!

CAMPUS VISITS AT REDEEMER Take that first step and experience Redeemer's one-of-a-kind community like never before. Visiting campus is the best way to figure out if Redeemer is the right fit for you. Please note that due to COVID -19 restrictions, only virtual visits are available at this time: redeemer.ca/visit

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP SERVICES - Due to the popularity of our "Fireside Chat" we will be hosting another one on **February 17th at 7:00 PM PST**. Join us with your questions about gifting, Wills, Estate planning and we will answer them - or you can just listen in!

Register on our Events page: <http://www.csservices.ca/events.php>

BFM FOUNDATION (Canada) is working to open a new Mission Thrift Store at 11209-149 Street in the west end of Edmonton, called Edmonton 2 THIS SPRING!! This new store will convert used goods into funds to support the Joint Ministry of BFM Foundation (Canada) and Bible League Canada. These funds are used to establish adult literacy programs, provide church planter training, children's ministry programs, and distribute Bibles in many places around the world. We ask that you join us in this exciting new mission! We are looking for help in a few key areas:

We will need many donations of good quality used goods, so keep us in mind when you are cleaning out your cupboards.

We will need many volunteers to process these donations for sale. We trust you can find an area in which you can serve & become part of what God is doing through Mission Thrift Store.



THIS NEW STORE IS LOOKING FOR A FULL TIME STORE MANAGER TO START MARCH 1ST. If you feel this is an opportunity for you to serve in this capacity, and you understand and support the vision and purpose of BFM Foundation (Canada), please forward your resume and cover letter to admin@missionthriftstore.com by February 11th. A full job description is available upon request.

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.

The January/February Today Devotionals are available and can be picked up at the registration table. LARGE PRINT also available.

The February Banner is available and can be picked up at the registration table.

Please contact the church office if you would like a copy of either of these publications put into your church mailbox.

Our Volunteers

WORSHIP TEAM: GEMS Worship Team

NEXT WEEK: Youth Team

PROJECTION & AUDIO: GEMS Worship Team

NEXT WEEK: Mike/Nicole