

April 2019

Redeeming Words

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April Calendar

Join us for Coffee and Conversation each Sunday at 11:15 following the serve (unless otherwise noted).

- April 1** Ground breaking for Bell Tower 9:00 am
- April 3** Mid-Week Worship/Study, St. B 7:30 pm
- April 4** Seniors' Worship 2:00 pm
Montreal Lutheran Council,
St. Ansgar's 7:30 pm
- April 7** Lent 5 Worship 10:00 am
Sunday School 10:00 am
- April 7-9** Anglican Clergy Retreat, Chateauguy
- April 10** Mid-Week Worship/Study, CTR 7:30 pm
- April 13** Confirmation Class 1:30
- April 14** Palm Sunday Worship 10:00 am
- April 18** Maundy Thursday Potluck, St. B 6:00 pm
Worship 7:30 pm
- April 19** Walk of Faith, St. Luke's 8:50 am
Good Friday Worship 7:30 pm
- April 20** Easter Vigil, CTR 7:30 pm
- April 21** Easter Breakfast 9:30 am
Easter Worship 11:00 am
Sunday School 11:00 am
- April 24** Seniors' Worship 2:00 pm
- April 27** Men's Breakfast 8:30/9:15 am
Confirmation Class 11:00 am
New Horizon's Concert 2:00 pm
- April 28** Easter 2 Worship 10:00 am
- April 30** Anglican Clericus 9:30

Mid-Week Lenten Worship/Study

Several mid-week gatherings with the interim rector and members of St. Barnabas remain this Lent. We worship at 7:30 pm following the liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer, enjoy refreshments, and then engage in a discussion until about 9:00 pm. On April 3 we meet at St. Barnabas, joining him on the Road to Samaria. On April 10 Christ the Redeemer will host the event, focussed on Jesus' journey to Jericho. Everyone is welcome.

Palm Sunday

On April 14 we will join millions of Christians around the world singing Hosannas and waving our palms branches in remembrance of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. We will first gather in the corner room, to distribute palms and begin our procession.



Maundy Thursday

The Three Great Days begin on April 18. St. Barnabas (12301 Colin, just north of CTR) will host a potluck supper at 6:00. So bring food to share.

Worship, featuring foot-washing, communion and the stripping of the altar, will begin at 7:30 pm. The day is devoted to remembering Jesus' Last Supper. The word *Maundy* refers to Jesus' new commandment that we love one another.

Good Friday

Christians in the neighbourhood are invited to participate in the Walk of Faith on April 19. We first gather at St. Luke's at 8:50 am, and then walk to St. Barnabas and other sites, before concluding at Christ the Redeemer at about 10:45 am. Make this bilingual event part of your Holy Week experience.



At 7:30 in the evening we will host a service of Tenebrae (darkness), where lights will be extinguished as we recall the betrayal, arrest, trials, punishment, death and burial of Jesus. It is a time to grieve *and* to give thanks for Jesus' death. Please offer to be one of our readers in the Passion according to Luke.

Holy Saturday

A Vigil will be held on April 20, beginning at 7:30 pm. We will light the Easter fire outdoors with members of St. Barnabas and St. Luke's, carrying this light into our place of worship. Then we will listen to several Biblical stories of God's love for us. In the third phase of the service we will celebrate God's gift of Baptism, where we become heirs of grace. Before departing we will "dress" the altar and chancel for Easter morning worship. Come, and worship!

Easter

At 9:30 on the morning of April 21 we invite everyone to our Easter Breakfast. The menu will include beverages, egg casserole, ham, and croissants. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet. See Gilles about helping out. The offering will support the work of LAMP (see page 3).

At 11:00 (note the time change) we will rejoice at God's victory over sin, death and darkness. In worship we'll be introduced to Now the Feast, a liturgy for Holy Communion composed by Marty Haugen. Join us, and invite your families and friends, as we sing, listen, pray and find nourishment at the Lord's Table.

Special Music

Please talk with our organist, Bruce Thicke, if you'd like to offer special music during Holy Week. You would bless us with your musical gift.



Easter Flowers

Please use the yellow form to indicate your interest in placing Easter flowers - lilies, tulips and daffodils – in the chancel this spring. You may provide gifts in memory of loved ones, or in thanksgiving to God. Return the form and your offering by April 14.

Easter Hope and Joy

On Easter morning we celebrate a supernatural event. One laid to death on Friday evening has been raised to new life. Alleluia! Christ is risen! Sin, death and darkness have been overcome by the power and love of God.

But this miracle is not the source of my greatest hope and deepest joy. God's love is most visible to me through the very human characters of the Good Friday and Easter Sunday stories

Before Jesus' death I see a part of myself in Judas. In several of the Gospels is he simply presented as one of the chosen Twelve. Like James and John (who asked for seats beside Jesus in his new kingdom) and Peter (who resisted his Lord's message of the cross), Judas wanted to follow Jesus but did not understand what route this journey would take. He hoped that if he could just nudge Jesus a little he would reveal his godly power and bring Rome to its knees. Turning him over to the authorities might just do the trick.

I see myself in Peter, ready to swing a sword in anger. Denying even knowing Jesus when the heat was turned up. And then weeping bitterly in the shadows, ashamed of his lack of faith.

I am also painfully aware that I am part of the fickle crowds of Holy Week; one day singing "Hosannas," and another shouting "Crucify him!" I fail to see all the signs of Jesus' grace that are right in front of me.

These pre-Easter characters convict me of my sin, and remind me of my need for a Saviour. They lead me to the fountain of hope.

And then there are the post-Easter people with whom I rejoice, however timidly at times.

Peter and John run and look into the empty tomb, not sure what to expect, even when an angel greets them. Shock precedes joy.

Through her tears Mary Magdalene is the first (at least in John's Gospel) to see the risen Christ, but first mistakes him for the gardener. It is the sound of his voice that coaxes her to begin to believe.

And the Twelve, including Thomas, remain in hiding after the Easter morning news. Though seeing him, hearing his voice, and touching the scars on his hands and side, their certainty that God had brought Jesus back from the dead took time to mature.

The first witnesses of this spectacular resurrection help me to remember that God loves even the mustard seed of faith that has taken root in me.

So this Holy Week watch the human actors in the drama, and the earthly action that is played out. See God present there. And in the very human you.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jim

LAMP

The Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary.



(See www.lampministry.org) The organisation provides support to many First Nation's communities in northern Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Fly-in visits include worship, Bible study, and Vacation Church Schools. Our offering at the Easter Breakfast will be used to support LAMP's northern ministry.

Montreal Lutheran Council

At its meeting at St. Ansgar's in NDG, the Montreal Lutheran Council will respond to Quebec's plans to ban the wearing of religious clothing and symbols (primarily by religious minorities), who are employed by the province. Members will also receive a report from the dean's (Pastor Jim's) recent meeting in Mississauga. Our chairperson, Susan Hildebrant, represents our congregation.



Music for Life!

New Horizon's Concert Band

The band that practices in our building on Thursday evenings will present a concert on Saturday April 27, at 2:00 pm. New Horizons is an international program designed to help adults learn or revive their interest in playing a musical instrument. See Karen Rockwell for details.

Eastern Synod Newsletter

The synod's newsletter is no longer printed and mailed to each household of our denomination, but is now distributed electronically. The latest issue describes some of the ministries supported by ELCIC Women of Faith. Visit

www.easternsynod.org/sites/default/files/content/en_ews_mar.pdf

Pastor Jim also puts one paper version on the greeter's table for those without an internet connection.

Johanniter Service

Every three years this hospitaller order meets in Montreal for a general meeting, drawing members from Ottawa, Toronto and several cities in the United States. In 2019 their gathering included worship at Christ the Redeemer on March 23, for about forty persons. Their chaplain is the rev. Stanley Johnstone, retired Brigadier Chaplain of the Canadian Armed Forces. Pastor Jim and Natalie were also guests at banquet held at Chateau Vaudreuil.



Lutherlyn Camp and Conference Centre

The Management Board of Lutherlyn is hoping that someone in our congregation would be able to serve as a local representative. They receive news about programs and projects, and encourage support from the members of Christ the Redeemer. See Pastor Jim if you're interested.

I Care

For several decades grain farmers across Canada have donated a portion of the annual crop to feeding those who are hungry, as members of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. They have recently launched a postcard campaign to encourage the government of Canada to increase its untied aid to the poorest countries in the world. Pick up a card on the greeters table.

Outreach

Our focus for April and May is Dans La Rue which has programs addressing the needs of homeless and at-risk youth. Services include: a night van, day centre, an Intervention Team, emergency shelter, an employment program and the Emmett Johns School. Please pick up a flower and return it with your gift.

April Birthdays

Corinne Verpoorten	April 1
Kirsten Gust	April 3
Katherine Kunanec	April 3
Anita Feese	April 5
Madison Yuck	April 5
Birgitta Jakobsson	April 7
Bryton Cantello	April 13
Shaylin Thomas	April 13
Kelly Joseph	April 23
Willy Bertchsmann	April 28
Helmut Feese	April 28
Susan Jacques	April 29
Domenic Bach	April 30

Confirmation Class

Yan Fagundes is the lone student in our class this spring. Please keep him and Pastor Jim in your prayers as they study Luther's Small Catechism, beginning with the Ten Commandments.



Lessons

Lent 5 April 7

Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126,
Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

Palm Sunday April 14

Zechariah 9:9-10, Psalm 118:1-5, 15-20,
Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 19:28-40

Easter Sunday April 21

Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24,
Acts 10:34-43, Luke 24:1-12

Easter 1 April 28

Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 150,
Revelations, 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

Now the Feast

Church musician Marty Haugen is best known in our congregation for Holden Evening Prayer, and for hymns like *All Are Welcome*, *Gather Us In*, and *Healer of Our Every Ill*. Though raised a Lutheran Haugen is now member of the United Church of Christ, and serves as a musician in Minnesota.

In 1991 Haugen was commissioned by the GIA Publishing to create a new liturgy for Lutheran congregations that had been using the green *Lutheran Book of Worship* for several decades.

At Christ the Redeemer our musicians have been practising this liturgy, and will introduce it to the congregation on Easter Sunday. Worshippers will note that several of the musical components of the setting are already familiar to us as hymns: *As the Grains of Wheat* (465), and *Praise to You O God of Mercy* (208).

Ride for Senior

One of our members, who relies on a walker and/or wheelchair, living in Beaconsfield (just off highway 20), would like a ride to church about once a month. Please contact Pastor Jim if you'd like to help.

Clergy Retreat

Pastor Jim will attend the Lenten silent retreat with the Anglican clergy of the Montreal Diocese. The guest speaker will be Bishop Victoria Matthews, recently returned from service to her church in New Zealand. The event will be held April 7-9 at the Manoir d'Youville in Chateaugay.

Spring Cleaning

Our Property Committee will welcome your labour on Saturday May 4, beginning at about 8:30. There will be windows to wash, floors to clean, cobwebs to dust, etc., all to make our building more attractive to worshippers and others guests. See Paul Rossi or Cliff Pachal.