



December

2017

# Redeeming Words

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## Calendar

Dec. 3	Worship Advent 1	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Advent Dinner	5:30 pm
Dec. 7	Bible Study	7:30 pm
Dec. 9	Reformation Concert	7:30 pm
Dec. 10	Worship Advent 2	10:00 am
	Baptism (Cassidy Yuck)	10:00 am
	Advent Carol Service (St Barnabas)	4:00 pm
Dec. 12	Ladies Lunch – Porte Grecque	12:00 pm
Dec. 12	Congregational Council	7:30 pm
Dec. 17	Worship – Advent 3	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Tree trimming	11:15 am
Dec. 21	Council Dinner	6:30 pm
Dec. 24	Worship – Advent 4	10:00 am
Dec. 24	Worship - Christmas Eve	5:30 pm
Dec. 31	Worship Christmas 1	10:00 am

## Advent Activities



**Advent Candle lighting:** Pastor Jim is looking for two pairs of readers to light the Advent candles during the services on **Dec 3, 10, 17 and 24.**

**Tree Trimming:** Please consider staying after worship on **Dec 17** to help decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Services.

## Advent Carol Service

The North Shore Ecumenical Committee invites you to join with fellow Christians on **December 10 at 4:00 pm** at **St. Barnabas Anglican Church** (12301 Colin) for an ecumenical celebration of the mystery of Christmas with scripture readings, prayers and carols.

## Christmas Service

Join us for a very special **Christmas Eve** service at **5:30 pm** on **December 24.** There will be lesson readings, carols, candle lighting and communion. Any musicians interested in participating in these services, please see organist Bruce Thicke.

## Poinsettias

Help us decorate the chancel this Christmas with red and white poinsettias. They will be purchased from the West Island Community Shares appeal at a cost of \$17.00, a portion of which supports a variety of community programs. Donations of **any amount**, in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving to God, will be gladly accepted. Please fill out the yellow form inserted in your weekly bulletin and put it, with your donation, in the offering plate no later than **December 17.**



## Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies' Lunch will be held at **noon** on **Tuesday December 12** at **Porte Grecque** (4600 Sources Blvd DDO). There is a sign-up sheet in the coffee room. Contact Pat Pachal for more details.

## Baptism



On December 10<sup>th</sup> during worship, we will be celebrating the baptism of Cassidy Yuck, daughter of Jordon and Karen. May God bless this new member of our family of faith.

## Outreach

The Outreach Committee is pleased to report that the total raised for the **Native Friendship Centre** during September and October is **\$365.00**.

The **Food Bank** is the project for **November and December**. Please pick up a food item while you shop and place it in the bin on the Outreach table in the Hallway. This is our Christmas emphasis.



## Christmas Concerts

The Vanier College Choir and Orchestra will be present **A Reformed Christmas** on **Friday December 8 at 7:30pm** at **l'Église Saint-Laurent** (805 ave Sainte Croix in Saint Laurent). Music by Bach, Telemann and Mendelssohn. Admission is free, but a suggested donation of \$10 is greatly appreciated.

Don't forget the concert announced in last month's newsletter featuring the **Orchestre de l'Université de Montréal**, in collaboration with the **MSO** and under the direction of Kent Nagano, on **Saturday, December 9 at 7:30pm** at **Salle Claude Champagne** on the campus of L'Université de Montréal. **Tickets are \$20 (free for students)**. Call 1 855 790-1245.



## LARAM

Representatives from The Lutheran-Anglican Refugee Alliance of Montreal will be visiting our congregation on **February 18** to present their plans and to kick-off of fund-raising activities. More details to come in a future newsletter.

## Eastern Synod Lutheran

The most recent electronic issue of the synod newspaper is available at:

[http://www.easternsynod.org/sites/default/files/content/tesl\\_nov.pdf](http://www.easternsynod.org/sites/default/files/content/tesl_nov.pdf)

## Reformation Challenge Update

As of **November 30, 2017**, the totals were:



<http://elcic.ca/ReformationChallenge>

## Gift-giving options this Christmas

Want to give a gift that makes a difference this Christmas? Why not make a donation to CLWR to purchase hygiene kits for displaced persons or seeds for refugees looking to start a new life? With every donation, CLWR will send you a gift card explaining what your donation will be used for. Enclose this card in a Christmas card as a gift to a friend or loved one.

Visit <http://clwr.donorshops.com/> for gift options.

Change lives this Christmas



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief

Find your catalogue at  
your church or online  
at [clwr.org/GFTH](http://clwr.org/GFTH).

*From The Desk of the Church Mouse*



*I am one of your newest members. Maybe sometime I will tell you about the events in my life which brought me to you. But for now, I offer this little poem as my gift to all of you; to say thank you for welcoming me and giving me a warm home filled with love.*

### **My Christmas Wish**

Perhaps for me this year

Christmas is not about

All the hoopla and excitement.

Rather it is about drawing near to the One who loves me.

Hearing the hope and promise in His birth,

In His coming near

Which calls to and stirs up and answers the aching desire within me.

More than anything else

Wanting the time,

And freedom from expectations and responsibilities,

To rest in His arms

Surrounded by His love.

To be filled.

At peace.

Immanuel.

God with us.

## **Newsletter Editors Needed**

A newsletter cannot be created in a vacuum. Many thanks to Patricia and Church Mouse for answering the call for contributions. Putting out a four-page newsletter alone every month is too just time-consuming so the January issue will be my last issue. It is really a job for two or three people in collaboration, so if you know WORD and have some friends who can write, this is the job for you. Please see Pastor Jim if you are interested in working on the February newsletter. Thank-you for your support over the past two years – Cynthia Ek



## **ADVENT**

Celebrating Advent involves spending time in spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The word "advent" comes from the Latin "adventus" which means "arrival" or "coming," particularly of something having great importance.

I am finding as I age the commercialism of the season is hard to comprehend. The stores are already in the Christmas mode. The minute that Halloween is over it is Christmas songs and decorations in the shopping malls. Everyone is frantically running around trying to find the 'perfect' gift for their children and family or that someone 'special'.

The 'true' meaning of Advent and Christmas is somewhat lost in all the hustle or bustle of the season. For some the 'true' meaning of Christmas is lost in the worry of how to finance this season without going into debt. This season is not all about the gifts and preparation. It is about the joy of Jesus' coming to us and of family.

I know for myself I am hoping to take the time to prepare and celebrate the coming of Jesus and not get caught up in all the hustle and bustle that the commercial establishments and advertising are pushing on us.

The coming of Jesus is very important. Let us all bring this hope and joy of the season into our everyday life and celebrate the season with our family and friends.

Patricia Language



## Sunday School

Sunday school this month is being held on December 3 and 17.

### Worship Assistants Wanted

Volunteers are needed each month to help before, during and after worship. New blood is needed to help with altar care, and as greeters, acolytes, assisting ministers, cantors, readers and communion assistants each Sunday. A commitment of one Sunday a month (or less if enough people sign up) is all that is required. Please contact **Pastor Jim** if you are able to assist during Worship in January and February.

## Bible Study - Mark

One session especially for new students is being held on **Thursday December 7 from 7:30-9:00 pm**. The topic is an introduction to Mark's radical declaration concerning Jesus' ministry and the revolution in proposes

### Lessons

#### December 3 Advent 1

Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

#### December 10 Advent 2

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13,  
2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

#### December 17 Advent 3

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126,  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

#### December 24 Advent 4

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26,  
Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

#### December 24 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96,  
Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20

## Revolution

On the fourth Sunday of Advent (December 24 in 2017) we'll read Luke's account of Mary's song of hope and change, better known to us as the Magnificat. The young bride-to-be was visiting her elderly relative Elizabeth. Both women were surprised to "be with child."

Mary's song is inspired by Hannah, who offered praise to God at the birth of her son Samuel. (See 1 Samuel 1:19 – 2:10). God had answered her prayer for a child, and in return for such blessing she dedicated him to God. Her song imagines God making things right by humbling the high and mighty, and lifting up the lowly.

Mary's version makes the contrast even sharper, but after nearly 2000 years of hearing it each Advent, we miss the revolutionary tone of her message.

So consider what a woman of the 20<sup>th</sup> century wrote. In 1988, Tracy Chapman released her debut album. The second hit single was titled *Talkin' 'Bout a Revolution*. Here are some of the lyrics:

*Don't you know  
They're talkin' 'bout a revolution  
It sounds like a whisper...  
While they're standing in the welfare lines  
Crying at the doorsteps of those armies of  
salvation  
Wasting time in the unemployment lines...  
Poor people gonna rise up  
And get their share...  
'Cause finally the tables are starting to turn...*

As far as Luke and Mary are concerned, Jesus comes to shake us up; to disturb the status quo. He stands with those who are weakest, against those who possess enormous power. (Consider that 1% of the world's population controls 50% of its wealth, and it's growing.) The Gospel is a radical call for reform in favour of the poor and marginalised.

Perhaps this Advent and Christmas?

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jim Slack