

Redeeming Words

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December Calendar

December 1	Worship – Advent 1	10:00 am
	Dinner Set-Up	11:15 am
	Advent Dinner	5:30 pm
December 4	Ladies Lunch	noon
December 7	Confirmation Class	1:00 pm
December 8	Worship – Advent 2	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am
December 17	Council Christmas Dinner	6:30 pm
December 18	Seniors' Worship	2:00 pm
December 21	Men's Breakfast	8:30/9:15 am
	Confirmation Class	1:00 pm
December 22	Worship – Advent 4	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship	5:30 pm
December 29	Worship – Christmas 1	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am

January Calendar

January 5	Worship – Epiphany	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am
January 7	Congregational Council	7:30 pm
January 12	Worship–Jesus' Baptism	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am
January 14	Mutual Ministry Com.	7:30 pm
January 15	Seniors' Worship	2:00 pm
January 18	Men's Breakfast	8:30/9:15 am
January 19	Worship – Epiphany 2	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am
	Deadline for Annual Reports	
	Week of Prayer	4:30 pm
January 21	Congregational Council	7:30 pm
January 26	Worship – Epiphany 3	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am

Advent Dinner

On December 1 everyone is invited to our annual Advent Dinner, beginning at 5:30 pm. Come for a mini-concert by the New Horizons Band. Then enjoy turkey with all the fixin's, carols, and a visit from St. Nicholas. A sign-up sheet has been posted. Your help in roasting turkeys, preparing other items for the table, setting up, and washing dishes is very much appreciated. Invite your family and friends.

An offering will be received at the dinner to support Little Brothers West Island. The organisation pairs isolated seniors in the community with younger men and women for friendly conversation.



Advent Candles

On the four Sundays leading to Christmas we observe the quiet but hopeful season of Advent. In worship on each of these Sundays we will participate in a special litany, hymns and prayers before lighting candles on our wreath. We are seeking the help of pairs of readers. See Pastor Jim.

Christmas Eve

We will begin our celebration of the anniversary of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve, Tuesday December 24. At 5:30 pm a service of carols, lessons, communion and candlelight we will offer praise to God for taking human form, and living among God's people. Invite your families, neighbours, and friends to join us for the evening.



Bulletin Photos

Our weekly worship bulletins are enhanced by photos submitted by members. Look through your old files or go and take some new shots. Please submit electronic images to Pastor Jim or Nancy Corwin, on these suggested themes:



December 1	Sword in Ploughshare, Telescope, Eyes, Matthew
December 8	Flowers, Road Construction, River, Red Carpet
December 15	Stump, Peace, Jail Cell, Healing
December 22	Mary and Joseph, Angel, Pregnancy
December 29	Warning, Highway, Egypt
January 5	Star, Light, Wise Men, Gifts
January 12	Crown, Torch, Font, Dove, Jordan River
January 19	Sea Coast, Letter, Lamb, Disciples
January 26	Candle, Yoke, Repent!

Johnson Succession

The house bequeathed to the congregation by Eric Johnson was sold in early November for \$300K. Other assets from the succession (estate) have also been transferred to a trust account for CTR. 2019 tax forms and a clearance certificate will soon be submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency and Revenue Quebec. This matter should be concluded early in the new year.

There are still several items for sale from the Johnson succession. Contact Wayne Mastine regarding a 2011 Honda Civic standard with 203K, wood chipper, lawnmower, trimmer and wooden shelves. Visit the corner Sunday School room to examine a microwave, VHS video camera, space heater, slide/video transfer, Samsung tv, handcart, etc. Pastor Jim will receive your offerings for such items.

A memorial service for Mr. Johnson will be scheduled in the spring. Efforts are being made to locate this parents' grave.

Newsletter Editor

We're still seeking an editor/compiler of this monthly newsletter. The task requires several hours of layout, research, writing, proofreading and publishing each month. Contact Pastor Jim for a job description.

First Gifts

I don't recall whether it was one of my father's sermons or something we had talked about in Confirmation Class, but I was wondering about things as I looked out my bedroom window on a rainy day when I was about 15 years old. I was holding a box of church envelopes in one hand, and my first pay envelope from the local daycare in the other. I was trying to decide what to do with \$15 for two weekends of work moving furniture and toys.

I'm glad I chose, that day, to set aside 10% of my pay as an offering to the church. The amount was based on the Old Testament tithe; easy to calculate.

But it was never a legalistic approach to giving.

It was a discipline that I undertook. As a teen I could picture the other things I could do with \$1.50 from each envelope. Even so, I decided to let go of it, because I knew it belonged to God.

I am ever grateful that I exercised such faith in my youth, and have sought to maintain this approach to offerings ever since. Even as mortgages, a new deck, and car repairs require my attention, and as you wrestle with a variety of debts.

Several factors come into play as we each decide the size of our annual offering to the church. The value of our giving to recipients is one consideration. Another might be the liberating and transformative effect that giving has on the giver.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jim



Update from the Treasurer

Typically, I only share financial news at the annual meeting, however I feel it is important to highlight a challenge that I believe we can overcome prior to year-end.

As of September 30 our current receipts are \$47,500 versus our budget of \$61,500. The real challenge is the difference from this time last year, when our receipts were \$59,000 (after adjustment for a one-time special gift).

Even though we budget for a deficit, it is still important to meet our giving goals if we want to ensure that all our ministry objectives are properly funded.

There have not been any dramatic changes in our congregation's demographics further confounding the search for an answer.

My ask of you is to review your giving from last year to this year and if there is a gap, please do what you can to close that gap prior to December 31.

Respectfully,
Andrew Saabas

Gifts from the Heart

2019 catalogues from *Canadian Lutheran World Relief* are here. In them you will find a wide array of gifts that will make a significant (and in some cases life-saving) impact of the lives of men, women and children around the world. These include garden tools, water purification, and technical school scholarships. For those on your Christmas list who tell you "I don't need a thing" consider making a gift in their name through the *Gifts from the Heart* program.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Christians around the world will worship at the end of January to mark the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Christian Unity Fellowship (formerly the North Shore Ecumenical Committee) will lead a service at St. Thomas a Becket Roman Catholic Church (4320 Saint-Anne St, Pierrefonds) on Sunday January 15 at 4:30. As has been the case in recent years the service will be followed by a dinner (details to be announced).

Montreal Lutheran Council Annual Meeting

Lutheran lay leaders and clergy met for an annual meeting at St. John's Estonian Lutheran Church in NDG, on November 7. An opening devotion memorialised Lutheran pastors who have served in this region, who are now at rest. A summary of our work together was followed by brief comments about our plans for the new year. Elections for a new executive yielded the following results:

- Chair – Pastor Jim Slack, Christ the Redeemer
- Vice-Chair – Roger Kenner, St. Ansgar's
- Treasurer – Pastor Samuel King Kabu, St. Ansgar's
- Secretary – Carol Meindl, St. John's

The Montreal Lutheran Council is composed of lay and ordained leaders from nine Lutheran congregations in Montreal. It also overlaps with the Montreal Ministry Area.

December Birthdays

Rolf Buhmann	1 December
Dannie Chevalier	1 December
Sandy Keating	5 December
Darin Jacques	13 December
Andrew Sabaas	13 December
Robert Thicke	14 December
Malaya Thomas	14 December
Christie Johnson	18 December
Katelyn Rossi	19 December
Rosemary Nuss	20 December
Heidi Bertchsmann	27 December
Tobin Cantello	27 December
Marie-Luise Ernstsohn	28 December
Tracy Joseph	31 December

January Birthdays

Elli Hoeflich	January 2
Ashley Broadhurst	January 3
Dagmar Feese	January 4
Anna Chevalier	January 6
Kate Smith	January 7
Christopher Ferriera	January 10
Cliff Pachal	January 11
Jesse Bach	January 14
Lee-Anne Grandsire	January 21
Birgitta Lussier	January 21
Pam Joseph	January 23
Inge Englert	January 24



Outreach

In December the Outreach Committee encourages you to bring non-perishable groceries for the *Roxboro Food Bank* (West Island Assistance). Give generously, using the red tubs in the hallway.

At the Council meeting in November it was decided that the Oktoberfest offering of more than \$700 be directed to *On Rock Community Services*.

Blue Christmas

At 7:30 pm on Wednesday December 11 Roxboro United Church (116 Cartier) will host a meditative gathering for those who are struggling to observe Christmas (perhaps those experiencing grief, divorce, illness, unemployment) in a joyful way.

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held for children age 3 and older. Sessions, following the *Whirl* curriculum, are held on alternate Sunday mornings. Classes will next be held December 8 and 22, January 5 and 19. Bible stories, crafts, games and other activities will illustrate God's love for us and the whole world.



Confirmation Class

Classes for teens from our congregation and Good Shepherd in St. Lambert, focussing on the Small Catechism, continue.

On December 7 a class at CTR will conclude a study of the Ten Commandments.

The Apostles' Creed will be the topic of conversation at Good Shepherd on December 21.

In the new year will work on the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion.

Ladies Lunch

Women from CTR and their friends are invited to gather for lunch at La Perle (4230 St. Jean) on Wednesday December 4 at noon. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet, and check with Pat Pachal for details.

Men's Breakfast

Male members and friends of the congregation will prepare and then enjoy breakfast together on Saturday December 21, beginning at 8:30 am. We'll consider the Nativity stories from Matthew, Luke, John and other historical perspectives.

Pick Me Up Café

Based on a recommendation from Pastor Jim Council is considering a proposal for a weekly café for parents of Westpark Elementary School. The program hopes to reduce congregation on the street, promote friendship, and identify CTR as good neighbour. Are you prepared to spend about two hours per week serving hot beverages?

16 Days

The Center for Women and Global Leadership has launched an initiative running from November 25 to December 10. The program seeks to reduce violence and exploitation against women around the world, and to promote their education and leadership in the workplace. This includes the remembrance of the shootings at École Polytechnique here in Montreal. Visit the website for more information.

Seniors Worship

Pastor Jim will lead worship at a Seniors' Residence in Pierrefonds on December 18 and January 15 at 2:00. Contact Pastor Jim if you'd like to attend.



Lessons

Advent 1	December 1
Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44	
Advent 2	December 8
Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12	
Advent 3	December 15
Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11	
Advent 4	December 22
Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 46, Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43	
Christmas Eve	December 24
Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20	
Christmas 1	December 29
Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23	
Epiphany	January 5
Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12	
Baptism of our Lord	January 12
Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17	
Epiphany 2	January 19
Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42	
Epiphany 3	January 26
Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23	