



# Redeeming Words

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## **Calendar December**

**Join us for coffee and conversation each Sunday at 11:15 following the service (unless otherwise noted).**

- 2** Worship – Advent 1 10:00 am  
Set-Up 11:15 am  
Advent Dinner 5:30 pm
- 6** Study 7:30 pm
- 9** Worship – Advent 2 10:00  
Sunday School 10:00 am
- 11** Mutual Ministry 7:30 pm
- 16** Worship – Advent 3 10:00  
Christmas Decorating 11:15 am
- 18** Congregational Council Potluck 6:00 pm
- 19** Senior's HC 2:00 pm
- 23** Worship – Advent 4 10:00  
Sunday School 10:00 am
- 24** Worship – Christmas Eve 5:30 pm
- 25** Christmas Day
- 30** Worship – Christmas 1 10:00

## **Calendar January**

**Join us for coffee and conversation each Sunday at 11:15 following the service (unless otherwise noted).**

- 6** Worship – Epiphany 10:00 am  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
'Undecorating' 11:30 am
- 12** LARAM 10:00 am
- 13** Worship - Baptism of our Lord 10:00 am
- 15** Congregational Council 7:30 pm
- 20** Worship - Epiphany 2 10:00 am  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Worship and Music Meeting 11:30 am
- 27** Worship - Epiphany 3 10:00 am

## **Congregational Council**

Our council is planning a pot-luck dinner at the church at 6:00 pm on December 18 to celebrate the season and to simply spend some informal time with each other. Bring your partner and dish to share.

Thank-you for the important work that you do on behalf of Christ the Redeemer.

## **Christmas Eve**

On Monday December 24 we will gather at 5:30 to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus. With carols, lessons, communion and candle-lighting we will thank God for coming to be with us in flesh and blood. Invite your families, neighbours and friends to join us. We Candlelight service with communion Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm.



## **Advent**

We count the weeks in Advent by gathering around an evergreen wreath and reading a litany, lighting candles, and singing a hymn. Offer to serve as one of our Advent leaders in December. See Pastor Jim.

## First Christmas

According to Luke, the author of the Acts of the Apostles, the Christian Church was established on the fiftieth day after Jesus' Resurrection. (See Acts 2). And for its first two generations - before the New Testament and a liturgical calendar had been established - the followers of Jesus focussed on the events of Holy Week and Easter as they gathered for worship. Along with readings from the Law, the Psalms and the Prophets from the Old Testament, they also told stories about Jesus, read letters from the apostles, and celebrated the Lord's Supper. Sunday became the day of pause and worship.

Even as Matthew and Luke composed distinct stories of Jesus' birth (Matthew 1, Luke 2) there were only fleeting references to the date and celebration of this event until the reign of Constantine in the fourth century. As the Church moved from being persecuted to dominating the Roman Empire, more and more elaborate worship spaces and practices were developed.



It is most likely that our celebration on December 25 was set to replace Roman celebrations marking the "victory of the sun" after the winter solstice. Perhaps as an effort to promote Christianity the commemoration of Jesus' birth was attached to this popular pagan festival.

As the Church spread to other parts of Europe, Africa and the Middle East other local customs were blended with the mass of Christ's birth. These included decorated trees, seasonal foods and drinks, the Yule Log, and St. Nicholas.

After all of this, though, we must admit there is no way for us to know the true date of Jesus' nativity or to propose a pure or original Christmas festival.

Like the members of the Early Church, it may be more helpful to connect Christmas to Good Friday and Easter. The one who lived, died and rose for us must have been born somewhere, sometime. God became a human being, and "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2). By his birth God identified with his creatures, and drew closer to them. Which is why Matthew wrote that we should also call Jesus Emmanuel, God with us.

Peace and Joy to you and yours!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jim Slack

## OutReach

- We recently sent a cheque for \$255.00 to "Women on the Rise". Thank you to all who gave so generously.
- Chez Doris and The Welcome Hall Mission's Christmas Meals Program were chosen to receive this year's interest from Christ the Redeemer's Charity Fund. Each organization will receive \$390.60.

Fill the Bins with food items for the Roxboro Food Bank continues through December. Please consider adding an extra item into your cart as you shop. It will be greatly appreciated.

## Farewell & Godspeed

On November 18 we said good bye to Eric and Rosemary Nuss, who have been faithful and active members of the congregation. The couple's new address is:

248 North Square  
Prescott ON K0E 1T0

A recent card from Rosemary and Eric reads:

*To all our dear friends at Christ the Redeemer,  
We would like to thank everyone for our farewell lunch and monetary gift at Casa Grecque restaurant. We will purchase something to remind us of our many years together at Church and beyond,*

*All our love,  
Rosemary and Eric*



## CTR Memorial Gifts

Remember that special cards are available at the Greeters' Table. Along with an offering they can be used at the church or funeral homes to present an offering in memory of loved ones and friends.

## Montreal Lutheran Council

The Montreal Lutheran Council (MLC) develops an annual prayer calendar for the nine congregations of the Montreal Ministry Area. In January we offer prayer for:

- January 6 Chinese St. Laurent,  
Pastor Paul Yap
- January 13 Christ the Redeemer,  
Pastor Jim Slack
- January 20 Good Shepherd, St. Lambert
- January 27 Eastern Synod,  
Bishop Michael Pryse and staff

## LARAM

The Lutheran Anglican Refugee Alliance of Montreal continues to prepare for the arrival of a family of six from Rwanda.

You can help us in three ways.

1. Pray for the family, all refugees, and for our committee
2. Present offerings in the LARAM envelopes this winter. You will be receipted from CTR, as your gift is forwarded to the committee
3. Please donate:
  - Sofas or Love seats
  - Stove
  - Washer & Dryer
  - Microwave
  - Twin mattresses and foundations
  - Dressers



## Advent Dinner



Photos: Courtesy of Nicolas Bach

Thank you to all of our helpers, and friends who contributed to another successful Advent Dinner. It was a wonderful way to spend some time with friends and family and the food was pretty good too!

\$615 was raised for Little Brothers West-Island, a local organisation that matches lonely/isolated seniors with younger visitors.

Did you know that Emily Rossi is a member of their staff? She'd be happy to tell you more about the group, and who you might help as a volunteer.

## Lessons

### December 2 Advent 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10,  
1 Thessalonians 3:9p-13, Luke 21:25-36

### December 9 Advent 2

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79,  
Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

### December 16 Advent 3

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6,  
Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

### December 23 Advent 4

Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55,  
Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55

### December 24 Christmas Eve

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

### December 30 Christmas 1

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148,  
Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:14-52



### January 6 Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72, 1-7, 10-14,  
Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

### January 13 Baptism of our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29,  
Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### January 20 Epiphany 2

Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10,  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

### January 27 Epiphany 3

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19,  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

## Birthdays

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Rolf Buhmann          | 1 December  |
| Dannie Chevalier      | 1 December  |
| Ella Buhmann          | 1 December  |
| Darin Jacques         | 13 December |
| Andrew Saabas         | 13 December |
| Robert Thicke         | 14 December |
| Malaya Thomas         | 14 December |
| Christie Johnson      | 18 December |
| Katelyn Rossi         | 19 December |
| Rosemary Nuss         | 20 December |
| Carl Ek               | 25 December |
| Jesus of Nazareth     | 25 December |
| Heidi Bertchsmann     | 27 December |
| Tobin Cantello        | 27 December |
| Marie-Luise Ernstsohn | 28 December |
| Tracy Joseph          | 31 December |

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| 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 |



## Bulletins

In the 2018-2019 Church Year we're creating home-made bulletin covers. They will include the lessons and psalm, as well as a photograph. Submit your pictures or ask for a list of suggestions from Pastor Jim.

## Newsletter Contributions

Have a story that you would to share? Perhaps some news that would be of interest? Why not consider forwarding it to Debbie for an upcoming edition. Email [dristimaki@gmail.com](mailto:dristimaki@gmail.com)

