



February

2018

Redeeming Words

57 Westpark Blvd., Dollard-Des-Ormeaux, QC H9A 2J8 ctrlutheran@videotron.ca • 514-684-1014
Pastor Jim Slack • ctrpastor@videotron.ca • 514-696-4895 • www.christ-redeemer.com

February Calendar

- February 4 Worship 10:00 am
Coffee & Conversation 11:15 am
Annual Meeting 11:30 am
- February 7 Bible Study – In the Light 7:30 pm
- February 11 Transfiguration 10:00 am
Pancake Brunch 11:15 am
- February 13 Mutual Ministry Com 7:30 pm
- February 14 Ash Wed. Worship 7:30 pm
- February 17 Men’s Breakfast 8:30/9:15 am
- February 18 Lent 1 with LARAM 10:00 am
Coffee & Conversation 11:15 am
- February 20 Congregational Council 7:30 pm
- February 21 Seniors’ Worship 2:00 pm
Mid-Week Lent 7:30 pm
- February 25 Lent 2 Worship 1000 am
Sunday School 10:00 am
Coffee & Conversation 11:15 am
- February 28 Mid-Week Lent 7:30 pm

Annual Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend the meeting after worship on February 4. A bulletin of reports provides a summary of our work together in mission. We’ll also select four new members of Council, and a delegate to the Eastern Synod Assembly in June. The budget is an expression of our plans for the coming year.

Ash Wednesday

It’s our turn to welcome the priest and members from St. Barnabas as we enter the season of Lent on February 14 at 7:30 pm. Worshippers who come forward will be marked with ashes (made from last spring’s palm branches) as a sign of our mortality and repentance.

Mid-Week Lent

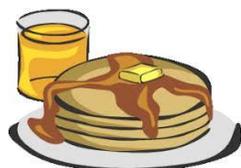
Pastors Jim and Pamela have not yet made plans for the 2018 series, but here are the dates and locations:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| February 21 | St. Barnabas |
| February 28 | Christ the Redeemer |
| March 7 | St. Barnabas |
| March 14 | Christ the Redeemer |
| March 21 | St. Barnabas |

St. Barnabas is located at 12301 Colin – 3 blocks.

Pancake Brunch

Everyone is invited to a pancake and sausage brunch after worship on February 11, served by members of Council. This is our early observance of Shrove Tuesday, which prepares us for Lent. The offering will be sent to support a building project at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.



Congregational Councillors

The constitution defines the tasks assigned to our Congregational Council. Members are to work with the pastor and other leaders of the church for the sake of God's mission in the world, overseeing and supporting the work of our committees and organisations, in concert with others across the Eastern Synod and the ELCIC.

In the coming days you may be asked to consider joining our council, or hear God calling you to put your name forward at the annual meeting. We're looking for men and women, young and old, long-time members and newcomers who are able to work with others who may express a different point of view. Those who attend worship, participate in Bible Study, sit on our committees, or who are prepared to face the challenges of being Christ's heart and eyes and hands in the world are asked to pray about this important invitation.

Terms are for three years. About ten two-hour meetings are held each year. Most Council members also work with one other committee.

Address List

A new address list, intended to serve as an update for the photo-directory, will be published after the Annual Meeting. Please take time on Sunday morning to see if we've got your info right.

New Compiler/Editor

We're searching for a new compiler/editor of the for Redeeming Words. The printed and electronic form of our monthly newsletter serves to inform the members and friends of the congregation about our common life. See Pastor Jim.

Gifts For Another Way

As Pastor Jim has used this social justice resource from Kairos he has posted notes on the Mission bulletin board each week. Take time to read about the work of Indigenous Peoples are the world who seek to be treated fairly and compassionately.



From the Desk of the Church Mouse

I know I promised you a book review this month but I am more excited to tell you about watching the movie, "Of Gods and Men" on one of our recent frigid days.

This telling of a true story opens with peaceful, almost silent, scenes of the monks at Monastere de l'Atlas in Algeria, 1995, as they go about their daily routine of prayer, study and communal work. We learn of their relationship with their Muslim neighbours in the village that has grown up around the monastery. Conversations, shared work and celebrations demonstrate that the monks and the villagers share an inter-twined life of respect, support and love. The peace and harmony soaked into me. But their happy, simple existence is threatened and eventually shattered by the Algerian civil war and related terrorist attacks on both nationals and foreigners. The government, military and some of the monks themselves think the wise choice is to leave the monastery and return to France.



Herein lies the question with which they struggle for the remainder of the movie. How are they to honour and follow God's call on their life in the face of this threat? How could they abandon each other and the people whom they have come to love? When a villager hears that the monks may leave and asks "Why?" Celestin, one of the monks replies, "We are like birds on a branch. We know not if we will leave." Another villager replies, "No. We are the birds. You are the branch. If you go, we lose our footing."

As they wrestle with this decision, to come to consensus, we listen in on their discussions and their prayers. We see how each monk comes to a place of peace with the choice made; a choice the monks believe must be made while maintaining unity in their monastic community.

The depth of their faith, the honesty of their struggle, their willingness to be vulnerable before God and listen to Him will penetrate your spirit. May it also cause you to think about God's call on your life, how you listen to discern it, and what your response to Him will be, now.

If someone would like to borrow the movie, contact me at ctrchurchmouse@gmail.com



Christian Blind Mission

In February and March the Outreach Committee invites you to support the work of the Christian Blind Mission, who say “We are doctors, teachers, health workers, community advocates and funding partners like you – passionate about giving hope and medical care to children and families trapped in poverty and disability.” Much of their work involves promotion of visual health.

Pick up a few construction paper “envelopes” and return your gift before Easter.

The Outreach Committee and clients of the Roxboro Food Bank thank you for your groceries in December and January.

Lay Spiritual Retreat

The Eastern Synod will host a retreat for lay people at Mount Carmel in Niagara Falls April 6-8, 2018. The theme is *Participating in Christ Consciousness*, and will be led by the Rev. David Maginley, who serves as a spiritual counsellor at the QE II Health Sciences Centre in Halifax. Information (including a registration form) has been posted. The cost to attend (sessions, room, meals) is \$250 per person.

Lutheran-Anglican

Refugee Alliance of Montreal

In worship and after the service on February we will receive two guests from LARAM, to tell us about their goal of bringing a family of six from Rwanda (by way of Cameroon) to Canada. Brochures and envelopes for this multi-year program will be distributed.

Here at Christ the Redeemer we have already voted to provide at least \$10,000 for this project.

Eastern Synod Assembly 2018

Clergy and lay delegates will meet at the Delta Marriott Airport Hotel in Toronto June 21 to 24. We'll select our delegate at the annual meeting. The registration fee, transportation, meals and accommodation are at the congregation's expense. Attending the event is a great way to see how other congregations and the wider church live out the Gospel.



Youth Assembly Delegate

Six youth (age 16-24) will participate in the Eastern Synod Assembly in Toronto June 21-24. They will attend many of the Assembly sessions, but also take part in special sessions with Bishop Michael Pryse and other leaders of the church. Transportation and all fees are covered by the synod. Interested persons are asked to contact Pastor Jim right away.

Reformation Challenge

So far we've:

1. Committed \$10,000 to sponsoring refugees
2. Planted three trees
3. Raise more than \$1500 to provide a scholarship in the Holy Land

Eastern Synod Lutheran

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

<http://easternsynod.org/content/tesl-january-2018>

Sunday School

Vicki Valois continues to serve as our lone teacher. She would be happy to work with others. In February a Sunday School class for children age 3 and older will be held on February 25 at 10:00 am.



Adult Confirmation Classes

Members or those wanting to become members are invited to talk with Pastor Jim Slack about forming a class for eight to ten sessions this spring.

In the Light

The final session in our three-part series will be held Wednesday February 7 at 7:30 pm. After consider the light that guided the Wise Men, and Jesus Christ the Light of the World), we'll consider some of the ways in which we might reflect God's Gospel light to others.

Lessons

February 4 Epiphany 5 Isaiah 40:21-30, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

February 11 Transfiguration 2 King 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

February 14 Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18 Lent 1 Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

February 25 Lent 2 Genesis 17:1-7, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38

Sabbatical

According to the book of Leviticus, Hebrew farmers were instructed to observe a sabbatical regarding their crops. From both a spiritual and a practical point of view they learned that the land needed to rest, in order to provide food for the long-run. Each field was allowed to lie fallow once every seven years.

As the 2018 budget was being prepared, and as my salary and benefits were discussed, I proposed that in lieu of an increase we set aside a similar amount of money for a Sabbatical Fund. Not to let me rest my garden every seven years, but to give me or another pastor who will serve this congregation in the future, the means to benefit from an extended study leave.

The ELCIC and its synods have developed guidelines for such a fund. Through our Mutual Ministry Committee and/or our Council we will consider proposals from both the congregation's and pastor's perspective. Three or four-month pauses are common.

The Rev. Michelle Eason, from St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church in Pierrefonds, just returned from a sabbatical. For several weeks she studied at St. George's in Jerusalem, and toured the Holy Land. She also used some of her time away to catch up on her reading.

At a recent meeting of the Anglican Clericus she shared some of the highlights and pictures from her sabbatical, and it became clear that a) she looked rested and refreshed, and b) what she had learned in her classes and travels has made a profound change in her life and faith.

I would therefore encourage your support of this budget proposal.

In Christ,
Pastor Jim Slack

Pastor's New Address

Pastor Jim and Natalie expect to move to their new home on February 24. It is located in Pierrefonds, at 17732 Gowdridge (west of St. Charles and north of Antoine-Faucon).