

February 2020

# Redeeming Words

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



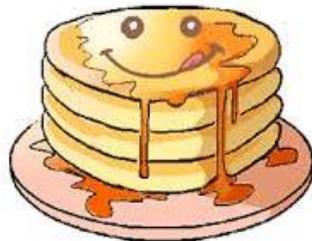
## February Calendar

<b>February 1</b>	Worship – Epiphany 4	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am
<b>February 4</b>	Congregational Council	7:30 pm
<b>February 5</b>	Bible Study	7:30 pm
<b>February 8</b>	Confirmation Cass	1:00 pm
<b>February 9</b>	Worship – Advent 2	10:00 am
	Annual Meeting	11:30 am
<b>February 12</b>	Bible Study	7:30 pm
<b>February 16</b>	Worship – Epiphany 4	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am
<b>February 19</b>	Seniors' Worship	2:00 pm
<b>February 20</b>	Montreal Lutheran Council	7:30 pm
<b>February 23</b>	Worship – Epiphany 4	10:00 am
	Pancake Brunch	11:30 am
<b>February 26</b>	Ash Wednesday	7:30 pm
<b>February 29</b>	Confirmation Class	1:00 pm

## Pancake Brunch

In 2020 the Resurrection of our Lord will be celebrated on April 12. Forty days before that (not counting Sundays) brings us to the first day of Lent. And on the Tuesday before that many Christians around the world will prepare for the Lenten fast by eating pancakes, in order to use up rich foods like fat, eggs, and milk. Shrove is an old English word related to confession.

Here at Christ the Redeemer we transfer the meal to the Sunday before that – February 23. Council members will prepare a brunch of pancakes, sausage, and fruit salad. An offering in support of an Outreach project will be gathered. Come and join us for worship and brunch!



## Annual Meeting

After worship on February 9 we will hold our annual general meeting. All members are able to speak and vote. We'll begin with a review of our ministry in 2019 (pastor, chair, committee and financial reports), and then consider a budget for 2020 and an election for at least one council member. Recommendations regarding income from the Johnson succession and the sale of the parsonage will be made later this spring.

Please submit committee reports in electronic form to Anne Broadhurst or Pastor Jim as soon as possible. We hope to have the Bulletin of Reports in your hands by February 2.



## Lent

The season of Lent developed as members of the Early Church prepared for Baptism on Easter Eve (Vigil). These six and half weeks were devoted to study and prayer. The colour purple is in reference to a robe placed on him while soldiers scourged and mocked him before his crucifixion. Purple is also the colour of royalty.

We will continue our custom of holding mid-week services and study with the rector and members of St. Barnabas Anglican Church. A service of evening prayer and a study program will be designed later this winter.

## Ash Wednesday

Christ the Redeemer will host a service of ashes and communion on Wednesday February 26 at 7:30. Worshippers will be reminded of their mortality and God's grace. A reader and communion assistant is needed. See Pastor Jim.



## Congregational Council

In 2020 our elected board decided to start every meeting with a fifteen-minute study of Dave Daubert's Living Lutheran. Free copies should soon be available for members

## Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee has been revived after several years of inactivity. Council has charged the group with providing recommendations regarding our use of the Johnson Succession and income from the Parsonage sale. After consultations with members the committee hope to present a proposal to the congregation before the summer.

The committee is comprised of Nancy Corwin, Susan Hildebrant, Gilles Labrie, Paul Rossi, Andrew Saabas and Pastor Jim.

## Bulletin Photos

Our weekly worship bulletins rely on 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 themes:

- February 2      Gavel, Courthouse, Paul, Corinth, Blessing, Beatitudes
- February 9      Worship, Kneeling/Bowing, Crucifix, Wisdom, Salt, Light
- February 16     Choice, Life, Argument, Judgement, Fist
- February 23     Mountain/Cloud, Light, Jesus, Three Booths

## Coffee & Conversation

We provide beverages (coffee, tea, juice) but members are asked to sign up to serve snacks and wash dishes after worship each Sunday, as members and guests enjoy friendship chats. It's the simplest way to get to know others.



## Won't You Be My Neighbour?

Documentaries, books, and a recent movie starring Tom Hanks have put Fred Rogers in the spotlight. His simple, radical message of love, respect, and kindness toward others has gained some new support. (I have one book and one documentary to loan to members of CTR.)

Mr Rogers and February remind me of my elementary school days. Early in the month we were asked to bring a shoe box to school. We spent an afternoon or two colouring and decorating our boxes with red, white and pink hearts, cutting a slot in the top, and then using a strand of yarn to hang them on the backs of our seats.

Teachers sent home with each student a list of our classmates. Then at the kitchen table we made and signed enough Valentine's Day cards for everyone.

On the big day we wandered, like little postal carriers, delivering our greetings. And then brought our boxes home, to carefully examine each one.



It did not occur to me, until I heard about this in other places, that the Valentines had anything to do with romance, or that students might decide not to give a card to some other students. They were expressions of friendship and kindness. I did not count the ones I received, or give thought to withholding cards from any of my classmates. Including the ones I did not usually play with.

I wonder, now, whether my childhood faith and Sunday School lessons led me to act this way.

Sociologists, psychologists and educators tell us that we can sustain only a handful of close friendships – three to ten. These are the folks with whom we can relax and be ourselves, or to vent and grieve. They are the ones we might call in the midst of a crisis. We need them.

But we can be friendly and kind to many people. We can strive to be respectful of all. And by the grace of God, exemplified by Jesus, seek to love everyone. Including those who have betrayed, disappointed or hurt us; our enemies.

So just imagine an adult form of Valentine cards, in which we might give to others a simple, colourful note which says "I am a child of God. And you are too. Let's be friendly." No chocolates or perfume or romantic dinner. Just an expression of our desire to treat other people the way we would like them to treat us; to become good neighbours.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Jim

## February Birthdays

Nicolas Ferriera	February 1
Karen Rockwell	February 1
Jessica Joseph	February 4
Chris Bertchsmann	February 9
Arthur Fagundes	February 17
Veronica Ticknor	February 17
David Saabas	February 17
David Puusa	February 18
Benjamin Jacques	February 18
Alexis Jacques	February 20
Emilie Laurin	February 24
Kai Grandsire	February 26
Natasha Kunanec	February 26
Wilfried Jonasch	February 28
Edna Gunpat	February 29

## Outreach

Our thanks to those who have brought groceries for the Roxboro Food Bank in December and January. This will help replenish shelves after Christmas.

The committee has not yet drafted a schedule for monthly emphases, but hopes to identify a mission project next month.

Until Mary Thicke has fully recovered from her accident another chairperson for the committee is being sought.

## St. Barnabas

The Rev. Ralph Leavitt, the priest in charge at St. Barnabas for the last 16 months has completed his work, and the congregation has called the Rev. Dorothy Samuel, beginning February 1. We'll get to know her in the course of our mid-week Lenten services and Holy Week.



There is no news about the congregation's plans to demolish their present building and begin work on a new worship facility.

## St. Michael's Finnish

Several years St. Michael's sold their building on Docteur Pennfield, and began meeting at St. John's Estonian Church in NDG. The congregation was left without a pastor when Matthew Anderson moved to England a year ago.

On Sunday February 16 Pastor Mira Salmelainen (presently in Sudbury) will be begin a two-year part-time position. Everyone is invited to the afternoon service. Pastor will preside over her installation.

## Youth Stars

A not-for-profit organisation which works with youth to bolster self-esteem and leadership skills, and which promotes diversity and cooperation has asked to rent office space at



CTR. Council is considering the request and is in the process of developing a room use agreement. Youth Stars hopes to have 3-6 staff at desks in one of the Sunday School room during office hours Monday to Friday beginning April 1. A leadership training program for teens will be held February 8.

Your help in clearing and painting the room would be a great help. See Pastor Jim.

## Parsonage

After more than fifty years' residency Grace Saabas moved to a senior's apartment in the fall of 2019. Council has since formed a Parsonage Sale Committee (Gilles Labrie, Paul Rossi, Andrew Saabas), and accepted its recommendation to select a real estate agent and put the house up for sale this winter with no major renovations. The asking price is \$969K. Council will keep the congregation apprised of the sales process.

## Camp Lutherlyn

A year-end report from the Lutherlyn Camp and Conference Centre in the Ottawa Valley has been posted. 108 children participated in four weeks of youth camps. Phoenix House, youth crisis centre in Ottawa, the Niigan Mosewak camp for indigenous youth and the University of Guelph track team were among the rental groups.

Spring and fall volunteers also tended to repairs and upgrades to several of the buildings.

## Directory

A revised list of members, addresses and other contact information will be distributed at the annual meeting. Please take time on Sunday morning to confirm your coordinates before February 9.

## 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 and for help is deciding whether this important task matches your gifts.

## 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 February 8 and 23. Bible stories, crafts, games and other activities led by Vicki Valois will illustrate God's love for us and the whole world.

## Confirmation Class

Two classes for teens will be held in February.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> we'll gather at CTR from 1:00 to 3:00 to begin to take a look at the Lord's Prayer.

On February 29 we'll conclude our session on prayer at Good Shepherd in St. Lambert from 1:00 until 3:00. Pastor Jim will offer a ride to students from the Fairview Esso parking lot at noon.



## Bible Study

Pastor Jim will lead a four-part series on Fate, Free-Will, Destiny and Prayer, on Wednesday evenings in this winter, beginning January 22. We' discuss the tension between fate and free-will. Everyone is welcome. Outline sheets are available.

## Ladies Lunch

Women from CTR and their friends gather for lunch at noon in a local restaurant each month. Check with Pat Pachal, or look for February's sign-up sheet in the Chat Room.

## Men's Breakfast

Male members and friends of the congregation meet about once a month for a morning meal and conversation. Everyone is welcome, and may bring a family member or friend. In February we'll gather on the 15<sup>th</sup>, with cooking at 8:30 and a meal by 9:15 or so. Our theme will be love.

## 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. (See posted) The program hopes to reduce congestion on the street, promote friendship, and identify CTR as good neighbour. Are you prepared to spend about two hours per week serving hot beverages?



## Alpha

This ecumenical international Bible study and discipleship program has been offered at St. Luke's for several years. This winter the congregation has extended an invitation to other congregations and denominations. Alpha is "a place to chat, eat, laugh connect explore, question." Morning sessions will begin Tuesday January 28, from 9:15-11:15, extending for fourteen weeks.

Registration forms are available at CTR. Check out the website at <https://www.alphacanada.org/>

## Lessons

### Epiphany 4

February 2

Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15,  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

### Epiphany 5

February 9

Isaiah 58:1-9a, Psalm 112:1-9,  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12, Matthew 5:13-20

### Epiphany 6

February 16

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8,  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

### Transfiguration

February 23

Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2,  
2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

### Ash Wednesday

February 26

Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17,  
2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

## Funeral

A funeral for Gloria Green will be held at Collins Clark MacGillvray White in Pointe Claire (Cartier at highway 20) on Thursday January 30. Visitation at 1:00 will be followed by worship at 2:00. Interment of ashes will take place in the spring. Please keep daughter Heather in your prayers.