



January 2018

# Redeeming Words

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## Calendar

Jan. 7	Worship – Jesus’ Baptism	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
Jan. 14	Worship – Epiphany 2	10:00 am
Jan. 16	Ladies’ Lunch – Elixor	noon
	Council Meeting	7:30 pm
Jan. 17	Bible Study	7:30 pm
Jan. 21	Worship – Epiphany 3	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	<b>Annual Meeting Reports deadline</b>	
Jan. 24	Service at Senior’s Residence	2:00 pm
	Bible Study	7:30 pm
Jan. 27	Men’s Breakfast	8:30/9:15 am
Jan. 28	Worship – Epiphany 4	10:00 am
	Week of Prayer, Ile Bizard	4:30 pm
	Week of Prayer Dinner	6:00 pm

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The week of prayer for Christian unity is an annual international ecumenical celebration. This year’s theme is **“Your Right Hand, Oh Lord, Glorious in Power”**. The Ecumenical service will be held on **Sunday January 28 at 4:30pm** at l’église **Saint-Raphaël-l’Archange 495 Cherrier, L’Ile Bizard**. The service will be followed by a dinner at a local restaurant, See Pierre Lussier to reserve your spot at the dinner.

## Poinsettias

Thanks to your generosity, our chancel was filled with beautiful Christmas flowers, which also supported West Island Community Shares.

In thanksgiving for the Bertschmann family -  
**Heidi & Willy Bertschman**

To the glory of God - **the Corwin family**

In loving memory of Keith Doskas and Walter Knippschild - **Karen Doskas and Jordan Yuck**

To the glory of God - **Andreas Gjevik**

In loving memory of our parents and grandparents – Eldon & Vera, Raymond & Gertrude –  
**the Gust family**

In thanksgiving for all of our blessings –  
**K. E. Hartmann & W. Muhr**

In thanksgiving - **Susan Hildebrant**

To the glory of God - **the Hoeflich family**

In loving memory of a parent - **Christa Hoehne**

In memory of loved ones - **Helga Kohler**

In thanksgiving for the return of his children to faith -  
**Naleta Kalli and family**

In memory of Lynda Middlebrook (Gramy) -  
**Brandon Normandin**

In thanksgiving for a loving, healthy family -  
**Cliff & Pat Pachal**

To the glory of God - **Hannah Polfer**

## Family Advent Dinner

The annual Family Advent Dinner was held on **Sunday December 3**. Close to 100 people turned out to celebrate the beginning of the new church year. The food was wonderful and plentiful.



Thanks to Anne Broadhurst for stepping in at the last minute to organize it. Thanks also to all who set-up, cooked turkeys, brought food, helped with Saint Nicholas' visit and, above all, cleaned up afterwards. It was a very enjoyable Christ the Redeemer community event.

## Ladies' Lunch



The Ladies' Lunch will be held at **noon** on **Tuesday January 16** at **Elixor** (3237 Sources Blvd, DDO). Anyone wanting to join the men (who chauffeur the ladies) should meet at Elixor as

they have not chosen their restaurant yet (talk to Cliff Pachal for more details). There is a sign-up sheet for the Ladies in the coffee room. Contact Pat Pachal for more details.

## Men's Breakfast

The men will be meeting next on **Saturday January 27** for breakfast, devotions, lively discussion and fellowship. Cooking starts at **8:30 am**, breakfast is at **9:15 am**. A free-will offering will be collected to cover the cost of the food. There is a sign-up sheet in the coffee room. Contact David Puusa for more information.

## Outreach

Many thanks to all who contributed food items for the Christmas Emphasis. Three large bins were filled and the food items will be delivered in the middle of January. The committee decided to delay delivery as many other community groups have already responded generously during December.

During February and March, the Outreach project will be the **Christian Blind Mission**. This group is an international development organization with many years of experience helping the world's poorest and most vulnerable. They support children and families trapped in poverty with disability to live with healed bodies. We will concentrate on children and families needing cataract surgery, children needing glasses and sight-saving medicine. There will be information on the Outreach table in the hallway.

## Obituary

With sadness, we report the death of **Bruno Reinhold** on **November 22, 2017**, just shy of his 91st birthday. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

## Prayers for the month

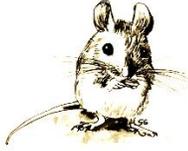
Pastor Jim will pray for different families each week:

- Jan. 7 – Last names beginning with M
- Jan. 14 - Last names beginning with N
- Jan. 21 - Last names beginning with P
- Jan. 27 - Last names beginning with R

Call or e-mail the Pastor for specific requests.



*From The Desk of the Church Mouse*



Happy New Year. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, celebrating with joy that God loves us so much that he chose to be Immanuel, God with us. I especially enjoyed the Christmas Eve service from my perch in the beams. Singing "Silent Night" by candlelight is one of my favourite parts of the service. It fills me with peace even though hearing it makes me chuckle as I recall the oft-told family story about my great-great-great grandfather who chewed a hole in the church organ in Obendorf, Austria.

Last newsletter, I promised to share with you the story about how I came to live here. Well, back in October, I was scurrying along Anselme Lavigne, frantically looking for a new place to live. You see the owner of my last home had begun renovating his basement and, in the process, he had also "renovated" my burrow; removing half my living room and scooping up my favourite massaging recliner. As I ran along the grass, I saw your sign which said, "Open House Today" so I went inside to check it out. The room was full of people singing and, not wanting to create a stampede of frightened people, I slid along the back wall until I found an unobtrusive place to sit and observe.

One word I heard spoken many times that day was "welcome". And this grey-haired man kept saying how happy he was to see everybody. The other word which caught my attention was "snacks" so, feeling a bit peckish and emboldened by the words of welcome, I joined the stream of people leaving the room - I assumed on a quest for these snacks.

I have discovered that there is always something to eat here and, since it is also warm and dry, I decided to move in permanently. You have all made me feel welcome and that grey-haired man often says interesting things which make me ponder more deeply about God who created us all.

Before I go, I thought you might also like to know that I received a new massaging recliner as a Christmas gift. Perhaps next time I will tell you about the book I am reading, curled up in my comfy new chair, in my cozy new home.

## Eastern Synod Lutheran

The most recent electronic issue of the synod newspaper is available at the link below. Pick up a paper copy at the usher's table.

[http://www.easternsynod.org/sites/default/files/content/tesl\\_dec\\_2017.pdf](http://www.easternsynod.org/sites/default/files/content/tesl_dec_2017.pdf)

## An Update on Katie's tab collection



I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to my can tab collection. I just took in a lot of 70lbs which brings my total to about 200 lbs. Please keep them coming! Thank you, Katie

## Contributions Needed

Looking for articles for the February newsletter. Deadline is January 24. Please send your submissions to [ctrlutheran@videotron.ca](mailto:ctrlutheran@videotron.ca)

## Worship Leaders Wanted

Acolytes, greeters, assisting ministers, cantors, readers, and communion servers are needed for services during the month of January. Please sign-up on the sheet outside the Sanctuary to volunteer.

## Gifts for Another Way

During the season of Epiphany, Pastor Jim will be relying on *Gifts for Another Way*, a resource from Kairos, an ecumenical social justice organisation in Canada (<https://www.kairoscanada.org/>). With reference to the Sunday lessons, this resource invites us to seek right relations with our Indigenous neighbours, to take better care of the earth, and to establish peace in our communities and around the world. By the end, we'll have been introduced to all of the elements of a celebratory service, which will be used on **Transfiguration Sunday (February 11)**.

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

The next bible study will focus on Matthew's account of the visit of the Wise Men, the significance of their gifts, and the ways in which we bear witness to the Light. Sessions take place on **Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm**.

### Lessons

#### January 7 Baptism of our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29,  
Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

#### January 14 Epiphany 2

1 Samuel 3:1, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

#### January 21 Epiphany 3

Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12,  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

#### January 28 Epiphany 4

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111,  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

## New Ways

One of the constants in life is change. Whether it is the birth of a child or the death of a loved one, the start of a new job or the loss of an old one, recovery from surgery or the acceptance of serious illness, a marriage break-up or a new romance, we are always in the process of being stirred up and rearranged.

Eight years ago, when I moved into an apartment on St. Jean, several of the things that I had counted on suddenly changed. A 29-year marriage ended, my oldest daughter was a single mom, a familiar house in Lower Sackville was sold, and I said goodbye to a congregation I loved. Some of these things were painful; all of them left me feeling disoriented.

In time, a new marriage began, my children and grandchildren settled, I moved into a new condo, and have gotten to know the members of a new congregation. None of these new things replaced the old ones, but they did help me find my footing again.

But change is constant...

So now I have new concerns for my children, including a daughter who spent Christmas with her three children in a women's shelter and a son who is still tending to a mysterious ear problem.

After 18 years, Natalie has sold her condo, and we're shopping for a new house.

I wonder about the future of the church, including our Lutheran denomination.

For the first time in my life, I celebrated Christmas without receiving a card and speaking to my mother.

And the only thing more constant than change is God's love. Through uncertainty and sorrow God remains faithful, and creates a new way.

At the start of a new year you might want to look back, and grieve the things you have lost. This is part of the process of change. Then look forward - not so much to picture things that have not yet come into focus, but to imagine Jesus as your faithful companion. The One who supports and guides you along the way. The One who meets you in a morsel of broken bread and a shared cup of wine.

God's richest blessing and best surprises to you in 2018.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim Slack