

June 2020

# Redeeming Words

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## June Calendar

June 3	Zoom Lessons' Study	7:00 pm
	Meeting ID 879 1570 3753	
June 7	Zoom Worship	9:30/10:00 am
	Meeting ID 879 6252 4151	
June 10	Zoom Lessons' Study	7:00 pm
	Meeting ID 879 1570 3753	
June 14	Zoom Worship	9:30/10:00 am
	Meeting ID 879 6252 4151	
June 16	Zoom Congregational Council	7:00 pm
	TBA	
June 17	Zoom Lessons' Study	7:00 pm
	Meeting ID 879 1570 3753	
June 18	Zoom Montreal Luth Council	7:30 pm
	TBA	
June 21	Zoom Worship	9:30/10:00 am
	Meeting ID 879 6252 4151	
June 24	Zoom Lessons' Study	7:00 pm
	Meeting ID 879 1570 3753	
June 28	Zoom Worship	9:30/10:00 am
	Meeting ID 879 6252 4151	

## Zoom In

Sunday worship, meetings, and a new study will be offered on Zoom until the quarantine is lifted.

On a device with a microphone and camera (laptop, tablet, smartphone) create a free account at [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and then click on the blue link in e-mails from the church office, or *Join a Meeting* using the eleven digit Meeting ID. Ask Mark Corwin for assistance at 450-202-1231.

In Zoom participants can hear and see one another (provided they have not muted their microphones or cameras), and interact in worship or other gatherings. New options allow users to raise hands, vote, and express other opinions with icons (little pictures).



It's also possible to send text messages to others using a feature called Chat, which may be directed to Everyone or selected individuals.

## Congregational Vote

The Congregational Council examined a proposal from the Stewardship Committee on May 19, based in part on a three-question survey.

As per new guidelines for congregational meetings developed by the Eastern Synod an information letter and ballot will soon be mailed to all *members* of the congregation. Ballots are due no later than June 16.



Two motions are proposed. The first asks whether you support a plan to spend up to \$120,000 in capital projects in 2020 and 2021. We hope to pave and light the parking lot (about \$75 K) and make repairs to the organ (\$15 K) in 2020, and to upgrade the kitchen and bathrooms in 2021.

In light of the COVID-19 virus and the resulting economic downturn we have decided to delay a vote on the distribution of investment income to support our Current Budget and to help Others.

In its place the second question on your ballot proposes that in 2020 we offer matching grants in offerings for Other Lutheran ministries, and Local Outreach, up to \$5000.

Please look for your information letter next week, and return your ballots as soon as possible.

## Worship Notes

During the cancellation of worship at 57 Westpark Pastor Jim is sending weekly lessons, a sermon, prayers, and other notes for those who request them until public worship services resume. Call, text or e-mail to be added to this list.

## Viral Times

The one-page update will return next week. Stories of your experiences during the pandemic are welcome.

## Congregational Council

The elected leaders of Christ the Redeemer are meeting on Zoom these days. The most recent session was held May 19.

Members discussed new on-line banking procedures and safeguards, a proposal for a fall after-school program run by Youth Stars, letters of support for non-profits organisations in Canada endorsed by our bishops, and the Stewardship Committee questionnaire and proposals (see article on page 1).

The June meeting will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

## From a Member

Here's an excerpt from a recent e-mail:

*Dear Pastor Jim and other Members,*

*I wanted to take a minute to thank you for continuing to maintain the closeness of our church community. Your emails and attachments feel to me like a lifeline in these strange times.*

*Furthermore, Bruce and Mark equally deserve my heartfelt thank-you for their outstanding effort in engineering our virtual get-togethers. Whoever else is involved in this "concerted" project (Charlotte and Corinne, virtual choir), thank you, thank you, thank you.*

*Yesterday I received a warm email from Ingrid Gust which was greatly appreciated. I stand humbly before all your kindness.*

*Thank you again.  
I am far but yet so close.  
Kindly, Claudia*

## The Re-Opening of Churches

The Quebec government has not yet provided detailed plans or criteria regarding the re-opening of places of worship in the province. But based on what has been proposed in other places it's possible that we'll open our facility in stages. At first the total number of worshippers may be limited, observing safe social distancing. Those over the age of 60 may be asked to remain at home. Singing hymns and liturgies may be banned when we first return. Communion (even by individual glasses) is not likely to be permitted. And coffee hours will be forbidden.

Which means that Zoom may be part of our worship practice for a while, even as some return to Christ the Redeemer in the months to come.

## Prophecy

On the fiftieth day of Easter the Church celebrates Pentecost. The reading from Acts 2 tells the story of the frightened, confused disciples receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. It took the form of a violent wind that shook the room where they were hiding. And it came to them as fiery tongues, granting them the ability to speak in a dozen foreign languages. Which let them tell the story of Jesus to people were were visiting Jeruslaem.



A corresponding lesson from the book of Numbers tells of the Spirit poured out over 70 of the elders of Israel, during the course of the Exodus. And how two others, who missed that event (Eldad and Medad) began to prophesy in the camp.

Here the author seems to think readers know what the verb means. The 70 prophesied to one another as they received the divine gift. And never did again, when the experience ended. The two others were endorsed by Moses as they prophesied. But we don't read what they really means.

In many similar cultures religious experiences included trances, strange speech, and estatic behaviour (i.e. twirling, dancing, jumping, falling). The question of meaning and content came later. First, such activity identified Spirit-filled leaders.

But as Luke tells the story of Pentecost, even quoting the prophet Joel, the purpose and meaning of this encounter with the divine is his main concern.

After Jesus' death, rising and ascension the disciples were told to wait in Jerusalem. They first needed to be enlightened and equipped, so that they could be witnesses to others.

Here it's not a case of the believers speaking in some unintelligible tongue of the Spirit, but of languages understood by people in the neighbourhood. On the spot it led some of the hearers to be Baptised. Luke tells us the message cut them to the heart, and inspired them to become followers of Jesus.

And then, when it came time to go home, they became missionaries, sharing the Gospel abroad.

Which is where the story speaks to us. It's not us (and our esoteric musings) but the Holy Spirit who speaks to others. When we exercise the gift of prophecy we are not predicting the future, or caught up in some sort of trance, but use our own language to tell others that Jesus' life, and crucifixion, and resurrection matters. It demonstrates God's mercy, and our freedom to love and forgive one another.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jim

## Food Ministries

A small investment held by the congregation for Outreach ministries yielded \$785 in interest this year. This amount has been presented to the Roxboro Food Bank (also known as West Island Assistance). There is no news yet regarding the re-opening of a second-hand store in the community after a fire in December.

At other recent events (including the Advent Dinner and Shrove Sunday Pancakes) we received \$765 in offerings, which will be shared equally by Chez Doris, Dans la Rue and the Roxboro Food Bank. Thank you!

## Camp Lutherlyn

In April the Lutherlyn Board decided to make drastic changes to it's summer schedule. The spring work day in May was cancelled. Children's camps will not be held in July, but may take be held in August if public health officials allow it. The family camp scheduled for the first week of August is still a go, but may be cancelled if restrictions are still in place. Rental groups are able to use the camp, with the help of professional cleaners. Full details are available at [www.lutherlyncamp.ca](http://www.lutherlyncamp.ca)



The April/May issue of our national church magazine has a feature article about parish nursing, a mission piece about the work of seamstress Cindy Hoppe, and a testimonial from Jordan Smith about the value of Outdoor Ministry. It also offers a quote from New Testament theologian N. T. Wright in *Times Ideas*:

*No doubt the usual silly suspects will tell us why God is doing this to us [COVID-19]. A punishment? A warning? A sign?*

*Rationalists (including Christian rationallyists) want explanations; Romantics (including Christ romantics) want to be given a sign of relief. But perhaps what we need more than either is to recover the biblical tradition of lament.*

*Lament is what happens when people ask, "Why?" and don't get an answer. It's where we get to when we move beyond our self-centred worry about our sins and failings and look more broadly at the suffering of the world.*

## E-Transfers

CTR is now able to accept e-transfers as offerings. A dedicated e-mail address, managed by the treasurer, has been created.



During this time when we are unable to have services in church and receive your offerings, the e-transfer option allows you to send a gift from the comfort and security of your home. Perhaps after Zoom services on Sundays.

E-transfers can be done through your online bank account and the transactions are managed by *Interac*, the same organisation that handles all debit payments in stores.

Follow these steps:

1. Log in to your online banking portal using your computer, tablet or smartphone.
2. Select E-transfer.
3. Identify [ctrofferings@videotron.ca](mailto:ctrofferings@videotron.ca) as the recipient.
4. Enter the amount you wish to send.
5. Some banks will require you to create a security question and answer, but our account has been set-up to receive offerings automatically.
6. If the offering is for a specific appeal you may add a note to this effect. Otherwise your gift will be applied to the Current Account.
7. Confirm the transfer.
8. Expect to receive a message later on, confirming that your gift has been received by CTR.

A message will also be sent to the Financial Secretary, so that your offering is properly receipted.

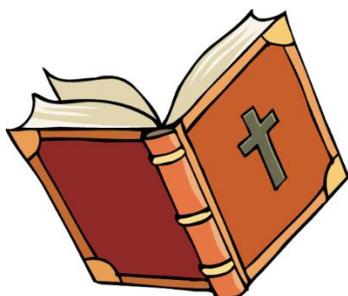
Andrew Saabas would be pleased to answer questions about this new option for giving.

## Youth Stars

The children's centre still hopes to establish its offices at CTR, and use our building as its base of operations. Spring and summer programs have been cancelled, but if public health officials allow the group to resume activities in the fall it is hoped that an after-school program and a Saturday morning session could be held in our building as early as September. Council is in the process of obtaining details about these programs, setting rental fees, and scheduling Youth Stars events programs around other activities held in our building.

## Spring Cleaning

Our thanks to our 2020 cleaning crew:  
 Anne Broadhurst – Kitchen  
 Andreas Gjevik – Painting, Windows  
 Gerd Hoeflich – Bathrooms  
 Marie Hoeflich – Bathrooms  
 Bill Muhr – Windows  
 Mary Thicke – Kitchen  
 Birgitta Lussier – Windows  
 Pierre Lussier – Mats, Windows  
 Paul Rossi – Dusting Beams  
 Andrew Saabas – Vacuuming  
 Jim Slack – Painting, Floors  
 Vicki Valois – Windows, Lights



## Lessons' Study

In 1962 leaders from several Christian denominations formed the Consultation on Common Texts, and in 1992 the group developed the Revised Common Lectionary. It is a three-year cycle of Bible readings and psalms for all of the Sundays and festivals of the church year. It has been our guide at CTR for almost 30 years.

Pastor Jim invites you to log onto Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 for a one-hour conversation about the texts assigned for the following Sunday. We'll read, learn, and discuss the major themes, and would like to have you join us. Use Zoom Meeting ID 879 1570 3753.

## Lessons

### Holy Trinity

**June 7**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8,  
 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

### Lectionary 11

**June 14**

Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100,  
 Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8

### Lectionary 12

**June 21**

Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:10-18,  
 Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

### Lectionary 13

**June 28**

Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18,  
 Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:40-42

## June Birthdays

Brittany Normandin	June 1
Dagmar Mikes	June 7
Wilhelm Muhr	June 13
Edeltraut (Trudi) Ektvedt	June 14
Steve Kunanec	June 14
Fritz Haarer	June 15
Marie Hoeflich	June 15
Emily Skira	June 16
Pierre Lussier	June 18
Lillian Adamako	June 19
Lauren Kuppens	June 19
Nancy Corwin	June 21
David Skira	June 21
Rene Valois	June 22
Anne Broadhurst	June 29
Allison Provost	June 29



## In Loving Memory

**Willy Bertschmann**, the husband of Heid and father of Christopher and family, who died May 3  
**Grete Mayenknecht** of Victoria BC, sister of Kathy Hartmann, who died in mid-May  
**Carol Kuz** of Winnipeg MB, sister-in-law of Pat Pachal, who died May 10



the Delton  
**GLEBE**  
 COUNSELLING CENTRE

As one of Canada's leading schools in spiritual care and psychotherapy, we're here to support the entire Lutheran community and beyond. We understand that anxiety and stress levels may climb for many people during this challenging time. In addition to caring for the physical health of yourself and your loved ones, please be mindful of mental health. Our Delton Glebe Counselling Centre offers phone and secure online chat therapy. Call 519-884-3305 or email [glebecentre@wlu.ca](mailto:glebecentre@wlu.ca). If in crisis, please call 1-844-437-3247