

March



2018

# Redeeming Words

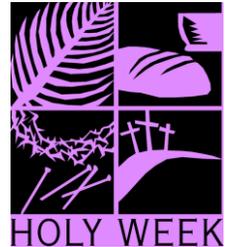
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## March Calendar

- March 4           Worship – Lent 3 10:00 am  
                    Installation of Council
- Worship & Music Com. 11:30 am
- March 7           Mid-Week Lent, St. Barnabas  
                    7:30 pm
- March 11          TIME CHANGE  
                    Worship – Lent 4 10:00 am  
                    Sunday School 10:00 am
- March 14          Ladies’ Lunch noon
- Mid-Week Lent, CTR 7:30 pm
- March 18          Worship – Lent 5 10:00 am
- March 18-20       Clergy Lenten Retreat
- March 20          Congregational Council 7:30 pm
- March 21          Mid-Week Lent, St. Barnabas  
                    7:30 pm
- March 24          Men’s Breakfast 8:30/9:15 am
- March 25          Worship – Palm Sunday 10:00 am
- March 29          Worship – Maundy Thursday  
                    St. Barnabas 7:30 pm
- March 30          Way of the Cross 8:50 am
- Worship – Good Friday 7:30 pm
- March 31          Worship – Easter Vigil 7:30 pm

## Maundy Thursday

The Three Great Days begin on March 29. We will gather at St. Barnabas Anglican Church (12301 Colin, two blocks north on Westpark) at 7:30 pm for a service which will feature foot-washing and communion. Look for news in the Sunday Bulletin regarding a fellowship meal which may precede worship.



## Good Friday

On the morning of March 30 Christians in our neighbourhood follow the Way of the Cross, with eight stops for readings, hymns and prayers. Meet at St. Luke’s (across the street) at 8:50 am, and conclude at Christ the Redeemer at about 11:00 am.

In the evening at 7:30 we’ll gather around the cross for a Good Friday service of Tenebrae. Readers are needed for the Passion of St. Mark.

## Holy Saturday

At 7:30 pm on March 31 we’ll welcome members of St. Barnabas for the Easter Vigil. The elaborate service begins with a Service of Light, continues with a series of Readings, offers an opportunity for the renewal of Baptism, and concludes with preparations for the Easter Feast. Please offer to serve as one of our worship assistants.

## Messy Fiesta

Several members of the congregation will travel to Ottawa on March 3 for a one-day introduction to a new model of Christian gathering called Messy Church.



## Congregational Councillors

### Executive

Chairperson – Susan Hildebrant  
Vice-Chairperson – Greg Gust  
Secretary – Anne Broadhurst  
Treasurer – Andrew Saabas\*  
Financial Secretary – Karen Rockwell

### Committee Liaisons

Worship & Music – Nancy Corwin  
Christian Growth – Jim Slack  
Evangelism – Susan Hildebrant  
InReach – Brandon Normandin  
Outreach – Mary Gunpat  
Mutual Ministry – Greg Gust  
Property – Cliff Pachal, Paul Rossi  
Stewardship – Gilles Labrie\*

*\* not members of Council*

## Ladies' Lunch

Women are invited to a noon-hour lunch at L'academie (St. Jean at 40) on Wednesday March 14. Add your name to the sign-up sheet at the church.

## Men's Breakfast

Men are invited to gather for breakfast on March 24. The cooking begins at 8:30, with a meal served at 9:15, followed by a short discussion. Look for the sign-up sheet.

## Address List

Pick up the updated directory at the church the next time you visit. Please report corrections to the church office.

## 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.

## From the Desk of the Church Mouse

On Ash Wednesday, I made some new friends when members of St. Barnabas joined us for worship to begin our Lenten journey. Outwardly, we were marked with ashes as a reminder and admission that we are mortal creatures in need of God's grace and forgiveness. Inwardly, we were fed with bread and wine at the Lord's Table; the Body and Blood of Jesus which saturates us with the unconditional love of God and strengthens us for the journey.

Traditionally, Lenten disciplines focus on repentance, prayer, fasting and alms-giving. Some take on new acts of service or devotion. Whilst all these spiritual disciplines have value, they risk becoming our own efforts to become good enough, to earn God's love and forgiveness. In her sermon, Rev. Pamela suggested making Lent a time of refreshment. Slow down and draw closer to God. Admit how much you need him. Become aware of the ways God responds to your need of Him. Let God's love soak in and experience the freedom and abundant life that comes with knowing you are completely accepted, as you are now.



On Wednesday evenings, we are using a Lenten resource, "Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John". This study encourages us to learn more about who God is, the nature and extent of his love for us and how all this is demonstrated to us in Jesus becoming flesh and living among us. Already these reflections have filled me with awe and gratitude that God held nothing back to save me. There are no limits on what He will do to love me. He gave His only Son. And He gave with no strings attached; no expectations – a gift. He only asks that I receive the gift by welcoming God's love and transforming power into my heart and life.

Please think about joining us for the remaining Wednesdays of Lent. We start with a beautiful service of sung Evening Prayer. We discuss together what we heard in that week's readings from John and some related questions which always get good conversation started. Come make some new friends from St. Barnabas, like I did. And yes, there are snacks here too.

## CLAY Gathering

Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth will gather August 15-19, in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The theme is *Threads*. Visit [www.claygathering.ca](http://www.claygathering.ca), and register at [www.eply.com/clay2018](http://www.eply.com/clay2018)

## 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.

## Canadian Lutheran World Relief

The executive director of CLWR, Robert Granke, will retire in 2018, after a dozen years of service. The board has appointed the Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter, to succeed him. We thank God for Bob's leadership, and pray for Karin at the start of her new ministry in service to others.

## 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.



The February 18 visit has been postponed, and will be rescheduled later this spring. We're still working with five other congregations and organisations to bring a family of six to Montreal from Rwanda (by way of Cameroon). Brochures and envelopes will soon be available.

## Christian Blind Mission

In 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.

## Medical Assistance in Dying

The ELCIC has prepared a study guide for individuals and groups, to help us develop a Social Statement and policy on this timely subject. Visit the ELCIC website to download it. Replies are due by April 30. <http://elcic.ca/Decisions-at-the-end-of-life/>



LEPERS ... I HEAL LEPERS

## Local Assistance

Our annual budget includes an amount to help people with practical needs like food, utilities and transportation. We do not distinguish between members and non-members, but provide assistance based on an expressed need. Pastor Jim administers this fund. Please direct people to him at the church during his office hours (Tuesday to Saturday mornings).

## Sunday School

Our teacher, Vicki, will lead sessions for children three and older, on Sundays March 11 and 25, from 10:00 until Communion. She'd welcome your help in working with the children.



## Mid-Week Lent

Our series on *Meeting Jesus in John* continues on Wednesday nights in March, from 7:30 until 9:00. We begin with Holden Evening Prayer, continue with refreshments and conversation, and then settle in for half an hour study.

March 7 St. Barnabas **Close to the Father's Heart**

March 14 CTR **I Have Called You Friends**

March 21 St. Barnabas **Abide in Me**

## Lessons

**March 4 Lent 3** Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

**March 11 Lent 4** Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

**March 18 Lent 5** Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

**March 25 Palm Sunday** Zechariah 9:9-13, Ps. 118:19-29, Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 11:1-11

**March 29 Maundy Thursday** Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**March 30 Good Friday** Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, Mark 14:26 – 15:47

**March 31 Holy Saturday** Various OT, Romans 6:3-11, John 20:1-18

## Eastern Synod Lutheran

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

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

## Home

A house is a building which has been constructed to accommodate people. It may be made of wood, or brick, or stone. And it may take a variety of locations, shapes and sizes.

A home is where people feel settled and safe; sometimes a house, but also an apartment, condo, or perhaps even a temporary shelter.

In the Old Testament we read that God's home is heaven, and eventually the ark of the covenant and the Temple in Jerusalem. In the New Testament we hear that Jesus left his home in heaven to be with us here on earth, and that in the fullness of time, God will make his home with us in a world made new.

Today you might ask "Where is my true home?" As a human being is your home your body? Or your dwelling place? Or planet earth?

Or maybe, as you anticipate your resurrection in Christ, is heaven your real home?

Your answer might shape the way you relate to your own self, other people, and the world around you. If your body is your home, and the temple of God's Spirit, then you might take good care of yourself – exercise, diet, safety. If your house, apartment or condo is your home, you might keep it in good repair, and be glad to welcome others. If the world is our shared home we might strive to make the air, seas and land clean for future generations.

If heaven is your home it might be tempting to overlook our body, dwelling, and our planet. These temporal things can be used up and cast aside in favour of something better in the future. Or can they?

In Christ,  
Pastor Jim Slack



## Lenten Retreat

Pastor Jim will join Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson and clergy from the Anglican Diocese of Montreal of the annual Lenten Retreat March 18-20. The event will be held at the Manoir d'Youville in Chateaugay.