

March 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



March Calendar

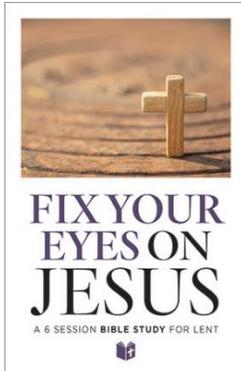
March 1	Worship – Lent 1	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am
March 2-6	Youth Stars March Break	
March 4	Lenten – St. Barnabas	7:30 pm
March 7	Confirmation Cass	1:00 pm
March 8	Worship – Lent 2	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	7:30 pm
March 11	Seniors' Worship	2:00 pm
	Lenten – CTR	7:30 pm
March 15	Worship – Lent 3	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am
	Worship and Music Com	11:30 am
March 17	Congregational Council	7:30 pm
March 18	Bishop's Visit	3:00 pm
	Lenten – St. Barnabas	7:30 pm
March 21	Confirmation Class – GS	1:00 pm
March 22	Worship – Lent 4	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	7:30 pm
March 23-25	Deans' Meeting, Mississauga	
March 29	Worship – Lent 5	10:00 am
	Sunday School	10:00 am
	Coffee & Conversation	11:15 am

Wednesdays in Lent

For more than two decades the clergy and members of St. Barnabas Anglican Church and Christ the Redeemer have spent Lent and Holy Week together.

On the Wednesdays in Lent (March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1) we will worship at 7:30 following *Holden Evening Prayer*. It will be followed by refreshments and fellowship. And then a study of *Fix Your Eyes on Jesus*, concluding by 9:00 each night.

Everyone is welcome to participate.



Lent

The season of Lent (which means spring) begins forty days before Easter, not counting the Sundays. In 2020 we begin with Ash Wednesday on February 26, in which ashes remind us of our mortality. On the final Sunday of Lent we recall Jesus' procession into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. And then on the final days of that Holy Week we wash feet as a sign of servant leadership, commemorate Jesus' Last Supper, accompany him to his trials and the cross, and await his rising.

Purple is the liturgical colour of the season, denoting royalty and suffering. The Cantic of Praise is omitted from worship, and a Lenten verse is sung before the Gospel in place of our Alleluias. Here we set aside altar candles and the Baptismal font, until Easter Eve.

Lent is traditionally a season of quiet reflection, study, prayer, alms-giving and dieting.

Annual Meeting

More than 30 voting members gathered for the annual meeting after worship on February 9.

After an opening prayer we received updates on the sale of the parsonage and the Johnson succession. Council received a retroactive endorsement from the congregation regarding the \$1.025 M sale of 4038 Marcil in NDG. Pastor Jim reported proceeds of more than \$600 K from the Eric Johnson estate. The Stewardship Committee will consult with members before making a proposal about expenditures and investments.

This was followed by reports from the Council Chair (Susan Hildbrant), Pastor Jim and other committees.

And then a 2019 financial report and a 2020 budget from the Treasurer (Andrew Saabas).

Cliff Pachal was appointed to a second three-year term, filling all of the vacancies on Council.

Extra copies of the Bulletin of Reports are available at the Greeters' Table.

Congregational Council

At the February meeting members approved the following appointments:

Chair	Susan Hildebrant
Vice-Chair	TBA
Treasurer	Andrew Saabas
Secretary	Anne Broadhurst
Financial Secretary	Karen Rickwell
Worship & Music	Nancy Corwin
Christian Growth	Jim Slack
Evangelism	Brandon Normandin
Inreach	Gilles Labrie
Mutual Ministry	Susan Hildebrant
Outreach	Lee-Anne Grandsire
Property	Cliff Pachal, Paul Rossi
Stewardship	Andrew Saabas
Investment	TBA

Please offer these leaders your prayers and support. Most of our committees would welcome new members.

Stewardship Committee

The committee met at the end of February.

With approximately \$1.9 to spend or invest (Pinnacle Fund, Parsonage sale, Johnson succession) the members are considering a proposal to spend 10-20% on capital projects, and investing the rest so that the principal will yield annual income for our Current Budget and well as several benevolent/outreach ministries.

Expect to be invited to provide your input in the coming months.

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:

March 1	Apple, Tree, Snake, Stones, Tower, Globe
March 8	Oak Tree, Moving Truck, Camp Fire, Baptismal Font
March 15	Water from Rock, Well, Bucket, Cross
March 22	David, Shepherd, White Cane, Trial
March 29	Soldiers, Bones/Skeletons, Funeral, Cemetery



Hopeful Signs

It would arrive in the house of my childhood right after Christmas; the Vessey's Seed catalogue. And while others might have skied, or curled, or skated, my father poured over the book for hours, carefully planning his garden (which was about the size of our church kitchen.)

By the end of February his seeds arrived. Then he'd go to the basement, find his planting trays and peat pots, and buy a bag of soil. All the while eager to plant his first seeds by Easter.

In April the trays rested precariously on window ledges and tv trays, all of us waiting to see the first shoots spring up from the earth.

As the days warmed in early May the young seedlings would be placed outdoors, to get a head start on the short growing season.

But inevitably the tiny plants died. They were left out overnight during a spring frost. Or my father forgot to water them on the brightest days. Or a strong breeze bent and broke the tender stalks.

Which is why my father always ordered twice as many seeds as he needed; planting the rest directly in the soil after the Victoria Day weekend.

I did not notice it at the time, but it was all an exercise in hope. My father did not like winter, and wanted to feel like spring was coming. So the seeds – which he knew would likely not live to maturity – fueled his hope. They were frail, gentle signs of warmer weather to come; of greenery that would fill his small garden after the snow melted and the earth thawed.

Lent can be this kind of hopeful sign too. Worship focussed on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and the cross testifies to his love for us. Study may inspire and aid us as we serve others as selflessly as our Lord. Giving up some kinds of food may promote our spiritual health. Special offerings or volunteer work may be remedies for cynicism and despair.

Far from being a dark and gloomy season, offset by the joy of Easter, Lent may be a time for us to join our loving and creating God in caring for others and celebrating life. The purple time may help us to live in a world of suffering and disappointment, but not give in to it.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jim



Outreach

Our thanks again, to those who brought food through the Christmas season and into the New Year to assist the Roxboro Food Bank. Although a fire destroyed the retail outlet in January. The food bank remains open at 21 Centre Commercial in Roxboro (near the train station).

While Mary Thicke continues to recover from her accident, and as Lee-Anne Grandsire serves as the Council Liaison, the committee would welcome new members, to help develop and manage our monthly appeals.

St. Barnabas

The Rev. Dorothy Samuel began her work as the full-time rector at St. Barnabas on February 1. She lives with her family in Pierrefonds, and most recently served a congregation in Lasalle.

She and Pastor Jim have met to begin planning Mid-Week Lentent service and studies, as well as worship in Holy Week.

Eastern Synod

The Rev. Riita Hepomaki has resigned from her work at the synod office in order to join her husband in Finland. She has served as an assistant to Bishop Pryse since 2010.



Several other administrative staff have also resigned/retired, and new assistants have been hired in Waterloo.

New Horizons Band

Come to practice on Thursday nights. See Karen Rockwell for details, or see the poster on the Community bulletin board.

March Break

Youth Stars is conducting a March Break Camp for up to 50 children age 4 – 12, here at CTR March 2-6, from 9:00 until 4:00 each day. The registration fee is \$99. The program will feature



dance, music, sports, free-play, arts and crafts. Visit youthstars.org for more information.

The congregation is in negotiations with Youth Stars to establish their staff offices, Saturday workshops, and an after school program in our building. We hope to partner with them in caring for the children in our neighbourhood.

CLWR

Canadian Lutheran World Relief has sent us a Thank You. In reports that through our offerings to the appeal in 2019 we helped 113,699 people in need, welcomed 104 refugees, sent 12,589 blankets, and supported 2200 farming families. You may make gifts using the special envelopes, or by writing CLWR on one of the blank lines of your regular envelopes.

The Mission bulletin board also features the *Partnership* newsletter for Winter 2020. Lutherans in Canada should be proud of the work that is done on our behalf across this country and around the world. The *Gifts from the Heart* catalogue can be used throughout the year.

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 friendly chats. It's a good way to get to know others.

Directory

A new list of members, addresses, and other contact information is now available. Please note that the list is solely published for the purposes of helping members contact one another. Please do not share it with third parties.

You are invited to send corrections to Pastor Jim.

Lay Spiritual Retreat
Leading in Truth
and Reconciliation:
Colonialism, Conflict and Diversity

Spiritual Direction:
The Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

April 17-19, 2020
Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, Ontario
\$265 per person (all inclusive)

www.easternsynod.org

The poster features a background image of a stone wall with a window looking out onto a night sky with stars and a cityscape.

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 March 1 and 15. 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 March.

On March 7 we'll consider the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and what it means to become a child of God. We'll meet here at CTR.

And then on March 21 we'll travel to Good Shepherd in St. Lambert for a talk about Holy Communion, and the place of worship in our lives as Christian disciples.

Gospel

READING

Lessons

Lent 1

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Psalm 32,
Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

March 1

Lent 2

Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121,
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

March 8

Lent 3

Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95,
Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

March 15

Lent 4

1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23,
Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

March 22

Lent 5

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130,
Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

March 29

March Birthdays

Geoffrey Gunther-Farrell	March 3
Amanda Nagassar	March 3
Gloria Nagassar	March 15
Lauren Skira	March 20
Julia Skira	March 20
Andreas Gjevik	March 23
Dirk Gundlach	March 25
Kayden Cantello	March 29
Savannah Kubecki	March 30



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 March'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 March we'll gather on the 21st with cooking at 8:30 and a meal by 9:15 or so. Our theme will be Lent.

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? See Pastor Jim

Tax Receipts

Offering receipts for the 2019 tax year are now available. Those not picked up by February 23 will be mailed. Contact our Financial Secretary, Karen Rockwell, with your questions.

Deaths

Several members and former members died in recent months:

Olga Skrivanic	29 December
David Don	8 January
Gloria Green	19 January
Pauline Brintnell	2 February

Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

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 in deciding whether this important task matches your gifts.