



September

2018

# Redeeming Words

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## Calendar

*Join us for coffee and conversation each Sunday at 11:15 following the service (unless otherwise noted).*

2	Worship – Pentecost 15	10:00 am
	Worship & Music Committee	11:30 am
5	Fall Retreat Planning	7:30 pm
9	Worship – Pentecost 16	10:00 am
12	Montreal Lutheran Council	7:30 pm
15	Men’s Breakfast	8:30 am
16	Worship – Pentecost 17	10:00 am
	Confirmation Meeting	11:30 am
18	Congregational Council	7:30 pm
19	Seniors’ Worship	2:00 pm
21-23	Fall Retreat, Mont Tremblant	
30	Worship– Pentecost 18	10:00 am
	Open House	11:15 am

## Confirmation Class Meeting

Students in grades 7-8 are invited, along with their parents, to attend. The plan for the year is to look at most of the books of the Bible as well as major themes and stories and we would like to begin mapping it out. Looking forward to seeing you Sept 16 @ 11:30!

## Open House

An open house has been planned for Sunday Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. The service will include a narrative communion with commentary and music throughout. A light lunch will follow. Please consider bringing sandwiches and squares etc.

Postcards inviting friends and neighbours to join us are being printed. Stay tuned for more updates.

## OutReach

You may notice ‘paper ladies’ on the OutReach table and that is because our focus for September and October is Women on the Rise - a community organization whose mission is to help mothers to help themselves. They offer a number of programs geared to low income, single mothers with children under 5. You can make a difference by picking up a ‘paper lady’ and returning it along with your gift.

## Fall Retreat

The theme of the annual event is *A Glorious Whisper*. We’ll consider some of the ways in which God speaks to us. Come and enjoy discussions, worship, meals, and recreation all in beautiful



Mont Tremblant, September 21-23. Return a yellow registration form as soon as possible.

## From the desk of Pastor Jim...

### Safe Spaces

In mid-August a grand jury in Pennsylvania released a report regarding sex abuse in six of the state's diocese. It is believed that 300 priests harmed at least 1000 victims, including children. A campaign of silencing the victims and protecting the priests from prosecution (or even church discipline) was maintained for seven decades.

As a pastor it's not the news I want to hear. There are certainly more cheerful things to write about in this newsletter. But it's sobering news that's hard to ignore.

As I'm sorting out my own thoughts, feelings and beliefs I offer a few comments:

I join with others, including Roman Catholics, other Christians, other communities of faith, and even those who claim to have lost faith altogether, in following these reports, supporting the victims, bringing perpetrators to justice, and creating healthier organisations.

It's time to challenge all religious leaders who create secretive and authoritarian structures of leadership which are more concerned about protecting institutions than caring for their most vulnerable members.

Is a celibate, isolated clergy another piece of the puzzle? Is male privilege to blame? Is the power vested in the clergy contrary to the Gospel?

This is not an American problem. Nor even limited to the Catholic Church. Canada's residential schools, in each province and territory, have led to thousands of similar reports made to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Thousands of files from the Jehovah's Witnesses regarding abuse have yet to see the light of day. And I still recall the sting and surprise to hear from a colleague years ago about an extramarital affair that doomed his ministry and marriage.

So, what do we do next? How do we make our church buildings and events safe spaces, where violence, abuse and cover-ups are not welcome? What role might background checks and accessible reporting processes play in guarding our sisters and brothers?

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Jim Slack*



### New Members

**Claudia Nazzaro** (left) - Transfer from Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Weil am Rhein  
**Christa Hoehne** (centre) – Affirmation of Baptism  
**Gilles Labrie** (right) – Affirmation of Baptism

When asked what becoming a member means to him, Gilles said, "I have been worshipping at Christ the Redeemer for five years now. I cherish the new relationships I have made, including with Pastor Jim and Nathalie and enjoy the social activities like the picnics and men's breakfasts." He went on to say that going forward, he and Mary hope to be more of service to the church.

### Congregational Council

No meetings were held in July or August but council is set to resume its work on September 18. One of the items on the agenda will be the ongoing conversation with St. Barnabas about the use of our worship and meeting space while their building is being demolished and rebuilt over the winter and spring of 2019.

### Peace in the Holy Land

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month, you are invited to pray for the Christian communities in Palestine and Israel, for all those who are suffering in the Holy Land, for Palestinians and Israelis, and for peace in the Middle East and the world.

## News from LARAM

Members of the steering committee for LARAM (Lutheran Anglican Refugee Alliance of Montreal) met on June 4<sup>th</sup> at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church. We had the great pleasure of meeting Espérance (sister of the father of the family we are sponsoring, currently in Cameroon), her husband, Jean, and their three beautiful children. All three of the children were born here in Quebec and the family has settled in very well.

Espérance gave us permission to share her brother's first name, which is Isaac. Jean emphasized the difficulties that Isaac, his wife, and their four children face in Cameroon. They are not particularly welcome as refugees there, and their physical safety is a daily concern. They are not officially allowed to work and so making ends meet is difficult, although the children are going to school.

Jean also shared the challenges he experienced himself leaving Rwanda, including a period of time spent in the Congo. He explained the risks involved in a return trip he made to Rwanda, years ago, to visit his father who was ill at the time, and also to marry Espérance. Gunshots could frequently be heard during the night and daily life was, and still is, dangerous.

Our brief meeting with Jean and Espérance reconfirmed the importance of our commitment to the family we are sponsoring and encouraged us to intensify our planning and fundraising efforts beginning this fall. In addition, we have had important and positive news from ARM (Action Réfugiés Montréal): processing time for refugees leaving Cameroon to come to Canada has shortened considerably, down to about 28 months! Please keep Isaac and his family in your prayers and take time to consider a donation to LARAM this fall. Donations can be made directly to Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, clearly marked as designated for LARAM Refugee Fund. If you are interested in volunteering with LARAM, please speak with either Pastor Jim or Ingrid Gust. All contributions are welcome!

*Ingrid Gust*

## 2018 - 2019 Worship Bulletins

Beginning in the fall of 2018, at the start of the new Church Year, we hope to produce our own bulletin series, relying on photographs from our members. Please submit photos that

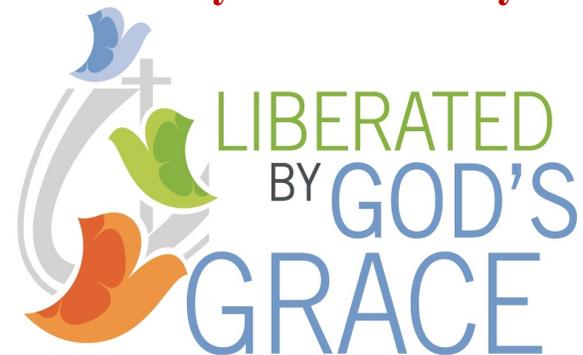


may complement the weekly readings for Year C - they can be found at the front of the red worship book. Send digital images to the pastor at [ctrpastor@videotron.ca](mailto:ctrpastor@videotron.ca)

## New Song

Musicians, readers, actors, and others interested in helping - join us after worship on October 21 as we practice new songs for our alternate/contemporary worship service planned for the following week (October 28).

## Eastern Synod Assembly



*...to be neighbour*

Photos and a summary of highlights from the recent convention are available on the Eastern Synod site and can viewed at:

<http://www.easternsynod.org/content/assembly-2018>

Charlotte Corwin and pastor were pleased to attend the Assembly on your behalf.

## Companion of the Worship Arts

Congratulations to The Rev. Eric Dyck, pastor at St. John's Lutheran, who was named a 2018 Companion of the Worship Arts.

## Martin Luther University College

The Rev. Dr. Mark Harris, Principal Dean, announced the new name for Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (WLS) at the recent Eastern Synod Assembly. The renovated facility will soon be open to the public.



## Eternity for Today

The October - December booklet is now available for pick-up.

## Eastern Synod Lutheran

The latest edition of the Eastern Synod's newsletter is available by following this link:

[www.easternsynod.org/content/tesl-june-2018](http://www.easternsynod.org/content/tesl-june-2018)

## New Members' Class

Members, Lutherans from other congregations, Christians from other denominations, those who practice other faiths, and those who have no religious background are invited to attend our fall classes. Confirm your attendance with Pastor Jim.

October 10	The Bible
October 17	Luther and the Reformation
October 24	Law and Gospel
October 30	God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit
November 7	Sacraments of Baptism and Communion
November 14	Spiritual Gifts
November 21	Students' Choice

All sessions will begin at 7:30 and conclude at about 9:00 pm. Bring your Bible and questions.

## Lessons

### September 2 Pentecost 15

Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

### September 9 Pentecost 16

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Psalm 125, James 2:1-17, Mark 7 :24-37

### September 16 Pentecost 17

Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19, James 3:1-12, Mark 8 :27-38

### September 23 Pentecost 18

Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 1, James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37

### September 30 Pentecost 19

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22, Psalm 124, James 5:13-20, Mark 9 :38-50

## Multicultural Festival

St. Luke's Parish is hosting a multicultural festival on Sunday September 9 (10am-3pm). There will be international food, music, dancing and children's games. Entrance is free however tickets must be purchased for the luncheon. Tickets available by calling 514-684-6488.

## Newsletter Compiler/Editor

Hi everyone! My name is Debbie Ristimaki and I am excited to step in to help bring Redeeming Words together. In as much as I moved to Winnipeg in 2013, CTR has always remained in my heart.

I am a freelance facilitator, coach and writer with a passion for photography. I write a column for a local Winnipeg paper and you may have come across my devotionals in *Eternity for Today* or articles in *Canada Lutheran*. I am looking forward to working with you and Pastor Jim going forward. Please feel free to drop me a line anytime at [dristimaki@gmail.com](mailto:dristimaki@gmail.com)

## Stories to Tell

Do you have a story to tell about the work being done in and around Christ the Redeemer? Why not consider sending it in, along with a photo, to [communique@elcic.ca](mailto:communique@elcic.ca). You might see it in a future edition of the ecommunique of the ELCIC.

Of course, if you have a story that you'd like shared in Redeeming Words, please feel free to pass it on to Debbie!