

# Viral Times

3 February 2021



Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church 57 Westpark, Dollard-des-Ormeaux QC H9A 2J8  
Pastor Jim Slack Office 514-684-1014 Cell 514-583-1014 E-mail ctrpastor@videotron.ca

## Ash Wednesday and Lent

Lent is a "quiet" season of the Church Year, which might be hard to take on top of the curfew and other COVID restrictions.

In the congregations I have served a relatively small number of members turned out for midweek prayers and study. Perhaps it's because of winter travel, busy schedules, or a lack of interest. But I can't think of a better way to prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

And since bad weather, icy roads, and busyness are not the concerns they usually are, why not join us?

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, we'll gather at 7:00 and begin worship at 7:30. Who knows what Rector Dorothy and I might come up with in place of the ashes of burned palms branches applied to your foreheads?

And then for the following five Wednesdays we'll meet at the same hour for the beautiful *Holden Evening Prayer*, and a study called *Revive*.

These gatherings might just be what your spirit is hungry for.



We'll gather on Zoom (computers and telephones) on Saturday February 20,

beginning at 10:00. We'll review minutes and reports, adopt a budget for 2021, discuss an investment strategy, consider several capital projects, and select new council members.

A letter will soon be mailed to those who do not have e-mail or Zoom, so that all members can participate.

## Life Line

I very much appreciated our conversation after worship last Sunday. I asked about things that take possession of us, in reference to the Gospel reading for the day – Mark 1:21-28.

A variety of answers were provided. Fear. Addiction. Expectations.

They take hold of us as surely as unclean spirits in Jesus' day. They bend us and our sense of reality out of shape. And sometimes separate us from those who care for us.

So what does being set free (exorcised?) from these things look like? Perhaps naming the problem, and reaching out for help. And then imagining and practicing a new way of seeing things – creating a new reality where fear, addictions or the burden of unreasonable expectations are eased.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jim



## Redeeming Words

Here's a correction from pastor's column in the Feb newsletter: *To tell the truth I don't think God has ~~not~~ spoken to me about this question.*

## This Week at CTR

February 3 Bible Study 6:30/7:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86095123934>

February 7 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83596791034>

