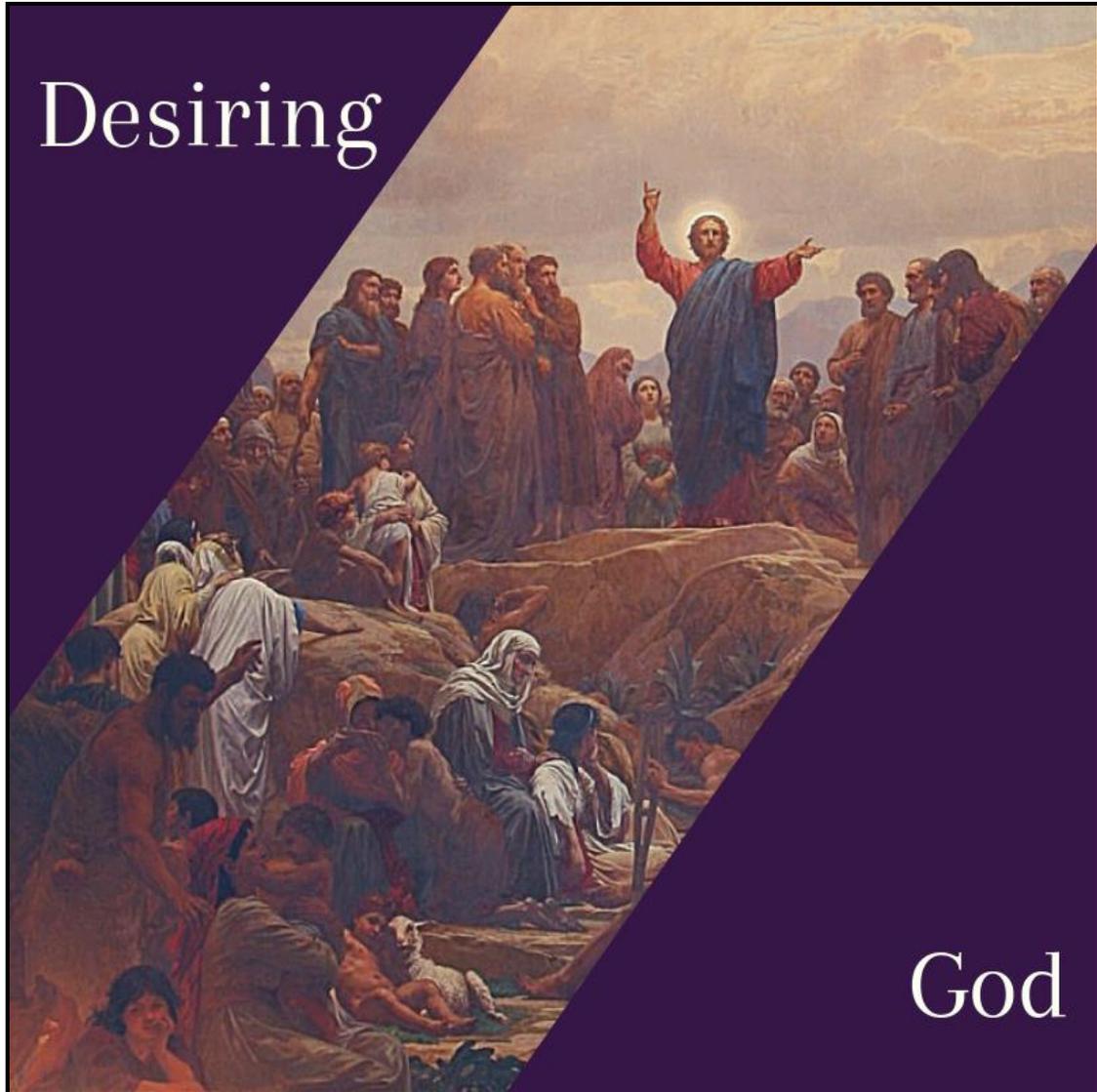


Community Christian Reformed Church
Kitchener, Ontario
March 10, 2019



March 10, 2019
1st Sunday of Lent
10:00 a.m.
Pastor John Medendorp
Elder-in-Charge: Greg S

[* Please rise, in body or spirit]

The season of Lent is traditionally a time of preparation, fasting, prayer, and meditation. This year, we will be focusing our preaching for this season on spiritual disciplines, from a particularly Reformed perspective. We might not think of our tradition as very spiritual when compared to the rituals of Catholicism or the passion of Pentecostalism, but traditional practices in the Reformed tradition like regular devotions, Bible study, tithing, bedtime prayers—even the collaborative work of making decisions by committee—have formed and shaped CRC members for generations.

We are all on a journey to grow deeper in our relationship with God in Christ, and God gives us different tools to help us on that journey. We hope you are blessed as we learn about the tools that God has blessed the Reformed tradition with as we prepare for Easter.

Gathering and Greeting

Gathering Song: *“Lord, I Need You”*

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship: Psalm 42

*God’s Greeting

*Opening Song: *“I Am Not My Own”*

Prayers of the People

Offering: 1) Ministries of Community Christian Reformed Church
 2) The Centre for Public Dialogue

Offertory: *“Doxology (Dedication Anthem)”*

Children’s Blessing

There is no Sunday School this Sunday due to March Break. However, there is a drop in room (the new meeting room off the gym) for children that are unable to sit through the entire service. Children (ages 3-5 only) need to be signed in and out by a parent or guardian. All classes will resume next Sunday.

Proclamation of the Word

Song of Preparation: *"Break Now the Bread of Life"*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:8

Sermon: **"Desiring God"**

Prayer of Application

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Song of Response: *"Be Thou My Vision"*

The Institution

Song: *"Eat this Bread"*

The Teaching

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Invitation

The Distribution of the Elements- the bread is Udi's gluten, dairy and nut free
- the juice is non-alcoholic

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

"Once Again"

*God's Parting Blessing

*Doxology: PsH #638 *"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"*

The congregation is asked to remain in their seats after the service to allow the Pastor and people with special duties or disabilities to exit first.

Please exit when the music begins.



Following the service, everyone is invited to come together for fellowship and coffee/tea/juice in the gymnasium. Coffee for seniors is served in the Multi-Purpose room.

There is no evening service today

Members have the opportunity to meet in their Communities or Small Groups today. Study material is available in hard copy at the Information Centre or on the church website at www.ccrcc.on.ca (click on the “Communities/Small Groups” tab). If you do not know what “Community” you belong to, please contact the church office or Pastor Carel.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The bracketed numbers indicate the Community to which these individuals belong

Hetty F (7) underwent successful hip surgery this past Monday at the Owen Sound hospital. She is currently convalescing at her daughter, Rachel’s home, in Owen Sound.

Willemina G (13) spent this past week at St. Mary’s Hospital. The Lord willing, she hopes to come home this weekend.

John and Anne D (13) continue to volunteer with World Renew Disaster Response Service in Hammond, Louisiana. They will be on site until this coming Saturday, March 16 helping repair flood damage that occurred in August 2016. Pray for productive week and safe travels home.

Please continue to pray for:

- those who are shut-in and/or unable to worship with us on a regular basis because of various health issues;
- those dealing with depression and other forms of mental illness;
- those dealing with cancer, its treatment and effects;
- those dealing with broken relationships;
- those who are unemployed or underemployed;
- **Anthony and Barbara P** with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island;
- the staff and leadership at the Journey

- the persecuted Church;
- the Ministries and the Leadership of our congregation

STAFF INFORMATION

Donna V will not be in the office on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Phone calls or emails will not be returned during this time. She will be back in the office on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Mar 17	10 a.m.	Pastor Carel
	6 p.m.	Pastor John
Mar 24	10 a.m.	Pastor Amanda Baptism: Edmund Arthur G (8)
	6 p.m.	Communities Meet

OFFERING SCHEDULE

Budget Contributions For March 3, 2019

	Actual Contributions Received	Targeted Contributions	Contributions (Shortfall)/ Surplus
Mar 3	\$10,989	\$14,153	(\$3,164)
YTD	\$120,174	\$159,379	(\$39,206)
The Refugee Fund			\$ 4,378

Calvinist Cadet Corp	\$	185
Benevolence Fund	\$	150
Missionary Support	\$	70
Cdn Foodgrains Bank	\$	51

COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWS

NEW! Congregational Devotional: Lent Passport: *Looking for way to deepen your experience of Lent this year? Pick up a Lent Passport by the main entrance! This passport is a 7-week devotional book for families and individuals. It explores a different spiritual practice each week to help create space for God's presence in daily life as we journey through Lent together. Each week's spiritual practice connects to our congregational worship theme so that what we learn together on Sunday morning can be deepened and explored throughout the week. And remember to visit the Passport Office (a.k.a. the Information Centre) to get your pages stamped every week!*

The GEMS Girls Club would like to send out a big **thank you** to all those who donated to our blessing bags. We were able to make over 30 bags for the homeless in our area

Save the Date: The **Spring Congregational meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday April 14, 2019** after the morning service.

Synod 2019: Community CRC will have two members of our church at Synod this year! **Jane V (2)** will be attending as the deacon delegate for Classis Huron. **Rebecca B (6)** will be attending as a Young Adult Representative. Synod is the annual leadership meeting of the CRCNA and will be meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan from June 14-20. Deacon delegates, together with minister and elder delegates, make decisions about church order, denominational positions, ministry shares, study reports, and other matters concerning the broader

Our offering today is for the Centre for Public Dialogue. **The Centre for Public Dialogue** *“believes that every person is created in the image of Creator God. From this foundation, they work to promote the flourishing of all people through constructive dialogue and advocacy in Canada. As Christian citizens they stand with vulnerable and marginalized people in our communities as allies and work toward a just world in which structures and institutions give every person the opportunity to thrive.”*

Next week our offering is for the FACE Fund. As a congregation we have a FACE Fund (Financial Assistance for Christian Education) to assist with tuition costs for those wishing to send their children to a Christ-based school. The fund is available for any approved elementary or secondary school. Please contact either the deacons or the church office in order to receive an application.

MISSIONARY CORNER

We received an update this past week from **Anthony and Barbara P** who work with Daystar Native Outreach. They provided an update on their housing situation and included some prayer requests. Please help yourself to a copy at the Information Centre.

Christian Reformed Church. Young Adult Representatives do not vote, but contribute a young adult voice to the deliberations of the larger body. Please keep Jane and Rebecca in your prayers as they prepare for this week of meetings.

Knifty Knitters: If you love to knit and/or crochet, please join us at the church on Tuesday, March 12 at 9:30 a.m. for another morning of caring through crafting.



March Break Movie Night! All families of GEMS and Cadets are welcome to join us for a movie night on **Thursday, March 14 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** We will be watching "Gnomeo and Juliet" in the sanctuary. Please note this is a family event and children may not attend without an adult.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

For all of the announcements, employment and volunteer opportunities available through the Denomination and others, please see the listing and posters on the Deacons bulletin board across from the washrooms for information.

Lent Family Faith Formation Tip: Observing Lent with your family can be a very meaningful experience. Check out tinyurl.com/FlameLentActivities for a bunch of creative things to make and do with kids of all ages. (Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

Aging: The Final Frontier is a one-day conference held on Saturday, March 30 at the Gibson Center in Toronto, 5 minutes east of HWY 404 and Steeles Ave. Co-sponsored

by CRC Faith Formation Ministries and CRC Disability Concerns, the workshops will address issues faced by the elderly, those who ministry to and with the elderly in our churches, those who have elderly parents, and those who are pondering what life may be like as one ages. There is a 25% discount for those who come with 5 or more from one church. For more information and to register, google "Aging Final Frontier."

Walking Alongside - Youth and Mental Health conference - Registration is now open! Join us Saturday, April 27 (8:15 am – 3:30 pm) at Westdale Reformed Church in Hamilton, ON. Keynote speaker Stephen Doucet Campbell will address mental health challenges faced by youth and give practical ideas to walk alongside them so they can not only endure but thrive. Workshops will address youth and addiction, social media, suicide, and depression. Regular registration fee is \$50. Sign up by March 22 and pay only \$35. Student rate is \$25. Get details and register at bit.ly/walkingalongside. For information, please contact Miriam at mSPIES@crcna.org.

Inspirational Women's Conference: Saturday, April 27th, 2019 at the Meeting House in Oakville, ON. All women are invited for a day of inspiration, worship and fellowship with the theme of **In You. I Am. Enough. My grace is sufficient. 2 Cor. 12:9** Speaker: Megan Fate Marshman, Worship Leader: Brooke Nicholls, Storyteller: Sara Weber. Come and be refreshed and renewed; bring your friends! For more information and to register online, go to: www.inspirationalwomen.ca.

MISCELLANEOUS

LHCS Easter Cheese and Peppermint Sale:

Just in time for Easter, LHCS will be offering European Gouda cheese and King peppermints for sale! Completed order forms, along with payment, can be placed in the mail slots of Elaine A or Sharon M by **Sunday, March 17th**. Orders will be ready for pick up at the school kitchen on April 12th from 2:30pm - 4:00pm. Please make cheques payable to LHCS. Contact Elaine or Sharon if you have any questions.

Classis Huron of the CRCNA**Summary Minutes of the February 23, 2019 session held at Bethel CRC, Listowel**

Opening & Welcome: Rev. Ralph Wigboldus (Bethel CRC, Listowel) welcomed delegates, and led in a time of worship, prayer, & devotions and following the report from the Credentials Committee, declared Classis constituted. Chairing of the session was passed to Rev. Vicki Verhulst-Cok.

Presentations/Reports Received:

▪ *Renegotiating Faith* → Rev. Lesli Van Milligen, *Regional Catalyzer for Faith Formation Ministries* provided a presentation on the “Renegotiating Faith” report and its focus on the delay in young adult identity formation and what it means for the church in Canada, emphasizing the need to create a culture of mentoring/discipleship.

▪ *AdCom/CMC/Stated Clerk* → Classis approved: 1) nominations (to be forwarded to Synod 2019 for approval) of Rev. Gary Van Leeuwen (Blyth CRC) for *Synodical Deputy* and Rev. Stephen Tamming (Trinity CRC, Goderich) for [2nd term as] *Alternate Synodical Deputy*, with both representing Classis Huron effective July 1, 2019 for a 3-year term. 2) Rev. John Medendorp as *Alternate Stated Clerk* for Classis Huron.

▪ *Regional Pastors:* Rev. Norm Sennema (East division) reported on the efforts of both he and Rev. Henry Steenbergen (West division) to connect with fellow pastors while encouraging contact between neighbouring pastors for the opportunity to share and support.

▪ *Church Counselor:* Rev. Victor Laarman reported that First CRC, Owen Sound’s search committee is in the process of making personal contact and visiting with three pastors at their respective churches.

▪ *Council of Delegates (COD)*: rep Rev. Ralph Wigboldus provided an update on matters addressed by the COD at its October 2018 and February 2019 sessions with the following highlights: planned review of differences in the Canadian and American pastoral pay scale; attendance of Inspire 2019 bi-national gathering encouraged; CRCNA in good financial standing with both Back to God Ministries International and Resonate Global Mission being recipients of willed funds; bi-nationality continues to be an issue for the denomination; Ministry Plan survey received greater response than expected; as it pertains to congregational renewal, the RCA and CRC continue to work together.

▪ *Disability Concerns*: regional advocate Len Bakelaar highlighted the work of local church advocates and the upcoming conference “Walking Alongside: Youth with Mental Health” to be held April 27th at Hamilton’s *Westdale Reformed Church*.

▪ *Diaconal Ministries*: First CRC Owen Sound’s diaconate shared a video regarding their *Canadian FoodGrains Bank* “Combining for Christ” growing project of 2018.

▪ *Beginnings, Guelph* Director Cherylynn Lumasag provided information pertaining to the *Family Services Care Centre’s* purpose of serving families and mom’s at risk including new Canadians, and the overall goals of this ministry; she expressed great appreciation to supporting churches and requested ongoing prayer and financial support.

▪ *Guelph Campus Ministry (GCM)*: GCM Board Chair Rev. Ray Vander Kooij reported on the current reality of GCM, the time of transition for staff, students, and faculty and extended appreciation to classis for ongoing support and participation. Chaplain Sara DeMoor, with inclusion of a slide show, shared how God is at work in and through GCM, and expressed gratitude to Neil & Virginia Lettinga for their interim chaplaincy role.

▪ *World Renew Disaster Response Services*: board rep Marguerite Ridder took the opportunity to share her personal experience as a DRS volunteer, noting that God works through us to get his message and love ‘out’ to our ‘neighbours’ around the world.

▪ *Safe Church*: Atie Ott (Classis Huron Safe Church Coordinator) and Eugene Bradley (Community CRC, Kitchener rep) highlighted the following: upcoming March 6 conference; changes anticipated with respect to mandatory Safe Church training; police checks are not required for volunteers under age 18 and this change is to be reflected in each church’s safe church policy; need for awareness and implementation of Bill 132; updates made to Classis Huron church rep list and contact info; continued prayers and support for the classis Safe Church Team requested.

▪ *Youth Ministry*: Amy Baarda, (CH Youth Ministry Champion) closed the day by speaking further to Pastor Lesli’s morning presentation regarding youth/young adults and the need for a relational ministry and going beyond the youth program ‘model’.

Approved:

▪ *Missional Catalyzer Position*: A joint presentation was made by Rev. John VanderStoep (as a *Classis Huron Home Missions Committee* rep) and Rev. Kevin DeRaaf (*Regional Leader for*

Resonate Global Mission) which included provision of the outstanding details (i.e. goals, objectives, accountability, financing, and measurability of the position) requested at the September 2018 session of Classis Huron. Opportunity was given for discussion; delegate voting resulted in approval to proceed with hiring for this part-time position.

▪*Organization of River City Church* (Cambridge): Rev. Martin Dam, on behalf of the Guidance Team, spoke in regards to the prepared report and the issues addressed. Opportunity was given for discussion; delegate voting approved these recommendations: 1) that River City Church be recognized as an organized congregation within the CRCNA and 2) that a separate discussion occur at Classis on the issue of covenantal infant dedication. CMC will determine when this discussion will occur.

▪*Commissioned Pastor* job description, as presented by Kitchener Community CRC, for Shannon Cook in the role of Chaplain at *Forest Heights Long Term Care Home* in Kitchener: delegate vote approved the job description; concurrence of the Synodical Deputies was also granted; endorsement by CRC Chaplaincy Committee is yet pending with a view to hold Shannon's examination at a future classis session accordingly.

▪the work of the Administrative Committee, Classis Ministry Committee, and the Stated Clerk

▪*Synod 2019 delegation*: following review of, and ballot voting on, nominations, Classis Huron will be represented by Minister Delegate Rev. Stephen Tamming (Trinity CRC, Goderich), Elder Delegate Albert Hovingh (Palmerston CRC), Deacon Delegate Jane Vander Velden (Community CRC, Kitchener), and Fourth Delegate Rev. Victor Laarman (Collingwood CRC). Alternates: Minister Delegate Rev. Carel Geleynse, Elder Delegate Irene Geleynse, and Fourth Delegate Rev. Paul DeWeerd with no alternate deacon delegate.

Closing: Chair extended appreciation to Listowel Bethel CRC for hosting. Vice-chair Rev. Amanda Bakale expressed appreciation to Rev. Vicki Verhulst-Cok for her leadership. Followed by a time of prayer and singing of The Doxology, Classis adjourned.

Classis Huron meets next on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at Clinton CRC.