

Community Christian Reformed Church
Kitchener, Ontario



December 18, 2016

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10:00 a.m.

Pastor John Medendorp

Elder-in-Charge: Jerry P

[* *Please rise, in body or spirit*]

Advent is a four-week season of preparation for Christmas (sort of like Lent before Easter), and in the historic church has been a time of fasting, prayer, and generosity. One of the traditional themes of Advent is walking a mile in the shoes of ancient Israel, as they wait for the coming Messiah (since we find ourselves post-ascension in a similar state of waiting for the Messiah's return). These themes sort of move "backward" in time as the season progresses, starting with a focus on the new creation, and moving toward a focus on the person of the Messiah, culminating on Christmas Day with the declaration of Isaiah 62: "Behold, your Saviour comes!" Throughout, we will be focusing on the theme of **peace**, which is a central characteristic of the coming Kingdom and the coming Messiah.

This year is a little odd in that Christmas and New Year's Day are both on Sundays, so Council has approved the option of not having evening services on those days. Otherwise, the Advent services are as follows:

Today, December 18 we are excited about the celebration of the baptism. The service this evening is our annual **Candlelight Service at 6 p.m.**

December 25 is the Christmas Day Service at 10:00 a.m. with the choir participating. Following our Christmas celebrations, we will have a **New Year's Eve service on December 31 (7:00 p.m.), and a New Year's Day service on January 1 at 10:00 a.m.**

Gathering and Greeting

Gathering Song: *"Immanuel"*

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

*God's Greeting and Mutual Greeting

*Song of Praise: *"Oh, What a Glorious Night"*

Special Music: PsH #337 *"Joy to the World"* vs. 1 (Children)

vs. 2-4 (Everyone)

The Celebration of Holy Baptism

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

The Promises of God

Baptism Song: *"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"*

The Teaching on Baptism

The Vows

The Baptism of Ezra Peter F

The Baptismal Prayer

* Song of Response: PsH #329 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

Lighting of the Advent candle

Kingdom Kids (Children 3 – Grade 3) are now invited to participate in Sunday School. Children (ages 3-5) only need to be signed in and out by a parent or guardian.

Proclamation of the Word

Song of Preparation: PsH #344 *"Silent Night! Holy Night!"*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7: 1-17

Sermon: **"A Virgin with Child"**

Prayer of Application

Response to the Word

Children in Grades 4-6 are invited to participate in their weekly sermon discussion

*Song of Response: PsH #340 *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

Prayers of the People

Offering: 1) Ministries of Community CRC

2) Benevolence Fund

Offertory Song: *"Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)"*

*God's Parting Blessing

*Doxology: *"My Friends, May You Grow in Grace"*

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 meeting, 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.**

6:00 pm

Pastor Carel Geleynse

[* Please rise, in body or spirit]

Prayer and Praise

Welcome

Call to Worship

*God's Greeting

*Opening Songs: *"Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King"*

PsH #194 *"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"*

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5

Choir: *"Cold and Still the Night"*

Prayer

Video: *"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

Hearing the Word

Song of Preparation: PsH #336 *"Saviour of the Nations, Come"*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9: 1-7

Message: **'The Prince of Peace'**

Prayer

*Song: *"Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven"*

Offering: Benevolence Fund

Choir: *"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"*

Candle Lighting and Closing

*Songs: "O Holy Night"

PsH #344 "Silent Night"

PsH #328 vs. 1, 4, 6 "O Come, O Come, Emanuel"

*God's Parting Blessing

*Doxology: PsH #328 vs. 7 "O Come, O Come, Emanuel"

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The bracketed numbers indicate the Community to which these individuals belong

Our condolences are extended to **Mike and Denise H, and their children Jennifer and Nathan (11)** with the passing away of Mike's father, John H, this past Wednesday, December 14. A Memorial Mass was celebrated at St. Boniface Church in Maryhill, ON yesterday.

Pastor Bernie and Linda's (13) brother-in-law, **Bert R**, of Clinton, Ontario died on December 14 after many months of suffering from COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease). Bert and his wife suffered the loss of their daughter and grandson in the tragic car accident in Kingston earlier this summer. The family covets your prayers for peace and strength for another grievous loss.

Our condolences to **Ken and Marjorie B (5) and Angela B-A and Wayne A, Amber, Roy and Emily (5)** with the passing away of Ken's brother, Mike B. Mike passed away after battling heart disease for many years. The funeral was held this past Wednesday, December 14 at Covenant CRC in St. Catharines.

Theo F (3) is scheduled to undergo back surgery tomorrow, December 19. Pray that all may go well and that he has a good recovery.

Please continue to pray for:

- those dealing with various illness among members of their extended family;
- those dealing with depression and other forms of mental illness;
- those dealing with cancer, its treatment and effects: **Sarah B (8), John N (3), Claire N**, a 6th grade student at Laurentian Hills Christian School. Claire's father **Terry N is a nephew to John and Ruth N;**
- those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis because of various health issues;
- those for whom this time of the year is very difficult because of loneliness, economic hardship, poverty and many other reasons;
- those who are unemployed or underemployed;

- **John and Jane H** with Samaritan Foundation in the Dominican Republic; **Anthony and Barbara P** with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island; **David and Jessica O** with World Renew in Senegal; **Kim H** with CRWM in Guatemala, **Hank and Rosario S** volunteering with CRWM in Guatemala;
- **persecuted Christians**
- the Ministries and the Leadership of our congregation.

CHURCH OFFICE NOTE

Donna V will be out of the office on Tuesday, December 20.

Kor and Grace H will be off this Monday and Tuesday. They will be back in the church Wednesday, December 21, 2016.

OFFERING SCHEDULE

**Budget Contributions
For Dec 11, 2016**

	Actual Contributions Received	Targeted Contributions	Accumulated (Shortfall)/ Surplus
Dec 11	\$14,850	\$12,845	\$2,005
YTD	\$714,855	\$788,606	(\$73,751)
House of Friendship			\$ 2,261.50
River City Church			\$ 60.00
Woodland Christian High School			\$ 40.00
Benevolence Fund			\$ 40.00
Friendship Ministries			83.00

This week our offering is for the Benevolence Fund. This fund is used by the deacons to financially assist those within our church and the community when a need arises or help is requested.

Our Christmas Day offering is for World Renew. *“World Renew, compelled by God's passion for justice & mercy, joins communities around the world to renew hope, reconcile lives, and restore creation. World Renew is the development, disaster response, and justice arm of the Christian Reformed Church. World Renew does not receive denominational ministry shares and depends on the regular financial support of God's people.”*

Vouchers: Current vouchers will expire Dec 31, 2016. Please keep this date in mind when ordering voucher purchases. Vouchers purchased in December will have 2017 expiry date. Purchases can be made in the usual way using your budget envelope. At year end, if you still have 2016 vouchers, they can be exchanged for 2017 vouchers. If you have any questions, please contact Karen V.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Dec 25	10 a.m.	Christmas Day Service Pastor Amanda
	6 p.m.	No evening service
Dec 31	7 p.m.	New Year's Eve service Pastor John
Jan 1	10 a.m.	New Year's Day service Pastor John
	6 p.m.	No evening service

MISSIONARY CORNER

Please help yourself to copies of the latest newsletters available at the Information Centre from the following people/organizations we support.

Waterloo Campus Ministry: In the last letter from **Pastor Brian B**, he *"told about the four programs that the ministry hosts each term."* In this letter, He'd *"like to share a couple cool "one-off" sorts of things that happened this term, to give you another angle on the kind of work the ministry does on the campuses in Waterloo."*

Guelph Campus Ministry: We received a newsletter from **Pastor James V**, Guelph Campus Minister, near the end of November *"At the end of every semester, it's been our practice to some campus ministry stories with our supporting churches."Campus Notes" is a simple way for us to share with the churches of Classis Huron (and other supporting churches and donors) some of the ways that God has been working on our campus and in our student community.*

A Christmas note from John and Jane H with the Samaritan Foundation: *"It is our hope and prayer that the joys of Christmas will not only fill your lives this season but be with you all this coming New Year! On behalf of the Samaritan Foundation Family, we want to wish you a very **Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!**"*

COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWS

Consistory met this past Tuesday, December 13 and approved **Hayley T (5)** for Public Profession of Faith (date to be determined). Pastor Amanda led a discussion regarding Faith Milestones and how that is experienced at CCRC both corporately and in our Communities. This interactive exercise allowed the elders to reflect on where faith formation is working well and where more work is needed.

Sunday School Note: There is no Sunday for any age on Christmas and New Year's Day.

Christmas Day Open House. If you expect to have "a too quiet" of a Christmas Day and would like to join us, Bernie and Linda D, for a Christmas Open House....then please come! The Open House will be from 2:30 pm till 8ish....please bring some finger foods to share.

Operation Christmas Child: This year we collected 138 boxes for the shoebox collection. Thank you to all the people who contributed! We pray that the gifts in these boxes will show boys and girls in other parts of the world that Jesus loves them.

Church Library News: We are pleased to announce that a number of new fiction books have been added to the library this week. We encourage you to come and check out some of the new titles as well as our display of Christmas books and DVD's. We also have a great selection of non-fiction titles that you can borrow for a longer period of time to allow for personal

study. There is something for everyone so come and visit the library today!

Council will meet this Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room at the church.

Volunteers Needed: The Board of Stewards is currently looking for 3-4 willing volunteers to head up the Church Fire Safety Plan. The committee's mandate will be to implement and maintain the Church Fire Safety Plan. Interested persons can contact Chris d.

Volleyball: All are welcome to join in this Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m. (**note the time change for this week only**) for fun and non-competitive volleyball. If you have questions or would like to know more, please contact Adom P or check out our Facebook Page "Volleyball at CCRC".

Youth News

Student Impact Grades 9 – 12)

On Wednesday, December 21, Student Impact will be having a Christmas event from 6:30-9 PM. We will be having a dinner and Christmas games night. **Please sign up on the youth board (see note below),** and specify whether you would like Chinese food or Swiss Chalet. Wear your ugly Christmas sweaters, and bring a wrapped recycled gift for a gift exchange game. The cost for this event will be \$10. Hope to see you there!

The sign-up sheet for the Student Impact dinner has disappeared, so please sign up again. They put up a new one, so you can write your name there, or email youth@ccrc.on.ca with your food preference. Thanks!

Student Impact is looking for youth who might be interested in being part of a youth praise team at CCRC. If you have musical abilities and are at all interested in being part of a praise team, please talk to John L.

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 bulletin board across from the washrooms for information.

Christmas Greetings! - As we enter the Christmas season, I am mindful of the gift that each and every member of the Christian Reformed Church is. I want to thank you for the support you provide, the grace you extend and the voice you carry as we together serve our Lord and Saviour. May God grant our local settings growth and all of us peace in the year ahead.
~Darren Roorda, Canadian Ministries Director CRCNA

Young Adults! - Join others aged 18-30ish from across Ontario for a weekend retreat on January 20-22, 2017 at Maranatha CRC in Woodstock. The theme this year is "Broken Re-awoken" with Dr. Syd Hielema guiding our group sessions and Nate Smit

leading in worship. It will be a weekend full of spiritual encouragement, faith-based discussions, service, fellowship, and funtivities! For more information and to register, visit our Facebook page "Young Adult Winter Retreat" or email ya.retreat.team@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Gospel Beginnings: Luke - The classic telling of the Christmas story with shepherds, angels and a baby lying in a manger is only found in the gospel of Luke. Join the conversation on Luke 1 to see how Luke helps us celebrate the advent of our Savior through the stories leading up to and describing the birth of Jesus Christ. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

MISCELLANEOUS

"Christmas in Reverse": Laurentian Hills Christian School (LHCS): Please join LHCS for this year's Christmas musical program "Christmas in Reverse". All of their Junior Kindergarten to Grade 4 students will be participating. The performances will take place at Laurentian Hills Christian School at 11 Laurentian Drive, Kitchener. Everyone is welcome. The dates and times are as follows:

Monday, December 19:

Matinee Performance 1:15 pm in the Gym

Tuesday, December 20:

Evening Performance 7:00 pm in the Gym

Due to the inclement weather this past Thursday the Woodland Christmas Concert has been postponed to this Thursday. You are invited to join the Woodland Christian High School community on **Thursday, December 22 at 7:30 pm** for their annual Christmas concert. A variety of performances will be presented as they celebrate the Christmas season and the musical gifts of their students. You are welcome to enjoy this evening with them!

2016 CBC Christmas Sing-In - Recorded in mid-December at Montréal's Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, the 37th annual Sing-In will be broadcast on Christmas Day, December 25. Tune in to CBC Radio 2 at 1:00 p.m. and again to CBC Radio One at 9:00 p.m. Hosted by Ben Heppner, performers include Organist Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm; soloist tenor John Tessier, Conductor Dr. Jean-Sébastien Vallée, the Choir of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, and a brass & percussion ensemble. The concert may also be heard online as of December 15 at www.cbcmusic.ca/Singin