

December 2, 2018

Ministry Information & Contacts

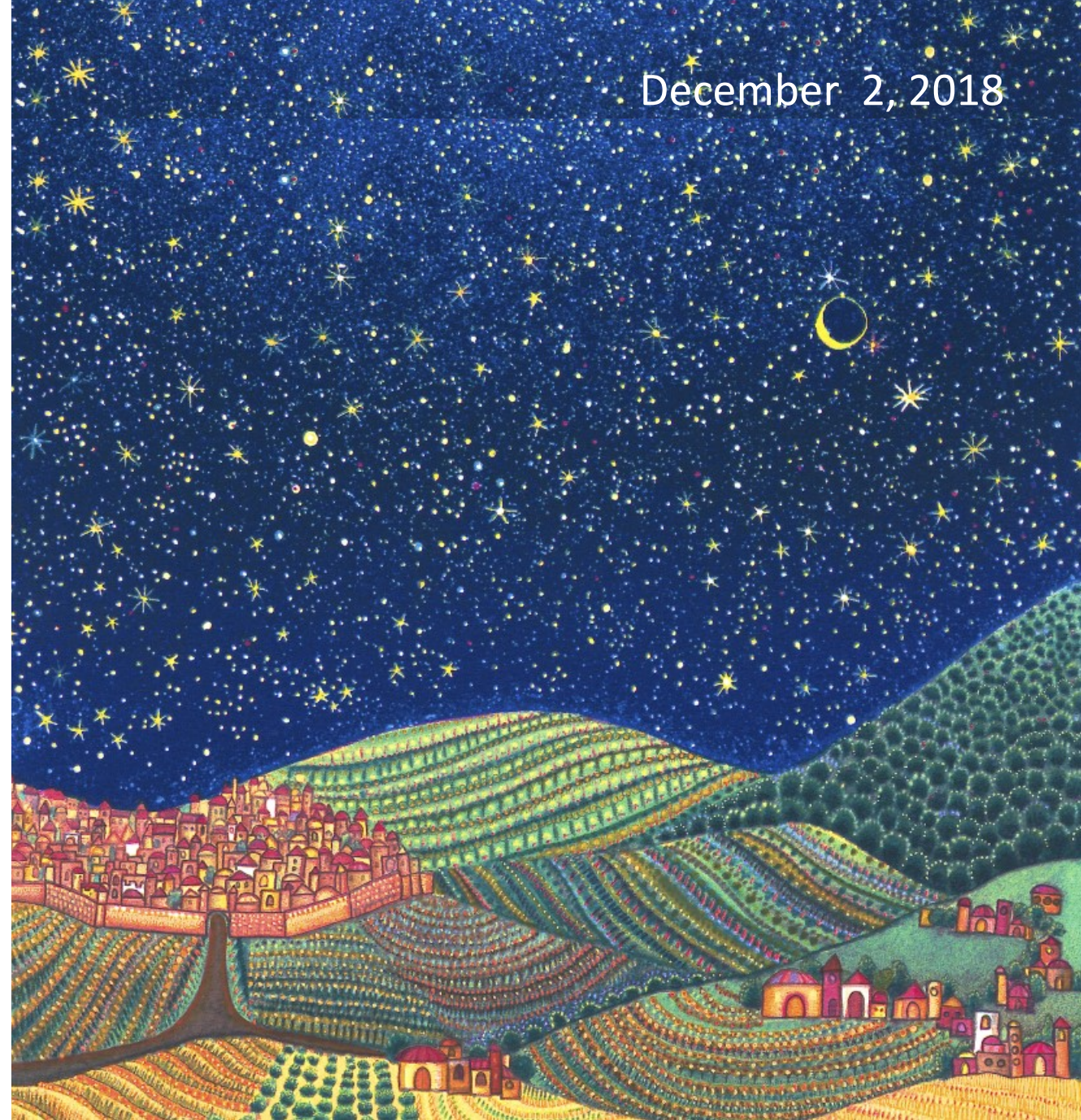
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am-3pm

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Website: www.ebenezercrc.com

Bulletin Deadline: 10am Thursdays

Council Clerk Email: clerk@ebenezercrc.com



Welcome to Ebenezer!

Good morning and welcome to Ebenezer.

Today we begin our Advent series as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord. Our theme this year is "The Light of the World" and our theme verse is John 12:46: "I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."

Cover Art: Nativity by John Swanson

Welcome & Call to Worship

Song: Revival

For Unto Us a Child is Born/Open the Eyes of my Heart

God's Greeting

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Song: Emmanuel Medley

Prayer of Confession & Assurance

Song: O Come O Come Emmanuel

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Thank Offering

1 - Ebenezer Ministries

2 - Calvin College

Children's Message

(Children ages 3 - Grade 3 leave for Sunday School)

Scripture: Serving Elder, Grace Boender

John 1:1-5

Sermon: The Light Shines in the Darkness

Song: Jesus, Hope of the Nations

Parting Blessing

Song: Everlasting God

Church Family

Please see the [Deacon's Corner Bulletin Board](#) for the latest newsletter from our Missionaries Albert and Carolyn Strydhorst. If you'd like a copy contact the office.

If you are experiencing physical or emotional difficulties, please speak to Pastor Jason, your district Elder, a Deacon or contact the church office. We want to support you in your journey. We pray that God will provide you with peace, comfort and healing.

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW: Pictures needed of events from this past year for year end power point. Please send to Jen at jen@ebenezerccrc.com. Questions? Talk to Jen F. for more info.

RESERVED PARKING STALLS - We have reserved and numbered parking stalls along the sidewalks for those with mobility issues. This way those in need of these spots can be assured they are open and available before church services and other functions. If you are in need of a reserved spot - whether long term or temporary (while recovering from surgery or injury, etc.) please call the office! The rest of the stalls along the sidewalks remain designated for seniors. Thank you!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GEMS GIRLS CLUB: Thank you for participating in the GEMS poinsettia fundraiser and the GEMS Counselor Dessert Night. We are thankful for the encouragement, prayers and support of our church family!

CHRISTMAS DINNER: All Seniors are invited to a Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 18th. Singing and devotions will begin at 11:30am, dinner will be served at noon. Sign-up sheet is on the table by the mailboxes or contact Alice (T) VDK or Linda H.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE BOXES - Calling all bakers! We would like to go for another round of making Christmas cookie boxes, most likely the first week of December. Each box will contain 5 dozen cookies/squares. Bakers who didn't bake yet or would like to bake more please let Bea, Evelyn or Joyce know, There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer for the people who would like to order one or more boxes. If there's any questions contact Bea M.

Ebenezer Ministry Opportunities

NURSERY IS LOOKING FOR: bumbo chairs **with** straps and food and dishes for the toy kitchen. These donations can be dropped off at the church office. If you have questions or need more information you can call either Carol W or Alesha S.

FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY: We are looking specifically for a male to be a mentor to a young man who would like to join our group. If you think you may be that person please talk to Wendy B.

Our **FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY** is also looking to develop an adult costume and props trunk that can be used to aid with the acting out of the Biblical text being studied each Monday. Some examples of those materials are house coats, head cloths, crowns, staffs, etc. Acting out the Bible stories helps our Friends to understand and remember God's word. Please give these items to Ineke, Wendy or Carolyn. Thank you!

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA? Ebenezer Youth Group is selling hand crafted crosses for \$20 each to raise money for their upcoming missions trip this March. These small wall hangings would make great Christmas gifts for those hard to buy for people on your list. These would not only be a blessing to the people you are giving them to, but also for our Youth Group. To purchase one, contact a member of our Youth Group or Jamie B. or Kelly L.

BOTTLE DRIVE: The Youth Group will be doing a bottle drive Friday, December 7 as a fundraiser for their upcoming missions trip. If you have any bottles or car batteries that you would like picked up, let Kelly L or Jamie B know. Thanks!

MUSTARD SEED DINNER: As a church family, we have been asked again to help out with the annual Christmas turkey dinner for the Mustard Seed in Edmonton. This dinner will be held on Sat. December 8. About 350 diners are expected to enjoy this meal. We supply the following items needed to help host this dinner: plates, cutlery, cups, glasses, tablecloths, napkins, boxes of stuffing and cooked mixed veggies.

After the service today you will have the opportunity to help cover the cost of these items. Any extra money collected will be forwarded to the Mustard Seed. If you are planning to write a cheque, make it payable to Ebenezer and on memo space put Mustard Seed.

If you would like to help serve and cleanup at the Mustard Seed you must be 14 years old, and if under 18 accompanied by an adult. Help is also needed to cook our veggies in our kitchen at our church. Please contact Joyce D or Margaret T if you can help out. Your donations, help and prayers are appreciated. Thank you.

Coming Up @ Ebenezer

Sunday, Dec 2	@ 9:15 am @ 10:00 am @ 12:30 pm @ 7:00 pm	Weekly Prayer Meeting in the Library Worship Service Widows Lunch Bunch CarolFest - Instrument Practice
Monday, Dec 3	@7:00 pm	Friendship Ministry
Wednesday, Dec 5	@ 9:30 am @ 6:30 pm	Coffee Break Women's Ministry GEMS Girls Club
Saturday, Dec 8	@ 7:00 pm	Piatta Forma Christmas Concert
Sunday, Dec 9	@ 9:15 am @ 10:00 am @ 11:45 am @ 7:00 pm @ 7:30 pm	Weekly Prayer Meeting in the Library Worship Service - New Members Catechism for Grades 7-10 CarolFest Practice Youth Group
Sunday, Dec 23	@ 7:00 pm	Christmas CarolFest Service

Calendar Announcements

WIDOWED LUNCH BUNCH: the next Widowed Lunch Bunch will be held at the home of John and Wendy T on Sunday, **December 2** at 12:30 p.m. Anyone who is widowed is welcome to come. For more information, please contact Beth N .

NEW MEMBERS: On December 9th (DV), we will be welcoming new members into our church family. If you are interested in learning more about membership please talk to Pastor Jason.



CAROLFEST NEWS: There will be NO choir practice this evening. CarolFest instruments are asked to gather on tonight at 7 pm for a practice. If you would like a CarolFest Flyer to post in the community, contact the church office. Also, consider sharing the event on FaceBook. The event is listed on Ebenezer's FaceBook page.

PIATTA FORMA SINGERS: present A Concert For Christmas with special guests - Sunrise String Quartet. Saturday, Dec 8th at 7pm here at Ebenezer. See poster on Bulletin Board for details. Additional concert on Sunday, Dec 9th at 7pm at Peace Lutheran Church in Leduc.

Deacon's Corner

1st Offering - EBENEZER MINISTRIES - This offering is used to cover the day-to-day expenses of the church, fund the various ministries at Ebenezer, cover the salaries of staff, and contributes to the ministry shares that we are committed to as members of Classis Alberta North and the CRC Denomination.

2nd Offering - CALVIN COLLEGE - Calvin College is a comprehensive liberal arts college in the Reformed tradition of historic Christianity. Through our learning, we seek to be agents of renewal in the academy, church, and society. We pledge fidelity to Jesus Christ, offering our hearts and lives to do God's work in God's world. For more info see calvin.edu

Next Week: OPEN DOORS - strengthening Christians in the world's most oppressive and restrictive countries to stand strong in the face of persecution and equipping them to shine Christ's light.

ON THIS SILENT NIGHT: Saturday, December 8, 2018, 7 p.m. Concordia Community Band and the Edmonton Christian Male Choir. Tickets \$15, Trinity Christian Reformed Church, 13427 - 57 St. NW . See Poster on bulletin board.

HELPING THAT HELPS (AT CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND) - During Advent, helping people in need is on our minds as church families. Helping that Helps (at Christmas and beyond) is a 1-hour webinar that explores alleviating poverty while helping, rather than unknowingly harming, people who struggle financially. Learn practical strategies to overcome local and global poverty and injustice. Join Wendy Hammond (World Renew) and Andrew Ryskamp (Diaconal Ministry Initiative) on Wed., Dec. 5, 2018, at 1 pm EST. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/helpingwr>

IS YOUR HEART READY? - ADVENT STARTS TODAY: Orient your Christmas season with Advent devotions from World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, starting tomorrow, Dec. 3. This year's devotional series titled Holy Impatience will explore doing justice in a world that belongs to God. To sign up, go to crcna.org/advent.

ADVENT IS UZIMA! WITH WORLD RENEW - Uzima is the Swahili word meaning, "fullness of life." You can help a person, family, and community begin to experience the fullness of life God intends for them through World Renew's 2018-2019 Gift Catalogue. Include a gift of enough food, better health, or literacy on your Christmas list this year. Give at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-730-3490. Give by December 2 to receive your acknowledgement cards before Christmas!

Denominational News

REFUGEE AWARENESS FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP - December 8th, 2018; 9:00 AM - 12 PM at Inglewood Christian Reformed Church. If you are interested please email or call Tricia Boonstra at triciaboonstra@gmail.com or 780-297-7037. More details on the bulletin board.

You are invited to **EMMANUEL HOME'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE** on Saturday, December 8, 2018, 9:30 am-2:00 pm. at Emmanuel Home (13425/29 - 57 St). You are invited to bring your family and friends to enjoy a festive time of crafts, Dutch food, silent auction and great fellowship! **There is still time to rent a table to sell your crafts and wares!** For more information contact Aria at aria@emmanuelhome.ca, 780-822-1274.

More news and encouragement can be found at

<http://www.ebenzercrc.com/news>.

A paper copy is posted on the Bulletin Board.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Ushers: Howard O, Ted K

Next Week: Marilyn & Andy Z

Greeters: Dick & Judy O

Next Week: John & Wendy T

Coffee Duties: Barry & Kelly H, John & Rikki L, John A

Next Week: Glen & Christine H, Jon & Janna P, Rudy & Karen G

Serving Elder: Grace B

Next Week: Herman B

Worship Team: KerryAnne H & Team

Next Week: Marianne & Team

Projection & Audio: Dan V/Ted K

Next Week: Mike R/Nicole VDK

Nursery Supervisor - Alesha S

Inf: Alesha S, Kendra F, Angelica G, Denelli H.

Tod: Marilyn H, Joe D, Daniel Ba

Next Week: Nursery Supervisor - Carol W

Inf: Carol W, Jamie B, Grace B, Kaitlyn M.

Tod: Mike D, Laura A, Kevin Ba

Questions about Serving? Contact the office for more information or to be added to the Volunteer List.