

December 6th, 2020

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church: 905-685-8294, Fax 905-685-7661, www.christlutheransc.ca

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com

Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579), parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca

Business Manager: Karen McCumber, business.manager@christlutheransc.ca

Secretary: Pat Kimpel, secretary@christlutheransc.ca

SOUL Ministry: Trinda Rensen, Gillian Leaver

Church Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC

Bulletin by email: Judy Mason, chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Prayer: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son that at His second coming we may worship Him in purity; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 AM – Contemporary Praise Service

Song: “There Is A Redeemer”

Responsive Prayer & Advent Wreath Song

Psalm 85

Confession & Kyrie Song: “Lord Have Mercy”

Prayer & Scripture Readings

Choir Anthem: “Prepare The Way”

“O Come Emmanuel” & Gospel

Song: “Come O Long Expected Jesus”

Message: “Drivin’ Home For Christmas...”

Praise Song: New Magnificat

Prayers & Lord’s Prayer

Blessing

Song: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Musician: Susanne Anderson

Readers: 9 a.m. – Don Fretz

11 AM – Traditional Praise Service

Hymn: “The Advent of our God”

Confession & Forgiveness

Sung DS 3 Kyrie & Prayer

Responsive Reading & Advent Verse

Scripture Readings

Choir Anthem: “Prepare The Way”

Holy Gospel & Apostles’ Creed

Hymn: “On Jordan’s Bank”

Sermon: “Drivin’ Home For Christmas...”

“Create In Me A Clean Heart”

Prayers & Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

11 a.m. – Nick Hoeffs

Sunday School: <https://youtu.be/gtcG7SYLO9g>

Children’s message: Second Sunday in Advent -- <https://youtu.be/kFdr1Fn3vGE>

Precious Moments Dec. 8th: <https://youtu.be/5h9R-o6Lb7Y>

COVID 19 – PROTOCOL: Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ Lutheran Church:

As the number of cases of Covid rise in the Province, let us not be complacent; we cannot let our guard down. Kindly continue to follow the safety measures and protocols that are currently in place. If you have any of the symptoms outlined by Public Health, please remain at home. Sermons are available online. If attending worship please:

- Wear a mask (covering both your mouth and nose) at all times
- Sanitize your hands frequently.
- Practice social distancing – 2 metres or 6 feet apart.
- Ensure you have a temperature check before entering.
- Ensure that your attendance is noted at the entrance doors

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Luke 12: 35-40

Wed.: Rev. 2: 1-5,7

Friday: Luke 17: 20-25

Tuesday: 11 Thess. 3: 1-5

Thurs: Mark 13: 5-13

Saturday: Rev. 3: 14-22

The Old Testament: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Epistle: *2 Peter 3: 8-15a*

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. For 'Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.' Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.

The Holy Gospel: *St. Mark 1: 1-8*

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

MARY MARTHA / LWML: Special thanks and our gratitude to all the members of our congregation and our ladies who assembled and delivered **62 "Warm Feet for the Streets" kits.** (Necessities for those living on the streets.) Our donation was greatly appreciated!

Tuesday, December 17. Our Advent/Christmas social will begin at 7 pm (instead of 6pm). Please let Lorraine know if you will be able to attend (905)371-3972 or by email. We need to confirm numbers (Covid regulations apply). We will reveal our secret Prayer Sisters and also arrange for our secret 2021 Prayer Sisters. If you have the Christmas stockings challenge for mites, please bring them. We look forward to being together (in person or virtually) as we are anticipating the birth of our Saviour. There are changes from other years but our God never changes and His love and mercy endure forever no matter what the circumstance.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE PLANNING

With the continued presence of COVID 19 we would ask that you look forward and start making plans for you and your family if you plan to join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
7 PM & 11 PM

Kindly confirm your attendance, the number of your family attending, by registering by email or phone to Pat at secretary@christlutheransc.ca or 905-685-8294 as soon as possible. Seating is limited.

Live streaming of the service will be available, details to follow.

<u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u>	<u>Nov. 9th --</u>	<u>9 a.m.-52</u>	<u>11 a.m. -46</u>	<u>Total:67</u>
<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ / (-)</u>
Current:	272,115.00	5,232.98	2,913.00	164,751.35
Missions	20,000.00	384.62	220.00	17,499.66
Property Improvement			124.00	4,981.66
				(91,664.71)
				(1,346.49)

A MEMORIAL DONATION has been given to Christ Lutheran Church in memory of Alice Martens by Marion Schappert.

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Naomi Hohnberg in loving memory of her mother, Doris Hohnberg.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC: 1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS:

Some members are hesitant to return to in-person worship during these uncertain times, it's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate. We have an awesome tool available to us in the form of EFT donations. Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing on Christ's website, (PDF form under "Coming Events" tab -->"Bulletin Board" tab --> LCC-ED-EFT Authorization Form-Parishioner) or follow the link:

http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,
275 Lawrence Ave.,
Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3
Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church,
140 Russell Ave.
St.Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church. Just visit LCC's website: www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca and click on the "Support My Home Congregation with Online Donations", select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

KAREEM & FAMILY REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Translation of the ID documents and police check from Iraq are now in process. It will cost us \$300 for the translation which will be paid out of your donations to our Refugee Settlement Fund. The Government forms to which the ID documents will be attached have been completed by the hard work done by Jennifer and Muna at CLWR. It is planned that once the translation is completed that Jennifer will forward all of the documents and application to Ottawa and she will receive a registration number which she can give to Kareem and he can submit it to the government of Greece so they will not deport Kareem and his family back to Iraq. Once Ottawa has reviewed the information submitted, the next step will be the interview with the family by our officials in Greece. I have now received from CLWR : Sponsorship Undertaking-Sponsorship Agreement Holders; Sponsor Assessment; Settlement Plan, Sponsorship Agreement Holders, these forms and forward them to CLWR for their records in case the government requests this information at any time. I will have a meeting with our Refugee committee before submitting the Settlement Plan. As of November 22, there has been \$3,450 donated in Sunday morning offerings and the Mary Martha has collected \$205 as at their November meeting. This gives us a total of **\$3,655 to date**. **We need to continue to pray** that CLWR can complete and send the documentation to Ottawa within the next couple of weeks, at least before Christmas. May God who is Lord over everything guide the hands of our government to bring us Kareem and his family. God bless, Pastor John 289-407-7662

The Lutheran Hour: Hear God's Word at the click of a button on Lutheran Hour webpage or on their super convenient app! *(Just hold your "Ctrl" button down and clickbox to follow the link)*

[LISTEN NOW >>](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE APP >>](#)

LHM—all info.—www.lhmcanada.org

LISTEN TO THE LUTHERAN HOUR: Listen by tuning in to **WDCX 99.5FM or 970AM.**

Sunday, December 13th: "The Prophet's Paradox" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
The prophet Daniel illustrates how to face the facts while never losing faith in how the story ends. (Daniel: 10, 11 and 12) The Canadian sermons are available for listening on-line on LLL website (www.lll.ca/radio-tv-and-podcasts)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHEER



To share the joy of Christmas with those in our community who are less fortunate than we are, the "Outreach Committee" is planning to distribute, complete Christmas turkey dinner packages. We are asking for confidential referrals from our members. Last year we helped 25 families by making up 25 baskets.

We need your help by:

- Providing us with confidential referrals which can be placed into a box located in our church narthex
- Donating the funds required for the purchase of perishable and non-perishable food items which will be purchased just before the packages are distributed
- Letting the Outreach Committee,
Judy Mason—905-641-7546
Howard Bogusat—905-468-3566
know if you would be willing to help package baskets

- Praying that this project is a success and that those who receive these gifts are touched by the joy and wonder of our Saviour's birth and by His love for each one of us.

*(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE COLLECTING
"MONETARY DONATIONS"
ONLY FOR THIS PROJECT)*

THANK YOU!