

December 13th, 2020

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefs (289-362-0113) pastortoddoeoffs@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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Prayer: Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, You once proclaimed salvation; now grant that we may know this salvation and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 AM – Contemporary Communion

Song – “Christ Is Surely Coming”
Confession, Forgiveness & Kyrie
Responsive Prayer & Advent Wreath Song
Prayer & Scripture Readings
Holy Gospel & Nicene Creed
Sermon Song—“Hosanna [Praise is Rising]”
Message: “Rough Roving Redemptive Requests”
Prayers & Sacrament Service
Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord’s Prayer & Words of Institution
Lamb of God
“Come To The Table”
“Let Your Servant Depart Now”
Prayer & Blessing
Last Song—“O Come Emmanuel”

Musicians: Heaven Help Us
Readers: 9 a.m. – Chris Mason

11 AM – Traditional Creative Communion

Hymn – “Hark The Glad Sound”
Confession, Forgiveness & Kyrie
Responsive Prayer & Advent Verse
Prayer & Scripture Readings
Gospel Verse “O Come Emmanuel”
Holy Gospel & Nicene Creed
Hymn – “Come O Precious Ransom”
Sermon: “Rough Roving Redemptive Requests”
Prayers & Sacrament Service
Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord’s Prayer & Words of Institution
Lamb of God
“O Lord How Shall I Meet You”
“In Peace, Lord, At Your Word”
Prayer & Benediction
Closing Hymn—“Once He Came In Blessing”

11 a.m. – Fran Porteous

COVID 19 – PROTOCOL: Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ Lutheran Church: As the number of cases of Covid are beginning to 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: Matt. 11: 11-15

Wed.: Luke 3: 10-20

Friday: John 1: 29-34

Tuesday: Matt. 3: 1-11

Thurs: John 1: 6-9, 15-16

Saturday: Luke 7: 29-35

The Old Testament: *Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11*

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations....For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

[St. Paul writes:] Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

The Holy Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28 -- There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.... This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. This is the Gospel of the Lord:
Praise to You, O Christ.

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

Children's message: Third Sunday in Advent -- https://youtu.be/XjkuX_zh47w

Precious Moments Dec. 15th: <https://youtu.be/2TJzvlr-nmA>

Mary Martha Advent/Christmas Social: Tuesday, December 15, 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. 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

(Please note the 7 pm service is now filled to capacity following the Niagara Regional Health restrictions for in-building gatherings. Please consider attending our 11 p.m. Candlelight Service and/or our Christmas Day Communion Service at 10 a.m. which is a unique service enhanced by Christmas Carol melodies and safe Covid communion practices.

To reserve your seat for the 11 p.m. service:

please call 905-685-8294 or email: secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Live streaming of the service will be available

our 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service will live stream through our Christ Lutheran FaceBook page. All that is needed is a cell phone, laptop or ipad.

www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC

KAREEM & FAMILY REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, FROM YOUR REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE:

Awesome good news! We had a meeting on December 2nd to review the Sponsorship forms for Canadian Lutheran World Relief and by December 8th our government in Ottawa acknowledged the receipt of the application for our refugee family and was accepted in good order. A lot of work went into this by Jennifer Ardon and Muna Al-Nidawi at Canadian Lutheran World Relief. We had to have Arabic and Greek ID and other information translated to go with the applications sent by CLWR. The documents CLWR needed us to sign were completed and submitted for the process. Our committee met on December 2nd to review the forms and discuss how we would proceed to prepare for the family when they arrive. Ottawa will now be sending the applications overseas for final processing. We have no idea how long that will be especially in this covid time. However, as of Friday, December 4th CLWR had no spots available for refugee applicants, but by Monday, December 7th they had received notice from the Canadian government that they had 4 spots for applications open. Jennifer acted quickly and got our application in on Monday and by Tuesday Ottawa acknowledge the applications were in good form and would sent on to their overseas office for processing. **This my dear brothers and sisters in Christ is because of your many prayers offered to our Almighty and gracious God through our Saviour**

Jesus the Christ. Please continue to press forward in prayer that the Lord would guide the hand of our government officials to bring Kareem and his wife Haimida, and little boys Ameer and Asser to safety here among us. As of November 23rd we had raised \$3,650 towards our goal. Remember not to neglect our other ministry needs and commitments as you or your friends donate to this outreach opportunity. I am confident the Lord will provide you with the resources to help support this mission outreach to Kareem and his family. God bless, Pastor John, 289-407-7662

<u>Last Sunday Attendance: Dec. 6th -- 9 a.m.- 49 11 a.m. – 42 Total: 91</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	3,191.00	180,529.59	(81,119.45)
Missions	20,000.00	384.62	667.00	18,480.16	(780.61)
Property Improvement			169.00	5,219.16	

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Gloria Meyer to celebrate her's and Howard Bogusat's birthdays.

A MEMORIAL DONATION has been given in loving memory of Nick & Ida Moskaluk by the Biro and Moskaluk families and their children and great-grandchildren.

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.

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.

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: tune in to **WDCX 99.5FM or 970AM.**

Sunday, December 20th: "Experience God" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler -- We will never fully grasp the idea of God, but that doesn't keep us from experiencing God's love for us in Christ.

(John 1:1-18) 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!

