

## Office Information & Contacts

**Church Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Phone:** 780-986-4119

**Email:** [office@ebenezercrc.com](mailto:office@ebenezercrc.com)

**Website:** [www.ebenezercrc.com](http://www.ebenezercrc.com)

**Council Clerk Email:** [clerk@ebenezercrc.com](mailto:clerk@ebenezercrc.com)

**Deacons Email:** [deacons@ebenezercrc.com](mailto:deacons@ebenezercrc.com)



**EBENEZER**

Christian Reformed Church  
*Glorifying God & Loving All People*

# Welcome

Ebenezer is now livestreaming our church services. To access the Livestream, visit our website: <https://www.ebenezercrc.com> and click on the Livestream button that appears at the top of the page.

## WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG — *Show Us Christ*

## GOD'S GREETING

### THE PREFACE — MATTHEW 1:18-19

SONG — *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

### CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

SONG — *Speak O Lord*

### THE PROMISE — MATTHEW 1:20-21

SONG — *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

### THANK OFFERING

1 - Ebenezer Ministries 2 - The Leduc Hub

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE PROPHECY — MATTHEW 1:22-23

SONG — *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

### THE PRINCE OF PEACE — MATTHEW 1:24-25

SONG — *The Solid Rock*

PARTING BLESSING & CLOSING SONG — *All Glory Be to Christ*

# Church Family

Congratulations to **Graeme and Susan B** on the safe and happy arrival of **Caleb Armin**. Caleb was born on Dec, eagerly welcomed by his big brother. We pray God's blessing on your growing family. May joy and peace fill your home.

We celebrate with **Elizabeth D** as she celebrates her 70th birthday on December 10. We are grateful for you and pray God's blessing, guidance and peace on your life.

**Alyse K** continues to recover from surgery following a fall last weekend. She is in good spirits and thankful for good medical care and kind community. We pray for healing and grace in the coming weeks.

Please also continue to pray for **Arlene L's** daughter Debbie. We also remember **KerryAnne H** as she receives monthly oncology treatments.

*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.*

## DEC 1, 2020 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council met via zoom on Dec 1. Even though this is not our preferred style of meeting, some of us are starting to feel a bit more comfortable with it. Pastor Jason opened the meeting by leading us in a devotional around Colossians 2:16- 17 in which he linked our observance of festivals (advent) to the foreshadowing of things to come. We are all encouraged to be intentional about having our advent celebrations lead us closer to Jesus.

Naturally there was more discussion on our COVID response. In keeping up to date with the latest changes proposed by the health minister Gord continued to provide direction for us all. We were encouraged by the high level of compliance to COVID protocol that was observed last Sunday. Moving forward masks will be required throughout the service and only masked worship leaders will be allowed to sing.

Budget votes will be reviewed after the Dec 3 closing date.

There was discussion around how to provide communion to the congregation both in church and those who wish to participate from home. January 2021 is when this will take place.

Please continue to think and pray about nominations for 2 deacons and 4 elders. We are tentatively looking at Jan 31 as the installation date. Hank, Jordan, Gord and Herman are the elders that have completed their term and Christina and Gerard are the deacons. Their hard work and involvement has been a great asset to us all and we thank them for their commitment.

After some pastoral care review the meeting was closed in prayer by Wilbur.

## Deacon's Corner

**1<sup>st</sup> Offering: EBENEZER MINISTRIES** - This offering is used to cover 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 CRC Denomination.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offering - CALVIN UNIVERSITY** - Calvin university offers a comprehensive liberal arts education in the Reformed tradition of historic Christianity. Through our learning we seek to be agents of renewal in academics, church and society. We pledge fidelity to Jesus Christ, offering our hearts, lives and skills, to do God's work in His world. For more information see [calvin.edu](http://calvin.edu).

**NEXT WEEK - THE LEDUC HUB** - The Leduc Regional HUB is intended to be a connector between the community and available services. Volunteers provide referral information to persons seeking community, social, health and government services. Clients are supported while accessing local services and helped to identify what is available in our area. The HUB works together with non-profit organizations, religious organizations, government agencies and social businesses in greater Leduc.

A reminder that we at the **MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS** will be distributing Christmas gifts again this year for the annual **Christmas at Sea** gift giving campaign. If you would like to support this cause that brings joy to so many seafarers each year, please send your donations to: Ministry to Seafarers, 401 E Waterfront Rd, Vancouver, BC V6A 4G9. Cheques can now be made payable to "Ministry to Seafarers." Write "Christmas at Sea" on the memo line. Thank you.

**TODAY DEVOTIONALS** - The **November/December Today Devotional Books** are available to be picked up at the welcome desk.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE** ([ebenezercrc.com](http://ebenezercrc.com)) for a **LINKS** page where you can find links to News, Resources and Announcements for our Classis (AB North), CRCNA, CRC Network, World Renew, the Today Devotional, The Banner and many other resources.

## Our Volunteers

**WORSHIP TEAM:** Jordan/Jason

**NEXT WEEK:** Grace

**PROJECTION & AUDIO:** Dan/Ted

**NEXT WEEK:** Matt/Jamie

## Coming Up @ Ebenezer

**Sunday, Dec 6 @ 10:00 am** **Worship Service**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
In-person or Livestream

**Thursday, Dec 10 @ 7:00 pm** EHD Zoom meeting

**Sunday, Dec 13 @ 10:00 am** **Worship Service**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
In-person or Livestream

### Special Services

Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 20 @ 7pm

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25 @ 10am

### Special Hours

The church office will be closed from December 21st - January 1st. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 5th. If you need assistance, please contact your District Elder. Bulletin announcements can still be sent via email and will be included in the Sunday bulletins. Please continue to observe the deadline (Thursday at 10AM) for submissions during the break. Thank you!

**NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS** It is time to begin the process of installing new elders and deacons. We have 4 elders and 2 deacons who have faithfully completed their 3 year terms of service. In fact, they've now served 6 months beyond their 3 year terms! So we would like to invite the congregation to prayerfully consider if you would like to suggest someone in our congregation who is qualified and called to serve in one of those positions. The biblical qualifications for those offices can be found in the following passages: For elders--1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9; 1 Peter 5:1-3; For deacons--1 Timothy 3:8-13. Suggestions for nominations to these offices will be considered by council at our council meeting on January 5. Thank you.

**NOTICE FROM ADMIN TEAM:** We are looking for a new member for the Admin Team. If you are interested or for more information, please contact the church office.

## Denominational News & Resources

**EDMONTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS - NEW WEST SCHOOL UPDATE** With praise to the Lord we can tell you that the new West Christian School expansion wing is finished and our students and staff in grades 4-9 are loving it! It is a beautiful building which invites our children to learn and play their role in God's story everyday. The renovated wing for Preschool - grade 3 will be complete in a few months as well. We would like to thank all of our parents and supporters, many from this church, for their tremendous support. If you would like to make a donation to this project, just give the Society Office a call at 780-476-6281 or go to our website for pictures, more information and an opportunity to donate online: [www.edmchristian.org](http://www.edmchristian.org). We will invite everyone to a Grand Opening when COVID is over but for now we wish you a blessed Christmas season with your families!

**THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE: JUSTICE BOOK CLUB** Join CRC campus ministers Rick Mast (University of Alberta) and Mike Wagenman (Western University) for a discussion of James Cone's masterpiece *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. As one commentator says, these are the "two symbols that dominated not only the spiritual world but also the daily life of African Americans in the 20th century." We will meet over Zoom on Friday, December 11 at 4pm ET (1pm PT). Register at [www.WesternCampusMinistry.ca](http://www.WesternCampusMinistry.ca). Questions can be sent to Mike at [mwagenman@uwo.ca](mailto:mwagenman@uwo.ca) or Rick at [rmast@ualberta.ca](mailto:rmast@ualberta.ca).

**CALVIN UNIVERSITY JANUARY SERIES –** Coming this January for the 34th year, Calvin University presents the 2021 January Series – the award winning free liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekly, lunchtime lectures. This year the series begins on January 6 and continues weekdays through January 26 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. EST with topics ranging from the future of the Supreme Court, climate change, the era of intelligent technology, civil discourse, racial tensions, the arts as a healing balm and so much more by top experts in their fields. And access to the award-winning lecture series will be easier than ever. This year, due to the realities of COVID-19, the January Series will have a completely virtual audience. Attendees will be able to watch and listen to the 15 presentations on their own personal devices, in their own locations, or gather at small remote sites available across the continent. For more information about the speakers, topics, remote sites and to register for personal viewing, visit our website at [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january)

**FALL MAINSTAGE: STRANGER IN THE LAND - DEC. 12, 2020** Written and directed by Redeemer's own Professor Ray Louter, *Stranger in the Land* is the story of Anne Vander Berg, a woman coming to terms with generational trauma and her connection to the people who immigrated to Canada after the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. The performance will be recorded in front of a small audience from November 27-28 and released digitally on December 12. For more details, visit [redeemer.ca/stranger-in-the-land](http://redeemer.ca/stranger-in-the-land)

**JUSTICE AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT VIRTUAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE** - The Justice and Global Relationships Virtual Experience is being offered in partnership between World Renew and The King's University. This 9-session virtual learning experience is open to all Canadians who are committed to learning about and promoting justice and advocacy.

Contact [ibuisman@worldrenew.ca](mailto:ibuisman@worldrenew.ca) or [Jonathan.Nicolai-deKoning@kingsu.ca](mailto:Jonathan.Nicolai-deKoning@kingsu.ca) for more information. Register by Dec. 31, 2020.

## Christmas News & Resources

**HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL** - A new twist on a favorite Calvin University tradition! The Campus Choir, Women's Chorale, and Capella have professionally recorded five sessions, which will debut on the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship's YouTube channel at 7 p.m. EST each Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Each service is 30–40 minutes long and contains songs, Scripture, and prayer. [worship.calvin.edu/news-events/events/](http://worship.calvin.edu/news-events/events/)

**ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** - Join us in Nicholas B. Knoppers Recital Hall (and online!) on December 11th from 12:05 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. to hear King's University music faculty perform. Doors open at 12:00. Concert Starts at 12:05. This event will be livestreamed on the King's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheKingsUC>

**GIVE JOY THIS ADVENT WITH WORLD RENEW** - World Renew's 2020-2021 Gift Catalogue helps people, families, and communities experience more of the joy that God intends for them. Find a special gift that helps someone in need during the COVID-19 outbreak. Need a print catalogue? Order yours at [bit.ly/ordergc20](http://bit.ly/ordergc20) or view the online catalogue at [worldrenew.ca/gifts](http://worldrenew.ca/gifts). Call us at 1-888-WRLD-RNW to find out more and give today!

**PREPARE YOUR HEART** - He Will Be Our Peace is an email devotional series put together by World Renew, Resonate Global Mission, and the CRC Office of Social Justice that features reflections from CRC ministries around the world during Advent 2020. Each devotion will be delivered to your email inbox every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, starting December 2, 2020, through Christmas Day. Join us as we journey through lamenting injustice to looking forward to the coming of the Prince of Peace using the book of Micah. Go to [justice.crcna.org/advent](http://justice.crcna.org/advent) to sign up today!

**DEVOTIONS FOR A BLUE CHRISTMAS** - In the midst of hard times, find strength and encouragement through God's word. A set of fourteen encouraging Today devotions reassure you that even during the darkest of Christmas seasons, you're not alone. Receive this free email series and ebook when you subscribe to Today at [todaydevotional.com/bluechristmas](http://todaydevotional.com/bluechristmas)

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** While there is good reason for the 'celebrative' atmosphere of Christmas, it can also be a challenging, even painful, time for those who live with the reality of brokenness or loss in their lives. That is even more so this year with all the direct and indirect implications of COVID. A "Blue Christmas Service" is a service that allows that reality to be acknowledged and brought before the Lord, while at the same time recognizing the one who is bigger than a season. You are invited to participate in such a service (with communion) held at West End CRC on Sunday, Dec 13 at 6:30 p.m. For in-person worship, please register at the West End website (<https://www.westendcrc.ca/>) or simply join us via livestream using the link on the West End website.