



This Sunday, Pastor Betsy will continue the Lent sermon series “I Am – Jesus in the Present Tense” with a passage from John 11: 25-26 where he says “*Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”*”

We have invited in-person worshipers from Communities # 5,6,7, and 8. We will follow the same procedures that were in place prior to the shutdown and stay-at-home order. Our services will continue with the registration process in order to make sure we do not exceed our capacity of 100 people. If your Community is scheduled for worship on a particular Sunday, look for an email with the Eventbrite link to sign up on Monday or Tuesday. If there are extra spaces by Friday, a link will be sent to the entire congregation with the bulletin to fill the extra spaces available for the Sunday service.

Our schedule for sign-up continues as follows:

Mar 28: 1,2,3,4

April 2: Good Friday (live-stream only)

April 4: Easter Sunday (All – max of 100)

All attendees are required to wear a mask and maintain a 2-meter physical distancing both in the building and while outside.

Lent Series | I AM: Jesus in the Present Tense

At the very center of our faith is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That makes Good Friday and Easter two of the most significant days in the Christian calendar. Lent is the 40-day period before Easter. It is a season of preparation and repentance as we look toward the events of Good Friday and Easter. Historically, Lent has been an occasion for Christians to deepen their faith and devotion by exploring and deepening a kind of spirituality that centers on our union with Christ.

Our worship series on the "I AM" statements of Jesus help us to see more clearly the one we are united to. These statements about Jesus' identity do not allow us to keep him safely in the past, as if they have turned into “I was” statements. Rather, they help us to see who Jesus is to us in the present tense. Lent

is a journey to the cross, and this Lent we will journey with Jesus as our teacher and companion as we explore who Jesus was in his own words and who he still is to us and to the world.

Calling Artists of All Ages and Abilities | Get out the paintbrushes or pencils, we want to see your artwork! Our upcoming Lent series will bring us through the "I am" saying of Jesus. In these sayings, Jesus teaches his disciples about himself using everyday objects like bread, light, gates, and vines. Help us to illustrate these sayings by creating artwork - drawings, paintings, even sculptures - and send a picture of your art to Rachel V so we can share it with the congregation in worship. You can choose to illustrate one "I am" saying or all of them. There is no limit! This activity is for people of all ages and abilities. You can submit your art any time between now and March 31. Send a photo or scan of your art to worship@ccrc.on.ca. Here are the sayings of Jesus that we would love to see illustrated:

I am the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:1-7)

I am the vine (John 15:1-17)

Sunday, March 21, 2021 - 10:00am Worship Service

Worship Participants this week:

Preacher: Pastor Betsy DeVries

GATHERING AND GREETING

Gathering Song

"Come, People of the Risen King"

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

(Based on "Our World Belongs to God" st. 42-43, John 4:24)

Leader: In a world estranged from God, where happiness and peace are offered in many names, we witness to the only one in whose name salvation is found: Jesus Christ

All: **In Jesus, God reconciles the world to himself.**

Leader: Jesus Christ rules over all.

All: **Let us worship Jesus Christ in the Spirit and in truth.**

God's Greeting

Song of Praise

"Sing to the King"

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Song:

"The Wonderful Cross"

Assurance of Pardon

Children's Worship Story

Song:

"Hallelu, Hallelu"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

John 11: 1-44

Sermon

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

Prayer of Application

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Song of Response

“Because He Lives”

Prayers of the People

Offering Announcement

Ministries of Community Christian Reformed Church
Laurentian Hills Christian School

God’s Parting Blessing

Doxology

“We Receive Your Blessing”

COMMUNITY CRC CHURCH FAMILY

(The bracketed numbers indicate the Community to which these individuals belong)

Cristina K (6) will be starting chemo treatments on Monday March 22. Thank you to everyone for the thoughtful cards and prayers over the last couple weeks.

We continue to hold **Denise, Mike, Jenny and Nate (11)** - in our prayers as they wait for test results to come in. May God grant each of them the strength and peace they need as they learn the next steps for Denise.

We join **Jane D (14)** in prayers of thanksgiving that her current cancer treatment is working as hoped in keeping the cancer at bay. Thanks be to God for this answered prayer! Jane also wishes to thank everyone for all the cards, calls, meals, and prayers in the past six months since Clarence passed away and Jane learned that her cancer had returned. Your support and care have been a blessing during a difficult time.

We voted 83% in favour of extending a call to **Pastor Tom Bomhof** for the position of Pastor - Communities and Missions. Please pray for Pastor Tom as he and Jodie discern if God is calling them to Community CRC. If you would like to send a note, letter or card of encouragement to Pastor Tom, please check the emailed copy of the bulletin for contact information.

Thank you | We would like to thank each of you. Without your love, support, words of encouragement, being my talking support, meals, helping Shawn and Steven, and the PRAYERS lifted up, we wouldn't have had the strength and love to do this journey of saying goodbye to my mother.

Wendy, Johan, Shawn & Steven W (9)

Matters for Prayer |

- Continue to pray for those in long-term care homes where there has been so much illness and loss. May the Lord comfort and strengthen **Sandra K (9)** and **Frederika V (11)** and their families during this difficult time.
- Pray for our sister-church, The Journey, as they continue to discern a way forward in their own search process.
- Pray for endurance and patience for stay at home parents of young children as the winter months have been long and challenging.
- Pray for those experiencing financial strain, unemployment or underemployment, and the stress this creates.
- Pray for Dive into Doctrine and all the participants as small groups continue to meet. Pray for wisdom, kindness and for technology to work.

- Pray for the ongoing nominations process as people are sought to serve in leadership positions at Community CRC
- Pray **Anthony and Barbara P** with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island, **Hank and Rosario S** volunteering in Guatemala, **Pastor Brian B** serving with Waterloo Campus Ministry and **Shannon C** serving as Chaplain at Forest Heights Long term care home.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Mar 28	10 am	Pastor Betsy DeVries
Apr 2	10 am	Good Friday Lord's Supper Pastor Amanda Bakale
Apr 4	10 am	Easter Sunday Lord's Supper Pastor Betsy DeVries

Upcoming Baptism Sundays | Are you looking to be baptized or to have your child baptized? The next Baptism Sundays are scheduled for April 25 and May 23. If you are interested in one of these dates, please contact Pastor Amanda or Pastor Betsy.

OFFERING SCHEDULE

There are two offerings taken on a weekly basis at Community CRC. The first offering is for the Ministries of Community CRC and the second offering is for various causes that our church supports. For more details on how to donate to the church, please see the Resources section on the last page of the bulletin.

This week our offering is for Laurentian Hills Christian School. Laurentian Hills Christian School (LHCS) is an independent school, providing Christian education to students in grades JK-8 since 1967. It is interdenominational, drawing students from

over fifty different churches in the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

Next week our offering is for Shalem Mental Health Network | Shalem Mental Health Network is an organization that is run out of Hamilton that offers individual, couple and family counselling. It also equips and supports communities, including faith communities, to better embrace the needs of people who struggle with emotional distress and/or mental illness. Programs that are run from this organization include "Hold Me Tight" - a weekend workshop for couples, "Clergy Care" - support for Pastors, and the "Congregational Assistance Plan" CAP - mental health support for churches and schools. While our CAP program costs are covered by our annual budget, the offering next week is for the daily costs and administration related to the running of the Shalem Mental Health Network.

Upcoming Offerings:

- Apr 2 | Good Friday - Ray of Hope
- Apr 4 | Resonate Global Mission
- Apr 11 | World Renew – Refugee Sunday

Offerings Received as at March 14, 2021 including Pre-Authorize Remittance (PAR) and The Bridge APP Contributions:

March 14, 2021	\$	31,981
Year to Date	\$	134,461
Budgeted 2021 Total Contributions	\$	923,460
Second Offerings		
Benevolence Fund	\$	1,725
World Renew – Cdn Foodgrains Bank	\$	520
Calvin Theological Seminary – DIG Program	\$	314
Laurentian Hills Christian School	\$	155
Ray of Hope	\$	100
Shalem Mental Health Network	\$	65

COMMUNITY CRC NEWS

Administrative Council will meet this Tuesday at 7:30 via Zoom.

CCRC's Winter Challenge | How did you do with the winter challenge? How did God lead you through your prayers for a neighbour? As we approach the beginning of spring it is time to gather stories of your experience with the winter challenge. The Mission Strategy Team will share the experiences of our congregation in the next mission newsletter scheduled for spring 2021. What has God done through each of us as we prayed for our neighbours? How were you moved to reach out to your neighbour? Please send a brief summary (a short paragraph) of your experience to: your pastoral elder; the church office; or a member of the Mission Strategy team. We are looking forward to hearing how God moves in our church, our Communities and in our local neighbourhoods.

Ushers Needed | We need a few Ushers for Sunday morning worship. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office at office@ccrc.on.ca or 519-743-9482.

Safe Church Training | If you have been a volunteer at Community CRC over the past number of years you are likely familiar with the Ministry Training Sessions that took place in the early fall and early spring. Due to COVID, these sessions were not held in 2020. Over this past year the Safe Church Team has adapted these sessions so that volunteer training and information is now available online at the following link: <https://training.ccrc.on.ca/>. As per our insurance company's provisions, all church employees, leaders and volunteers who work with youth and vulnerable people shall complete annual training. The training does not take long and satisfies that provision. As COVID-

19 restrictions ease and we get back into the church, it is important that all leaders/volunteers make sure they have their police checks up to date (need to be done every 5 years - email church office if you're not sure) and complete the annual training. If you're not sure if you need to do the training, please do it because it's good to know and then you have it if you do need it.

Ministry leaders: please ensure that the volunteers within your ministry are up to date. If your ministry offers online aspects (i.e. zoom meetings, Facebook/social media communications, etc), then the training needs to be completed as soon as possible as your ministry is already underway. **If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact Paula L.**

Looking to return church library material? Books can be returned on Sundays to the blue bin on the information desk, or throughout the week to the church office. The church library will remain closed on Sundays.

Teen Club (Grade 7 & 8) | Come out for an Outdoor Games Night & Fire on Friday, March 26 from 6-8:30 pm! We will gather at Ron & Anita Hoekstra's house (2465 Fisher-Hallman Rd. S.) Due to COVID restriction sign up is required. Please see the emailed copy of the bulletin for the sign up link.

Impact | Join us this Wednesday evening for a fireside chat at the church from **7:00 – 8:15 pm** Prior to attending, please follow the link for the COVID screening form that can be found in the Instagram bio as well as the weekly email sent to the parents.

Impact students | Come out to the church for a **Spring Celebration** on Sunday, March 28 at 5pm in the church parking lot! COVID rules apply which means we can have a total of 25 people so sign up now so you don't miss out! Please see

the emailed copy of the bulletin for the sign-up link.

Greg L is looking to rent an apartment/room in the area. If you have one please send details about cost, availability and amenities (e.g., parking, furnishings, etc.) Also interested in any leads. Thanks!

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

Have you been heard? Our congregation has a once-in-five-year opportunity to participate in the 2021 CRC denominational survey. This survey helps denominational leadership understand the concerns and needs of local congregations like ours. It is crucial that as many people from our congregation as possible participate. Please answer the questionnaire reflecting this past year with all the difficulties that include. The link is available in the emailed copy of the bulletin. Answer the survey questions **by March 31**. P.S. The survey and promotional tools are also available in Korean and Spanish.

Camp Shalom Summer Staff | Are you looking for a meaningful summer job? Camp Shalom is hiring summer staff. If you love Jesus and like working with kids or individuals with special needs, then this might be for you. Work outdoors, with great people, while making a meaningful impact on campers' lives. All positions are paid and you must be 17 before Dec. 31st, 2021. Positions include cabin counselors, maintenance, kitchen, media, and lifeguards. Visit www.countrysidecamp.com to apply.

Groundwork | I Thirst | How does this simple human request make it to the permanent record of the gospel? Why does John want to be sure we remember that Jesus expressed thirst as he hung dying on the cross? Join our Groundwork discussion on John 19:28-37 as together we

discover the deep theological meaning expressed in thirst. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Give to God's Mission and Double Your Impact

Don't miss out on an opportunity to double your gift to God's mission! Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar when you give to our special campaign at

www.resonateglobalmission.org/EasterGift.

Holidays like Easter are an important opportunity to reach people who may not otherwise come to church—you can help reach them through Resonate's ministry!

Join Us for Lunch | Resonate is offering a special opportunity for you to get in touch with our leaders, hear the latest ministry updates, and ask your questions in a Q&A. Join us for a virtual lunch on Wednesday, March 31, from 12-1pm. You'll be able to talk with staff from all over the world! Reserve your spot today at www.ResonateGlobalMission.org/Leadership-Lunch-Canada

On the Road to Witness | Are you ready to reimagine evangelism and discipleship in a world changed by COVID? Do you feel the need to reignite your congregation's passion for mission? Are you passionate about sharing your faith? Then Resonate Global Mission's Glocal Mission Summit is for you! Join us Thursday, May 13, 2021 through Saturday, May 15, 2021 for this VIRTUAL conference. It's free to attend. Learn more and register at www.ResonateGlobalMission.org/Glocal

Canada-Wide Online Women's Retreat - April 16 & 17, 2021. | Ladies, you're invited to a weekend retreat from the comfort of your home. Many of us have struggled in this year of living through a pandemic. Our theme is Blessed is the one whose Hope is in the Lord. - Jer. 17:7-

8 Join us for a weekend of three keynote sessions, and a great variety of breakouts! Register this week to be sure to get your Retreat Gift Box in the mail in time. Or feel free to register without the gift box option. To register and find all the details, go to www.inspirationalwomen.ca. Sponsored by Global Coffee Break and Resonate Global Mission.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy W.

RESOURCES

Instructions for giving to Community CRC | The following donation methods are in place:

1. PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) – monthly pre-authorized payment. Fill out form, along with a blank void cheque by email to treasurer@ccrc.on.ca
2. You can mail your donations to the Church. Please do NOT mail cash. The mailbox is checked regularly.
3. You can drop off your donation in our drop-off mailslot located on the outside of the kitchen door at the church. This is a secured locked box that safely receives your envelope within the building. No cash, please
4. you can now donate using the Bridge App (or this link):

<https://crc.etadvance.com/churches/community-crc-kitchener/donate>

You can self-direct your donations using your credit card (note there is a 3% admin fee taken by the processing company) or direct to your bank account (no admin fee). At this time, we offer opportunity to donate to the Church Budget, our Capital Fund, or the work of the Deacons locally (benevolence).

Note: if you use the link, the only payment option is credit card. The Bank account option is only available through the Bridge App.



CAP, or Congregational Assistance Plan, is a way for our CCRC to make counselling services available for everyone in the church. From time to time all of us are faced with difficulties. Usually, we are able to resolve them. But there come times when our usual ways of coping no longer seem to work. This is especially true in this stressful time of lockdown and pandemic that we find ourselves in. If this is happening to you, CAP offers professional Christian counselling support to you as an individual, as couples, and as families.

Through the Shalem Mental Health Network, CCRC is able to offer a solution-focused counselling model of up to 6 free sessions in a year. A professional Christian counsellor will help you to develop a strategy to cope with and resolve a variety of issues, including marriage difficulties, adolescent and children's issues, bereavement, stress, trauma, depression, anxiety, addiction, abuse and others.

What's the First Step?

To use CAP, you do not need to be referred by your doctor, pastor or elder. Simply call Shalem's CAP number **(1-866-347-0041)** and mention that you are a member of CCRC. An intake staff will ask you a few questions to determine the issue about which you are seeking counselling and to note any specific requests, such as wanting a male or female counsellor, evening appointment times, etc. You will then be contacted by the appropriate CAP counsellor, who will set up your first appointment with you.

More Questions? Go to ccrc.on.ca and follow the links to CAP or talk to Pastor Amanda.