

Community Christian Reformed Church
Kitchener, Ontario
December 24, 2017



December 24, 2017
4th Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m.
Pastor Amanda Bakale
Elder-in-Charge: Darlene B

[* Please rise, in body or spirit]

Gathering and Greeting

Gathering Song: PsH #340 *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

All: I will say it again, rejoice!

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all

All: The Lord is near, let us worship him!

*God's Greeting and Mutual Greeting

*Songs of Praise: *"Come Thou Fount/Praise the Lord"*

PsH #336 vs. 1,2,3,6 *"Saviour of the Nations Come"*

Confession and Assurance

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: *"Wait for the Lord"*

Silent Prayer of Confession

Children's Message

Advent Prayer

Leader: Together we pray:

All: Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Leader: Amen

Lighting of the Fourth Candle

Children's Blessing

Proclamation of the Word

*Song of Preparation: PsH #346 vs. 1-4 *"Once in Royal David's City"*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Psalm 89

Sermon: **“How Can This Be?”**

Prayer of Application

Response to the Word

*Song of Response: PsH #342 vs. 1-3 *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”*

Prayers of the People

Offering: 1) Ministries of Community Christian Reformed Church

2) Christian Horizons

*God’s Parting Blessing

*Doxology: PsH #632 *“To God Be the Glory”*

The congregation is asked to remain in their seats after the service to allow the Pastor and people with special duties or disabilities to exit first.

Please exit when the music begins.



Following the service, everyone is invited to come together for fellowship and coffee/tea/juice in the gymnasium. Coffee for seniors is served in the Multi-Purpose room.

Everyone is welcome to join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. for the Christmas Candlelight Service



6:00 p.m.

Pastor John Medendorp

CCRC Youth will be leading in the service

Praise and Prayer

Call to Worship:

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

All: I will say it again, rejoice!

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all

All: The Lord is near, let us worship him!

Song: PsH #328 *"O Come, O Come Immanuel"*

God Greeting

Song: "PsH #329 *"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

Prayer of Adoration

Offering: Christian Horizons

Song: *"I Wonder as I Wander"*

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Psalm 96

Meditation: **"A New Song"**

Scripture Reading: Luke 1: 39-55

Song of Response: *"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"*

Christmas Carol Sing

Advent Prayer

Leader: Together we pray:

All: Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Leader: Amen

Lighting the Christ Candle

Passing the Light

Songs

PsH #344 *"Silent Night! Holy Night!"*

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

"What Child is This?"

PsH #356 *"Go Tell it on the Mountain"*

"O Holy Night"

God's Parting Blessing

Doxology: *"O Holy Night"*

The birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord, is good news for all the world. Our good and faithful God does not abandon us to a world of darkness and death, but comes into this world to save us and give us new life!

As you celebrate Christmas, may you do so with gratitude and joy. May you be filled with wonder and awe at his grace, and experience the peace of God in your life.

A blessed Christmas to all!

From the staff at CCRC,
Pastor Amanda Bakale, Pastor Carel Geleynse,
Pastor John Medendorp, Kor and Grace Hamming,
Diana Wilhelm, and Donna Vandervelde



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The bracketed numbers indicate the Community to which these individuals belong

We give thanks to God that the surgery **Jane D** (14) underwent this past week went well. The Ds covet your continued prayers but request no visitors at this time as Jane recovers and needs to regain her strength.

After spending an extended time in the hospital, **Olga S** (11) has returned home. Please pray for continued healing and renewed strength.

Please continue to pray for:

- those who are shut-in and/or unable to worship with us on a regular basis because of various health issues;
- **Hans O**, son-in-law, of **Dan and Hetty F** (7), husband to **Rachel** and father to **Jacob and Hannah**
- those dealing with depression and other forms of mental illness;
- those dealing with cancer, its treatment and effects: **Jane D** (14), **Shannon B** (7); **Kerri O** (4)
- those dealing with broken relationships;
- those who are unemployed or underemployed;
- **John and Jane H** with Samaritan Foundation in the Dominican Republic; **Anthony and Barbara P** with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island; **Kim H** with Resonate Global Mission in Guatemala; **Hank and Rosario S** volunteering with Resonate Global Mission in Guatemala
- the persecuted Church in Sudan and elsewhere in the world;
- the Ministries and the Leadership of our congregation

Congratulations to the following



members of our congregation celebrating a birthday in the coming week:

Dec 27 – Linda D (13)

Dec 29 – John D (2) in Florida

Dec 29 – Mary V (6)

May God's richest blessing be theirs in the coming year and as they celebrate their birthdays!

STAFF INFORMATION

Pastor Carel continues on vacation and will be back in the office on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

The church office hours for this coming week are as follows:

December 25 – Closed

December 26 – Closed

December 27 – Closed

December 28 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

December 29 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Should a pastoral need or concern arise during this time please contact Pastor John.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Dec 25	10 a.m.	Christmas Day Service Pastor John
Dec 31	10 a.m.	Pastor John
	6 p.m.	New Year's Eve Service Pastor Amanda Lord's Supper
Jan 1		No service
Jan 7	10 a.m.	Pastor Amanda 1 st Service of 2018
	6 p.m.	Pastor John

OFFERING SCHEDULE

Budget Contributions For December 17, 2017 including

	Actual Contributions Received	Targeted Contributions	Contributions (Shortfall)/ Surplus
Dec 17	\$26,793	\$12,743	\$14,050
YTD	\$757,862	\$820,062	(\$62,199)

Woodland Christian High School	\$	2,016
World Renew	\$	200
Benevolence Fund	\$	40
Aboriginal Ministries	\$	70
House of Friendship	\$	70

This Sunday our offering is for Christian Horizons. *“As an expression of Christian faith, Christian Horizons works together with people who experience disabilities to accomplish their goals and nurture communities where everybody belongs.”*

On Christmas Day our offering is for World Renew. *“World Renew, compelled by God's passion for justice & mercy, joins communities around the world to renew hope, reconcile lives, and restore creation. World Renew is the development, disaster response, and justice arm of the Christian Reformed Church. World Renew does not receive denominational ministry shares and depends on the regular financial support of God's people.”*

Vouchers: Current vouchers will expire Dec 31, 2017. Please keep this date in mind when ordering voucher purchases. Vouchers purchased in December will have 2018 expiry date. Purchases can be made in the usual way using your budget envelope. At year end, if you still have 2017 vouchers, they can be exchanged for 2018 vouchers. If you have any questions, please contact Karen V.

MISSIONARY CORNER

We recently received a “Campus Notes” newsletter from the **Guelph Campus Ministry** (James VanderBerg and Sara DeMoor).

We also received Christmas greetings from **Anthony and Barbara P** who work with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island. They have included some reasons for praise and prayer in their newsletter. .

Copies of both updates are available at the Information Centre. Please help yourself.

COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWS

Sunday School News: Sunday School will be taking a break for today and next Sunday. **All classes will resume on January 7.** There will be colouring sheets available today and tomorrow that tie into the service themes. Please help yourself to a copy as you enter the sanctuary or ask an usher for a copy.

TODAY Booklets: The January/February 2018 edition of the Today Devotional Booklet is available at the Information Centre, on the shelves by the front doors, or on the table under the Missionary bulletin board. Large print copies are in the mailboxes of those who have requested them. Please, help yourself to a copy.

Highlights from the Council Meeting of December 19, 2017

- Minnie H from Friendship Program visited with Council to provide an update on the Friendship Ministry.

- Jeff C on behalf of go! Building Expansion Steering Committee visited with Council to receive draft mandates for Steering Committee, Building & Design Committee, Finance Committee, and Construction Committee. Volunteers for the various committees are coming forward and the committees are rounding into shape and aiming to begin their work.
- Council approved a request and application for a 2018 summer intern to cover for Pastor Amanda's upcoming maternity leave.
- As part of the on-going education concerning Bible Translation, Council is studying the book *"How to Choose a Translation for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding and Using Bible Versions"* by Gordon Fee and Mark Strauss.
- Council sent a letter to Classis Huron on behalf of The Journey and Pastor Andrew Z to grant the request for the amicable separation from ministry at The Journey of Pastor Andrew Z. CCRC will continue to hold Pastor Andrew Z's credentials for 2 years.
- Council approved an Overture to Classis Huron for Synod 2018 to approve a one-time ministry share increase of \$150,000 to fund the approved curricula solutions, to clarify the mandate of Faith Formation Ministries to include the development of Reformed curricula, and to clarify expectations for the denominational funding of Reformed curricula in the future.
- Council received various staff and ministry reports for information.

Dear congregation,

As you have been made aware, as a church congregation we voted in favour of moving forward with the **CCRC go! Project**. Recently, we requested from the congregation to complete the pledge form by Jan 15 so that we could understand the commitment to proceed with the project.

Thank you to the 25 members who have provided pledges to the project so far. To date, we have received pledges that total 12% of the budget for this project. Completed pledge forms can be placed in the Bookkeeper mail slot and if you require a pledge form, please contact the office.

As a reminder, donations to the CCRC go! Project received prior to December 31, 2017 will qualify as a charitable donation and be eligible for a charitable tax receipt in this **current** tax year.

Recently, a meeting was held to take the CCRC go! Project to the next step and a number of committees were formed:

1. Steering Committee
2. Finance Committee
3. Construction Committee
4. Building/Design Committee

Thank you to those who have volunteered their time for these committees. Members of the steering committee include:

- Jeff C - Steering Committee Chair
- Denise H - Communications
- Gerald R - Finance Committee chair
- Neil S - Building/Design Committee chair
- Jim S - Construction Committee chair

You can look forward to ongoing communications regarding the progress of CCRC go!

The following ministries are looking for volunteers:

- The Worship Committee
 - Musicians
- The Worship Committee
 - Congregational Representative
- The Kitchen Auxiliary
- Fire Safety Committee

Please check out the “Connect, Participate, Serve” bulletin board for more details.

Student Impact - Thanks to everyone who came out to our Christmas social. It was a great night filled with laughter, food, fellowship (and some pretty aggressive stealing!). We would like to wish all the high school youth a very Merry Christmas. We hope your homes and hearts are filled with the love and peace that comes from our Lord and Saviour. Our first meeting in the New Year will be Wednesday January 17. Hope to see you then!

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

For all of the announcements, employment and volunteer opportunities available through the Denomination and others, please see the listing and posters on the Deacons bulletin board across from the washrooms for information.

MISCELLANEOUS

2017 CBC Christmas Sing-In - Recorded in mid-December at Montréal's Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, the 38th annual Sing-In will be broadcast on Christmas Day, December 25, across Canada and into Europe. Tune in to your local CBC Radio 2 station at 1:00 p.m. and again to your local CBC Radio One station at 4:00 p.m. Hosted by Katherine Duncan, performers include Organist Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, soloist tenor John Tessier, Conductor Dr. Jean-Sébastien Vallée, the Choir of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, and a brass & percussion ensemble.

