

HOW WE SERVE AT ESSEX CRC

Nursery

Today Kerry W, Rosanne V, Lillian K
Jan 1 Lillian K, Rosanne V, Christian S, Joseph D
Jan 8 Tammy K, Greg S, Chris K, Devon M
Jan 15 Tammy K, Rita O, Chris S, Avery V

AV

Today Beverley & John vH
Jan 1 Beverley & John vH
Jan 8 Chris & Sterling S
Jan 15 Chris & Sterling S

Sunday School

Renee B, Emerson V
Renee B
Renee B
Renee B

Coffee Clean Up

Today John & Beverley vH
Jan 1 Matt & Charmaine V
Jan 8 Henry & Alta V
Jan 15 Ben & Tina S

Greeters

Jamie & Renee B
John & Beverley vH
Ben S Sr.
Wayne & Electa B

Offerings

Today Essex Food Bank
Jan 1 Ministry Shares
Jan 8 Therefore Go Ministries
Jan 15 Teen Challenge

Preacher

Pastor Steve Vandyk
Pastor Steve Vandyk
Pastor Steve Vandyk
Pastor Steve Vandyk



Our Church facility is equipped with an Induction Loop Assistive Listening System. See a member of the Sound team for assistance



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EssexCRC Like us and keep informed with what is happening here!

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Wednesday – Day off
Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Church Office Hours

Tuesday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Contact Information

pastor@essexcrc.ca 519-776-5071 (Church office), 519-919-9605 (Home)
Church Office – Contact Information 519-776-5071, office@essexcrc.ca

Essex CRC Council Executive

Council Chair – Greg S
Vice-Chair – Matt V
Clerk – Ben V clerk@essexcrc.ca
Deacon Chair – Linda M

The December Banner and January/February Today booklets are ready for pick up on the back table.



ESSEX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

519-776-5071
www.essexcrc.ca

Sunday December 25, 2022
Morning Worship 10:00 am

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25, 2022

Weekly Offerings

We welcome you to our special time of worship on this Christmas day. Whether as a regular participant or as a guest in-person or online we invite you all to join us in praising God for his great gift of Jesus Christ. Do plan to stay and enjoy a cup of coffee with us in the fellowship hall.

Our Church Family

Continue to keep those members in prayer who are recovering from all of the winter illness.

Keep our church family in prayer who are grieving family members during this Christmas season.

Let us also pray for a safe time as many will travel for Christmas celebrations.

Keep those family members and friends in prayer as they endure with various health issues **Jack D, Carl J, Gail L, Anna R, Gerry S, Winny S, Johanna W** along with our elderly in care homes or those receiving extra support (**Pete & Betty A, Cory B, Nick K Sr, Anna P, and Simon & Doris V.**)

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Congratulations to Joanne W (today), Jack D & Epeüs D (Mon), Jacky B (Thurs) and John B (Sat). May the Lord bless you!

What is Happening This Week

10:00 am – Christmas Day Morning Worship with Pastor Steve Vandyk in-person or online at Facebook/Essex CRC.

Praise Practice – Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Time of Prayer – Saturday at 8:45 am

Next Sunday January 1, 2023

10:00 am – New Year's Sunday Morning Worship with Pastor Steve Vandyk in-person or online at Facebook/EssexCRC.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year from the Vandyk Family to you. Thank you for your support this year as our family grew from two to three. God is good, and continues to be good. We pray that God's grace is with you as you celebrate Christmas and the New Years. 1 Peter 1:3 says "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."
Pastor Steve, Rosanne, and Brayden

ATTENTION CONGREGATION- 2022 DONATIONS

Please note the final count for 2022 will be held on **Sunday December 25, 2022**. Any monies received after that date will be posted to 2023.

We thank you for your dedication to meeting the Financial Plan of the Essex CRC for 2022.
The Treasurer and Counting Committee

Today's offerings are for the **FINANCIAL MINISTRY PLAN** and **ESSEX FOOD BANK**

January 1, 2023 offering is for Ministry Shares. This offering will provide dollars to fund programs that enable churches to send missionaries around the world, start new churches, train pastors and leaders, use media to spread the gospel and much more.

COMMUNITY LISTS 2022 – 23

The new community lists (District lists) are complete. You can find it in the Bridge App under the Community List 2022 - 23. Paper copies are available on the back table.

THE MITTEN TREE!

Thank you so much for all those who donated to the Mitten Tree. Again we were amazed at how full our tree was this year with mittens, socks, scarves. All the items have been brought to the Essex Food Bank for donation during the Christmas season.

THANKS TO EVERYONE!

Thanks to all who work so hard during this past year in the volunteer positions of Greeters, Coffee Clean Up, Nursery, AV team, and Children's moment. It is great when we can work together for the kingdom!

TOUR THE BIBLICAL LANDS OF ISRAEL

March 6 – March 17, 2023. Experience a refreshing renewal of your faith, and gain a deeper understanding of the Bible, as you tour the biblical lands with teaching host, Pastor Peter Tuininga, and Sindbad Tours of Israel. See many of the biblical places (Jerusalem, Galilee, Caesarea, Jericho, and much more), and gain spiritual and historical insights which will make the Bible come alive for you. For complete information, cost, and registration, go to toursofisrael.wordpress.com or call Peter Tuininga: 1 289 877 8433 or e-mail: peter.tuininga@gmail.com

START A CHAIN REACTION OF GIVING THIS CHRISTMAS!

A blessed Christmas to one and all! Today as we celebrate the birth of Christ, we remember that by giving the world his only son, Jesus, God taught us the importance of generosity. Generosity lifts us up with hope. At World Renew, time and time again we have seen the beautiful multiplying effect of generosity: a gift of a goat from the World Renew Gift Catalogue to one family becomes the gift of goat's milk from that family to a neighbour, and the neighbour, feeling energized by the nutritious gift, helps another neighbour to plough their field. Generosity is infectious! Praise God for teaching us about generosity. You can spark a chain reaction of giving with an item of hope from the World Renew Gift Catalogue. Your gift can change the story of poverty and hunger for a person, a family, a community! To give, visit: www.worldrenew.ca/gifts

Family Fire - Family Fire is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

CHRISTMAS: GOD'S GIFT OF JESUS

Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net Because God has given us all the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love at Christmas, we are able to share those gifts too. When we share the gifts of Christmas, we point others to the ultimate gift: Jesus. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

GROUNDWORK:

JESUS, SHEPHERDS, AND ANGELS: A SAVIOUR IS BORN

The story of Jesus Christ's birth is wonderfully familiar, but slowing down to read and study it again brings comfort and renewed hope. Join Groundwork as we read and discuss the good news of Jesus' birth and the magnificent message the angels delivered to the shepherds in Luke 2:1-20. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

DIACONAL COACHES NEEDED

It's almost 2023! Why not make a new year's resolution to get involved in diaconal work by becoming a Diaconal Coach in YOUR classis? It's a rewarding way to equip leaders in God's Kingdom! Diaconal Ministries Canada has a network of Diaconal Coaches spread out across the country ready to serve and support deacons in the CRC. They do this by holding workshops and training events, by providing relevant resources, and by connecting deacons and churches to local organizations. We are currently looking for a few coaches to add to our amazing team, specifically in: Northern BC, the Okanagan region, Vancouver Island, Calgary, AB, Winnipeg, MB, Classis Niagara, and in Classis Southwestern Ontario (Sarnia & Windsor). You'll receive training and support as well as a modest salary and an expense budget. Want to learn more? Email Rachel at rvroege@crcna.org (Western Canada) or Mark at mvanderwees@crcna.org (Eastern Canada) or visit our website for more information: www.diaconalministries.com/diaconalcoaches

At-home Faith Formation Tip - Today we light the Christ candle to remind ourselves that the light of Christ has come into the world. Light a Christ candle in your own home today as you celebrate. Consider lighting a candle at each mealtime in the coming week (or year!) to remind you that Jesus is always with you.

CHRISTMAS DAY SUNDAY DECEMBER 25, 2022 MORNING WORSHIP – 10:00 AM

PASTOR STEVE VANDYK
MUSIC – ASHLEY ALLEN, BEN SCHINKEL SR.
PRAISE TEAM

THE GATHERING

Prelude	“Christ Be Magnified”	<i>Praise Team</i>
Welcome & Opening		
Solo	“O Holy Night”	<i>Charmaine VandenBrink</i>
Christmas Candle Reading		
† Gathering Song	“O Come, All Ye Faithful”	<i>LUYH 76</i>
† God's Greeting		
† Song of Praise	“Angels from the Realms of Glory”	<i>LUYH 81</i>
	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	<i>LUYH 82</i>

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Christmas Litany

OFFERINGS AND PRAYERS

Offering	Financial Ministry Plan – <i>plate</i>	
	Essex Food Bank – <i>bag</i>	
Solo	“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”	<i>Charmaine VandenBrink</i>

THE PROCLAMATION

Children's Song	“Away in a Manger”	<i>LUYH 86</i>
	<i>Children are invited to come forward during the children's song</i>	
Children's Moment		
The Prayers of God's People		
Prayer of Illumination		
Scripture Reading	Matthew 1: 18 – 25	
Message	Beginning	
† Song of Response	“Hark the Glad Sound”	<i>LUYH 60</i>

THE SENDING

† Benediction		
† Doxology	“Glory to God (Ere Zij God)”	<i>LUYH 84</i>
† Postlude		
†	<i>Indicates Congregation standing if able</i>	

My First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear
But the sounds of music can't compare
with the Christmas choir up here.
I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me.
I see the pain inside your heart,
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.
So be happy for me dear ones, you know I hold you dear.
And be glad I'm spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above
I send you each a memory of, my undying love
After all, "LOVE" is the gift, more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do
For I can't count the blessing or love He has for each of you
So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear,
Remember, I'm spending Christmas,
with Jesus Christ this year.

Author Unknown