

## HOW WE SERVE AT ESSEX CRC

### Nursery

Today Heather S, Avery V  
Dec 25 Kerry W, Joseph D  
Dec 28 Tammy K, Chris S  
Jan 4 Greg S, Joseph D

### Lead Elder

Pastor Darrell Edgar  
Matt V  
Jamie B  
Greg S

### AV

Today Chris S, Sterling S  
Dec 25 John & Beverley vH  
Dec 28 John & Beverley vH  
Jan 4 Tim K, Emerson V

### Sunday School

Renee B  
  
Renee B  
Renee B

### Coffee Clean Up

Today Peter & Jacoba D  
Dec 25 John & Beverley vH  
Dec 28 Ben V  
Jan 4 Matt & Charmaine V

### Greeters

Jamie & Renee B  
Greg & Andrea S  
Joanne W, Rita O  
Greg & Andrea S

### Offerings

Today Benevolence  
Dec 25 Ministry Shares  
Dec 28 World Renew  
Jan 4 Therefore Go Ministries

### Preacher

Pastor Darrell Edgar  
Mr. Matt V  
Pastor Darrell Edgar  
Pastor Darrell Edgar



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](https://www.facebook.com/EssexCRC) Like us and keep informed with what is happening here!

### Church Office Hours

Thursday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Friday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

### Contact Information

Church Office – Contact Information 519-776-5071, [office@essexcrc.ca](mailto:office@essexcrc.ca)  
Ana M – Contact Information [contact@essexcrc.ca](mailto:contact@essexcrc.ca)

### Essex CRC Council Executive

Council Chair – Greg S  
Vice-Chair – Matt V  
Clerk – Ben V [clerk@essexcrc.ca](mailto:clerk@essexcrc.ca)  
Deacon Chair – Linda M

The Banner and Today booklets  
are ready for pick up on the back table.



ESSEX CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH

519-776-5071

[www.essexcrc.ca](http://www.essexcrc.ca)

**Sunday December 21, 2025**

**Morning Worship 9:00 am**

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 21, 2025

Welcome to everyone here or online to our worship service this morning. We are delighted that you are with us today. Do plan to stay and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea with us.

### Our Church Family

Keep **Johanna W** in prayer as she fell. She is resting now and comfortable.

Keep those family members and friends in prayer as they endure with various health issues **Robin & Zackara B, Gail L, Ben & Winny S, Niesje S, Wilma W, Ashley W** along with our elderly in care homes or those receiving extra support **Chris & Anne B, Bill B, Johanna W** and **Maartje W**.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Congratulations to Joanne W – Thurs, Epeüs D - Fri. May the Lord bless you!

### What is Happening This Week

9:00 am – Fourth Sunday of Advent Morning Worship in-person or online where we welcome Pastor Darrell Edgar. We will welcome our GEMS & Cadets as they will be participating in this service.

GEMS & Cadets – Monday at 6:30 pm

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day – Thursday at 10:00 am

Next Sunday December 28, 2025

9:00 am – Sunday Morning Worship in-person or online where we welcome Pastor Darrell Edgar.

### NOTE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sunday services with Pastor Darrell Edgar will always be at 9 am. When we have a classical appoint or other preachers who may be travelling a distance our worship services will be at 10:00 am.

### UP COMING SERVICES

Christmas Day December 25, 2025 our service begins at 10:00am. Matt VandenBrink will be leading us in worship as we celebrate together the birth of our Saviour.

### COMMUNITY DINNER – FRIDAY JANUARY 2, 2026

Essex CRC is hosting a free Community Dinner open for the Community on Friday January 2 @ 5:45 pm

Everyone is welcome to come, have a meal and connect with each other. For more details, see Ana M.

### Weekly Offerings

Today's offerings are for the **FINANCIAL MINISTRY PLAN** and **BENEVOLENCE**

This offering helps those with needs in our church and in the community.

December 28 offering is for World Renew. World Renew focuses on serving all around the world as the development, disaster response and justice arm of the CRCNA.

### 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. They were so amazed at the donations and so very grateful.

### ATTENTION CONGREGATION – 2025 DONATIONS

Donations received by the following dates will be included as charitable contributions for 2025:

Budget Box and Plate - Sunday December 28, 2025

Bridge APP donations - Sunday December 28, 2025

E-transfers - Wednesday December 31, 2025

Donations made after the above dates will be attributed to the 2026 fiscal year.

### SOUPER SUNDAY – JANUARY 25, 2026

#### GET OUT THOSE 2026 CALENDARS!

After Church on Sunday January 25, 2026 you are invited to the home of your Elder from your Community group for Lunch and Fellowship...follow the bulletin for more details in the New Year!

### CELEBRATING THE GREATEST GIFT

As we exchange gifts at Christmas, we celebrate Jesus, God's great gift to us. Will you add a child or family living in poverty to your Christmas giving today? Your donation to World Renew helps people around the world improve their lives and find home in their heart for Jesus. Please give generously during today's offering for World Renew or online at [www.worldrenew.ca/gifts](http://www.worldrenew.ca/gifts)

**KIDS CORNER DEVOTIONS: ADVENT AT HOME: AWAY IN A MANGER**  
Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Advent at Home: Away in the Manger" at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net) Jesus knows what it feels like to be human, just like you. This means He understands when you're tired, hurt, or having a hard day. He loves you so much and always knows how to comfort and care for you! Explore all the great content at kidscorner.net, including the Kids Corner Christmas Collection of devotions, Bible stories, crafts, and activities.

## GROUNDWORK: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD AMONG US

Together, let's explore the moment Isaiah's anticipation of light turns to the reality of the light of the world among us. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20, John 8:12, Ephesians 5:8-9, and Revelation 22:5 to discuss Jesus Christ's birth, life, and the hope he brings, uncovering the profound meaning of Christ's light shining in our world and how we live as children of light. [GroundworkOnline.com](https://groundworkonline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM DIACONAL MINISTRIES!

As this year draws to a close, we pause with deep gratitude for the ways churches and individuals have supported Diaconal Ministries Canada. Your generosity, prayers, and encouragement have been a steady sign of God's presence at work through His people. Our work with deacons and churches across Canada is deliberate, relational, and Spirit-led—and it is only possible through faithful partners like you. You can read more about our work and the impact it's having on our website: <https://diaconalministries.com>. We also invite you to give a year-end donation - through your church or via our website. Together, may we enter the new year with expectation, believing that what we already have is enough for God to do immeasurably more. Merry Christmas from all of us at Diaconal Ministries Canada!

*Thrive Faith Formation Tip* - It's almost Christmas Day! How many different ways can you think of to say "Merry Christmas!" to people who know the story of Christmas and to people who don't know the story? And how might you say "Merry Christmas!" to God this week in a way that reflects love back to our Creator? Brought to you by Thrive: [www.crcna.org/Thrive](https://www.crcna.org/Thrive)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY DECEMBER 21, 2025 MORNING WORSHIP – 9:00 AM

PASTOR DARRELL EDGAR  
MUSIC – PRAISE TEAM  
GEMS & CADETS

### THE GATHERING

- † Gathering Song "Holy Forever" *on screen*
- "Welcome to Our World" *on screen*
- † Welcome
- † Call to Worship
- † God's Greeting
- † Video
- † Candle Lighting – We light the Fourth Candle of Love
- † Song of Praise "His Name is Wonderful" *on screen*
- "It's Christmas" *on screen*
- Announcements

### OFFERINGS AND PRAYERS

- Offering Financial Ministry Plan – *Budget Box*
- Benevolence – *plate*
- The Prayers of the People

### THE PROCLAMATION

- Prayer of Illumination
- Scripture Reading
- Message
- † Song of Response "Crown Him" *on screen*
- "Silent Night" *LUYH 85*

### THE SENDING

- † Parting Blessing
- † Doxology "Hymn of Joy" *on screen*
- † Postlude
- † *Indicates Congregation standing if able*