



WILLOWDALE WEEKLY

Willowdale Christian Reformed Church
70 Hilda Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M2M 1V5
Tel: 416-221-7829 / Deadline: Thursdays at noon!
willowdalecrc.com

January 7, 2018

Today's 2nd Offering - Toronto District Christian

High School: Since 1963 this innovative and vibrant Christian high school in Woodbridge has provided quality high school education from a Reformed perspective and helped students to deepen their commitment to Christ and to prepare for a life of Christian service and stewardship. With this offering our church shows its commitment to supporting families who want to provide Christian education for their children. www.tdchristian.ca

Evening fellowship: Tonight, we will gather for "Listen and Pray" at 5:30 p.m. Henry Eygenraam will share some thoughts he has received while pondering the word of God in relation to discipleship. This will be a way for all of us to listen for our calling from God. At 6:30 p.m., Pastor Joel will lead us in a study of how the Gospels testify to Jesus and how we can participate in that testimony and life. Everyone is invited.

Willowdale Youth Group: Our next event is on Tuesday January 9th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. (we may stay a bit longer especially if the weather is nice). For this event we'll be going skating at Mel Lastman Square in front of North York Civic Centre. Ben will have snacks and Hot Chocolate and friends are encouraged to come. We hope to see you there.

Operations Team: Our next meeting is on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m., in Room #1.

College & Careers: Lace up your skates and join us at the outdoor rink at Mel Lastman Square on Thursday, January 11 at 7:30 p.m. (close to the North York Centre subway station). After we skate we can find somewhere to grab a hot chocolate. People who would like to just come for the hot chocolate are welcome too! Check out the Willowdale CRC College and Careers Facebook page for more info about this event and the C&C.

Birthdays this week:

There are no birthdays to report for this week. If you have some good news to announce, or a prayer request that you want printed in the Willowdale Weekly, please contact Alana: office@willowdalecrc.com

Pizza and Catechism: We will not meet this week. We will resume on Thursday January 18th at 7 pm. If you'd like more information about this time of learning from the Heidelberg Catechism for all ages, speak with Ben or Pastor Joel.

Scripture Readers: I will soon be making a new list. If you would like your name added to the list of people who read Scripture during the church service, or if you would like it removed, please contact me: (beavan@rogers.com). Thanks.

Coldest Night of the Year: Have you made plans for Saturday February 24, 2018? No plans then join The Lighthouse in participating in the Coldest Night of the Year Walk in Scarborough. The Lighthouse is looking for 100+ walkers to walk for The Lighthouse and celebrate its 50th year anniversary by raising over \$25,000. For more information you can contact Rob at 416-802-5943 or rob@lighthousecentre.ca. Come and join the celebration with your family, church or youth group by supporting The Lighthouse through this walk.

Volunteer Opportunity!: With the start of a New Year The Lighthouse Community Centre will be once again hosting our Income Tax Clinic for low income families. We are looking for volunteers to help our clients with filling out tax receipts in March and April. If this is something you are interested in please contact Rob at: rob@lighthousecentre.ca or dial 416-535-6262 for more information. Thank you for your support!

Update from Council/Consistory

During the fall of 2017 the Elders (Consistory) and the Elders and Deacons (Council) met together in alternating months to discern, discuss and decide where the Lord is leading the work and people of Willowdale CRC as we continue on our Emmaus Road Journey to Renewal.

This is a summary of those meetings:

- We met with and heard stories of formation and faith of: Vahan, Kristina and Gregory Khachatryan, Rajan Gauchan, Elena Kooshki, Ali & Matin Nilforoushan, Nasser Zand & Sylvie Charliekaram, and Carlos Gonzalez & Jenny Nossa. We praised God together that He has brought these brothers and sisters into community with us.
- Wine at the Lord's Supper: a report was presented to Council for education, discussion and a planned presentation to the congregation. This presentation took place on October 15th. This presentation and discussion was followed by an acknowledgement that we moved without due care and consideration; the result of which is we will not move forward with wine at the Lord's Supper at this time. Instead, additional discussion with the congregation will take place. The congregation is encouraged to reach out to an elder if they wish to have a discussion about wine at communion. We are also expecting to engage in further discussion/education with the congregation about wine at the Lord's Supper in the spring of 2018.
- Worship Elder presiding at communion: in early 2017 Willowdale CRC made an overture (proposal) to Classis Toronto that we be permitted to allow a dedicated Worship Elder(s) to be installed to preside over the Lord's Supper if the Minister is not available. This was approved in February. Consistory drafted a formal policy for the appointment, installation and training of Worship Elders, which includes that a Worship Elder must:
 - be a member of Willowdale CRC who is either a current or former elder;
 - demonstrate, through active participation and testimony, that they affirm the core values of worship;
 - nominated and affirmed by Consistory and serve for a term of up to 3 years, renewable.

Worship Elders are not members of Consistory and are not expected to attend meetings, except as invited guests. They are to be commissioned during a worship service.

Consistory has nominated and affirmed Adrian Miedema as a Worship Elder to be installed in 2018.

Further discussion about Worship Elders is scheduled for the Congregational meeting in January.

Also discussed were items such as:

- Visits, concerns and reasons for praise within our congregation
- Reports from Pastor Joel and various teams. Specifically, in the fall, updates were received from Operations concerning budget year-to-date numbers and planning for 2018.
- The physical building: Are we using the building in a way that both makes good use of the space, but also allows for ministry and discipleship to happen?

Joyfully Giving – December 2017

	Actual for December	Budget for December	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Church Operations	\$48,768.54	\$22,178.00	\$263,405.75	\$266,136.00
Internship	\$0.00		\$10,500.00	\$12,000.00
Other Causes	\$8,273.60		\$91,417.95	

Week at a Glance: January 6 – January 13

Day	Time	Location	Event
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Evening Gathering
Monday	12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Senior's Exercise Class
	7:00 p.m.	Santuary	Joyfully Singing
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Mel Lastman's Square	Youth Group - Skating
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Room #1	Operations Team Meeting
Thursday	9:45 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Senior's Exercise Class
	7:30 p.m.	Mel Lastman's Square	College & Careers - Skating

Schedules

Nursery Volunteers	
Today Nell DeBoer & Xanthe van Lingen	January 14 Suanne Miedema & Aemilia Groot
<i>Reminder – please wait in the nursery until 10:15 a.m. to receive late arrivals – thank you!</i>	

Coffee Servers	
Today Margaret Poot & Klaas Tensen Vahan & Kristina Khachatryan	January 14 Grant Martens, Cathy de Peuter, Mary Martens
<i>Reminder – coffee servers are to lock all outside doors – thank you!</i>	

Second Offering	
Today Toronto District Christian High School	January 14 Toronto City Mission