



Christian Churches of South Burlington

For the love of God compels us... (John 17: 6-26)

As are Christians all over the world, we are going to take part in the

“World Week of Prayer for Christian Unity”

We start on Sunday, Jan. 22nd at 6 p.m. at the Christian Reformed Church, 3422 New St.

Then on Monday, January 23 until Monday, January 30, (8 days) we will be alternating from church to church for a short prayer service.

Schedule for the Week of Prayer (the “eight days”), *each beginning at 7PM***

Day 1	One has died for all	Mon, Jan 23	St. Raphael Catholic	4072 New St.
Day 2	Live no longer for themselves	Tues, Jan 24	Holy Cross Lutheran	3455 Lakeshore Rd
Day 3	We regard no one from a human point of view	Wed, Jan 25	New Street CRC	3416 New St.
Day 4	Everything old has passed away	Thurs, Jan 26	St. Raphael Catholic	4072 New St.
Day 5	Everything has become new	Fri, Jan 27	Holy Cross Lutheran	3455 Lakeshore Rd
Day 6	God reconciled us to himself	Sat, Jan 28	New Street CRC	3416 New St.
Day 7	The ministry of reconciliation	Sun, Jan 29	St. Raphael Catholic	4072 New St.
Day 8	Reconciled to God	Mon, Jan 30	Holy Cross Lutheran	3455 Lakeshore Rd

Come to as many as you can. For more information, please call Wilma or Frank (905 870 0641)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017

The Theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017

When the German national planning committee met in the autumn of 2014, it quickly became clear that the materials for this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity would need to have **two accents**: on the one hand, there should be a celebration of God's love and grace, the "**justification of humanity through grace alone**", reflecting the main concern of the churches marked by Martin Luther's Reformation. On the other hand, the materials should also recognize the **pain of the subsequent deep divisions** which afflicted the Church, openly **name the guilt**, and offer an opportunity to **take steps toward reconciliation**. Ultimately it was Pope Francis' 2013 Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel ") which provided the theme for this year, when it used the quote: "The Love of Christ Compels Us" (Paragraph 9). With this scripture verse (2 Cor 5:14), taken in the context of the entire fifth chapter of the second letter to the Corinthians, the German committee formulated the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017.

THE BIBLICAL PASSAGE FROM ST. PAUL 2 Corinthians 5:14-20

¹⁴ **For the love of Christ compels us**, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.