

MARCH 22, 2020



# BETHEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

ENCOUNTER . ENGAGE . EMBRACE

THE STORY

SERVICE SCHEDULE			
	APRIL 5	APRIL 10	APRIL 12
ELDER	Ron H.	Peter O.	John VT.
DEACONS	Richard B. /Harry J.	Ray B. / John P.	John P. / Denise C.
GREETERS	Jake & Irene dB. John VT.	Ray & Janet B. Ron & Harmina DS.	Steve & Carolyn tB. Richard B.
HALL MONITORS	Denise C. Ron H.	Arie R. Richard B.	Mary Lou H. Steve tB.
WELCOME	Mary Lou H.	Grace B.	John VT.
NURSERY	Denise T. / Yvonne B. Kaly F.	Helena H. / Gay L.	Woyni E. Evan F.
USHERS	Henry & Marg K.	Ed & Barb W,	Tony N. / Ann P.
COFFEE	Bart & Jean DV. Ron & Mary Lou H.		Yvonne B. Ray & Jen F.
SENIOR DRIVER	Dirk & Trudy N.		
SOUND	Jake dB.	Ben H.	Bronson G.
VISUALS	Hagos E.	Steven DB.	Barb W.
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Jessica H. /Andrew C. Arie R. / Evan F.		Yvonne B. / Tim F. Carolyn GN.
MUSICIAN(S)	Irene O.	Jessica H.	Irene O.
PLANNER	Jenica GN.	Denise C. / Steven DB.	Barb W.

**NOTE REGARDING MEETING FOR SERVICES:** As of this writing, there will be no Sunday services for March 22 and March 29, 2020. The council of Bethel Church continues to monitor developments and ministry of health guidelines regarding public meetings. We will keep our membership informed of updated information and plans through various means of communication. Please check the church's website as well if you are able. Through our website we are planning to make audio sermons, messages and documents available week to week. If you have needs or questions please contact the church office, Pastor Eric, the council chair Steve tB. or any elder or deacon of the church. Contact information is located near the end of this bulletin.

**THIS WEEK: MARCH 22, 2020 10:00 AM:** FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT & THE STORY – CHAPTER 24 - NO ORDINARY MAN.

**NEXT WEEK: MARCH 29, 2020 10:00 AM:** FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT & THE STORY – CHAPTER 25 - JESUS , THE SON OF GOD. **Refugee Sunday** is on **March 29** and World Renew is inviting congregations across Canada to help refugee families around the world find a new home and a new hope.

**THE 25TH ANNUAL CITYWIDE PRAYER BREAKFAST** is CANCELLED.

Regarding THE STORY small groups. Currently, the Administrative Council recognizes some groups may decide to continue or discontinue meeting, depending on size and other considerations. AC envisions the possibility of groups suspending until a later time

**The Story small groups this week, discussing Chapter 24:**  
 Mar 16 2:00 PM - CANCELLED  
 Mar 18 7:00 PM - CANCELLED  
 Mar 22 8:30 AM - CANCELLED

and yet still benefitting from gathering together for Bible study, even if out of sequence or after THE STORY's completion.

## CHURCH FAMILY

*We pray for each other in the ongoing challenges, hardships and health concerns we experience within our community; we pray also in thanksgiving for the gifts of blessings and joys.*

- Please be in prayer for **Peter A.** and family in the sudden loss of his wife Inske. Inske passed on to be fully in the presence of the Lord this past Thursday evening. Inske had been admitted to hospital early Tuesday morning due to complications resulting from fluid around her heart and lungs. The severity of this situation intensified very quickly. In these last days Inske was able to give expression to the peace of Christ which she experienced deeply. By the family's request, there are no service plans being considered until such time as there is an easing of restrictions on public gatherings.
- Pray for **Jane K.** who remains in the palliative care wing of Parkwood Institute (B4-126B).
- Pray for church members directly impacted by the corona virus restrictions.
  - + those in long-term care facilities which have closed doors to visitors including family members
  - + seniors in general who are also facing more social restrictions than usual
  - + those who have family members that have not yet been able to return home to Canada or visit as planned, specifically we pray for David dS. who is stranded in Peru with a group of young people from West London Alliance Church
  - +those who have had to self-isolate
  - +those who are working in higher-risk situations

<b>Pastor Eric Groot-Nibbelink:</b> 519.453.0767 ( <i>church study</i> )	pastor.ericgn@gmail.com
<b>Chair of Council:</b> Steve te Bokkel 519.461.0853	stevet8566@yahoo.com
<b>Office Admin:</b> Barb Wesselius 519.453.6565	bethelcrlcdn@gmail.com
<b>Office Hours:</b> Friday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Bulletin Deadline: <b>Thursday by Noon.</b>

**PRAYER LIST:** Pray for Bethel members and friends with ongoing health concerns or unable to attend as well as those whose ministries we support: **Janet B.; Tina DV.; Truus DV.; Bernie H.; Sid K.; Melissa P.; Marlene P., Gerry M.; Albert P.; Joan S.; Margaret S.; Rita J.; Keith and Alie's son-in-law; Nel DV.; Rose S.; Bernie and Harmina K.**

In Ministry: **Leah Hopp; Karen Lubbers-Odel**

## PRAYER MINISTRY AT BETHEL

*Each week we are encouraged to formulate our personal prayers using such categories as our city, our community, our world; the deepening of God's people; the extending of God's Kingdom; the flourishing of love, justice, peace and the spread of the gospel.*

### THIS WEEK'S PRAYER SUGGESTIONS:

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES:

**FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES:** New toolkit - Please join Faith Formation Ministries in giving thanks for the launch of our new resource toolkit designed for people in the "third third" of life (age 55+). Pray that these resources will strengthen and equip many members to continue growing as life-long disciples of Jesus Christ.

**BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL:** India: Pray for believers in India who are living in remote areas. For these Christians, it can be incredibly difficult to find answers to questions they have about faith and to build community. Pray that they may gain access to biblical resources and partner ministries in India.

**RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION:** Arizona: Give thanks for the ways Mission Church, a Resonate partner in Tucson, Ariz., is working with their community. Please pray that this church's presence and work in their neighborhood will draw people to Christ.

**CHAPLAINCY AND CARE MINISTRY:** Connecting - Chaplains work in various institutions and care centers with residents who may have limited verbal or cognitive skills. Please pray for these chaplains as they find creative ways to walk with individuals and families in these settings. Chaplains help to bring

the peace and love of God for all God's beloved children.

**RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION:** Central Asia: Resonate missionaries in Central Asia ask you to pray for a Bible study group that has started among young people: "May the believers in the group grow deep roots in their faith, and may the nonbelievers keep taking steps toward faith."

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DEADLINE EXTENDED! COUNCIL** is requesting nominations for 2 elders and 4 deacons. Nomination forms are available in the council room. Please prayerfully consider members to nominate and give completed forms to Ron H. prior to March 15, 2020.

**LOST & FOUND:** The custodians have accumulated a large amount of lost and found items. Please check out the table and reclaim what is yours. Any items not claimed by **March 21, 2020** will be donated to Your Neighbour's Closet.

**YARD SALE:** Since the Cadets will not be holding their annual yard sale, the Board of Stewards has decided to host a yard sale on **JUNE 6** with the proceeds going to an improved sound system for the Fellowship Hall. All donations gratefully accepted—books, plants, household items, crafts, clothing, etc. Speak to a member of the Board of Stewards or Ben S. about any donations you have.

**EASTER SINGERS:** At this point, let's make plans that we will have first practice on Monday, April 6th and maybe have another on Thursday. Please let Irene know if you will join, providing virus danger has passed.

**FELLOWSHIP HALL SOUND SYSTEM:** is in dire need of upgrading to a total bill of \$8—9000. A special account has been opened for this. Donations are gratefully accepted and the proceeds of the yard sale will also be applied here.

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP IS CANCELLED FOR NOW:** In

**Interested in membership at Bethel Church?**  
In making profession of faith? To talk further, contact Pastor Eric at [pastor.ericgn@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.ericgn@gmail.com).

light of the fact that we have vulnerable friends in our group, it will be wise to cancel for the time being. Thanks, folks!

**VON SMART SENIORS' EXERCISE:** CANCELLED

**SHUFFLEBOARD:** CANCELLED

**DORCHESTER WALK:** CANCELLED

**CARE & SHARE:** Need a meal? Know of someone who could use a meal? Maybe a neighbour, friend or co-worker? The meals are free and available to anyone who could use one. Contact Carolyn or Jenica G-N or Carolyn tB.

**FOUND:** a pair of glasses and gloves in a classroom on Sunday, March 8, 2020. Please contact office to arrange pick up.

## REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

**YOUR OPINION ON WORSHIP MATTERS:** CRCNA in Canada seeks to answer the following question: "How do we, in the area of worship, address the needs of churches living within a broad range of cultural contexts, ie Eastern, Western, Central Canada etc.?" This is your chance to be heard, regardless of age, gender, membership or position in leadership. If you would like to have your unique voice heard, please email [survey@crcna.org](mailto:survey@crcna.org) with the subject line: Please send me a survey!

**THE ART OF DYING WELL:** Because of the great deal of uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 virus, *The Art of Dying Well; You are Not Alone* conference is likely to be postponed for the safety of those present. A definitive answer and

more details regarding indefinite postponement will be sent to you by April 3, 2020. For more information & registration please click the link. <https://conta.cc/2SjmuON>

**WALKING ALONGSIDE CAREGIVERS - POSTPONED** - Disability Concerns' Annual Canada Conference has been postponed due to the COVID-19 virus. It was scheduled to take place on April 25, 2020 at Community CRC in Kitchener, Ontario. We will post new information when a new date for the conference has been chosen. The focus will be Walking Alongside Caregivers: Navigating the emotional landscape of caregivers and identifying practical ways to support them. Visit [crcna.org/disability](http://crcna.org/disability) to learn more.

**DUTCH DAY:** Due to the concerns re COVID -19 we have decided to postpone the "Dutch Day" in Tillsonburg .

**CHORAL CONNECTION:** It is with regret that I must announce *Choral Connection's* postponement of its Good Friday Mass in C Minor to a date this fall. In these circumstances, we have decided to reschedule to a date where everyone feels safe and comfortable performing and attending this concert.

**LIBERTAS MALE CHOIR CONCERTS - CANCELLED** - As the coronavirus COVID-19 continues to spread in communities across Canada, we have made the important decision to cancel our upcoming concerts on April 15, 2020 at Holland Christian Homes, Brampton, ON, and on April 16, 2020 at Rehoboth United Reformed Church, Lancaster Rd, Ancaster, ON. All tickets purchased will be refunded.

**CRESCENDO MEN'S CHOIR** Spring Concert March

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Tuition Assistance Fund \$	Diaconate	World Renew (Refugee Sunday)
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$		

27, 2020—CANCELLED

**GROUNDWORK: I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE CREATOR** - Why can we trust God when bad things happen? Study Psalm 19:1-6, Job 28:34-41, and Psalm 104:27-30 with Groundwork to discover why we can believe in the creator God and his providence, and why this belief gives us comfort. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**THE BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION** has been closely monitoring the coronavirus since the outbreak began. Due to the increasing uncertainty of the health situation and the calls to cancel public gatherings in Canada, we believe it's in the best interest of participants and leaders to postpone the Greater London Celebration launch event and all Christian Life and Witness training courses (including FM419). Our faith and trust is in the Lord, and we want to protect the health of everyone who is involved in the Celebration. We will continuously check with Canadian health authorities for up-to-date information and guidelines, and we hope to reschedule the launch event and classes soon. Please continue to visit [LondonCelebration.ca](http://LondonCelebration.ca) for updates.

**STAY CONNECTED:** While practicing "social distancing" and "self-isolation/quarantine," be creative in reaching out to others to stay connected and engage with your local church and community. Keep your neighbors in mind who may be struggling or suffering in these challenging times, practicing kindness and generosity.

**BUSINESSES** in London are helping provide relief efforts for our Front Line workers during COVID here in London. You can read about their work on [cbc](http://cbc) and in the [lfp](http://lfp). Nurses, doctors, and support staff workers in the area believe they are underprepared and express feelings of stress and anxiety as they prepare for COVID. Also, clinics act as relief for hospitals and many are preparing to close down prematurely because of their lack of medical supplies. The Thames Valley Family Health Clinic (organizing relief efforts for clinics) is asking for

the following in order of importance:

- 1) Masks - these can be [homemade](#)
- 2) Grab and Go snacks - Prepackaged granola, waffles, chips, fruit and veggies cups, cheese, etc
- 3) Other Medical Supplies - gloves and gowns

Email [madisonaolson@gmail.com](mailto:madisonaolson@gmail.com) for more details.

**DUNAMIS FELLOWSHIP CANADA:** Last week Martin Boardman and Mary Ellen Connors from PRMI launched the Shalom Prayer Initiative. This week they have decided to expand this initiative to daily prayer. They will be meeting Monday – Friday for 20-30 minutes at 12 noon EST throughout this COVID-19 crisis as the Lord leads us. This time is open for all to participate. The Zoom link is embedded in this link: <https://www.primi.org/shalom-in-these-times-of-crises/>

**SHALEM** Intake staff will continue to be at our office to manage calls from clients and others, and we are also encouraging clients to contact service providers directly if they have a pre-booked appointment set up and feel they need to change it. We have let all service providers know that they are welcome to make adjustments to how they offer CAP client support at this time. This could include continuing to see clients in their regular office setting, using COVID-19 safe health practices (such as those listed on our website: <https://shalemnetwork.org/news/shalems-precautions-to-covid-19>). We also are supporting the practice of clients being offered support through telephone contact or through a secured video based platform, as an alternative to rebooking their appointment until able to attend a face to face session again. Alternative modes of support may need to be made on a case by case basis, as people no doubt may have varying degrees of comfort with these alternatives, and some people may not have the means to secure sufficient privacy to participate in a remote access session. Ultimately we wanted to ensure that Shalem and its affiliate service providers are making the best effort to maintain available service support to cli-

ents as needed, and to do so following best practice guidelines as updated. Hopefully with a dedicated implementation of best practice responses we can be part of the solution to help return to regular lifestyle practices and see an increased confidence return within our communities.

**LENT AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP** - As Holy Week nears, create a worship space—a table or corner of a room where you can be intentional about spending time with God this week. For now, decorate it with purple or black cloth, a cross, and other symbols. Then on Easter morning, decorate this space with flowers, butterflies, white and gold cloth, etc. Talk with kids about what these symbols mean. This space can continue as a worship area even after Easter is finished. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; [crcna.org/FaithFormation](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation))

**AOYC AND COVID-19** - The AOYC (All Ontario Youth Convention) Team is keeping up to date on the many good recommendations and closures put in place by health authorities in order to limit the spread of COVID-19. Ultimately, the health and well-being of our conventioners and leaders is our priority, and we appreciate your trust and patience as we wait to see what the coming weeks bring. We hope to have some clear information for you before the end of the month. Wash your hands, love your neighbour, and pray for those most vulnerable to the effects of this virus. Consider how and who you serve in these coming weeks. Let's remember this surprising season as a time of hope and generosity.

**ENDNOTES:** This is an unprecedented moment in time as we are experiencing the rapidly unfolding consequences of the spread of the corona virus worldwide. Undoubtedly, by now we all have a story related to this crisis to tell and there are likely more to be added. Personally, Carolyn and I were visiting friends in Raleigh, North Carolina but within days of our planned return home, everyday life began changing dramatically, including that upon our return, we were to self-quarantine for 14 days due to our travel. Despite these unsettling times, all of us continue to do our best to trust God and rest in the knowledge that "our times are in God's hands." (Psalm 31:15). I pray you are finding your strength in the Lord Jesus who gently tells us not to worry, reassures us that we are his friends, and promises us that He is with us always (Matthew 6:25-34, John 15:15, Matthew 28:20). Although we will not be meeting as we are accustomed to, we do continue our journey through the season of Lent, grateful for the sacrificial love and extraordinary power of Jesus.

Previously, in this space I have been making suggestions of a habit, practice or discipline to incorporate into the coming week (based on "Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us" by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun). The practice suggested on this fourth Sunday of Lent is simple and comes from the book's chapter entitled PRAY. Certainly, our current circumstances have already impacted our praying greatly. The suggestion for this week is to invite someone into your circle of prayer by choosing a prayer partner. Maybe you already have one or even several; that is great! But if you don't, consider inviting someone to be your prayer partner. You can meet by phone. You could ask your prayer partner for any items that you can add to your prayer list. You might even share ideas with each other regarding ways to reach out to neighbours who are lonely and in need of prayer in some other way. If it suits you, you could pray over the phone with each other. This week, invite someone to be a prayer partner; it would be a wonderful way to keep in touch with others, something we and our world could really use right now. **-EGN**