

MARCH 29, 2020



# BETHEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

THE STORY

ENCOUNTER . ENGAGE . EMBRACE

**SERVICE SCHEDULE (The following are the previously arranged schedules. You will be notified if we are meeting and schedules are being implemented. )**

	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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL...		
SUNDAY March 29	6:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous/Alanon
TUESDAY March 31	7:00 PM	Admin Council

<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	bethelcrcldn@gmail.com
<b>Office Hours:</b> Friday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Bulletin Deadline: <b>Thursday by Noon.</b>

**NOTE REGARDING MEETING FOR SERVICES:** As of this writing, we are continuing to suspend meeting together in person for Sunday services at Bethel Church. 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 including by phone. 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 29, 2020 10:00 AM:** FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT & THE STORY – CHAPTER 25 - JESUS , THE SON OF GOD. **Refugee Sunday is NOT CANCELLED—it has moved online.** World Renew is inviting congregations across Canada to help refugee families around the world find a new home and a new hope.

**NEXT WEEK: APRIL 5, 2020 10:00 AM:** SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT & THE STORY – CHAPTER 26 - THE HOUR OF DARKNESS.

**REGARDING THE STORY SMALL GROUPS.** Currently, the Administrative Council envisions the possibility of small groups reconvening at a later time. Even if out of sequence or after THE STORY's completion, there can still be great benefit from gathering together for Bible study.

## 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.*

- Pray for **Peter A.** and family as they continue to grieve the passing of their wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Inske. Especially in these times of restrictions on public gatherings and travel, it is a challenge to grieve without the physical presence of others. Peter continues to find ultimate peace and reassurance through God's presence and the love of God and his people as communicated via phone, cards and other expressions of kindness.
- Pray for **Jane K.** who remains in the palliative care wing of Parkwood Institute (B4-126B). You may contact her by phone using Parkwood's main number.
- Pray for **Mary-Lynn MC.** Mary-Lynn remains with long-term friends who live in Los Barriles, BSC, Mexico. Mary-Lynn wants everyone to know that she is doing well and is safe. She is booked for the first flight out of the region, April 22.
- Pray for **David dS.** and specifically the group of young people from West London Alliance Church stranded in Peru (as of this writing) but who were scheduled to fly home this past Friday.
- Pray for church members directly impacted by the corona virus restrictions.
  - + close family members and friends in other communities who may be ill or showing symptoms of he virus
  - + those in long-term care facilities which

**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**

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,  
 + those who have had to self-isolate  
 + those who are working in higher-risk and frontline situations

- Belated birthday wishes to **Lourens V.** who celebrated his 81st birthday on March 20 in the peace and quiet of social isolation.

### 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:** In addition to these weekly prayer items, you may access other requests through this link of CCNL (Christian Churches Network of London). <https://mailchi.mp/14770d1a086a/promotion-for-ccnl-prayer-breakfastday-of-prayer-595295e=c566ff8ba6>

**WORLD RENEW: GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY** - Through our partner, Growing Hope Globally, we can donate seed money to help purchase farm supplies, sell fertilizer and seed at a discounted rate, and bring hope and opportunity to thousands of families around the world. May God continue to bless these efforts that make a big impact through small "mustard seeds" of love.

**RAISE UP: EDUCATIONAL CARE:** Underground training - Praise God! Christian teachers in a land that opposes the gospel were able to slip through the border to receive Educational Care training in a neighboring country. Pray for their protection, perseverance, and courage to raise up the next generation for Christ, integrating faith and education as part of the Christian worldview.

**BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: JAPAN** - Pray for members of Kawaguchi Church and Pastor Ryoichi Sakuri. This is the most recent church to be featured on our Church in My Town video series in Japan. Pray that the video will help people in the Kawaguchi area feel welcomed into the church community and interested in coming to a church.

**RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: UGANDA** - Resonate missionary Diana Boot, who facilitates Educational Care in Uganda, gives thanks for new and exciting opportunities to train teachers and administrators in government-run schools. Praise God for new ministry opportunities! Pray that many teachers and students in these schools will be transformed by Christ's love.

### 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 Hessels.

**REFUGEE SUNDAY HAS GONE ONLINE!** - When we welcome refugees as a church, we welcome them into our family--and God's family. Today, consider supporting the work of World Renew's Refugee Sponsorship program. Your gift communicates Christ's love in many ways, giving hope and building a new life for refugee families. Thank you for joining us. To donate online, you can go to: <https://worldrenew.ca/refugeesunday>

**CANADA-WIDE DAY OF PRAYER**  
 Canada's National House of Prayer is coordinating a coast-to-coast online prayer vigil to take place on Saturday, March 28. Additional details

**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).

can be found on the [National Day of Prayer](#) website.

**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.

**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 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 class-

room 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!

**GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER – MARCH 29**  
 As part of the Church's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada joins the World Evangelical Alliance in inviting Canadians and churches to participate in a **Global Day of Prayer and Fasting on Sunday, March 29.** More information can be at the [EFC webpage](#).

**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

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
World Renew( Hunger) \$ 48.67 Diaconate \$ 48.67 Tuition Assistance \$ 48.67 Redeemer University College \$ 48.67 World Renew \$ 48.67	World Renew (Refugee Sunday)	Denominational Ministry Shares
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 2247.00		

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.

**HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL FOR FAMILIES** - Families, are you looking for an easy way to celebrate Holy Week at home? DWELL at Home's new devotional God's Big Easter Story is free to download. (And has a color-in printable!) You can read one devotion each day of Holy Week or combine readings over a few days. Find it at [dwellcurriculum.org](http://dwellcurriculum.org) under "Family Support."

**GROUNDWORK: I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE SON** - What do we mean when we say "I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord"? Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 16:13-16, John 1:1-18, and Philippians 2:9-11 to discover who we believe Jesus Christ is and what this belief means for how we live our lives. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://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 con-

nected 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 under-prepared 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](http://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 Conners 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 clients 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.

**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.

**THE BANNER AVAILABLE ONLINE** - You can access all of our content for free, including online extras at: [thebanner.org](http://thebanner.org). You can also sign up for our weekly email newsletter at [thebanner.org/Signup](http://thebanner.org/Signup). Or download our free mobile app, giving you real-time online content. Follow us on Facebook ([crcbanner](https://www.facebook.com/crcbanner)) and Twitter ([@crcbanner](https://twitter.com/crcbanner)).

**ENDNOTES:** Throughout Lent 2020 we have been considering 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 for this fifth Sunday of Lent is called "Blessing Others/Encouragement" and comes from the book's section entitled INCARNATE THE LOVE OF CHRIST. Calhoun points out that too easily people feel more cursed than blessed. People may feel wounded and anger leak out and offense is easily taken. Or because we are sad, we tell ourselves stories of never being good enough. We begin to pretend in life. We hunger for a kind word and live like competitive workaholics. (see p.199). Offering words of blessing and encouragement is a wonderful way to multiply the love of God and embody Jesus. Words of blessing and encouragement build up the body of Christ, fill the human hunger for blessing, give strength to those who are ready to give up and let others know that they are unconditionally loved by God. With this practice we can spread the delight God has in people throughout our world and as a by-product enlarge our own hearts with God's delight. (p.198) This past week I was part of an online meeting with some 80 other faith community leaders in a meeting arranged by the city of London. Besides sharing current practices, the city's mayor offered words of encouragement and blessing to all of us; it was a moment of grace. In the upcoming week, with whatever opportunity we are given, let us speak words of blessing and encouragement. This spiritual practice too is one our world could really use right now.. -EGN