

SERVICE SCHEDULE (No information will be posted until services resume.)

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL...		
SUNDAY April 5	6:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous
TUESDAY April 7	7:00 PM	Elders Meeting
	7:00 PM	Prayer Meeting

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



APRIL 5, 2020

BETHEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

ENCOUNTER . ENGAGE . EMBRACE

THE STORY

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 is following 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 making sermons, messages and relevant 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: APRIL 5, 2020 10:00 AM: PASSION or PALM SUNDAY & THE STORY – CHAPTER 26 - THE HOUR OF DARKNESS.

GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 10, 2020 – 10:00 AM: For Good Friday you are encouraged to worship using the worship outline available on the website on Friday morning under "Sermons". <http://www.bethel-crc.ca/sermons/>
You may read or speak aloud the prayers as well as click on links to the appropriate song in the designated place in the worship outline.

***The denomination has called for all members of the CRCNA to participate in a **day of prayer and fasting on GOOD FRIDAY** in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. To read the complete letter, please click on this link <https://mailchi.mp/crcna/a-day-of-prayer-and-fasting?e=a334992c94>

NEXT WEEK: APRIL 12, 2020 10:00 AM: EASTER & THE STORY – CHAPTER 26 - THE RESURRECTION. ALSO NOTE: Classis Chatham churches (a block of Christian Reformed churches from Woodstock to Sarnia to Windsor) is inviting all churches in this region to be part of a live-streaming worship service. Further instructions on how to connect and participate will be forthcoming.

REGARDING THE STORY SMALL GROUPS: Currently, the Administrative Council envisions the possibility of small groups reconvening 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 **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 Lou H.**'s sister Barb, **Jan and Jennie DV.** daughter Irene who have tested positive to COVID-19 but seem to be on the way to recovery. There may be others not mentioned here but directly connected to us for whom we continue our prayers.
- Pray for **Riek V.** , **Albert P.**, **Margaret S.**, **Bernie and Harmina K.**, **Tina DV.**, **Frans H.**, and **Andy V.** all of whom are in long term care facilities, places especially vulnerable at this time and closed to visitors.

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**

- Pray for **Bronson G.s** mother as she has been diagnosed with cancer. She has undergone surgery which is to be followed up by chemotherapy and a second surgery.
- Pray for two of **Ed and Barb W.'s** granddaughters each of whom are struggling with serious health issues.
- Pray for **Mary-Lynn MC.** Mary-Lynn remains with long-term friends who live in Los Barriles, BSC, Mexico. Mary-Lynn wants to 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.** in thanksgiving as David and the West London Alliance Church youth group who had been stranded in Peru successfully and safely returned home last weekend.
- We continue to encourage prayer in general regarding COVID-19. Pray for:
 - + close family members and friends in other communities who may be ill, showing symptoms of the virus or grieving the loss of a loved one
 - + those in long-term care facilities who are particularly vulnerable and are unable to receive visitors including close family members
 - + those struggling with the challenges of current isolating restrictions, both for work and socially
 - + those who are working in higher-risk and front-line situations
 - + those who provide leadership in government and other contexts under these unique conditions
 - + those researchers and innovators working on new ways to combat the disease
- Special birthday wishes to **Joan W.** who celebrates her 82nd birthday on April 9.

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-595295?e=c566ff8ba6>

WORLD RENEW: CAMBODIA: The COVID-19 virus is affecting far more than people's health. Hundreds of factories in Cambodia are facing a shortage of raw materials from China and have announced temporary closures, affecting about 160,000 workers. People's livelihoods may be at risk if they cannot resume normal business soon. We ask God to continue providing support for all who are affected.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: MIDDLE EAST: Pray for a man in the Middle East with whom a Resonate missionary is working. A former Muslim, he accepted Christ and is now passionate about sharing his faith with Muslims. Please pray for his protection—it can be dangerous for him to share his faith.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: JAPAN: Resonate missionaries Larry and Ruth Spalink in Japan give thanks for the increasing number of newcomers in worship services! More people are also being baptized and publicly professing their faith in Christ. In a country where less than 2 percent of the people follow Christ, that's great news! Pray that God will continue to draw people to himself.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: EGYPT: Pray for new opportunities for our Arabic ministry team in Egypt to share God's Word in this challenging context. Pray for the spread of the gospel in Muslim-majority communities, and for protection for believers there who risk reputation and life to follow Jesus.

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.

FROM COUNCIL: WAYS TO DONATE: In the absence of church services, we suggest alternate ways of giving to causes normally covered by Sunday offerings:

1. Print and fill out the PAR form and return it to the church mail slot or talk to Jack Hoekstra.
2. Write a cheque listing the cause(s) you would like to support. Drop your envelope in the church mail slot or mail it to the church office.
3. E-Transfer - Interac E-transfer has now been set up for donations to the church budget. You can use the email address bethelcrcdonate@gmail.com. Please record your envelope number in the comment field, eg "Env Number 1". Donations received through this method will be added to your annual donation receipt. If you have any questions about this process please call Steve tB.
4. You may also place your donation into your regular weekly offering envelope and put them all in the offering plate when church services resume. Donations will be allocated as per the weekly envelope in which they are submitted.

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. A **YARD SALE** is planned for **JUNE 6** with the proceeds going to the 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.

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!

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.

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 with the subject line: Please send me a survey!

BANNER UPDATE: In the wake of necessary prevention measures for the COVID-19 pandemic, our everyday life has changed drastically. This new reality has delayed *The Banner's* annual appeal mailing for an indeterminate period. Therefore, we ask that you please **look out for our email appeal this April 2** or please consider giving a [donation online](#) right now. In this difficult time, we pray that God will keep you safe, even as you act wisely to

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Denominational Ministry Shares \$ 25.00	Denominational Ministry Shares	Resonate Global Missions
Diaconate 35.00		
Tuition Assistance 45.00		
Redeemer University College 10.00		
World Renew 45.00		
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 1805.00		

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?
In making profession of faith? To talk further, contact
Pastor Eric at pastor.ericgn@gmail.com.

safeguard yourselves and your loved ones. As our Lord Jesus said, *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33 NIV).

REMEMBERING WHO IS IN CONTROL: Acting Executive Director Colin P. Watson shares words of wisdom in light of the CRC's big changes, but they also apply to fears experienced during the COVID-19 outbreak. [Read More](#)

GOOD FRIDAY AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP - Take some time today to reflect on the events of Good Friday. Read the story, and then use questions like these as you wonder about it: What would it be like to be a friend of Jesus that day? How would you feel? What would you do? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

LENT AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP - Spend time in the Easter story this week by engaging with it in a variety of ways. If you have kids in your life, read it and then retell it together as you act it out or use crayons, markers, collage or even Lego to depict various scenes. With other adults or on your own, read the story out loud several times, pausing in between to reflect and to circle or write down words that stand out for you. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

COVID-19 UPDATES: Keep up to date on how local churches and the Christian Reformed Church in North America are being affected by and responding to the novel coronavirus. [Read More](#)

GROUNDWORK: I BELIEVE IN THE SON'S LIFE AND DEATH. - Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith. Join Groundwork as we examine Luke 1:26-35, Matthew 27:11-26, Luke 23:44-46, and 1 Peter 3:18-20 to help us better understand what we profess to believe about Jesus' life and death in the Apostles' Creed. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future

episodes.

THE GREATER LONDON CELEBRATION WITH WILL GRAHAM is still planned for the fall of 2020. Our faith and trust is in the Lord, and we want to protect the health of everyone who is involved in the Celebration. Please continue to visit London-Celebration.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.

12 MUSEUMS AROUND THE WORLD YOU CAN VISIT VIRTUALLY: Experience the best museums from London to Seoul in the comfort of your own home. [Read More](#)

FROM DISABILITY CONCERNS: BREAKING BARRIERS: The Spring 2020 edition of Breaking Barriers is now available at <https://network.crcna.org/disability-concerns/breaking-barriers%E2%80%9494spring-2020>. Printed copies will be mailed later this year.

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. We hope to have some clear information for you before the end of the month.

THE BANNER AVAILABLE ONLINE - You can access all of our content for free, including online extras at: thebanner.org. You can also sign up for our weekly email newsletter at 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 last Sunday of Lent is called "Meditation" and comes from the book's section entitled HEAR GOD'S WORD. Calhoun writes, "Meditation is a long, ardent gaze at God, his work and his Word. Slowing down and giving one's undivided attention to God lies at the core of Christian meditation." We read God's book of creation and nature (to use the terminology of the Belgic Confession) and of course, we read God's Word.

Since today is Passion Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week, let's follow this suggested reading pattern below, taking our time to slow down and meditate on each of the passages for each day. What a meaningful opportunity to once again contemplate Jesus' journey to the cross and his ultimate rescue of the world!

HOLY WEEK SUGGESTION:

- * Palm Sunday: Matthew 21,
- * Monday: Matthew 22,
- * Tuesday: Matthew 23,
- * Wednesday: Matthew 24–25 (We might end up calling this "End Times Wednesday"!),
- * Maundy Thursday: Matthew 26,
- * Good Friday: Matthew 27
- * Easter Sunday: Matthew 28.

It might be especially helpful early in the week to imagine Jesus growing closer and closer to the cross as this week progresses. In any case, take the time all week to mull and ruminate over God's Word as a way of practicing the discipline of Christian meditation. – EGN

To access Pastor's Eric's regular COVID-19 MEDITATIONS, click here ... <http://www.bethel-crc.ca/blog/covid-19-meditations/>