

MAY 3, 2020



BETHEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

THE STORY

ENCOUNTER . ENGAGE . EMBRACE

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: MAY 3, 2020 10:00 AM: THE STORY – CHAPTER 30 - PAUL'S FINAL DAYS The message will again be on video on the website or available through an email link.

NEXT WEEK: MAY 10, 2020 10:00 AM: THE STORY – CHAPTER 31 - THE END OF TIME. It is the last chapter in THE STORY but of course God's Story continues into the future. It is an unfinished chapter but it is a chapter and story to which we may surrender ourselves in hope and peace, resting in God's grace, faithfulness and love. God holds the whole world, every chapter and every story in his hands.

STARTING MAY 19, 2020: NEW Message SERIES - LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN – If there is any New Testament parallel to our restricting situation, it is Paul's house arrest in Rome. As a prisoner of the empire, Paul was confined to a rented house. It is from there that he wrote his letter to the Philippian church. We will spend the next several weeks moving through this letter, discerning perspectives from and making connections to our lives in 2020.

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.

- We continue to encourage prayer regarding COVID-19. Pray for:
- + those who may be ill, showing symptoms of the virus or

grieving the loss of a loved one

+ those in long-term care facilities

+ those struggling with current restrictions, both for work and socially

+ those who are working in higher-risk and frontline situations

+ those providing leadership in government and other contexts

+ those researchers and innovators working on new ways to combat the disease

+ those who have recovered, giving thanks for renewed health

• Pray for one another and for relatives and friends of members as we share stories of those close to us who are directly struggling with the Covid-19 disease.

• Pray for **Jane K.** whose condition is declining. She remains in the palliative care wing of Parkwood Institute (B4-126B). You may contact her by phone using Parkwood's main number.

• Pray for **Bronson G.'s** mother, Jane, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and scheduled for chemotherapy and a second surgery.

• Pray for **Mary-Lynn MC.** with thanksgiving as she was able to make the return trip from Mexico, arriving home last Sunday.

• Pray for **Peter and Irene O.** as we extend to them Christian sympathy for the recent loss of Peter's brother in law, Henry Huizinga in BC. Pray for Irene's brother in law Henry Amsinga as he nears more closely the end of his life.

• Pray for **Jean D., Jennie D. and Herman VS.'s** sister **Nel** who continues to struggle with her health.

• Pray for **Riek V., Albert P., Margaret S., Tina D., Frans H., Andy V. and B. & Harmina K.** all of whom are in long term care facilities.

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**

- Extra special wishes for a wonderful 50th wedding anniversary to **Peter & Rita B.** on May 9 and to **Jan & Jennie DV.** On May 16. God is so good!
- A message from **Peter A.:** *First of all, a big thank you for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, and words of comfort. A special thank you to Pastor Eric and Carolyn to be there for myself and family in prayer and comfort by phone, while hindered to make personal visits, as a result of the terrible corona virus. As Eric mentioned in his message on April 26, I feel that I am in prison. I am having a difficult time dealing with the passing of my dear wife, Inske. But I know that Inske is safe in the arms of Jesus. For Inske, the suffering with her health problems for years, off and on, has ended. I thank the Lord daily that Inske is in heaven, safe for ever, and ask God for His presence and guidance in my life. Peace to all.—Thank you, Peter A.*

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 denominational prayer items, you may access other updated requests through this link of CCNL (Christian Churches Network of London <https://mailchi.mp/02fbb4540075/promotion-for-ccnl-prayer-breakfastday-of-prayer-636900?e=c566ff8ba6>)

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: Community: Because of COVID-19, many Resonate church plant partners have been gathering worship communities online—and people who have never set foot in a church community (or haven't done so in a long time) are tuning in. As normal routines and gatherings return, ask the Holy Spirit to continue drawing people into a church community and into a relationship with Christ.

WORLD RENEW: REFUGEE CAMPS: Amid this global pandemic, World Renew continues to walk alongside the

world's most vulnerable people. In refugee camps, people cannot practice social distancing due to population density. Hand-washing is difficult because of the lack of clean water and soap. Healthcare facilities are few and under resourced. Please join us in praying for these communities.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: RUSSIAN MINISTRY: Our Russian ministry team works closely with local churches in Russia and Ukraine. Pray that listeners and event attendees will develop a long-term relationship with fellow Christians in the church. May God continue to use the partnerships in this ministry to reach people with his Word.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: MIDDLE EAST: Resonate missionaries in the Middle East ask you to pray for the people they serve and minister with. Pray that Resonate missionaries will share the light of Christ and that people will be drawn to Jesus.

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY: PRISON INITIATIVE: Seminary faculty, staff, and students partner with Calvin University to teach classes in the Calvin Prison Initiative and to engage with the CRC congregation within Hanlon Prison in Ionia, Mich. Give thanks for this opportunity to remember people in prison (Heb. 13:3), to partner in ministry there, and to bless students and church members behind bars.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNCIL has decided to delay the nomination process for 2 elders and 4 deacons until we can worship together again.

PRAYER MEETING: Join with other Bethel members for a prayer meeting by Zoom on Tuesday May 5th at 7pm. If you are interested please email the church or Steve tB for the invitation information.

CHURCH GIVING: Thanks to Jan DV. and Jack H. for the extra efforts in helping with the collection and documentation for church offerings during the current situation. Thanks also to those who continue to faithfully give. The church is truly blessed! Reminder that donations can be mailed/dropped off at the church (for both budget and deaconate collections), E-transfer is also being regularly used now for church budget as well by some members. The address to use for E-transfer is bethelcrcdonate@gmail.com. Other members are taking advantage of the preauthorized payments through the PAR process. If you have questions about these methods please contact Steve tB, Jan DV, or Jack H.

BIG THANK YOU: to John B. for all the hard work in edging and clean up of the whole parking lot. Your work is much appreciated.

FELLOWSHIP HALL SOUND SYSTEM: is in dire need of upgrading to a total bill of \$8—9000. A special account has been

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

In making profession of faith? To talk further, contact Pastor Eric at pastor.ericqn@gmail.com.

opened for this. Donations are gratefully accepted. **YARD SALE** is hopefully planned for **JUNE 27** with the proceeds going to the Fellowship Hall sound system. It's a good time now to clean your closets and save everything for the sale. When we are able to get out, you can make arrangements to drop it off or have it picked up. Please continue to save your donations—books, plants, household items, crafts, clothing, etc. Talk 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

THE BANNER: Keep the Banner Going! It's our annual appeal time. The Banner is delivered free in print and online to every household in the CRC, and this annual donation appeal makes it possible. If you haven't given to The Banner yet, please give online now at www.thebanner.org/donate

LAST CHANCE! Your Opinion On Worship In The Canadian CRC: Regardless of age, gender, membership or position in leadership we want to hear from everyone across Canada. Would you take 10-15 minutes to add your valuable opinion [HERE?](#) Or, copy this address in your browser: https://calvin.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1MHSzTVWGH17bDf This survey closes Monday May 4th, 2020 and to date only 676 people across Canada in all of our Classes have participated. This is your last chance to have your voice heard.

NEWGROUND SUNDAY 2020: This week we will collect the annual NewGround Offering. Your generous gift will help ministries and Canadian CRCs like ours love and bless their communities in the name of Jesus. Again, this isn't just another offering to another cause; it's about the people who will be reached through our gifts. May each of us give as we have been blessed. You can also make a one-time donation or become a monthly partner on Diaconal Ministries' website: <https://diaconalministries.com/donate-now/>. - The Deacons

HELP DELIVER HOPE TO MOTHERS AND BABIES IN NEED: Next week Sunday is Mother's Day. Your church can embrace this opportunity to observe Mother's Day in a unique and helpful way by delivering hope to mothers and babies living in places of extreme poverty. Your gifts and offerings for World Renew's Maternal and Child Health Sunday will support trained health volunteers leading life-saving changes for mothers, babies, and families around the world. To give online and find out more, go to worldrenew.ca/mchsunday.

REMEMBERING MOMS ON MOTHER'S DAY: Honor your mom next week with your offering for Free A Family® Sunday from World Renew. Kadzo Safari Kenga, mom of five children in Kenya, can feed and support her family with World Renew's help through Free A Family®. Remember your unstoppable mom in a unique way this year through your gifts and offerings for World Renew and Free A Family® Sunday on May 10. Give at church or online at worldrenew.net/FreeAFamily®.

COVID-19 UPDATES: To assist congregations in responding to the challenges that the COVID-19 crisis brings, the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America are curating resources on key topics. Learn more at crcna.org/Covid19.

GROUNDWORK: I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT - As the third member of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit actively empowers believers and the Church. Join Groundwork as we examine Matthew 28:19, John 14:16-17, Acts 2:1-4, and 1 Thessalonians 1:4-6 to help us better understand the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and sub-

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Denominational Ministry Shares \$ 125.00	NewGround (formerly Operation Manna)	World Renew
Back to God Hour Ministry 20.00		
GEMS 85.00		
Resonate Global Missions 55.00		
NewGround 20.00		
Local Christian Schools 55.00		
Fellowship Hall Sound System 300.00		
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 3640.00		

scribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: God's big family is made up of people from every country on earth! Print off a world map and put it on your refrigerator or kitchen table. Each day, or once a week, choose a country (or if there are kids in your household, take turns). Learn about that country and pray for the needs of its people. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; <https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation>)

DUNAMIS: Join us daily Monday through Friday to pray at 12:00 PM (Eastern). NOW is the time for action. NOW is the time to pray. NOW is the time for intercessors to be front and centre. There is the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to move in powerful ways and for the church to rise up and boldly proclaim the saving name of Jesus Christ, who does heal disease and who brings peace in the midst of a storm. The enemy is seeking to capitalize upon the fear, anxiety and mayhem, and form strongholds that will try to hinder and block the kingdom of God and bring even greater chaos, destruction and death to our world. As intercessors, NOW is the time, led by the Holy Spirit to PRAY IN the things the Lord wants to do during this time and to PRAY OUT the plans and schemes of the enemy. The Holy Spirit empowers and equips intercessors to pray the prayers that shape the future. Join the Daily Prayer Time via Zoom. The prayer call will last for about 30 minutes. The zoom call will be left open for 20-30 minutes for those who want to continue to pray. Join Zoom Meeting by computer use: <https://zoom.us/j/464198533> Meeting ID: 464 198 533

SHALEM: During COVID19 restrictions the CAP counselling ministry through Shalem Mental Health Network continues to make anonymous professional counselling support available to congregants of our church at no charge. All services are provided through a secured video or telephone connection. To book a CAP appt, call Shalem directly at 1-866-347-0041. And for more resource information check their website at <https://shalemnetwork.org/>

WORLD RENEW: With the continuing Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, many people in our world feel hopeless. But you and I know that, because of Jesus, we can have hope. Not only that, justice calls us to share that hope with the most vulnerable.

Today I want to invite you to take action to create moments of hope through World Renew in the midst of this global pandemic. You can do that in three ways:

1.**PRAY.** Pray for our world. Pray for the people who are already ill. Pray for those who are already vulnerable. Pray for the virus to stop spreading. Pray for the communities that haven't been hit hard yet.

2.**SHARE.** Share stories of hope on social media and [join our COVID-19 Facebook community](#). The more our com-

munity spreads moments of hope, the lighter this dark time in our world will become. We need each other to remind our community that God is still moving with His love and power in this season of unknowns.

3.**GIVE.** We are stepping up our efforts to ensure that life saving programs can continue. In addition, we are working with local communities and churches to respond with supplies, trauma healing support, training and education. Your gift demonstrates God's love and care in very practical ways.

ENDNOTES: Having celebrated Easter Sunday, we are moving through the church calendar's marking of the Easter season. Consistent with this season's celebration of new life and a new way of life together, we continue our consideration of habits, practices or disciplines to incorporate into the upcoming week (based on "Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us" by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun).

The practice we are looking to guide us on this fourth Sunday of Easter is "Mindfulness/Attentiveness." The desire behind this practice is "to live wholeheartedly in the present moment, alert to God and without judgement." (Calhoun, p.114). It is interesting that many therapists and physicians promote mindfulness as a way of improving health and well-being. One might say that incorporating mindfulness into our living is part and parcel of the way God has created us. We do well when we pay attention and are open to the God-given gifts of each day. Prophets like Zechariah and Isaiah sometimes reprimanded people for not being mindful of God's presence, gifts and life-giving direction. "You have seen many things, but have paid no attention; your ears are open but you hear nothing." (Isaiah 42:20). Part of this practice involves letting go of the need to control, receiving people for who they are, minimizing worry and staying present in the moment in an attentive and non-judgmental manner. People following the Risen Christ in this season of Easter are mindful of God and his gifts and live in the calm assurance of God's love and the wonder of life as it is given in the created order. – EGN

To access Pastor's Eric's regular COVID-19 MEDITATIONS, [click here ...](#)

<http://www.bethel-crc.ca/covid-19-meditations/>

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