

MAY 10, 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 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. The message will again be on video on the website or available through an email link.

NEXT WEEK: MAY 17, 2020 10:00 AM: 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.

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.** who at the time of this writing) has grown considerably weaker and is near death. She remains in the palliative care wing of Parkwood Institute (B4-126B).
- Pray for **Evelina B.** as we extend to her our Christian sympathies in the passing of her brother-in-law Len this past Monday.
- Pray for **Bronson G.'s** mother, Jane, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and scheduled for chemotherapy and a second surgery.
- Pray for **Mary-Lynn MC.** as she continues to experience pain and concussion symptoms related to a recent fall.
- Pray for **Peter and Irene O.** as Irene's brother in law Henry Amsinga 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.
- 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!
- On the Mother's Day 2020, we pray for mothers everywhere, asking God to strengthen, comfort and bless them on this day.

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**

****WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT****

We pray for and rejoice with Shawn Brus and Sophia Vandersluis who anticipate with great joy their being joined together in marriage next Saturday, May 16, 2020 at Bethel Church at 11 am with Pastor Eric officiating. **NOTE:** Changes have had to be made because of Covid-19 conditions so current Covid-19 orders and guidelines from the province and city are being followed. We are also asked NOT to congregate in the parking lot in cars after the ceremony. Larger in-person gatherings are being planned for November for worship and celebration to mark this wonderful occasion. Please pray for God's blessings and love to surround Shawn and Sophia in their married life together. Saturday's ceremony will be live-streamed through Sophia's Facebook account.

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>)

WORLD RENEW: MOTHER'S DAY REQUEST: God cares deeply about vulnerable people. "He upholds the cause of the oppressed" and "watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow" (Ps. 146:7, 9). In Christ's name, World Renew staff are looking to the needs of people most at risk from the effects of COVID-19, including women and girls. This Mother's Day, pray for women especially affected by the pandemic.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: WORLDWIDE: Pray for Resonate missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers throughout the world as they adapt to the coronavirus crisis and its aftermath. Ask God to continue to provide new ways for these leaders to minister with their communities. May people who are anxious, stressed, or heavily burdened find hope and peace in Christ.

WORLD RENEW: PRAYERS FOR LEADERS: This week the Council of Delegates (COD) of the Christian Reformed Church is meeting online for the first time. Pray for this group and for others in leadership who make decisions about the church and its work in God's world. Ask God to grant them wisdom, discernment, and perseverance in the days ahead.

CADETS: CONNECTION: Our theme for this season, "Hi God, it's me," continues to encourage cadets and counselors to turn to God in prayer. Pray that in this challenging time of social distancing, Cadet counselors and clubs will be able to find ways to help boys become Christlike in all areas of life.

PASTOR CHURCH RESOURCES: PASTORS: In recent weeks pastors have been asked to shepherd their congregations in ways they would not have imagined just months ago. The toll on their emotional, mental, and even spiritual health has been significant. Ask God to fill them with everything they need as they minister in this season of COVID-19 and during our recovery from it.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH GIVING: 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 bethelcrrdonate@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.

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. **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.

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: The Banner Needs You! - Did you receive our annual appeal letter in your mailbox? 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 this year, please give online now at www.thebanner.org/donate

OPEN HOMES HAMILTON: Many of you were present at our last congregational meeting when Danielle Steenwyk-Rowaan shared about her work with Open Homes Hamilton, a multi-church network supporting refugee claimants by offering home-based hospitality. Hosts from churches throughout Hamilton offer up space in their homes and hearts for 2-3 months to welcome newly arrived refugee claimants, and they are supported by a network of volunteers and the Open Homes Hamilton leadership team.

Before Open Homes was founded in 2019, there were only

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

about 12 beds available in one refugee claimant-specific shelter in Hamilton, and many new arrivals ended up in the general shelter system, without the specialized resources they need to navigate their refugee claim and adapt to life in Canada. Now Open Homes has welcomed 27 in-house refugee guests; supported 2 non-residential guests; and screened, oriented, and guided 11 hosts, 26 companions, and 3 specialized volunteers who belong to 11 Hamilton area churches from at least 6 different denominations. Open Homes Hamilton is a program of the International Association for Refugees-Canada.

Next week we will have an opportunity to give to this ministry.

NEWGROUND OFFERING: Thank you for your incredible generosity in support of NewGround last week Sunday! Together your church collected \$322.00. We are humbled and overjoyed by the support we receive each year from churches like yours. Our prayer is that God will multiply these gifts so that even more churches and ministries across Canada can break new missional ground, nurturing Spirit-led ideas that bear everlasting fruit. If you would still like to donate, or to find out more about NewGround, please visit diaconalministries.com/newground/ today! - Diaconal Ministries Canada

SUPPORT MOMS AND BABIES ON MOTHER'S DAY: Today is Mother's Day and Maternal and Child Health Sunday with World Renew. Whether you are meeting in church or online due to social distancing, you can honour your mother with a gift that helps protect the health of mothers and babies in places of extreme poverty. Your gifts will help train local health volunteers who walk alongside new mothers at every stage to provide them with safety, care, and hope. You can also give online at worldrenew.ca/mchsunday.

REMEMBERING MOMS ON MOTHER'S DAY: Free A Family-

ly from Poverty on Mother's Day - Today is Mother's Day and Free A Family® Sunday with World Renew. Whether you are meeting in church or online due to social distancing, you can remember your mother with a gift that helps unstoppable moms like Kadzo Safari Kenga in Kenya. Free A Family® from poverty and hunger with your offering for World Renew. You can also give online at worldrenew.net/FreeAFamily®.

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!

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 THE CHURCH, GOD'S COMMUNITY - What is the Church? Dig into John 10:14-16, Colossians 1:15-18, Ephesians 4:4-6, John 17:21, and 1 Peter 2:9, Acts 2:42-27 with Groundwork to gain a biblical understanding of the Church and the communion of saints. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: Today is Mother's Day. For some it's a joyous occasion. For others, it's a reminder of grief. Whatever your experience, give thanks today for the women in your life (biological mothers, adoptive mothers, mentors, teachers, and others) who pointed you toward Jesus and helped you along your faith journey. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; <https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation>)

DUNAMIS: Join us daily Monday through Friday to pray at

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Denominational Ministry Shares \$ 35.00	World Renew	Open Homes Hamilton
Back to God Hour Ministry 35.00		
GEMS 85.00		
Resonate Global Missions 95.00		
NewGround 302.00		
Local Christian Schools 230.00		
Fellowship Hall Sound System 100.00		
Open Homes Hamilton 30.00		
World Renew 245.00		
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 4110.00		

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/>

ARK AID: The Board of Directors of the Ark Aid Street Mission announces that the present Executive Director, Doug Whitelaw will retire on June 26, 2020. Sarah Campbell has been appointed as the incoming Executive Director of Ark Aid Street Mission. The BVoard is looking forward to continuing to work with all people who seek our help in their time of need.

MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS: Despite the challenges, ministry is still happening with the Seafarers Centre and several seafarer welfare agencies are working together! **Please continue to pray for seafarers.** Many of them are coming to the end of their contracts and can't go home because of travel restrictions and lockdowns around the world. Some have gotten sick. **Pray for us** as we support them now and in the weeks to come. We are keeping your congregation in our prayers as well; we know many are affected by job losses and uncertainty. But despite the uncertainty, we rest in the assurance from Psalm 46, "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*"

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 fifth Sunday of Easter is a subset of prayer, specifically praying the "Prayer of Recollection." The desire behind this practice is "to rest in God, allowing him to calm and heal my fragmented and distracted self. (Calhoun, p.281).

The Psalmist points us in this direction when he describes himself this way: But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. (Psalm131:2) This prayer practice is one in which we collect or recollect ourselves, letting go of distractions and allowing ourselves to be directed by the Spirit back to the center of our true selves and our true identity in Jesus Christ. However, taking on the attitudes required for this prayer is hard work. It requires a letting go of our masks and false selves which include our addictions, sins, idols and pretense. A prayer of recollection is a prayer that requires being more receptive than active. In this season of Easter, Jesus calls us to prayer by which we may re-collect ourselves and know that we may rest in the Risen Saviour who calms our hearts and makes us whole.

- EGN

To access Pastor's Eric's regular COVID-19 MEDITATIONS, click here ...

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL...		
SATURDAY MAY 16	11:00 AM	Brus & Vandersluis Wedding

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
Office Admin: Barb Wesselius	519.453.6565	bethelcrlcdn@gmail.com
Office Hours: Friday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Bulletin Deadline: Thursday by Noon.	