



BETHEL

Christian Reformed Church

Connect . Grow . Care

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 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 Philippians church. We will spend the next several weeks moving through this letter, discerning perspectives from and making connections to our lives in 2020. The message will again be on video on the website or available through an email link.

MAY 17, 2020: ASCENSION DAY. Take time to read the ascension related passages Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1:15-23 and Luke 24:44-53

NEXT WEEK: MAY 24, 2020 10:00 AM: LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN: Part Two - We take up part two in our series of listening to and learning from the Apostle Paul as he wrote from his own lockdown while under house arrest in Rome. Our focus will be chapter 1, verses 12 to 26 of the letter to the Philippians.

MAY 31, 2020 – Pentecost Sunday

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 **Sid K.** and the family of **Jane K.** Jane passed on to the fullness of the Lord's presence this past Tuesday. A limited private family gathering and interment will be held this coming Tuesday.
- We pray for and rejoice with **Shawn B. and Sophia V.** who were married yesterday. We pray for God's blessings and love to surround Shawn and Sophia in their new life together.
- 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 deal with 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 **Jan & Jennie DV.** on May 16. God is faithful!

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: – 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>)

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: BRAZIL: Our Portuguese ministry leader, Rev. Hernandes Dias Lopes, is hosting live videos from his home to encourage others. Praise God that these messages are encouraging people like Maria, who watched a video and shared, "I have peace in this period of isolation because I am reading your devotional book on Philippians. The reading is wonderful!"

RACE RELATIONS: HEALING: Pray for all who have lost loved ones from COVID-19. Let's also keep in our prayers people who are dealing with anxiety and depression because of social distancing and lockdowns. May we all seek the well-being of others with patience and mercy.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: ReFrame Media prayer ministry - Pray along with our team member who wrote, "Please pray for everyone being affected by the coronavirus. Pray that as they open their Bibles, they may know the Lord's comfort. The Lord is mighty and has full control in every situation in our lives."

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: CAMPUSES: Give thanks for the faithful presence of Resonate campus ministers and the work they do with students, faculty, and staff on more than 35 campuses across North America. Please pray for God's guidance and encouragement in their work.

EIRC - Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee: Fear - As we hear of brothers and sisters around the world suffering and dying, help us, Lord, to know that you are in control of everything in the universe. In our weakness draw us closer to you. Thank you, Jesus, for your care, and help us to share with others your love and your good news of full life forever with God.

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.

THANK YOU: for all the cards, calls and remembrances during this isolation period. They are all greatly appreciated and remind us of our church community.—A Blessed Senior

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.

A HUGE 'THANK YOU' to our church family for all the best wishes and kind words you expressed through cards, emails, Facebook posts, phone calls, flowers, wine and even a Garage door sign of congratulations! We had planned an Open House for our 50th on Sat. May 9th but even though we couldn't celebrate it with you in person, it was good that you helped make this a special day anyway. We thank God for His faithfulness and love throughout all these years and are assured that He will continue to be our Guide. As Pastor Eric ends our worship time each week with this blessing; "May God go before you to lead you, behind you to protect you, beneath you to support you and beside you to befriend you ... Do not be afraid", our prayer is that this will also be our assurance and comfort in the years He has planned for us. Thanks be to God! -Rita & Peter B.

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: This week we have an opportunity to give to 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

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

are supported by a network of volunteers and the Open Homes Hamilton leadership team.

Before Open Homes was founded in 2019, there were only 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. So far Open Homes Hamilton 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.

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 FORGIVENESS OF SINS - What is forgiveness? How can God forgive and be just? Join Groundwork as we study Psalm 103, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Romans 8:1-2, and 1 John 2:1-2 to discover the scriptures that lead us to declare with the Apostles' Creed that we believe in "the forgiveness of sins." Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: "The most powerful choices we will make in our lives are not about specific decisions but about patterns of life: the nudges and disciplines that will shape all our other choices. This is especially true with technology"—from *The Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch (Baker Books). As summer vacation draws near, what technology patterns and disciplines might benefit you or your family? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; <https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation>)

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: ASCENSION DAY: Picture a kite soaring high in a summer sky. "Even though we know scientifically how kites fly, there is still something magical, mysterious, beautiful, and special about the sight of a kite battling back and forth on an invisible breeze, tail twirling in the wind. Talk about how the disciples must have felt seeing Jesus rise to heaven. What emotions would they have felt (nervous, sad, excited, inspired?)" (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

CRC OFFICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE CALL FOR IMMIGRATION STORIES!: During COVID-19, we find ourselves stuck at home - which is a great opportunity to share family stories. Is immigration a part of your family's story? Where did your ancestors come from and when? Join the CRC Office of Social Justice in dusting off these stories while we stay home for a while, by contributing to the "Immigration Is Our Story" series. Visit justice.crcna.org for more info.

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.*"

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Denominational Ministry Shares \$ 20.00	Open Homes Hamilton	Back to God Hour Ministries
Tuition Assistance 10.00		
NewGround 70.00		
Local Christian Schools 20.00		
Canadian Foodgrains Bank 200.00		
World Renew 70.00		
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 4600.00		

DEAR CONGREGATION OF BETHEL CRC:

Thank you for giving generously during this crisis. As coronavirus ravages our world, we see its effects in every context where your missionaries and church planters are at work—your gift comes at a critical time.

Right now, you are helping missionaries, church planters, and other ministry leaders around the world respond. You are standing with them in declaring that gospel mission is essential. Your gift helps keep ministry going both here in North America and in countries overseas.

Your ministry leaders depend on mission-minded people like you—they can't stay on the field without you! Thanks to your support, new Christians still have someone to walk alongside them during this crisis. Missional leaders have mentors and resources to adapt to the new needs in their communities. And people are hearing the message of the gospel, some of them for the first time.

We are grateful that you are continuing to care for your ministry leaders. You can stay updated on how Resonate is responding to the coronavirus crisis and read stories of God at work on a special page on our website. Visit www.resonateglobalmission.org/covid19 for news, prayer requests, and more. Thank you for all you do!

In Christ,



Kevin DeRaaf
Acting Canada Director

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 sixth Sunday of Easter is the spiritual practice of "Care of the Earth." The desire behind this practice is "to honor the Creator by loving, nurturing and stewarding his creation." (Calhoun, p.202). Spring is a wonderful season to consider this practice.

We sometimes gloss over the great delight God demonstrates in Genesis 1 as he unfolds the creation day by day. The Bible writer tells us that God stood back to look at his creation and "saw that it was good." (Gen.1:4, 10, 12, 18, 25, 31) What the writer is referring to is not a moral goodness but a goodness related to beauty, praise-worthiness and magnificence in quality and creativity. These are characteristics that produce delight in God and generally most of us. We respect God's creation not only because we are asked to steward this world carefully and respectfully by God but also because of God's own delight in what he has made.

This practice includes a familiar list of environmentally friendly activities such as protecting the earth's natural resources for future generations, working against pollution, using energy supplies wisely, recycling, reusing, repurposing and sensitivity to land depletion. Something as simple as choosing to walk or ride a bike when possible rather than a vehicle is a practical outworking of this discipline.

In this season of Easter, we look ahead to the time when all things will be made new, "in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God." (Romans 8:21) – 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...		
TUESDAY MAY 19	7:00 PM	Admin Council (Remote)

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	bethelcrlcldn@gmail.com
Office Hours: Friday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Bulletin Deadline: Thursday by Noon.	