



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

NEXT WEEK: MAY 31, 2020 – PENTECOST SUNDAY & LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN – (3) We celebrate Pentecost Sunday on which we mark the coming of the Holy Spirit in abundance upon the early church and us! Also, we take up part three 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.

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.

• Our Christian sympathy is extended to **Nelly and Gerry DW.** and their family in the passing of Nelly's mother, Johanna Reyneveld, a week ago Friday.

• Please pray for **Keith and Alie V.** as their son-in-law Jeff (married to Jennifer) received the difficult news that the chemotherapy treatments had not been effective. At this time, no further treatments are being received. Please pray for Jeff, Jennifer, their children and all their loved ones.

• 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.

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: Think Christian - Robert, a pastor in the United States, recently shared that his family watched every Star Wars movie while isolating themselves amid the COVID-19 pandemic. After watching, they used Think Christian's resources to guide their biblical discussions. Pray that families will find many meaningful and creative ways to engage in God's Word despite being isolated.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES: Churches - Pray for churches planning and leading worship amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Give thanks for new and creative ways to worship and for technology that allows the church to connect. Pray for courage and strength for all who struggle. May the church be a lighthouse in this dark time, and may we work together to spread the gospel of hope and peace.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: QUESTIONS - Pray for young adults on university campuses who are struggling with questions of faith and what it means to be part of a church community. Pray that Resonate campus ministries will be a safe place for them to wrestle with their doubts and questions. Ask God to provide clarity amid confusion.

WORLD RENEW: BANGLADESH: In parts of Bangladesh access to food is an increasing concern for many people. While the Bangladeshi government recently introduced a financial stimulus package, it does not include direct cash transfers to people in poverty. Without jobs, many are suffering. Pray for the vulnerable families of Bangladesh.

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE: For all of us but especially as Canadians, pray for local, national, and global leaders as they take up the Romans 13 call to be servants for our good, and ask God to give them extra measures of strength and wisdom during this time of crisis.

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 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.

LITERATURE...If you miss your hard copy of the Today booklet or the Banner and do not have access to them on line, please reach out to your elder to coordinate a dropoff or mailing of the paper copies.

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.

THANK YOU: to all who participated in the drive by last Saturday. John and I were completely surprised by all those who showed up. It really made our 50th wedding anniversary so special. Thank you also for all the cards, telephone calls and best wishes we received. We really felt blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Thank you, Jennie and Jan DV

DIRECTORY UPDATE: E-mail address for Henry Kooy: henrykooy12@gmail.com

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACK TO GOD HOUR MINISTRIES: Back to God Ministries International exists to use God's story to reframe the lives of seekers, believers, and long-time believers around the world. As you navigate this time of anxiousness and the unknown, it is our prayer that the resources from [ReFrame Media](#), our English ministry, will bring peace to your life and to the lives of your loved ones. Know also that BTGMI's international

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

ministries are providing similar content in nine other languages for believers and seekers around the world who are also struggling. The only reason Back to God Ministries International can continue sharing the Gospel is because of the support of people like you. We need your unique gifting and skills to keep this work going. Without your prayers, this ministry would not happen. This week you also have an opportunity to donate to this ministry.

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

2020 ICF WALK OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE: Everyone is invited to support Indigenous Christian Fellowship by going for a walk on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. People are invited to pray and walk in a spirit of faith, hope and love to bless the ministry. Walkers are encouraged to raise funds for the ministry by gathering pledges for their steps of support for ICF. Traditionally this 5 km walk has been based at the ministry's location in North Central Regina. Due to the current restrictions on public gatherings, people are encouraged to walk a distance in a location of their own choosing across the country.

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 BODILY RESURRECTION AND EVERLASTING LIFE - What does this statement mean we believe? Join us as we study Job 19:25-26, 1 Corinthians 15:20, 35-54, Revelation 21:1-5, and John 5:24-30 to discover what this means and conclude our study of the Apostles' Creed. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: Although mealtime often serves as a reminder to pray, we can get into ruts about what to pray about. Mealtime placemats like these downloadable versions from Flame Creative Children's Ministry (tinyurl.com/FlamePlacemats) provide prompts for young children. What might you include on a place mat for older children . . . or yourself? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; <https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation>)

SERVE 2020 - SERVE@Home - In light of the current pandemic situation, Youth Unlimited has made some changes to this year's SERVE program. Rather than sending students across the country to serve, SERVE@Home equips local churches and home congregations to serve in their home communities. Groups who participate in SERVE@Home will receive resources from Youth Unlimited to make the week more than just a community service project. Learn more at www.youthunlimited.org/covid-19-creates-opportunity-for-new-servehome-outreach-program/

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.

SAFE CHURCH WEBINAR: May 27 - On Wed May 27 at 12 PM Eastern, Safe Church is hosting a webinar with Chuck DeGroat, author of When Narcissism Comes to Church: Healing Your Community From Emotional and Spiritual

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Denominational Ministry Shares 80.00	Back to God Hour Ministries	Resonate Global Mission
Back to God Hour 80.00		
NewGround 200.00		
Resonate Global Mission 50.00		
World Renew 600.00		
Open Homes Hamilton 150.00		
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 2470.00		

Abuse. The webinar will take place via Zoom and Facebook Live. Learn more at network.crcna.org/safe-church/safe-church-webinar-chuck-degroat-author-when-narcissism-comes-church

SHALEM: As first steps are beginning to be announced regarding plans for the re-opening of Ontario's economy, we are seeing a gradual re-opening of business and services which no doubt is very welcome news for many! But as the pandemic is unfortunately still in effect, re-openings will need to continue to maintain safe practices of physical distancing, implementation of PPE and sanitizing as much as possible. Some of you may have heard Doug Ford's announcement that "in-person counselling" support may be resumed, so I wanted to provide you with another update regarding Shalem's services. As an essential service, Shalem did not experience any disruptions as we have been providing all services over the past 2 months through virtual platforms. With this announcement, we are now in consultation with other Family Service agencies and professional practice Colleges who all are advising to continue to provide services through virtual means only, as yet, as we work toward a very gradual return to in-person services. We will continue to post updates on our website as new developments occur, to make everyone aware of how our services will continue to be customized to ensure best practice support for all clients and staff. <https://shalemnetwork.org/news/shalems-precautions-to-covid-19> Please feel welcome to continue to contact us during regular business hours for support as needed. We are grateful for the feedback from many people, letting us know that they are becoming more comfortable with receiving service support through virtual means (and so also hope to continue to offer virtual support as requested even after in-person services resume!)

INDWELL: Join Indwell communities across southern Ontario on Friday, June 12 for an informative, fun virtual gala from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. You'll catch a glimpse into our current and upcoming affordable housing communities as we travel together across southern Ontario. Register at indwell.ca by this Wednesday, May 27 to receive a special package before our event.

ENDNOTES: Today is the last Sunday of the Easter season. We have been aligning ourselves with this season's celebration of new life and a new way of life together by considering 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 seventh Sunday of Easter is the spiritual practice of "Submission." The desire behind this practice is "to have Jesus as the Master of my life in absolutely every way." (Calhoun, p.135). For Christians in our spiritual tradition this practice fits nicely with our marking of Jesus' Ascension and our worldview by which we stress vigorously that all of life and creation belongs to Jesus. As a theologian in our tradition famously stated, 'There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!' (A. Kuyper)

In Romans 12:1 Paul encourages his readers with these words: "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship." Philippians 2 as well beautifully describes Jesus in his own willingness become a servant. As people trying to learn and practice the discipline of submission, we engage in such things by seeking God's will; allowing others to mentor, disciple, teach, correct and guide us; being a good follower; setting aside the need to be in charge and being an eager learner who is trainable and pliable.

What greater gift can we give each other and God himself than to engage in mutual submission that is grounded in knowing Jesus is our Master and our friend!

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 26	7:00 PM	Full Council (Virtual)

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.	