

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 31, 2020: PENTECOST SUNDAY & LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN (3) We celebrate Pentecost Sunday! Today 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. The message will again be on video on the website or available through an email link.

NEXT WEEK: JUNE 7, 2020: LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN (4) Moving forward with our series based on Paul's prison letter to the Philippians, we reflect on the familiar and powerful words of servanthood expressed in the first 11 verses of chapter 2.

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.

- So far each week we have listed several prayer prompts regarding COVID-19. We now are being encouraged to create our own list that we can use in personal or table devotions throughout the week. By checking the news or through your personal knowledge of needs, create a list of

three Covid-19 requests. If you need some prompting initially, you can consult previous bulletins.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- Our Christian sympathy is extended to **Peter A.** with the loss of a brother-in-law Keith Koke of Chatham. (Keith was married to Peter's sister Marty, who passed on just last November).
- Pray for **Rita P.** in the loss of her mother Diane Lucas of Orillia this past Thursday. We pray for God's comfort and hope to surround Rita and her family.
- Please pray for **Keith and Alie V.** as their son-in-law Jeff (married to Jennifer) who at this time is receiving treatments. Please pray for Jeff, Jennifer, their children and all their loved ones.
- Pray for **Mary-Lynn MC.** as she continues to deal with pain and concussion symptoms caused by a recent fall.
- Pray for **Bronson G.'s** mother, Jane, who began chemotherapy last Friday.
- 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 Bernie & 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>)

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: PENTECOST - Give thanks that the Holy Spirit is now living in us! Ask the Spirit to guide Resonate ministry leaders and CRC congregations as we join God on mission. Pray that we will be attentive to the Holy Spirit and follow wherever the Spirit leads.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: BURKINA FASO - Because a Christian pastor was one of the first people in Burkina Faso to contract COVID-19, tensions between Muslims and Christians have grown worse recently. Pray for peace in and for God's work in this situation.

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY: CHANGES - Give thanks as students, faculty, and staff have adjusted to moving online for all courses of instruction. Pray for graduating students and their families and for students seeking summer placements during this uncertain time.

WORLD RENEW: EAST AFRICA - While the world focuses on the COVID-19 pandemic, East Africa is battling the worst invasion of desert locusts in decades. Travel restrictions, limited funds, and other barriers have made responses to this disaster very difficult. Pray for communities hit by this disaster, and ask that we may continue to serve them.

SAFE CHURCH MINISTRY: SAFETY - "Stay at home" orders may increase safety during a pandemic, but not for everyone. Domestic violence and child abuse can make home a dangerous place for some family members, especially vulnerable children. Ask God to protect

all who are at greater risk of harm by staying home. Pray for healthy, loving families, and for God's mercy and grace for all.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER MEETING: Join with other Bethel members for a prayer meeting by Zoom on Tuesday June 2nd at 7pm. If you are interested, please email the church or Steve tB for the invitation information.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY – WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30 – LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN: Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 for a discussion of the previous Sunday's message. Look for an email each week and/or the Bethel Facebook page for the Zoom link.

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.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSIONS: On Sunday, May 31, churches around the world will celebrate Pentecost! The CRC has designated this Sunday as a time for churches to take up a special offering for the work of Resonate Global Mission.

WORLD RENEW OFFERING: The offering schedule is being changed from **June 28 to June 7** to accommodate a **4X match from the Canadian Government through Canadian Foodgrains Bank**. Your donation will be multiplied to provide food for as many displaced and refugee families as possible. **Your donation of any amount will be matched 4X to provide critical food and hope to families living in crisis.** –*The Deacons*

FROM DISABILITY CONCERNS: Our colleagues at the Office of Social Justice worked with our ministry to put together an action alert for us! Please feel free to forward this far and wide to make sure our voice is heard! <http://dojustice.crcna.org/article/hearusout-canada-edition>

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP SERVICES is hosting a series of Virtual Webinars and are delighted to invite you to join in. Since we are partnered with the CRCNA, there is no charge to listen in or receive the personal follow up that is available.

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

Our current webinars topics are: 1. Planning or Reviewing a Will: Learn the basics, dispel the myths (June 2 at 7pm EST or June 4 at 7pm PST) and 2. Tools of Gift Planning: Maximize your gift, save more Tax (June 9 at 7pm EST, or June 11 at 7pm PST) You can register for any upcoming Webinar on our EVENTS page at <http://www.cssservices.ca/events.php> or simply email info@cssservices.ca to register. Christian Stewardship Services - 800.267.8890 x217 or info@cssservices.ca

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

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: THE WAY OF FOLLY - We know God's perspective is distinctly unlike many of our human expectations. Studying Proverbs to learn how the Bible characterizes a fool and the way of folly in passages like Proverbs 9:13-18 can lead us to a greater understanding of what God desires from us. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: Today, Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Check out thebibleproject.com/explore/holy-spirit/ for a wonderful five-minute video that traces the movement of God's Spirit from Genesis to today. How might you or your family become more aware of the Spirit's work in your everyday life? (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.

WORLD RENEW WEBINAR: Please join World Renew Canada and Diaconal Ministries Canada on Saturday, May 30 from 2:00 to 3:30PM EDT for a webinar on "**Responding to Global Communities in Crisis During a Pandemic**". COVID-19 threatens to disproportionately impact communities around the world already facing extreme poverty. Those displaced by conflict or affected by natural disasters still require the basics such as food, shelter and sanitation. Millions of people are more vulnerable today than just two months ago. Click here to register: https://crcna.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V07WSJT1QvyNIDJf2hElwg

SHALEM: 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. We will

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Back to God Hour 48.67	Resonate Global Mission	World Renew (Canada Foodgrains Bank)
NewGround 48.67		
Resonate Global Mission 48.67		
World Renew 48.67		
Open Homes Hamilton 48.67		
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 2397.00		

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 together across southern Ontario. Register at indwell.ca today!

I AM DAN BRINKMAN, a member of Grace CRC in Chatham, Ontario. My fiancée, Taralyn, and I are currently looking to relocate to London, Ontario in the near future. We will be getting married this summer and are looking for a church to join and also for a home to buy (or rent) in London. If you have any members who are looking to sell their home please feel free to pass my contact information to them. Same with any members who are open to renting out their home (or perhaps a basement apartment) to help us provide the necessary dwelling to get started on our new chapter, marriage, and getting settled into life in London. *(If you can help, please contact the office.)*

ENDNOTES: Today is Pentecost Sunday. We celebrate that the fullness of God's Spirit was poured down on to the early church in abundance. In the church calendar, Pentecost arrives ten days after the celebration of Jesus' ascension and fifty days after Easter. It coincides with the Jewish festival called the Feast of Weeks, a time when people were drawn from many nations to Jerusalem.

The WORSHIP SOURCEBOOK (Faith Alive) states: "In celebrating Pentecost, the church expresses its gratitude for the faithfulness of Christ in fulfilling his promise to send "another counselor" (John 14:16); celebrates the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation; professes its confidence and security in knowing the Spirit's power is available for its mission; and grows in awareness of the immensity of its calling to reach the world with the gospel."(p.693)

During Covid-19 we remain apart on Sundays, unable to mark in ways we were accustomed to special days like Pentecost. However, we can still challenge ourselves to find small but meaningful ways of worshiping and celebrating God's love and presence. The church colour most often used for Pentecost is RED, representing the flames described in Acts 2:3. Here is a suggestion: Find a piece of cloth that is red (or orange or yellow, also symbolizing flames) and hang it out or drape it over a chair. If you put the cloth out this Sunday and leave it there for a few weeks, it can serve as a reminder that it is Pentecost Sunday today and we are journeying through the season of the Spirit.

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 JUNE 2	7:00 PM	Prayer (Virtual)
WEDNESDAY JUNE 3	7:30 PM	Zoom Bible Study

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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.**