

# BETHEL

## *Christian Reformed Church*



Connect . Grow . Care

### \*\*\*NEW\*\*\* NOTE REGARDING MEETING FOR SERVICES:

As of this writing, we are continuing to suspend meeting together in person for Sunday services at Bethel Church.

In light of the change in provincial orders, the Administrative Council met this past week to review various strategies for resuming in-person gathering for worship. As folks who have ventured out for work or shopping understand, things are quite different. You have probably seen the amount of work that has been done in an attempt to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and allow society to still operate. At this point, we are not planning on worshipping at church together until at the earliest **June 28**. Sufficient time is required to review and verify all preparation plans. Any date will be contingent on meeting provincial guidelines and Full council discussion and approval of plans for gathering in person.

As such we will be **looking for volunteers** to join an ad hoc committee to assist in implementing plans. Maybe you can help with making signs, ordering materials, calling people to explain the changes, keeping up -to-date on guidelines. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Steve tB. 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: JUNE 14, 2020:** LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN (4) Moving forward with our series based on Paul's prison letter Philippians, we reflect on chapter 2, verses 12-18. The message will again be on video on the website or available through an email link.

**NEXT WEEK: JUNE 21, 2020:** LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN (6) Our scripture focus will be Philippians 3:1-11.

### 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. \_\_\_\_\_

- Pray for **our students** at Bethel Church. Like so many other things currently, the end of the school year has arrived in a way never before experienced! We congratulate and bless all of our elementary and high school students in completing their respective years under such challenging conditions. We especially single out with joy those students at Bethel (and who have also participated in our Monday evening classes) who have now graduated from their respective schools. We congratulate **Andrew B.** and **Andrew C.** as they have completed their education at London Christian Elementary School and **Nicole tB.** as she has completed her education at London Christian High. May God bless you richly!!
- Pray for **Rita J.** Rita was admitted to University Hospital last Monday with severe pain in her leg and is being treated with strong antibiotics. Additional testing is being conducted.
- Pray for **Trix S.** Trix continues her recovery after being treated for chest pains.
- 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

**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**

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.
- 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.
- Birthday wishes go out to **Andy V.** for his 87th birthday on June 16 and **Joan S.** for her 82nd birthday on June 18.
- Very special best wishes to **Bart & Jean DV.** as they celebrate their 50th anniversary on June 20.

## 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 <http://www.ccnl.org/resources/pray/>)

**SAFE CHURCH MINISTRY: WEBINARS:** Give thanks and pray for our webinar series. In April, Ruth Everhart discussed her book, *The #MeToo Reckoning*. In May we heard from Chuck DeGroat, who wrote *When Narcissism Comes to Church*. Pray that the webinar recordings become helpful resources for churches, and that online book studies lead to additional discussion and learning. Pray for future webinar planning.

**RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: CENTRAL ASIA:** Many Resonate missionaries serve as teachers in Christian schools throughout the world. A Resonate missionary who serves as a teacher in Central Asia asks you to pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of students as he teaches them a biblical worldview.

**WORLD RENEW: HUNGER CRISIS:** Experts predict that the number of people facing food crises in the world may double because of COVID-19. In this time of need, we are reminded of Jesus' call to love our neighbor, and providing food is a demonstration of our love. Please pray that we can continue to respond to this great need and that families will have enough to eat.

**BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: BURKINA FASO:** Djibril is a young man who came to faith in Christ a few months ago, and he recently visited our offices in Burkina Faso to tell his story. Praise God for working in the life of Djibril. Pray that he will continue to grow in faith.

**DISABILITY CONCERNS: PANDEMIC:** Pray for people with disabilities in our churches and society. We have watched with anguish and sadness as our global society has approached the COVID-19 crisis from an ableist perspective. Many of us have not received services that we require. Pray that everyone in need may receive the comfort of the Holy Spirit. We are all broken as we come before God.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 **JULY 25 - NOTE DATE CHANGE** — 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.

**FROM COUNCIL: WAYS TO DONATE:** In the absence of church services, we suggest alternate ways of giving to causes normally covered by Sunday offerings:

1. Print and fill out the PAR form and return it to the church mail slot or talk to Jack Hoekstra.
2. Write a cheque listing the cause(s) you would like to support. Drop your envelope in the church mail slot or mail it to the church office.

### Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

*In making profession of faith?* To talk further, contact Pastor Eric at [pastor.ericqn@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.ericqn@gmail.com).

3. 3. E-Transfer—Interac E-transfer has now been set up for do-nations to the church budget. You can use the email address [bethelcrcdonate@gmail.com](mailto:bethelcrcdonate@gmail.com). Please record your envelope number in the comment field , eg "Env Number 1". Donations received through this method will be added to your annual donation receipt. If you have any questions about this process please call Steve tB.
4. 4. You may also place your donation into your regular weekly offering envelope and put them all in the offering plate when church services resume. Donations will be allocated as per the weekly envelope in which they are submitted.

## REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:** Using the Dwell Curriculum in a COVID-19 World: Zoom Discussion - Wondering how to use the Dwell curriculum this fall? Join Dwell Curriculum Coordinator Jill Benson and other Dwell leaders for a Zoom discussion: Using the Dwell Curriculum in a COVID-19 World on June 16 at 3:30 pm EDT. Register here: <http://ow.ly/CwOf50A3fiB>

**PRAYER REQUEST FROM THE CRCNA:** All Christian Reformed churches and their members are asked to remember the deliberations of the Special Meeting of the Council of Delegates in prayer this week. The COD will be meeting on behalf of synod (which was canceled

because of COVID-19) on June 11 & 12 for advisory committees, and June 16 & 17 for plenary sessions. This includes the approval of this year's candidates for minister of the Word. All decisions from this special meeting will be reported to Synod 2021. Your prayers for wisdom and discernment through the leading of the Spirit are appreciated. - *Colin P. Watson, Sr., Acting Executive Director*

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY:** How has COVID-19 impacted refugees? And what can I do about it? To mark World Refugee Day (June 20th) we have a new video series featuring what's happening in the lives of refugee claimants, sponsored refugees, and displaced people, along with ways we can support and pray. Visit [crcna.org/worldrefugeeday](http://crcna.org/worldrefugeeday)

**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 [cna.org/Covid19](http://cna.org/Covid19).

**GROUNDWORK:** WHY, GOD, WHY? - Why do we suffer? Does God cause bad things to happen? If not, why does he allow them? How can we maintain faith in God when everything is going wrong? Study Job 1-3 with Groundwork to see how the story of Job helps us wrestle with one of life's most difficult questions: the problem of suffering. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Back to God Hour 40.00	<b>Denominational Ministry Shares</b>	<b>Indigenous Ministries</b>
NewGround 220.00		
Resonate Global Mission 360.00		
World Renew 1045.00		
Open Homes Hamilton 40.00		
World Renew Cdn Foodgrains 2705.00		
Fresh Start 200.00		
GEMS 20.00		
Local Christian Schools 20.00		
Redeemer College 10.00		
Diaconate 180.00		
World Renew Hunger 100.00		
Indigenous Ministries 50.00		
Tuition Assistance 120.00		
World Renew Refugee 100.00		
Fellowship Hall Sound System 580.00		
<b>BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020</b>		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 4990.00		

**AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP:** This summer, watch for how God is revealed in creation. Read Psalm 148 for inspiration, then use your five senses when you explore parks, forests, and beaches. Admire the symmetry of a flower, the strength of a tree, or the pattern of a shell. Let the kids in your life teach you about childlike wonder! Available from [FaithAliveResources.org](http://FaithAliveResources.org). (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; <https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation> )

**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 continue to provide services through virtual means only, as yet, as we work toward a very gradual return to in-person services. Please feel welcome to continue to contact us during regular business hours for support as needed. As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [office@shalemnetwork.org](mailto:office@shalemnetwork.org) or by calling 866.347.0041

**SAFE CHURCH WEBINAR:** Have you checked out the Safe Church Webinar series titled Connect, Collaborate and Coordinate to End Abuse? The topic of our June webinar is: How the Church Responds to Those with a Criminal Sexual History. Find the details at <https://network.crcna.org/safe-church/connect-collaborate-coordinate-webinar-june-2020-how-church-responds-those-criminal>

**ENDNOTES:** One of the lectionary readings in the church calendar scheduled for the second Sunday past Pentecost includes the story of the wise and foolish builders (see Matthew 7). It is a lesson that sometimes can be quite vivid; think last Wednesday’s storm and tornado sightings near Belmont.

But the main point of this parable-story of Jesus is always useful for us to contemplate. Are we building our lives on a solid foundation that can withstand the storms or are we foolishly building on sand, on things that can’t last, on things that lack stability and longevity? Maybe our journey through this Covid-19 time has given us pause and allowed us to re-consider what it is that makes up our most reliable foundation. It is never an inappropriate time to re-examine what is sand and what is rock in our lives—and to recommit ourselves to gravitating to that which is most solid. Psalm 46 makes it clear that God is “our rock and our refuge.”

*“When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.”* (Matthew 7:28-29) **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...		
<b>TUESDAY</b> JUNE 16	7:00 PM	Zoom Admin Council
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> JUNE 10	7:30 PM	Zoom Bible Study

**Pastor Eric Groot-Nibbelink:** 519.453.0767 (*church study*) [pastor.ericgn@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.ericgn@gmail.com)  
**Chair of Council:** Steve te Bokkel 519.461.0853 [stevet8566@yahoo.com](mailto:stevet8566@yahoo.com)  
**Office Admin:** Barb Wesselius 519.453.6565 [bethelcrlcldn@gmail.com](mailto:bethelcrlcldn@gmail.com)  
**Office Hours: Friday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM** Bulletin Deadline: **Thursday by Noon.**