



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. Adequate notice will be given for resuming worship in the church building. Sufficient time is required to review and verify all preparation plans. Any specific 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 21, 2020: LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN (6) We continue learning what we can as we remember the Apostle Paul's own lockdown in Rome as he penned his letter to the church in Philippi. Today's Scripture is from the letter to the Philippians, reflecting on chapter 3, verses 1-11. The message will again be on video on the website or available through an email link.

NEXT WEEK: JUNE 28, 2020: LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN (7) Moving forward with our series based on Paul's prison letter Philippians, we reflect on chapter 3, verse 12 to chapter 4, verse 1.

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. Last week we congratulated our elementary and high school students on completing their respective school years, as well as the graduates. This week we recognize Yoel Emun who graduated from McMaster University with a "Masters of Applied Science in materials engineering" degree and Alex Rowaan from the University of Waterloo with a "Bachelor of Mathematics, Honours Computer Science, Honours Mathematics/Teaching" degree. May God bless you in your future endeavours. Pray for **Rita J.** Rita after being in University Hospital for several days due to severe pain in her leg is now recovering at home.
- 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 and all their loved ones.

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**

- 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 continues 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.

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/>)

CANADIAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES COMMITTEE: National Indigenous Peoples Day Pray for the CRC as it journeys toward reconciliation. Ask God to show us the broken places that need healing, help us to confront the areas of misunderstanding that need clarity, and bring us together as one body with many members. May God make the church a channel of his peace.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: EASTERN EUROPE: A Resonate missionary in Eastern Europe asks you to pray for fruitful trainings for church planters. Ask God to work through the trainings to mentor and equip more Christian leaders for his kingdom.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: MEXICO: A television station in Mexico reached out to our Spanish-language ministry to ask for a special Sunday-service program in light of COVID-19. The video had more than 18,000 viewers in Mexico. Praise God for this opportunity to reach people with God's good news in a time of suffering.

WORLD RENEW: UGANDA AND KENYA: While much of the world focuses on the virus pandemic, East Africa is battling the worst invasion of desert locusts in decades. Pray for wisdom for our staff as they navigate virus-related issues that limit community action and make it difficult to address this threat that is devastating crops in these countries. Ask God to protect the communities affected by this disaster.

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: Already a total of \$1030.00 has been collected for the proposed upgrading of the sound system in the Fellowship Hall. This is fantastic news!! The system will cost between \$8000-9000. Donations are gratefully accepted.

YARD SALE: Due to the slow re-entry to normal life, the yard sale is postponed to **SEPTEMBER 12** with the proceeds going to the Fellowship Hall sound system. 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. to make arrangements to drop your donation off or have it picked up.

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 H..
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.
3. E-Transfer—Interac E-transfer has now been set up for do-nations to the church budget. You can use the email address bethelcrrdonate@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. 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.

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

INDIGENOUS MINISTRY SUNDAY: Today is Indigenous Ministry Sunday. Thank you for recognizing it with us! The Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee works with congregations to create reconciled relationships as covenant (treaty) people before our Creator, with focus on reconciling the relationship between Indigenous people and non-indigenous people in Canada. Contact us anytime! cimc@crcna.org

YOUNG ADULTS! In the midst of these unprecedented times, the Fanshawe Campus Ministry wants(ed) to let you know we're here for you. We have been working hard to move our campus ministry online and this means, ANY young adult is invited to join us for our ministry events and connect with other young adults from the comfort of your home this fall. Our first event is a Kick-Off Virtual Event on Wednesday, September 16th, if you register by September 1st, you'll receive a party package filled with fun treats and surprises. To sign up, email us at info@fanshawecampusministry.com Be sure to follow us on Facebook (Fanshawe Campus Ministry) Be sure to follow us on Facebook (Fanshawe Campus Ministry), check out our website www.fanshawecampusministry.com or email us to learn about our small groups and for updates throughout the summer

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

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: IS GOD PUNISHING ME? - During times of suffering we long to know why and seek biblical explanations for our experiences. Join Groundwork in studying Job 4 -8 to examine and test against scripture our most common questions as we try to explain and understand experiences of suffering. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

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>

SEEKING GOD IN SUFFERING: "Seeking God in Suffering" is a four-week, inspirational devotional series from Today. How do we respond when faced with difficulties? Let stories of grief, healing, and community inspire you to seek God in trials. Subscribe at todaydevotional.com/seekinggod

DISABILITY CONCERNS LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT 2020: Join us August 5th and 6th for our annual leadership training event. This year we will be hosting it online! The theme for our conference this year is agility. To find out more about the event, and to register please visit <https://network.crcna.org/disability-concerns/save-date-disability-concerns-annual-conference>

CELEBRATE CANADA DAY BY GROWING HOPE: As we celebrate Canada's birthday this year, World Renew would like to say "thank you" to the Government of Canada and supporting churches for growing hope by helping people around the world overcome hunger and poverty. On a Sunday near Canada Day (July 1), we invite generous churches like yours to help train farmers in Tanzania and Kenya through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) conservation agriculture program, teaching them valuable new skills. Every dollar donated is matched 3:1 by the Canadian government!

INDWELL: Wow. What an incredible evening we had on Friday as we celebrated Hope@Home, Indwell's first virtual

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Back to God Hour 20.00	Indigenous Ministries	
Denominational Ministry Shares 60.00		
World Renew 20.00		
World Renew Cdn Foodgrains 840.00		
Fresh Start 25.00		
Diaconate 20.00		
Indigenous Ministries 40.00		
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 3550.00		

gala. Not only did we have a great time as over 1,300 people tuned in—and many of you interacted in the comments!—but we also received over \$100,000 in donations and sponsorships. Amazing! I want to say a sincere thank you for your phenomenal support. You—our community—are what makes Hope and Homes a reality for so many people across Southern Ontario.

THE CELEBRATION OF LEARNING ONLINE:

Each semester, London Christian High puts on a Celebration of Learning where students display and present their work to parents and community members. Although our school building has been closed, we still wanted to celebrate a semester of learning, and so we've taken some examples of learning that have happened during the lockdown and put them into this [video!](#) We hope you enjoy the projects. Please note that this is not everything we have to show you, we also have some publications created by students that are difficult to capture in a video. To see these, please go to our [blog](#).

Dear Supporting Churches,

We hope and trust this email finds you and your congregations healthy and well! We praise God for His abundant provisions during this time of Remote Learning at London Christian High. Within a few days of the government's order to close schools due to COVID-19, our team here at LCH transitioned our entire learning platform to remote learning. This transition is an incredible testimony to God's faithfulness and the strength and flexibility of our team. We thank God for each and every staff member at LCH and for our students and parents who partnered with us every step of the way. And now, after 13 weeks of remote learning, we have made it to summertime. Thank you, our supporting churches, for remembering our students in your prayers. As we move into summer, there are a few things that we'd like to share with you in celebration of this semester, our Celebration of Learning and our LCH 2020 Graduation, both celebrated virtually in light of this time of pandemic. We hope that these celebrations will bring glory to God and celebrate His faithfulness to us. We pray that your church family has a relaxing and restorative summer and that you will find rest in God's peace and love over the summer months. Thank you for your ongoing support of London Christian High. - *Gabriella Hoogstra VP of Operations*

ENDNOTES: One of the lectionary readings in the church calendar scheduled for the third Sunday past Pentecost includes the story of Genesis 12:1-9. It is the story of Abraham and Sarah. They enter God's story in Genesis rather abruptly, as if just dropped in. Their sudden appearance and this chapter are indicative of a new beginning, a call to go to a new place and a summons to be God's partners in blessing the nations, blessing those around them. In our challenging times today, we can find many parallels between Genesis 12, Abraham and Sarah and our stories. In many ways as a society and as a church we are facing what some might see as a new beginning, a new opportunity that we have been abruptly thrust into. We can see ourselves as being called to go to a place we've never been before, a Covid-19 shaped world. In this new world (as has actually always been the case) we are being summoned by God to be his partners in blessing those around us with God's good news, the gospel of Jesus Christ. Are we ready to be part of a new beginning?

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 23	7:00 PM	Full Council Meeting
WEDNESDAY JUNE 24	7:30 PM	Zoom Bible Study

Pastor Eric Groot-Nibbelink: 519.453.0767 (*church study*) 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: By Request Bulletin Deadline: **Thursday by Noon**

BETHEL CRC LONDON, SUMMARY MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL

Tuesday May 26, 2019 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom

Present: Steve tB., Rose S., Pastor Eric, Richard B., Fred DV., Ron H., John VT., Arie R., Harry J., Denise C., Janet and Ray B.

Absent: John P.,

Opening Devotions and Prayer by Arie R reading Philippians 4:4-9

Opening Items

Motion by John VT. to approve agenda and FC minutes, April 14, 2020; seconded by Arie R.; all in favour; agenda and minutes were approved

Administrative Items

- Simple time for staying connected – personally catching up with each other
- Renewal Lab Fall of 2020 – Steve states that Bethel may be hosting an information session in the fall; Pastor Eric states that he remains in contact with Keith D.; Pastor Eric also stated that a Classis meeting may be coordinated for Sept 22, 2020
- COVID-19 –cleaning of Bethel continues; meetings being held via zoom, sermons online with good response, recent sermon from pulpit was well received
- Nominations – Ron H states that nominations are still on hold
- Green Space Team update - Steve will meet with team with goal to provide clarity to be defined on the current proposal for the green space property
- Pastoral Evaluation Update – evaluation team, Jake L, Henry K and Steve t; report/summary created from candid, gracious and ongoing conversations; the executive summary of the report reviewed with the AC; questions regarding the process can be directed to Pastor Eric or Steve
- Congregational Meeting related items– Reviewed congregational 2019 yearend financial summary and deacons’ financial statements; estimated 2019 budget income was at \$222,000; actual budget income received was \$207,000 - below budget but acceptable, Rose S. explains questions surrounding the breakdown of deacons accounts covering community needs/outreach; church’s account more administrative but in accordance with historical practice; this was also confirmed by Ron H as practice from other CRC; Motion by Peter O to accept Congregational Minutes of Meeting, Wednesday, Dec 11, 2019; seconded by John VT; all in favour; carried; FC tasks AC to draft a letter to be sent out to members along with the Congregational Minutes of Meeting, Wednesday, Dec 11, 2019 and financial documents

Misc.

- The Story – To clarify that when time allows “The Story” will resume at Chapter 23 both in the Sermon and in small groups
- Sermons/Songs on You Tube – Richard B suggests listening to a sermon by David Henneke Podcast; Gospel Christian songs by Hillsong Worship suggested by Rose Sk i.e. “What A Beautiful Name, I Surrender” etc.
- No Smoking/Vaping signs required by city by-law to be given to Steward Committee

Ministry Items

- Surprise the World book– discussed Chapter 4 and the blessing of sharing a meal together, being open and authentic, reflecting on pgs. 54 & 55 on judging and accepting differences; Chapter 5 to be read for next meeting

Reports

1. Pastor Eric – summarizes weekly messages/activities/events, and phone calls made; free audit ministry course in a COVID-19 Shaped World; appreciation expressed for elders delivering bulletins/sermons to those who do not have access to online versions

2. AC – Steve reports on status of pastoral evaluation; potential Renewal Lab in the fall; states that minutes are in drop box; conversation with Jan DV that church finances look positive and that the different options for donating to the church are working well
3. Shepherding Elders – Peter refers to John VT’s question “How Are You Responding to COVID-19”; Peter is thanked for his delivering of bulletins/sermons; states members enjoy receiving them; states that elders are completing phone calls to members and that all members have been contacted
4. Deacons – Denise C reports on Ark Aid, June 14th ; Denise states that food needs to be prepared in a commercial kitchen under Health & Safety guidelines; simple foods like sandwiches, juice boxes to be brought to Ark Aid, assembled there and staff will hand out food; 4 people for 100 people can prepare food in 2 hrs; suggests Ward 4 to volunteer; Denise will place write up in bulletin and on Facebook; Arie R reports on Salvation Centre of Hope ministry with no problems and received blessings for their presence; need 6 people to volunteer; contact Arie for information; Harry J states that government is supporting World Renew Canadian Food Grain Bank by 4 times an offering on June 7th in place of originally Sunday offering; Harry states that he will place a write up in email, in the bulletin and on Facebook; offering can be made on link to donate to World Renew Canadian Food Grain Bank; Harry further reports ministry downtown of meals, blankets and housing assistance
5. WPT – Denise C advises that present musician Jessica H will be retired in July; suggestion offered by Pastor Eric through Google Documents of obtaining students from LCHS, Good News Church musicians to cover shortage; future zoom meeting to discuss further options/direction
6. Stewards – Peter reports that painting around baseboards inside of church and upkeep of grounds continuing; Peter will check on whether air-conditioner is on automatic and if no smoking/vaping signs are installed
7. Safe Church – Richard B states there is no report at this time

Next FC Meeting: June 23, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

Closing Prayer by Harry J @ 9:05 pm