

BETHEL

Christian Reformed Church



Connect . Grow . Care

At the Full Council meeting this past Tuesday, it was decided that Bethel would not be meeting for in-person worship until, at the earliest, Sunday August 9th. The final decision for confirming or moving that date again would be determined at the Full Council meeting in late July based on the best information available at that time. This decision came after a lengthy discussion on the subject, including reviewing some of the local authority recommendations, peer church decisions and discussing the Bethel situation.

Despite not meeting each Sunday at church, it is important that we are deliberate and regular in our worship time at home. Please continue to read Pastor Eric's reflections and watch his weekly message on you tube.

Please contact your elder if you need alternate arrangements. Some members have connected with each other through a small, physically-distant gathering time outdoors. To stay in touch you might consider joining the Wednesday night Zoom study, or possibly the Sunday at 11 zoom coffee time. Continue to check the website or Facebook page for relevant documents

You should have no reason to go, but if you do have a definite need to be in the church, please review the questions posted on the doors prior to entry. If you do feel you can enter, practice good hygiene and wash your hands. Stay 2m away from anyone else who happens to be there.

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 28, 2020: LESSONS FROM LOCK-DOWN (7) 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, verse 12 to chapter 4, verse 1. The message will again be on video on the website or available through an email link.

NEXT WEEK: JULY 5, 2020: LESSONS FROM LOCK-DOWN (8) Moving forward with our series based on Paul's prison letter Philippians, we reflect on chapter 4, verses 2—9.

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 **Rita J.** Rita continues her recovery at home after experiencing severe leg pain.
- Please pray for **Keith and Alie V.** as their son-in-law Jeff (married to Jennifer) who continues treatments but is in a weakened condition. Please pray for Jeff, Jennifer, their children and all their loved ones.
- Pray for **Clara B.** After not feeling well for a number of weeks, Clara was hospitalized for a few days this week for some assessments. She returned home this past Thursday.
- 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 **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**

- **THANK YOU** for the phone calls, visits, and cards for my birthday. It was truly appreciated. - *Joan Stegeman.*
- **ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH PERSONAL ISSUES?** As we pray for each other, remember we are a CAP Church. CAP is an anonymous, confidential, professional counselling service - given at no cost to you. Simply call Shalem at 866-347-0041. They'll work with you to help get the support you need.

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/>)

WORLD RENEW: HAITI: World Renew is launching a short-term disaster response in Haiti to control the spread of COVID-19. Community and church leaders will be trained to lead awareness campaigns in their communities. Radio stations will broadcast messages about COVID-19, informative flyers will be distributed, and families will receive soap and hand sanitizer. Please pray that these efforts will help prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Haiti.

YOUTH UNLIMITED: SERVE 2020: Youth Unlimited has launched SERVE@Home, an opportunity for youth and other members of their congregation to participate in mission work this summer in their local contexts. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it impossible for churches to travel to SERVE sites, so we pray that this ministry will bring students together to minister in their communities and be strengthened in faith.

RAISE UP: EDUCATIONAL CARE: INNOVATION: From an African school that participated in Educational Care: "Before we closed school, children were happy, especially knowing everything we own belongs to God [as learned in Educational Care]. Amid the disruptions due to COVID-19, we are grateful for the blessings of

technology that help us keep in touch with our partners, and we can use this time to strengthen our resources. Pray for wisdom to be innovative as we move forward into a new reality."

CHAPLAINCY AND CARE MINISTRY: Care amid crisis - During these unprecedented times, chaplains are providing pastoral care on the frontlines in hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, hospice settings, military installations, and workplaces. They provide hope, healing, and connection to God in the midst of grief and isolation. Pray for strength, health, and safety for our 147 chaplains as they minister to thousands of people each week.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: WEST AFRICA: Resonate missionaries in West Africa ask you to pray for peace in the region, where ethnic tensions often cause violence. Ask the Prince of Peace to bring an end to the conflicts there.

WORLD RENEW: CLIMATE CHANGE: World Renew has joined a group of Canadian churches, development agencies, and faith-based organizations in a new strategic response to climate change called "For the Love of Creation—A Faith-Based Initiative for Climate Justice." They aim to engage people in action and dialogue through theological reflection, local and congregational engagement, and political advocacy. Join us in praying that everyone involved will grow in their understanding and faith in God, including a greater commitment to care for creation as God intends.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: Today devotionals - Pray with Shawn, who reads the Today devotionals and wrote us to say, "I'm a new Christian, and I'm born again! I ask that you pray for me, that the Lord will continue to have his way in my life and will give me a continued hunger for his Word!"

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANCELLED THIS WEEK due to CANADA DAY! **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN** will not be available. (Next week again - Please join us on WEDNESDAY 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: To date a total of \$1030.00 has been collected for the proposed upgrading of the sound system in the Fellowship Hall. The estimated cost of the new system will be between \$8000-9000. Donations are gratefully accepted. The proceeds of the planned **YARD SALE**, currently planned for **SEPTEMBER 12**, will also be going to the Fellowship Hall sound system. Please continue to save your donations

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

and talk to a member of the Brd of Stewards or Ben S. for more info.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: CONSOLING THE SUFFERING - Sometimes our attempts to console suffering friends and loved ones with biblical truths do more harm than good. Join Groundwork in studying Job 32-34 to discover where we might run into trouble, how we can more faithfully represent God, and more lovingly comfort the suffering. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

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>

.AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP - The Examen is a helpful daily prayer tool that Christians have used for hundreds of years to review their day in a godly way. This is a great bedtime practice for people of all ages. A simplified Examen looks like this: First, pray that God will give you insight. Then ask yourself two questions: "What was I most grateful for today?" and "What was I least grateful for today?" Close in prayer, thanking God

for the blessings of the day, and asking God's help with your shortcomings. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

CHURCH PLANTING IS A NEW PRIORITY FOR THE CRCNA: Recently adopted by the Council of Delegates, church planting is an addition to the fourth priority of the CRCNA's new ministry plan, called Our Journey 2025, to "share the gospel, live it missionally, and plant churches." Resonate leaders, with strong support from other denominational leaders, urged the addition of church planting. Prioritizing church planting will be hard work, but it will help to strengthen the CRCNA and its reach as a denomination. "Church planting is one of the most effective ways to share the gospel and grow the church," said Kevin DeRaaf, acting director of Resonate in Canada. DeRaaf and King note that existing local churches are vital to the denomination, but church plants provide unique opportunities for growth.

"A healthy church planting movement not only spurs multiplication," said DeRaaf. "Church plants are where we are best able to experiment with creative missional approaches, minister within diverse communities, and reach those who may struggle to step into the doors of an established church." *From Cassie Westrate, Resonate Global Mission.*

CONSIDER JOINING US FOR THE 2020 LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR CONFERENCE: Calvin Theological Seminary invites you to its third biennial Loving Your Neighbor Conference, which will be held online July 6-8, 2020. This year's conference is titled "Forming Citizens Of God's Kingdom In Prison And Upon Reentry" and will focus on how churches can support and encourage church members who are in prison, as well as their families and friends. This three-day online conference will provide insight on what the Bible says about caring for those who are incarcerated, information on the current prison system in North America, and practical ministry idea for those in churches. Save the dates and make plans to join us! Learn more and register at <https://www.calvinseminary.edu/academics/loving-your-neighbor-2020>

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Denominational Min Share \$ 235.84	Diaconate	Gift Fund
World Renew Cdn Foodgrains \$ 60.84		
Indigenous Ministries \$145.83		
World Renew \$ 365.84		
Diaconate \$ 100.00		
BETHEL BUDGET—GIVING 2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 5032.00		

CANADA DAY 2020 WILL LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR due to COVID-19 and physical distancing measures. It's been an unprecedented year due to COVID-19 which means many Canada Day celebrations and parades have been cancelled.

But that doesn't mean you can't still celebrate a little – at a safe distance, of course. Take time to give God thanks and praise for our country and all the blessings that go with it. Pray for our leaders as they seek their way through this pandemic.

O Canada! Our home and native land!
 True patriot love in all of us command.
 With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
 The True North strong and free!
 From far and wide, O Canada,
 We stand on guard for thee.

Refrain:

**God keep our land glorious and free!
 O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
 O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.**

2. O Canada! Where pines and maples grow.
 Great prairies spread and lordly rivers flow.
 How dear to us thy broad domain,
 From East to Western Sea,
 Thou land of hope for all who toil!
 Thou True North, strong and free!
 Refrain

3. O Canada! Beneath thy shining skies
 May stalwart sons and gentle maidens rise,
 To keep thee steadfast through the years
 From East to Western Sea,
 Our own beloved native land!
 Our True North, strong and free!
 Refrain

**4. Ruler Supreme, Who hearest humble prayer,
 Hold our dominion in Your loving care;
 Help us to find, O God, in You
 A lasting, rich reward,
 As waiting for the Better Day,
 We ever stand on guard.
 Refrain**

ENDNOTES: This week I was part of a Zoom meeting with a denominational leader and the conversation was about making plans for the fall, including setting up seminars and workshops for renewal for Classis Chatham churches. An important piece in the conversation concerned the many unknowns not just for churches this fall but also for denominational leaders in their giving direction for the future. As always it will need to include some serious listening to churches on the ground in the real-time issues that we will face. It may be that future planning will be LESS about 'the 5 year plan' and MORE about 'what will get us through this three month period and then on through the next. It made me think of a word we had planned to investigate in a special council session this past spring; the word 'liminal.' 'Liminal space' has to do with the in-between time during which you are letting go of some former ways of doing things or thinking and reaching out to grab hold of what's next—but without fully knowing what you are reaching for.

Author Susan Beaumont ("How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going") discusses liminality, saying this about entering this unknown space ... "I don't think it makes it easier, but I think it should make us more hopeful. Every one of the great biblical stories that we delight in is a story of liminality. Every one of our biblical heroes is a story of someone transformed -- who went from an old identity to a new identity. We can see that in the figure of Moses. We can see that in Job and Jonah, in Abraham and Sarah. Everybody is drawn out of, "I was this kind of person in this settled place, and then that identity undid itself and God took me to a new identity.'" (online interview - <https://faithandleadership.com/susan-beaumont-leading-between-season>)

This pandemic has no doubt added to our sense of living in an in-between season. As God leads us through this moment, what might we learn? -EGN

To access Pastor's Eric's regular COVID-19 MEDITATIONS, click here ... <http://www.bethel-crc.ca/blog/covid-19-meditations/>

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL...		
TUESDAY JUNE 30		
WEDNESDAY JULY 1		

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