



BETHEL

Christian Reformed Church

Connect . Grow . Care

At the recent Full Council meeting, 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. To stay in touch you might consider joining the Wednesday night Zoom study, or possibly the Sunday at 11 zoom coffee time. A simple phone call to a Bethel member can also be a meaningful way staying connected and practice the communion of the saints. 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.

TODAY: July 5, 2020. 10 AM –LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN – (8) 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 4, verses 1 to 9.

NEXT WEEK: July 12, 2020. 10 AM –LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN – (9) We will be completing our series based on Paul's prison letter Philippians in the series "Lessons from Lockdown," We will be looking at the Scripture from chapter 4, verse 10 to the end of the chapter.

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.** as she looks to regain some overall strength.
- 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:** Bart and I want to thank all those who came to the drive by for our 50th wedding anniversary, and for all the well wishes we received through cards, phone calls, visits, and flowers. We feel so blessed to be part of a loving church family. You made our day feel very special. Bart and I also like to thank God for His continued faithfulness to us throughout our lives, individually and as a married couple. He has been and will continue to be the source of our strength. Praise be to His wonderful name. *Blessings to all of you, Bart and Jean*
- **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/>)

DISABILITY CONCERNS: Community - We pray for our community as we see the impact of the pandemic on people with disabilities. The need to distance ourselves from one another can lead to overwhelming feelings of isolation, anxiety, and uncertainty. May God continue to remind us that he is always with us, even when the world can seem so broken in its current state. Pray also for guidance for our leaders at this time.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: QUEBEC - Pray for Christian Direction, Resonate's partner organization in Montréal, as the city starts to reopen after coronavirus closings. Pray for their church networks, social service partners, and other institutions as they work to serve

their community.

WORLD RENEW: HONDURAS - The Honduran government has begun designing a plan to open businesses and remove some restrictions despite the country's record-high increase of COVID-19 cases. Join us in praying for the safety and health of our partners in Honduras as they respond in their communities. Pray also for wisdom for government leaders to make good decisions in these difficult circumstances.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: INDIA - On a recent visit to communities reached by our programs in India, ministry staff met a man named Rinku, who demonstrated his talents of writing and singing songs. Praise God for the joyful noise he made! Pray, along with Rinku, that he will find opportunities to use his gifts for God's glory.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: GRADUATES - Pray for children of missionaries—and students that Resonate missionaries teach—who graduated from high school this year. Because of COVID-19, many of them missed out on graduation ceremonies and other end-of-year events. Many will be moving to other countries for university, jobs, and more. Pray for grace in the transition.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOMINATIONS: As you are aware we were requesting nominations for 2 elders and 4 deacons. This process was put on hold due to Covid, Council would now like to resume the process as these 6 members have completed their terms. Please prayerfully consider serving Bethel in this way.— *From Council*

ALARM: The alarm company has called several times in the past few weeks because the alarm in the church has been triggered. Each call requires a member of the Board of Stewards (Ben S.) to go to the church to investigate—sometimes 3 or 4 times a day!! **Please** check that the alarm has been properly set when you leave the church building. If you need a refresher course on how to set the alarm, please talk to Ben S.

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

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY – WEDNESDAY 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.

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

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 set for **SEPTEMBER 12**, will also be going to the Fellowship Hall sound system. Please continue to save your donations and talk to a member of the Board of Stewards or Ben S. for more info.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

GEMS LEADERS, MINISTRY FRIENDS, AND ALL WOMEN are invited to join GEMS for their Online Conference this year. The event will occur on July 30 & 31. Together we will explore what it means to confident in God's Unshakeable Kingdom amidst a season of uncertainty and confusion. Worship, breakout sessions, the debut of the *Friended*. curriculum, online coffee chats, and connection await! Keynote speakers include Bob Goff, Annie F. Downs, Arlene Pellicane, Lynn Cowell, Bruce Martin, Lenae Bulhuis, and Cindy Bultema. The registration rate is \$99 USD/\$133 CAD and includes access to view the event for up to 2 weeks following July 30-31. Find out more and register at gemsgc.org/events/onlineconference/.

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), check out our website www.fanshawecampusministry.com or email us to learn about our small groups and for updates throughout the summer.

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: CHOOSING HOPE IN SUFFERING - When we have every right to lament and despair, what is the source for our continued hope? Join Groundwork as we listen to Job's laments in chapters 13-21 and find out what he declares is the source of his continued hope at a time when it seems all hope is lost. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

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 - "Boredom is a crucial warning sign—as important in its own way as physical pain. It's a sign that our capacity for wonder and delight, contemplation and attention, real play and fruitful work, has been dangerously depleted" from *The Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch (Baker Books). How might you refill those depleted areas at home this week? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

Update on Church Income and Expenses as of June 30 2020

Budgeted Income June 30 2020 \$ 110,660

Actual Income June 30 2020 \$ 84,065

Over (Short) \$ (26,595)

Budgeted Disbursements June 30 2020 \$ 110,660

Actual Disbursements June 30 2020 \$ 89,266

ENDNOTES: If we were to research the passages that are suggested for this Sunday by the church lectionary (a series of suggested passages for each Sunday of the year, used in Christian traditions around the world), the one that I'm sure would catch our attention in our times is this familiar one, words of Jesus: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Under almost any challenging circumstances, the word REST would pop out for us. Under these lasting Covid-19 conditions, the word might pop even louder. Most people are more than weary of this pandemic season in human history. We'd all like to give it rest!

The Bible paraphrase called THE MESSAGE, has an interesting take on these words of Jesus. "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace."

I find that last line intriguing. 'Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.' During this time of enduring pandemic conditions, are we seeking out Jesus regularly and trying to learn from him such that our way of life is not rigid and worry-filled but reflects the unforced rhythms of grace that Jesus teaches? - **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 JULY 7	7:00 PM	Zoom Prayer Meeting
	8:00 PM	Zoom Elders Meeting
WEDNESDAY JULY 8	7:30 PM	Zoom Bible Study

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Office Hours: By Request Bulletin Deadline: **Thursday by Noon**