

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 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.

FOR THE SUNDAYS OF JULY 19, JULY 26 and AUGUST 2: During the Summer season of 2018, Pastor Eric preached a series entitled "Refresh." Just as one might hit the refresh function on our computer screens, we looked at ways to refresh our living for Christ and his Kingdom. While Pastor Eric is on vacation (July 13- Aug 4), we will be revisiting three messages from this series. The videos can be accessed using the link to be published in the bulletin, through the website or an email sent to you.

NEXT WEEK: July 19, 2020. 10 AM – REVISITING 'REFRESH' – The message title is REFRESHING MEDITATION with Scripture readings from Psalm 1:1-2; Ps 63:6; Matt 6:26 and Phil 4:8 (originally presented June 10, 2018). Scripture passages regularly invite us to meditate on (or think on, think through, reflect upon, absorb) what is being communicated. The poet, in Psalm 119:148 expresses this practice through his desire to "...meditate on your promises".

NOTE: Pastor Eric will be on vacation from July 13 – Aug 4.

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

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**

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.
- **ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH PERSONAL ISSUES?** As we pray for each other, remember we are a CAP Church. CAP is an anonymous, confidential, professional counseling 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/>)

PASTOR CHURCH RESOURCES: WISDOM- Gathering for worship, something we often took for granted before the pandemic, continues to bring challenges for pastors and ministry leaders. Pray for wisdom for all who are making decisions about when and how to gather again. Pleasing everyone is impossible. May our congregations and leaders be filled with grace as they find their way back to ministering together in person again.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: ROMANIA- Give

thanks for connections formed by Resonate missionary Steve Michmerhuizen. He connected two ministries to help provide housing for a young man. "The power of networking helps small agencies gain wide access to many resources and make a greater impact in their ministry," said Steve. Pray for ministries as they work together to build God's kingdom.

LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY: GROWTH - Pray for our ethnic leaders who are building relationships to develop young leaders, reaching to expand churches in new places, and dealing with the effects of ministering in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: Burkina Faso- Alima recently professed faith in Christ and has been listening to broadcasts from our French ministry team. Praise God for her growing faith and for the many thoughtful questions she has been asking. Pray also for strength as she faces opposition from her family because of her faith in Christ.

WORLD RENEW: NIGERIA - World Renew community development programs in Nigeria have made significant adjustments to practice social distancing. But interstate lockdowns and restrictions have limited face-to-face monitoring and evaluation, and churches and businesses are struggling to make appropriate adjustments. We ask for prayer for God's leading as we continue to serve people in Nigeria.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: NICARAGUA- Pray for the Nehemiah Center, a Resonate partner in Nicaragua, as they support churches and pastors amid the effects of COVID-19. The coronavirus has hit the country hard. There have been a lot of sick people, many lives lost, and many people struggling to provide for their families.

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY: NEW Program- Pray for the first cohort in our new Doctor of Ministry program, beginning this summer. We have a dozen students from a variety of backgrounds and denominations learning together to become more effective in ministry.

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*

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY – WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 – LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN: Please join us on Wednes-

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

day 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: Donations are gratefully accepted for the proposed upgrading of the sound system in the Fellowship Hall. The estimated cost of the new system will be between \$8000-9000. 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 confide 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 Bulthuis, 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/.

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: GOD ANSWERS JOB - Job gets the

opportunity many of us wish for: God himself enters the conversation and answers him. The experience is a humbling one for Job. Join Groundwork as we study Job 38-42 to see how God answers Job then unpack what God's response teaches us about why bad things happen to good people. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

DISABILITY CONCERNS LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT 2020: We have moved our Annual Leadership Training Event to an online platform. This will take place August 5th and 6th from 11am - 2pm Eastern each day. The theme will be Agility. Here is the link to [the Network article](#) that the DC office will continue to update with further information. Currently, you can register for the event through the link in the Network article, (or here: DC Leadership Training Event 2020) This online training event will be open to everyone. Be sure to take advantage of this free learning opportunity!

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP - "Family is about the forming of persons. . . . While in one sense a person is simply what we are as human beings, we are also able to become—to grow in capacities that are only potentially present within us at first. Family helps form us into persons who have acquired wisdom and courage"—from *The Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch, Baker Books 2017. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

SAFE CHURCH WEBINAR: Why the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study Matters - Safe Church Ministry is hosting the next webinar in our 2020 series on Wednesday, July 29th at 12 pm EDT. The topic will be Why the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study Matters: Implications for Serving Those that Have Experienced Trauma and Adversity. This event will be led by Tara Boer, Safe Church Coordinator of Classis Iakota and Classis Heartland. Join the Zoom meeting at <https://>

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Gift Fund \$ 167.00	Diaconate	Denominational Ministry Shares
Diaconate 380.00		
Denominational Ministry Shares 135.00		
Redeemer University 70.00		
World Renew 440.00		
Indigenous Ministries 25.00		
Fellowship Hall Sound System 750.00		
BETHEL BUDGET GIVING—2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 7260.00		

[crcna.zoom.us/j/97045620205?
pwd=RHRRSng2K2FTL0tYY2N2WE9wdGtIQT09](https://crcna.zoom.us/j/97045620205?pwd=RHRRSng2K2FTL0tYY2N2WE9wdGtIQT09)

* Meeting ID: 970 4562 0205; Password: 541830

DEAR FRIENDS AT BETHEL CRC: Thank you for your gift to support God's mission! And on behalf of all the ministry leaders you partner with, thank you especially for giving during COVID-19. In every country where Resonate missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, volunteers, and others are serving, the coronavirus is making ministry more difficult. Each place has its own story of what happened when the virus hit, the uncertain days of stay-at-home orders and lockdowns, and the tentative first steps toward a new normal. One theme uniting all these stories: we are walking a tough road, and we couldn't do it without you. Special requests for funding, technology assistance, pastoral care, and other needs have poured in—and thanks to support from mission-minded people like you, Resonate has been able to mount a full response. Your ministry leaders are thinking creatively and working tirelessly to keep God's mission a top priority. God's mission is essential as people everywhere search for comfort, community, and support. Thank you for your faithfulness in mission. You can stay updated on how Resonate is responding to the COVID-19 crisis and read stories of God at work at www.resonateglobalmission.org/covid19. Thank you for all you do! - *In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Acting Canada Director*

FROM BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: Thank you, congregation, for your recent gifts and your prayers in support of Back to God Ministries International. Like you, we have found ourselves in a new space because of Covid-19. The digital and social media ministries that BTGMI works in around the world on behalf of your local church have been in the right place at the right *time*. Now in 2020, we find ourselves in a position to share the Gospel around the world via technology when personal contact is limited or forbidden. Please pray for the work of BTGMI, especially in this critical time when many are looking for answers only God can provide through His Son, Jesus. Visit backtogod.net to see how you are helping to share the Gospel, disciple new believers, and strengthen the Church.

DO GOOD: The [Office of Social Justice](#) has released the first of a new [series of podcasts](#), featuring interviews with

a range of people who work to bring about justice in various ways to people in the church and to those around them. The new podcast offers a chance to listen to critically important voices of those who show advocacy and resilience in the face of injustice. To listen to the podcasts, go to <https://anchor.fm/do-justice>

ENDNOTES: I was a little sad this week. I received the news that an elderly couple in my home county of Prince Edward passed on to be fully with God. As happens with some senior couples, they passed within three days of each other. For the first thirteen years of my life they (along with their family of six children) were our next-door neighbours, co-farmers working side by side on shared tasks and great friends for my parents.

Sometimes after a passing, people will quote Psalm 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." It is a verse that can be misunderstood, as if God is somehow pleased with someone's passing. Especially, if you read the whole poem as one piece you see that God's interest is in life and the saving of life. In fact, 'praise for the deliverance from death' is the main theme of the psalm. So what's verse 15 communicating? An alternative way to translate the verse might be "Costly in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." The New Living Translation tries to communicate the underlying meaning by putting it this way "The LORD cares deeply when his loved ones die." Every life is precious to God, even costly and God is interested in preserving and affirming life. In fact, God offered the costly and expensive gift of his Son in order to overcome death, the enemy of life. Even though my former neighbours had lived a long life, I think it was alright for me to be a little sad. "The LORD cares deeply when his loved ones die."- **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 14		
WEDNESDAY JULY 15	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 June 23, 2020 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom

Present: Steve tB, Rose S, Pastor Eric, Peter O, Richard B, Fred DV, Ron H, John VT, Denise C, Harry J, Janet B, Ray B; Special guests Ben S, Gary B

Absent: John P, and Arie R with notice

Opening Devotions and Prayer by Harry J reading John 16:32, Acts 2:46-47, Mark 6:39 & 40 and 1 Thessalonians 3:10

Opening Items

Motion by John VT to approve agenda and FC minutes, May 26, 2020; seconded by Harry J; agenda and minutes were accepted and approved

Administrative Items

- **Green Space** – Special guests Ben S and Gary B presented Green Space proposal. After much discussion, council agreed to further the conversation on selling the greenspace as per the presented proposal with the congregation.
- **Renewal Lab Fall of 2020** – potential hosting on Oct 2 and 3, 2020; Pastor is in contact with Keith Doornbus; more is to follow
- **COVID-19** – The adhoc committee has met, some signs have been added to the church and we could be prepared to meet. With this information, Council members discussed concept of when to re-open service. Reopening will be reviewed at the July 28 meeting but we will not meet until Aug 9 at the earliest.
- **Nominations** – discussion to seek out other nominees to begin the process again
- **Congregational Meeting Update** – Bethel will not have a congregation meeting until fall or until conditions permit

Reports

1. **Pastor Eric** – summarizes weekly events; updates reviewed regarding protocols
2. **AC** – reviewing and maintaining protocols.
3. **Shepherding Elders** – pastoral evaluation completed, cards and bulletin were delivered; suggestion to keep information flowing on website and to keep in touch other each other
4. **Deacons** – Ark Aid went very well as per requirement, downtown missionary needs given; Canadian Food Grains Bank program of 4x by government did very well; meals to be made according to need
5. **WPT** – nothing to report; earliest worship service on Aug 9 2020
6. **Stewards** – cleaning/sanitizing still ongoing/every day by custodians
7. **Safe Church** – webinar June 24 on Sexual trafficking

Next FC Meeting: - July 28, 2020 @ 7:00 pm Closing Prayer by Pastor Eric @ 9:37 pm