

BETHEL

Christian Reformed Church



Connect . Grow . Care

At the Full Council meeting held this past week, it was decided, based on the best information available, that Bethel would not be meeting for in-person worship until Sunday **September 13th**. 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 Sunday 11 AM ZOOM coffee time. A simple phone call to a Bethel member can also be a meaningful way of staying connected and practice the communion of the saints. Continue to check the website or Facebook page for relevant documents..

If you have a definite need to be in the church, please review the questions posted on the doors prior to entry. If you 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: AUGUST 2, 2020. 10 AM – REVISITING REFRESH: This week's message title is REFRESH: BACK TO THE SOURCE and based on Jeremiah 31:25; Psalm 146 (originally presented September 2, 2018). Sometimes what we do to refresh turns out to have little staying power; it is a temporary fix that all too soon evaporates. When we go back to the true source of refreshment, we discover that what we ultimately need originates with our Creator and Saviour working through the Holy Spirit.

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NEXT WEEK: AUGUST 9, 2020. 10 AM – Psalm 85. Pastor Eric will be back from vacation. We will be looking at the suggested reading for August 9 from THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY, which includes a prayer of revival and hope for restoration both rooted in God's faithfulness.

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. _____

- 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.
- **Clara B.** was admitted to Ingersoll Hospital this week and hopes to be home again by today, Sunday. We pray that they will experience God's love and healing powers as we keep both her and Jack in our prayers.
- Pray for **Bronson G.'s** mother, Jane, who continues chemotherapy.
- 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**

• **Birthday wishes** go out to these special people:

1. **Jack H.** celebrates his 81st on August 3
2. **Art S.** celebrates his 93rd on August 4
3. **Peter A.** celebrates his 85th on August 7

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/>)

GLOBAL COFFEE BREAK: NEEDS AND PLANS: Pray for our global partners who are still facing hardships due to the pandemic. Pray for wisdom and discernment as we find ways to resource our partners for their discipleship and evangelism needs. Pray for upcoming plans for conferences and the release of new studies.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: HONG KONG: Our Chinese ministry partners with a radio ministry in Hong Kong to produce an audio format of the Today devotions in Cantonese. Pray for this Cantonese-speaking audience and for our continued opportunity to reach them as we all navigate substantial changes in this part of the world.

WEDNESDAY (RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: MICHIGAN: Give thanks for the way Campus Edge Fellowship, a Resonate partner ministry at Michigan State University, is supporting students during the coronavirus pandemic. "Campus Edge has been giving me hope and a faith-centered perspective that has been essential for coping. Campus Edge has kept me going," said one student. Praise God!

GEMS GIRLS' CLUBS: CONFERENCE: On July 30-31, 2020, women were scheduled to gather online for the first-ever GEMS Virtual Conference! Attendees an-

icipated worshiping our unshakable God and learning more about the challenges of girls today. Please pray that each participant was strengthened and equipped to mentor girls well.

CRC COMMUNICATIONS: INSPIRE 2021: A little over a year from now, we hope to gather from congregations all around the continent at Inspire 2021 in Chicago. Please pray for event organizers, who are planning the event in the midst of much uncertainty caused by COVID-19. Pray for wisdom and God's leading in all decisions around this event.

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*

PRAYER MEETING: Join with others in the Bethel Church library Tuesday, August 4, 2020 from 7-8 PM for a time of prayer for our world, our country, our city and ourselves. All welcome!

FELLOWSHIP HALL SOUND SYSTEM: Sincere appreciation for the donations already received for the proposed upgrading of the sound system in the Fellowship Hall!! Please continue to remember this need either through further donations or saving your contributions to the planned **YARD SALE**, currently set for **SEPTEMBER 12**. For further information, talk to a member of the Board of Stewards or Ben S.

ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH PERSONAL ISSUES? Bethel is 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.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU FROM WORLD RENEW: As we continue to seek God's will in a world being shaped by cries for racial reconciliation and a worldwide pandemic, we are thankful for partners like you joining us to work together to demonstrate Christ's love. During the first half of 2020, Bethel CRC of London gave \$12,016.68 to our Canadian Food-grains Bank projects, Program fund (where needed most), and World Hunger campaign. Your support is helping vulnerable communities around the globe receive life-saving programming. We are grateful to God for you! As a world-

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

wide church, may we continue to be united in Spirit and bound together with peace, called to a glorious hope for the future (Ephesians 4:3-4). To learn more about how World Renew is carrying out work during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit worldrenew.ca/corona.

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.

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

GROUNDWORK: JUSTICE, HEROES, AND JESUS - The pervasive nature of injustice can make our efforts to seek justice feel insignificant. Study Isaiah 1:11-17, Hebrews 7:23-8:2, Matthew 5:1-12, and Ephesians 1:18-23 with us to find confidence in our pursuit of justice by recognizing Christ as prophet, priest, and king. 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: How warm is your family? The good people at the Fuller Youth Institute tell us that "in a comprehensive study of relational dynamics in more than 300 families spanning 35 years, family warmth was more correlated with faith transmission than any other relational factor (including amount of contact between the generations, the type of contact, and the

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Gift Fund \$ 15.00	Gift Fund	Tuition Assistance Fund
Diaconate 100.00		
Denominational Ministry Shares 100.00		
Redeemer University 20.00		
World Renew 15.00		
Indigenous Ministries 5.00		
Back to God Hour 5.00		
Resonate Global Mission 10.00		
Local Christian School 5.00		
Tuition Assistance 5.00		
New Ground 5.00		
World Renew (Refugees) 5.00		
Open Homes 5.00		
GEMS 5.00		
BETHEL BUDGET GIVING—2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 1605.00		

number of children in the family).” Read more in their blog post at fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/warmth-in-your-family. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

CRC ANNUAL DAY OF JUSTICE: For the 2020 Day of Justice (August 16th), we reflect on our world and the events of 2020 with text from Habakkuk 1. The impacts of racism, COVID-19, poverty, disease, and natural disasters... seem overwhelming and we, like David in Psalm 13 and Habbakkuk, ask, “How Long?” For resources including a litany, prayer, and reflection, go to crcna.org/dayofjustice

WHERE ARE THE CHURCHES? Here. The churches are here. God’s people are here. Goodness is here. Recently, another Banner news writer, Maia VanderMeer, wrote a reflection piece about why it’s important to share these stories. Here’s the article, posted on *The Banner’s* website: [Why Church News Matters](http://www.bethel-crc.ca/blog/why-church-news-matters)

GOVERNANCE RESTRUCTURE: The Christian Reformed Church in North America Canada Corporation met for a half-day in July to further discuss the governance restructure. CRCNA Canada Corporation is made up of the Canadian members of the Council of Delegates, which acts on behalf of synod between synod’s annual meetings. [Restructuring of CRCNA Canada Corporation and U.S. \(Michigan\) Corporation was announced in February](http://www.bethel-crc.ca/blog/restructuring-of-crcna-canada-corporation-and-u.s.-michigan-corporation-was-announced-in-february), to bring the CRC in Canada into compliance with tax law for charitable organizations in Canada. Much of the discussion at this meeting was about proposed bylaws and how to ensure that Canada Corporation has direction and control of resources in Canada, as required by tax law. Read more about this [here](#).

ENDNOTES: Here are Questions to Ponder this week or discuss with a friend.

1. As you begin say this prayer aloud: “Lord, as I (or ‘we’) study this passage, lead me, guide me, and enlighten me by your Holy Spirit. Help me surrender my heart to you so that I will not use this Word for my purposes but be shaped by it for your purposes. In Jesus name, Amen.”
2. What refreshes you spiritually? What is especially effective for YOU in being spiritually refreshed?
3. What refreshes you physically, emotionally and mentally? What’s the connection between those types of refreshment and spiritual refreshment?
4. What memories, events or people serve as sources of spiritual refreshment (or serves as a ‘spiritual kiosk’) for you?

—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 August 4	7:00 PM	Prayer Meeting

Pastor Eric Groot-Nibbelink:	519.453.0767 (<i>church study</i>)	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	

July 29, 2020

Dear Bethel Congregation, loved by Jesus Christ;

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Words written by Paul as he addressed the churches in Corinth)

At our council meeting last night, we discussed once again, the day that we should begin to meet within the walls of our church and worship together again. We had a possible date of August 9 but there are still some issues to overcome.

The Covid-19 climate is still uncertain. We hear of a possible second wave coming. It reminds me of that passage in Job, where God asks Satan where he has been *“From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”* This virus is like a demon seeking to devour and we cannot see it, hear it or feel it. Schools are still coming up with possible protocols and everyone is still searching for ways to keep the virus from attacking our most vulnerable. Because of all this uncertainty and the possible lack of volunteers during the summer months, we have postponed our opening day to **September 13** (the Sunday following Labour Day weekend). We hope to have a better handle on what is going on in the province. Our priority is to protect you, our members, especially our seniors.

Having said that, we can still worship in other ways and always pray for one another. We have placed the church into small groups and we would like you to take special attention of the people in your *“Connect, Grow, Care”* Group. Invite some over for a coffee in your backyard or somewhere you can meet and still socially distance. Call them on the telephone, drop a note, so many ways to keep in touch. We also hope you are following the sermons online. We can not only listen to Pastor Eric but to many other services. We have so many choices.

John, the apostle, closes 2 John, with these words

“I have so much to say to you but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead I hope to visit and talk to you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.” We look forward to that day!

On behalf of Bethel council,

Janet Beldman