



# BETHEL

## *Christian Reformed Church*

Connect . Grow . Care

At the July meeting of Full Council, 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 YouTube.

Please contact your elder if you need alternate arrangements such as hard copies of sermons and church materials delivered to your home. 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.

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

**NEXT WEEK: August 16, 2020.** This Sunday is the ANNUAL DAY OF JUSTICE as suggested by our denomination (CRCNA). We will take up the themes of justice, being informed by verses from Isaiah (1:17) "Learn to do right; seek justice; encourage the oppressed; de-

fend the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." Habakkuk 1:1,3 "How long, Lord, must I call for help ... Why do you make me look at injustice?" and Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

### 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.*

- Please pray for **Keith and Alie V.** as their son-in-law Jeff's (married to Jennifer) treatments did not work and he is now in palliative care. Please pray for Jeff, Jennifer, their children and all their loved ones.
- Pray for **Clara BH.** as she remains in Ingersoll hospital. We pray that **Clara and Jack H.** will experience God's love and healing powers as we keep them 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.
- **John and Rina Vlieger**, former members of Bethel now living in Brantford, ON, are both experiencing health challenges and would appreciate a phone call.
- **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*

**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**

*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/>)

**BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: CHINESE MINISTRY:** Our Chinese ministry team is publishing a book of articles on how the church has used new media amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for pastors and other leaders who are using this content and seeking creatively and effectively to be the church in the many contexts in which they work.

**RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: CONNECTION AND GUIDANCE:** Pray for church planters and parent churches who are considering planting a church. Ask the Spirit to speak into their decision making—providing guidance for how best to plant a church and engage communities. Pray for resources to make planting possible and for leaders to step up.

**CHAPLAINCY AND CARE MINISTRY: COVID-19:** Many of our chaplains serve in long-term care, hospitals, and hospice organizations. Daily they minister to over a thousand residents and patients who cannot be visited by their local clergy and family members due to COVID-19 restrictions. Please pray for our healthcare chaplains' safety and strength as they continue to share the gospel in these troubled times.

**RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: GERMANY:** Give thanks for God's work through a church that Resonate missionaries David Kromminga and Mary Buteyn are planting in Berlin! One man had little exposure to Christianity before moving to Germany, but now he's learning more about Jesus and is a beloved member of the church community. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue drawing him to know Christ!

**WORLD RENEW: SOUTH SUDAN:** Since March, World Renew has provided emergency food assistance to more than 12,000 people in South Sudan. Our hearts break in response to the violence, hunger, and poverty there, but these things are a clear reminder of why we

must not falter. Life-saving food assistance continues to reach thousands of people in such countries. Please pray that this urgent work is helpful and effective.

## **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*

**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.

## **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WORLD RENEW:** This week an explosion killed more than 100 and injured more than 4,000 in Beirut, Lebanon. We're in touch with our partners in the area about the extent of the damage, but what we already know is that the need is great, and we have the ability to respond. We have committed to providing **meals, food vouchers, and hygiene equipment** as we determine the extent of the need. You can help us meet this need. Give now to bring relief to our brothers and sisters in Beirut.

**GROUNDWORK:** GOD'S CHURCH SEEKS BIBLICAL JUSTICE - What is the role of the Church in seeking justice? How do we balance our calling to save souls with our justice calling? Join us as we study John 1:5, Acts 6:1-7, and Galatians 6:9-10 to learn what it means for us as God's church to seek biblical justice. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP:** Telling faith stories to each other is an important part of our faith formation. You can make time for family and household members of all ages to tell stories of how God works in their lives as you celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other milestones. Visit [tinyurl.com/FFMStoryStarters](http://tinyurl.com/FFMStoryStarters) for a list of questions to get the storytelling rolling. (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; [crcna.org/FaithFormation](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation))

### **Interested in membership at Bethel Church?**

*In making profession of faith?* To talk further, contact Pastor Eric at [pastor.ericqn@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.ericqn@gmail.com).

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
World Renew World Hunger \$ 200.00	<b>Tuition Assistance Fund</b>	<b>Diaconate</b>
Diaconate 190.00		
Denominational Ministry Shares 90.00		
Redeemer University 57.00		
World Renew 115.00		
Friendship 35.00		
Fellowship Hall Sound System 250.00		
<b>BETHEL BUDGET GIVING — 2020</b>		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 4200.00		

**ENDNOTES:** This week I returned from vacation. It is always great to have the opportunity of being away to visit elsewhere and simultaneously great to be home and back to regular life -although during this pandemic, I (like you) am not always entirely sure what the latter entails! As I receive communications from other churches, pastors and denominational ministries, it is obvious that there continues to be a diversity of church responses to the pandemic including how and when to proceed with worship. Certainly, what most communities hold in common is a kind of soul- searching as to what is to be learned from this pandemic, prodding us to ask who we are as churches and what we are to be about as followers of Jesus and what our personal responsibilities are when it comes to spiritual nourishment, formation, and growth, as individuals and households. As we ponder these questions in these unique times, we may trust in God's faithfulness and rely on the wisdom given to us by the Holy Spirit. God assures us with these fine words of instruction given in the Bible's own book of wisdom:

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

**- 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 11		
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12		

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