

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 16, 2020. Psalm 33:5 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; defend 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."

NEXT WEEK: August 23, 2020. Romans 12:1-8: This next Sunday we go back to following the Revised Common Lectionary readings and taking a look at Romans 12:1-8.

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.

- Pray for **Peter and Irene O.** as Irene has been diagnosed with Leukemia. Irene began treatments last Monday which consist of an injection under the skin every day for 7 days, followed 21 days off, and then the process is repeated. Side effects may or may not appear with this treatment. Irene is experiencing some symptoms to date and was advised to stay clear of crowds or anyone who is not well, and personally to watch for fevers.
- Pray in thanksgiving with **Denyse and Fraser T.** with the safe arrival of Kurtis James born this past Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Denyse, Fraser, excited big brother Caleb and baby Kurtis are all doing well. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14a
- Please pray for **Keith and Alie V.** as their son-in-law Jeff (married to Jennifer) continues to weaken. Doctors have decided to end further treatments. Please pray for Jeff, Jennifer, their children and all their loved ones.
- Pray for **Clara BH.** as she remains in Ingersoll hospital. She was to have a procedure done this past Friday to drain excess fluid. 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

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**

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/>)

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE: DAY OF JUSTICE: A lot of information about injustice is flooding our inboxes and social media and news feeds, so as we seek justice in our churches, let's take a moment to acknowledge that the flood of information, as good as it can be, is not enough to transform our beings. May we confess to what we cannot see and ask the living God to touch our eyes each day.

WORLD RENEW: NIGER: In several border areas Niger is facing conflicts from extremists, and people are fleeing or living in fear and insecurity. World Renew continues to provide basic needs and trauma healing for refugees. Please pray for an end to the conflicts, for healing and provisions for all who have been displaced, and for courage and protection for all service workers.

INDIGENOUS FAMILY CENTRE: STRENGTH - The effects of COVID-19 continue to challenge people who live in precarious housing and struggle with difficult family dynamics. We have been supporting vulnerable families remotely and, when appropriate, in person. Please pray for strength as we seek new ways to offer help and to share God's love. Pray also that God will meet our needs for financial health.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: SIERRA LEONE: Resonate missionary Istifanus Bahago gives thanks for the recovery of a church member who was sick with COVID-19. Please pray for church plants in Sierra Leone as they continue to face effects of the coronavirus, and ask God to provide for the people's needs.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: INDIA: Pastor Sivon recently found our programs on Facebook. "I am sharing this with my congregation, and people are calling me to testify that they are being blessed tremendously by this," he wrote. Pray for this Christian pastor as he serves the Savior in a Hindu-majority nation.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: OUTREACH: Praise God that many church plants are reaching out to their communities in creative ways amid the coronavirus pandemic. Many have partnered with organizations for food distribution, hosted drive-in worship services, and helped provide funds for people short on income. Pray that people will experience Christ's love.

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. Please save your contributions for the yard sale. For further information, talk to a member of the Board of Stewards or Ben S.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

ABOUT THE DAY OF JUSTICE: As Christians, we are called to a lifetime of justice and righteousness. In the earliest parts of the Old Testament, God calls people to be stewards of creation and to care for their brothers and sisters. Later, there are explicit rules about caring for widows and orphans, forgiving debts, and farming in a way that preserves the soil for the long-term.

In the New Testament, Jesus models a new kind of justice that includes extending the gospel to all people, appropriately challenging authority, and caring for the "least of those" among us. Today, each of us lives out this call to biblical justice in our individual lives and through the min-

Interested in membership at Bethel Church?

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

istries of our local congregations.

We know that scripture promises us a future of renewal and restoration — a righting of all broken relationships between people and God. We also recognize that Jesus calls us to stand up, be kingdom workers, and begin that renewal now in our own context and beyond our churches’ walls.

On August 16, 2020 we will have a new opportunity to reflect on justice and what it means for our lives. Designated by Synod 2017, this date will mark a third annual, denomination-wide, Day of Justice and will allow us experience a unity as a denomination as we consider the meaning of Biblical justice, lament injustices in our world, and commit to the transforming work of standing alongside people whom society oppresses and pushes to the margins.

GROUNDWORK: LAMENT: A FAITHFUL RESPONSE TO TRAGEDY - We all encounter difficult seasons in life. Join Groundwork as we study Psalm 13, Psalm 55, and Romans 14:7 to let scripture guide us in lament, an appropriate response to difficult times that engages our faith and acknowledges our reality. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: As the start of the school year draws near, many kids feel fearful and anxious. It’s a good time to gently remind them that their identity lies not in their accomplishments, their popularity, or what others think of them. Their identity comes from being beloved children of a loving God. “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”—1 John 3:1 (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

AUGUST SAFE CHURCH WEBINAR WITH BOZ TCHIVIDJIAN: Join Safe Church on August 26 at 12 pm EDT for a Zoom call with Boz Tchividjian, founder of GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment). Boz will speak to us about his many years of experience empowering Christian communities to recognize, prevent and

respond to abuse. Learn more at network.crcna.org/safe-church/august-safe-church-webinar-boz-tchividjian

WORLD RENEW: Last week an explosion in the port of Beirut killed dozens, injured thousands, and has left over 300,000 homeless. We grieve the loss of life and are deeply concerned about the larger humanitarian emergency this explosion will create. World Renew’s partner, MERATH, has already provided over 1,000 hot meals to families in Beirut. The team will continue to provide food to affected families even as assessments are carried out to guide further relief efforts.

In partnership with the Humanitarian Coalition, **all Canadian donations made to World Renew’s humanitarian response in Beirut from August 4 to 24 will be matched, up to \$2 million, by the Canadian government.** A plunging currency and rising food prices, together with the impacts of COVID-19, created significant needs in Lebanon even before this explosion. Now, with the country’s largest port severely damaged, essential imports may be delayed and food prices may continue to rise. For those living in Lebanon, including over 2 million refugees, this is an enormous concern. As we provide assistance to affected families, your support is urgently needed.

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
	Diaconate	Denominational Ministry Shares
BETHEL BUDGET GIVING—2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$		

ENDNOTES: This past week Thursday, I was part of a Zoom conversation sponsored by Vibrant Congregations (which is a joint endeavor by the RCA and CRC to assist churches in discerning the best partner organizations to connect with to take fresh steps in ministry and mission). The title of this online event was “Faith in an Anxious World” and had a particular focus on mental health, most specifically youth. The main facilitator was Dr. Kara Powell, who has been instrumental in two important books “Growing Young” and “Growing With.” This second book is especially valuable in these times as it focuses on spiritual growth and development in the home and everyday life. If you are a parent or a grandparent (grandparents, you can gift it to your adult children!), the perspectives are invaluable for nurturing faith and spirituality in youth.

Part one of the presentation dealt with the reasons we are seeing so much anxiety among youth in our times, even pre-pandemic. Of course, there are complexities added to these issues by the pandemic. The presentation’s second part dealt with some steps and ways of responding to anxiety and mental health issues in this time. Two important responses are

1. to simply “ask” (‘how would you rate your level of anxiety right now?’) and
2. “empathize and empower” (say, ‘that stinks ... you can handle it.’). Of course, there were other responses and all more fully explained but those two are basic. If you are interested in learning more about youth, faith and mental health, you can go to and move about on the following link at the Fuller Youth Institute (at which Kara Powell is on staff). <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/author/kara-powell> - 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...		
SUNDAY AUGUST 16		
TUESDAY AUGUST 18	7:00 PM	Admin Council Meeting
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 19		
THURSDAY AUGUST 20		

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	

BETHEL CRC LONDON, SUMMARY OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday July 28, 2020 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom

Present: Steve tB, Denise C, Fred DV, Ron H, John VT, Peter O, Harry J, Janet B, Ray B; Arie R, and Rose S

Absent: John P, Richard B, and Pastor Eric with notice

Opening Devotions and Prayer by Ray B reading Philippians 2:1-11

Opening Items

Agenda and FC minutes June 23, 2020 were accepted and approved

Administrative Items

1. **Start Up** – Potential startup of Aug 9 th considered; discussion regarding singing and childcare and how social distancing, hand sanitizing and wearing masks would be incorporated; Spreadsheet reviewed from the AC of the needs to be addressed and the number of volunteers needed, discussion about volunteers on vacation; **Approved motion that we begin meeting for Sunday worship on September 13 th ; Letter to be placed in the bulletin or communicated to the congregation of the Sept start date; promotion of smaller sub group listing for prayer and other smaller events will also occur; other events for church use to be approved by AC**
2. **Classis Chatham Meeting form** – form completed for zoom meeting September 22 2020
3. **Nominations** –2 deacons and 2 elders are needed to be nominated
4. **Green Space Update** – Members discussed the previous; after thoughtful debating how to move forward, the council decided that the congregation should have the opportunity to hear the presentation at a regular congregational meeting, debate the options, to submit questions, have time to reflect approximately 1-3 months and then another meeting to vote; votes to be presented to FC; this will be communicated to the Green Space team
5. **Correspondence** (letters) – Indwell letter reviewed and suggestions to possibly invite Indwell reps to speak about this charity at next congregational meeting; A letter was received from John & Grace B informing council that they have decided to leave Bethel. The elders acquiesce with regret and extended to them the Lord's blessings. A second letter was discussed at length on how to approach the future of the church
6. **Misc.** – prayer meeting Aug 4 th at the church

Ministry Items

1. **Surprise the World** – discussion on Chapter 5 to listen and how to hear what is truly being said; challenge to sit for 20 minutes to hear what the Holy Spirit is speaking to you

Reports

1. **Pastor Eric** – currently on vacation
2. **AC** –reviewing and maintaining protocols surrounding coronavirus; Renewal Lab Oct 2 and 3 with Keith Doornbos has been diarized
3. **Shepherding Elders** – next meeting will be Sept 8 th ; prayer list will be sent out
4. **Deacons** –downtown mission needs of water/fruit and granola bars as well as Today/ Daily Bread booklets were given out and witnessing to a number of people; Bethel request for a once a week meal to be prepared and put on a rotating schedule;
5. **WPT** – next meeting is TBD
6. **Stewards** –a thorough cleaning of the cadet outer shed was made and is now empty; confirms the church is well stocked with sanitizer, masks and wipes
7. **Safe Church** – nothing to report; members are encouraged to please update their police checks when requested by the committee

Open prayer by members and closing prayer by Steve tB @ 9:32 pm

Next FC Meeting: - Aug 25, 2020 @ 7:00 pm