



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 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.

NEXT WEEK: August 23, 2020. Romans 12:9-21: This next Sunday we go back to following the Revised Common Lectionary readings and taking a look at Romans 12:9-21.

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.** Irene has completed her first round of injections for treating her recent leukemia diagnosis. The next round begins again 21 days after this last completed round.
- 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.** who has returned home from Ingersoll hospital but is not doing so well. She is very weak and very tired.
- Pray for **Bronson G.'s** mother, Jane, who continues chemotherapy. Additional prayer is requested as Jane fell recently, fracturing her back.
- 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.

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**

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/>)

WORSHIP MINISTRIES: RENEWAL: Pray for the worship leaders in our denomination, all of whom have had a challenging few months adapting to the reality presented by COVID-19. May they find physical, emotional, and spiritual rest and be encouraged in their calling.

WORLD RENEW: SENEGAL: Hawa is a struggling HIV-positive mother of five. Each day brings a host of challenges, but due to Hawa's strength and heart—and thanks to the support of our partners—her family is thriving. Please continue to pray for the health and safety of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families during the COVID-19 crisis.

BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: JAPAN: A listener from our Japanese outreach shared that she is seeing reminders of God as she watches flowers bloom in her neighborhood. Pray that other listeners who may be feeling especially isolated from Christian community at this time will also see God's hand at work.

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY: PREPARATIONS: We are gearing up for the new school year, including residential in-person orientation, move-ins, and courses—all in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. Pray for ongoing health and safety for all as we begin the new academic year together.

WORLD RENEW: COVID-19 PROTECTION: To ensure that all new and existing projects minimize virus transmission, we are equipping local staff, healthcare workers, and community members with masks, hygiene kits, soap, washing stations, and hand sanitizer. Pray that the world's most vulnerable communities will receive whatever lifesaving equipment they need.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: MEXICO: Pray for the congregation of New Life, a church that Resonate missionaries Ben and Amy Meyer helped to plant in Guadalajara, Mexico. Give thanks that God has been working through this church to help provide for people

during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray that this community's acts of love will point people to Jesus.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOMINATIONS: As you are aware we were requesting nominations for 2 elders and 2 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*

CHURCH GIVING: Reminder that donations can be mailed/dropped off at the church (for both budget and deaconate collections), E-transfer is regularly used for church budget as well by some members. The address to use for E-transfer is bethelcrrdonate@gmail.com. Other members are taking advantage of the preauthorized payments through the PAR process. If you have questions about these methods please contact Steve tB, Jan DV, or Jack H.

FELLOWSHIP HALL SOUND SYSTEM: Heartfelt gratitude to those who have already submitted donations 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

DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY SHARES: In 1862, Christian Reformed congregations recognized that some of the ministries to which Christ calls us can be difficult to do on our own. They covenanted to pool their resources in order to do more and greater ministry together. This system, still implemented today, is very cost-effective and is a big reason why the CRC is able to support a range of ministry programs that is unparalleled for a denomination of our size.

The Christian Reformed Church uses ministry shares to fund a variety of requested ministries both within North America and around the world. The vast majority of every dollar of ministry shares goes directly to ministry programs that start new churches, train servant leaders, support chaplains, resource congregations, and reach out to our neighbors through media and evangelism.

Ministry shares are an amazingly efficient and stewardly

Interested in *membership at Bethel Church?*

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

way for us to accomplish ministry together. Over the years, as synod decided to start new programs, we've used ministry shares as a way of enabling all of our congregations to contribute towards the costs. In this way, every initiative is truly part of our shared ministry.

Between now and the end of September churches are asked to consider how much they are willing to pledge to support the new system of funding ministry shares. The program is being referred to as [Ministry Shares](#) Reimagined, and the funds will be used to help cover the costs of Christian Reformed Church in North America ministries, priorities, and other initiatives approved by synod.

Under the new system, each congregation will decide how much it can contribute to the denomination. After these pledges are gathered at the classical level, they will be sent on to the denominational finance office, which will create a denominational budget based on the amount of pledges. This budget will be presented for approval by the Council of Delegates annually, as is currently done. Compared to the old system, Ministry Shares Reimagined is a grassroots, bottom-up process. "...we have the chance to decide what we would like to give — this can be a statement of our covenanting together to support the various ministries of our church."

WORLD RENEW BEIRUT RESPONSE: Matched 1:1 - World Renew is continuing to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Beirut following the August 4 explosion. The needs of those affected are enormous and many families are facing hunger and homelessness. World Renew, along with its

local Christian partner, is providing meals, food vouchers, and hygiene equipment for the people of Beirut. All Canadian donations made until Monday, August 24 will be matched 1:1 by the Canadian government, doubling your gift. Donations can be made online at worldrenew.ca or by calling 888-WRLD-RNW. Your gifts and prayers are bringing hope. Thank you.

GROUNDWORK: TRUST GOD'S PROVIDENCE - As the pandemic continues and the inequality in our society becomes glaringly apparent, many of us long for assurance that God still cares. Study Psalm 104:27-30, Deuteronomy 8:3-18, Romans 8:28, and Jeremiah 19:1-3 with us to remember where God is and why we trust him. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: Something to think about this week: "We need help setting aside all the doing that we clutch so tightly, so that our hands can be open to receive the gifts God has in store. . . . We need time to be. Time to reflect. . . . Time to draw close to a God who revealed God's own name, which turns out not to have anything to do with doing, but everything to do with being: I Am Who I Am." —from a blog post titled "When Doing More Isn't Enough" by Austin Crenshaw Shelley. (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 Envi-

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Denominational Min Shares \$ 230.00	Denominational Ministry Shares	Bethel Friendship Club
Redeemer University 165.00		
Friendship 50.00		
Diaconate 575.00		
Gift Fund 87.00		
Tuition Assistance Fund 270.00		
World Renew 25.00		
Sound System Fellowship Hall 300.00		
BETHEL BUDGET GIVING—2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 3610.00		

ronment). 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

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: Thank you for your continued support for God's mission through Resonate Global Mission! Right now, requests for additional support are pouring in from ministries worldwide that need help transitioning to online ministry, counseling, pastoral support, and extra funding. Thanks to faithful giving from donors like you, ministry leaders are able to respond and adapt. Both here at home and around the world, we are seeing ministry leaders discover a renewed calling amidst COVID-19, and they are using their ministry to meet the new needs in their communities. Thank you for being an encouraging partner for your missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and other mission workers: they can't do it without you. Spreading the gospel has become more important than ever as people worldwide are anxious, stressed, grieving, and searching. I want you to know that your prayers, gifts, encouragement, and support have been a powerful witness. You make ministry possible! You can visit www.resonateglobalmission.org/covid19 for news, prayer requests and more. Thank you for all you do! *In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Acting Canadian Director, Resonate Global Mission*

INDWELL: Help build Hope and Homes in London! [That Dam Hill](#) is a spectator-friendly race that attracts elite athletes and recreational runners alike. On September 19 at Springbank Park in London, you can join the race as an individual or team. A portion of your registration fee and all funds you raise through CanadaHelp's easy-to-use platform will be used to build Embassy Commons, a new 72 unit building at 744 Dundas. Construction began [last month](#) on Embassy Commons, which will offer Hope and Homes to some of London's most marginalized individuals. Learn more and register [here](#). If you have questions, please contact me at jryan@indwell.ca or by calling 519-286-1390 x364.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES: Faith Formation Ministries encourages and equips local CRC ministry leaders in their calling to shape intentional, lifelong faith formation. "Our goal for all of these efforts is that they will help people of all ages find new and creative ways to develop lifelong faith practices as together we become more and more like Jesus," said Chris Schoon, director of FFM. "In so doing, we anticipate that we will grow in our love for God and for our neighbors."

There are dozens of faith practices — developed over centuries — for people to use in their lives to help them grow spiritually and bring them closer to God. Schoon said they are highlighting specific spiritual disciplines in the hope that people become aware of the disciplines they are already using in their lives.

By slowing down and entering into prayer, meditation, taking the time for silence, carefully reading Scripture, and becoming open to the work of the Holy Spirit, you can start "to realize that spiritual life is about being attentive to what is going on in your life and in your church's life," said Swartzentruber.

ENDNOTES: Returning to school has been in the news a lot lately, with most of parts Canada resuming school within a few weeks. As a way to prepare and focus for the new school year, I encourage you to use with children or grandchildren (or simply on your own) the following prayer litany (see below). It may be helpful to repeat this litany several times in the next few weeks in order to inform your prayers overall. It is written by Sherri Haan of Christian Schools International. -EGN

*Today we celebrate the greatness of our God—the one who created us with minds to learn, gave us the abilities to master skills, and opens our hearts to understand that all learning is for his glory. Whether four or eighty-four we celebrate learning in this “Litany of Learning.” (*To enable young children who cannot read to take part in this litany, explain that each time you hold up your hand, they are to say **WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**)*+++++

Lord we proclaim your greatness. You have given us creation, which is the fruit of your creative genius and power. You call us to care for your world. Help us to learn about your world so that we can be faithful to our calling. We thank you for creation. ***WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

We promise to use our minds to study your world, to use our eyes, hands, and ears to learn, and to use our tongues to discuss, question, and probe. We are fearfully and wonderfully made! ***WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

We celebrate ideas, numbers, words, and skills. We celebrate puzzles, paints, and colors. We celebrate imagination, instruments, and enzymes. All of it, Lord, is a part of your world. Your world is marvelous! ***WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

We thank you for teachers who teach about your world. We thank you for students who see the wonder of your world unfold before them as they study. We thank you for textbooks that explain and help us explore the wonders of your world. We thank you for our classmates. ***WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

Help us to learn with joy. Nudge us to set higher goals when learning is easy, to keep on trying when learning is difficult, and to use the full potential you've given each of us. Thank you, Lord, that we serve you in our learning.

***WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

Help us to know that when our student days are over, you will show us where to serve you further, using what we have learned to meet the challenges of your world. Help us to be faithful. ***WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**

We thank you, God, for our teachers and students. We support and encourage them in learning. Give us a desire to learn. Give us strength and energy. Give us a desire to do our very best. Father, we will uphold our students and teachers in prayer. Together, Lord, we promise to study and use our learning today and tomorrow as we serve you faithfully. We give you all the praise, honor, and glory. ***WE PRAISE YOUR NAME FOREVER!**
AMEN. - 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 25	7:00 PM	Full Council 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	bethelcrlcn@gmail.com
E-transfer Address:		bethelcrcdonate@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