

# BETHEL

## *Christian Reformed Church*



Connect . Grow . Care

At the August meeting of Full Council, it was decided to proceed with in-person worship as previously discussed for **Sunday September 13, 2020**. Our re-gathering will require us to follow a number of protocols and procedures. Please check the congregational letter that was sent out and also attached to the end of this bulletin. Members are encouraged to consider thoughtfully their own comfort level with regard to attendance as well as personal risk level due to age or other underlying conditions of concern. Pastor Eric's reflections and weekly messages on YouTube or through delivered hard copy will continue for those unable or who feel it unsafe to attend.

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: Sept.6, 2020:** Ps.130:5-6, Ps.37:7 and Titus 2:11-14 This Labour Day Weekend marks the unofficial close of the summer season for many people. We will pause to look at the theme of 'waiting' from the Bible's perspective and be reminded that in the midst of all our striving and labour, ultimately "we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:13)

**NEXT WEEK: Sept.13, 2020. 10:00 AM:** Psalms 103: Next Sunday as mentioned elsewhere we begin to re-gather in person in the building. (see the end of this bulletin for more details). The service itself will be simplified,

will include some singing and have a Scripture focus on Psalm 103.

### 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.** This past Wednesday Irene received results from further tests done on the original bone marrow taken Aug 5th. Results showed that Irene has an acute form of leukemia. The doctor hopes to enroll Irene in a clinical trial of a new drug that has shown promise. This possibility depends on an opening in the trial and requires travel to Toronto. In the meantime, Irene will begin another round of injection treatments this week. The effectiveness of the current treatment cannot be measured until the three month mark. Pray for Irene and Peter as they absorb this updated and difficult prognosis.
- .Please pray for **Keith and Alie V.** as their son-in-law Jeff (married to Jennifer) continues to weaken. Please pray for Jeff, Jennifer, their children and all their loved ones.
- Pray for **Clara BH.** as she continues with her health struggles in a weakened state.
- Pray for **Bronson G.'s** mother, Jane, who continues chemotherapy along with the fracture in her back from a recent fall.
- 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.
- Pray with family and friends of **Truus DeVries** who passed away peacefully on Friday, August 28, 2020.
- **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

**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**

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/>)

**CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY: NEW YEAR:** As we begin the new school year, we will be offering in-person learning as we are able, while also making all courses available online. Please pray for students, faculty, and staff as we work together to make necessary changes happen safely and effectively.

**DISABILITY CONCERNS: CHALLENGES:** This year has been incredibly challenging for many of us with physical and mental health challenges. Many gaps in service have occurred, and isolation is a big challenge. As schools and churches start to reopen, we pray for wisdom for leaders. May we see that our most vulnerable are cared for and considered as we navigate this unusual time.

**WORLD RENEW: DISASTER RESPONSE:** On August 4, an explosion in Beirut killed hundreds, injured thousands, and left more than 300,000 homeless. This event also had a devastating impact on essential imports and food prices. Please pray for the people living in Lebanon, including over 2 million refugees, that they may find comfort and healing. Pray also for the church as it seeks to serve the distressed and brokenhearted.

**RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: SCHOOLS:** Please pray for Resonate missionaries throughout the world who work as teachers in Christian schools. This school year will be challenging and unpredictable because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ask God for wisdom, guidance, creativity, patience, and encouragement as missionaries teach and disciple students this year.

**BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: BURKINA FASO:** As a teenager living in Burkina Faso, West Africa, Djibril regularly accessed pornography on his smartphone. Now, with help from our French ministry team, he instead uses his phone to share his faith with others. Ask God to continue to work through Djibril.

**THEREFORE GO MINISTRIES: CHANGE:** This past week Youth Unlimited became Therefore Go Ministries. Please pray that the process of changing our name goes smoothly and that God will continue to work through us as we support churches in their ministries to youth and emerging adults to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and transform this world for him.

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS: NEW SEASON:** September begins tomorrow, marking a new season of education, church ministry, and other seasonal work. Pray for God's guidance for all who are navigating and implementing decisions about life and work amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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 [bethelcrcdonate@gmail.com](mailto:bethelcrcdonate@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.

**WORSHIP PLANNING TEAM** met this past week to prepare for the re-start of our Worship Services on Sept 13th. We look forward to being able to worship together, if even on such a limited basis.

**YARD SALE:** The yard sale will be held in the parking lot, weather permitting, on Saturday, **September 19, from 8 am to 1 pm**. Come out to see what wonderful treasures you can find! Proceeds to the Fellowship Hall Sound System. Thanks for donations already received. If you have anything else to donate, please drop off at the church parking lot on Thursday, September 17 or call Ben S or any member of Bd of Stewards to arrange pickup.

## **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GROUNDWORK: ANSWER GOD'S CALL FOR JUSTICE** - In our current society, the topic of justice has become very political. Join Groundwork as we study Leviticus 25:10-17, Luke 4:17-21, Acts 6:1-4, Amos 5, and Micah 6:8 to better understand the meaning of biblical jus-

**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).

tice and what that means for our role in pursuing justice. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP:** The Practice of Sabbath: In Wendell Berry and the Given Life, author Ragan Sutterfield quotes Berry: “[Sabbath] is not a break so that we might become renewed and refreshed for more work, but is rather a time when we live in the simple reality that we are creatures whose lives are given by God.” How might this insight change how you celebrate sabbath? (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; [crcna.org/FaithFormation](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation))

**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](mailto:jryan@indwell.ca) or by calling 519-286-1390 x364.

**DISABILITY CONCERNS OCTOBER CAREGIVER SERIES** - Join us every Thursday in October, at 12 pm EDT for a conversation on Caregiving. This training event will help caregivers navigate the emotional landscape of their role and will give practical ideas how churches can help these families address the challenges for the person living with a disability as well as their siblings, parents, spouse, or other caregivers. Registration required. View our Network post: Disability Concerns Canada Conference Re-Imagined.

**ENDNOTES:** This past Wednesday, Pope Francis declared a day of prayer for the country of Lebanon. It was to take place on this past Friday, the day that the pope himself would be visiting Lebanon, a country which has been through so much hardship for a long time and intensely so this summer.

Pope Francis said, “One month after the tragedy that struck the city of Beirut, my thoughts turn once again to Lebanon and its people, so sorely tried,” He emphasized that the country should not be “abandoned in its solitude” and pointed to a vision that still sees it as a “country of hope.”

As I reviewed this call from the pope, I thought of the ways in which we as individuals might “declare a day of prayer” and offer personal prayers for a particular global neighbour in need. If we were to make such a declaration (personally or with others), we could go about our daily activities, using pauses and quiet moments in our days to focus prayer on a specific country or region of need. In addition, we can look to the work of a ministry like World Renew which not only calls attention to needs for which we can pray but also gives so many opportunities for us to give and serve. To participate in the special support opportunity for the country of Lebanon, check the World Renew website at this link ... <https://worldrenew.ca/> or contact one of Bethel’s deacons.

- EGN

To access Pastor’s Eric’s regular COVID-19 MEDITATIONS, click here ... <http://www.bethel-crc.ca/blog/covid-19-meditations/>

DIACONAL GIVING		
LAST WEEK	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
Denominational Min Shares      \$ 310.00	<b>Gift Fund</b>	<b>Resonate Global Mission</b>
Friendship                              195.00		
Diaconate                                330.00		
Resonate Global Mission            220.00		
Gift Fund                                 70.00		
Tuition Assistance Fund             45.00		
<b>BETHEL BUDGET GIVING—2020</b>		
<b>Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 4,760.00</b>		

SERVICE SCHEDULE		
	SEPT 13	SEPT 20
<b>ELDER</b>	John VT	Fred DV
<b>DEACONS</b>	John P	Ray B
<b>GREETERS</b>	Ron H Peter O	Ron H Harry J
<b>SIGN-IN PERSON</b>	Steve tB	Steve tB
<b>HALL MONITORS</b>	Ron H	Ron H
<b>MAIL FOYER AREA MONITOR</b>	Rose S	Arie R
<b>USHERS</b>	Harry J Fred DV	Ed & Barb W
<b>PLANNER</b>	Steve dB/Barb W	Steve dB/Barb W
<b>MUSICIAN</b>	Irene O	Irene O
<b>SOUND</b>	Ben H/Bronson G	Gary B
<b>VISUALS</b>	Barb W/Hagos E	Steven

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL...		
<b>SUNDAY</b> September 6	6:00 PM	AA/Al-Anon/Alateen
<b>TUESDAY</b> September 8	7:00 PM 8:00 PM	PRAYER Meeting Elders meeting
<b>SUNDAY</b> September 13	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Sunday Worship AA/Al-Anon/Alateen
<b>THURSDAY</b> September 17	9:00 AM	Set up for Yard Sale
<b>SATURDAY</b> September 19	8:00 AM	Yard Sale

<b>Pastor Eric Groot-Nibbelink:</b>	519.453.0767 ( <i>church study</i> )	<a href="mailto:pastor.ericgn@gmail.com">pastor.ericgn@gmail.com</a>
<b>Chair of Council:</b>	Steve te Bokkel 519.461.0853	<a href="mailto:stevet8566@yahoo.com">stevet8566@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Office Admin:</b>	Barb Wesselius 519.453.6565	<a href="mailto:bethelcrldn@gmail.com">bethelcrldn@gmail.com</a>
<b>E-transfer Address:</b>		<a href="mailto:bethelcrdonate@gmail.com">bethelcrdonate@gmail.com</a>
<b>Office Hours: By Request</b>		Bulletin Deadline: <b>Thursday by Noon</b>

Dear Bethel Members,

As we continue to journey through these challenging times, we encourage each other to trust in God. In every challenge God remains our refuge and strength (Psalm 46). As we begin meeting again for Sunday worship (September 13, 2020), we also look to various God-given resources and wisdom to guide us in the practical aspects of physically re-gathering. Below is a list of guiding principles for returning to worship in the church building. This document has been developed by an ad hoc committee appointed by council.

### **Procedures and Protocols for Returning to Worship in the church building**

*Council has based these procedures and protocols on Middlesex-London Health Unit Guidance for Places of Worship and other available guidance documents.*

1. We request that if you are feeling unwell or are experiencing any of the common symptoms of Covid-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat) that you refrain from coming to church that Sunday. If you have travelled internationally in the last 14 days or have had close contact with a confirmed Covid19 case, you may not enter the building.
2. We can stay within the 30% of capacity that the provincial government has mandated. If required, we will need to adjust. If possible please pre-register through Barb via [email](#) or Facebook.
3. Attendees are reminded to maintain a safe physical distance from each other when in the parking lot or lining up to enter the church building or when within the building. We will use every third row in the sanctuary instead of the recommended every 2nd row.
4. All attendees will need to wear a mask unless there are medical reasons for not doing so. The pastor and worship singers will not wear a mask only while on the pulpit. Those who are not wearing a mask will not be allowed to sing.
5. Please enter the building from the south entrance. When you enter, please sanitize your hands and proceed into the sanctuary. You may empty your mailbox and deposit collections prior to the service but please do not loiter in the foyer. Ideally we will be seeking to fill the church from front to back so please arrive in a timely fashion.
6. After the service attendees will exit from back to front and proceed directly outside. Please use hand sanitizer as you exit as well. We will need to exit the church directly out the west or south doors.
7. Washrooms are available if necessary. We request that you limit occupancy to 1 person to maintain distancing.
8. Bulletins will only be available online. You should bring your own Bible. The Bibles and Psalters have been removed from the pews.
9. Children may attend worship service and must remain with their family. There will be no nursery or Sunday School until further notice.
10. The church library is currently closed. The room is open for one household to listen to the service if required on a first come, first served basis.
11. Elders and deacons will be encouraging you not to congregate in high traffic areas.
12. There will be cleaning and disinfecting of high traffic surfaces such as doorknobs and faucets by the hall monitors.
13. Caution should be taken to limit access to hand sanitizer by young children without supervision.
14. The collection plate will not be passed during the service but opportunity to donate will be available upon entering and exiting the church in baskets in the foyer. You may continue to donate online as well.
15. Please be sure to social distance upon leaving the church in the parking lot. We need to be aware of our neighbours and want to promote a positive image.
16. As with any social gatherings, there is an elevated risk faced by the elderly or those who are immunocompromised.
17. Please avoid activities that require close-contact (hand-shaking, hugging) or sharing items.
18. The sermon will continue to be online and the manuscript will continue to be available.
19. If you have questions or comments, please reach out to your elder.

Please recognize that we cannot cover all probable situations but are seeking our best to mitigate risk so that all members who desire to attend church in the building may do so.

## BETHEL CRC LONDON, SUMMARY OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday August 25, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

**Present:** Steve tB, Denise C, Fred DV, Ron H, John VT, Harry J, Janet B, Ray B; Arie R, Richard B, and Pastor Eric

**Absent:** John P, Peter O and Rose S with notice

**Opening Devotions and Prayer** by Steve tB reading Colossians 3

### Opening Items

Agenda and FC minutes July 28, 2020 were accepted and approved

### Administrative Items

- **Start Up** – Start up of September 13th is planned
  - \* singing with wearing masks
  - \* worship planning team with Pastor Eric to plan worship
  - \* Covid team to meet Sept 1st to plan logistics
  - \* No Sunday school or Nursery at present time (children stay with family)
  - \* The Story series to resume September 20th
- **Renewal Lab** – decision to participate deferred. We will concentrate on our start up
- **Nominations** – Barb W nomination has been accepted for elder to present to the congregation
  - \* John VT, Steve, Denise, Harry, Ray & Richard have agreed to have their terms extended
  - \* Nomination process is closed at this time.
- **Church Usage** – All groups must book the church and agree to follow Covid protocols.
  - \* No serving of food or beverages at this time as per MLHU direction
  - \* Groups to disinfect what was used
  - \* Request to Garage sale organizers if they could consider delaying. If the garage sale was to go ahead it should be outside entirely. Steve to contact Ben
- **Correspondence** (letters) – Letter was discussed. Council had already committed to present the Green space plan to the congregation. We can follow up if the green space plan does not get approved.

Information email from Jack Hoekstra regarding giving since Covid was read. Steve will forward to Full Council members.
- **Misc.** – prayer meeting Sept 8th at the church

**Closing prayer** by Richard

**Next FC Meeting:** - September 29, 2020 @ 7:00 pm