

BETHEL

Christian Reformed Church



Connect . Grow . Care

Our re-gathering requires us to follow a number of protocols and procedures. Please continue to check the congregational letter 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. If you have needs or questions please contact the church office, Pastor Eric, the council chair Ron H. or any elder or deacon of the church. Contact information is located near the end of this bulletin.

THIS WEEK: Nov. 29, 2020. 10:00 AM – ADVENT BEGINS!!! - ADVENT # 1 – “BE NOT AFRAID”: Starting **TODAY** we join Christians all over the world as we mark the beginning of the season of advent. The Advent season is meant to be a season of waiting, rekindling in our hearts and minds an awareness of God's actions throughout the ages – past, present and future. This idea of waiting and reflection has taken on special meaning this year as the world is walking through the Covid-19 pandemic. Yet this season still provides us with a unique opportunity to reflect on God's redemptive story, his need to rescue the world and our anticipation of the ultimate fulfillment of God's purpose in peace and love. The 2020 Advent theme is BE NOT AFRAID and is based on a series suggested in the resource REFORMED WORSHIP #137. This year as we wait, we offer up our fears to God and hear God's comfort in angel voices: “Do not be afraid.” The Scripture focus of Advent 1 is Isaiah 11:1-10 with the message title “**The Hopes and Fears of All the Years.**”

NEXT WEEK: Dec. 6, 2020. 10:00 AM – ADVENT # 2 – “BE NOT AFRAID”: Next week our 2020 Advent series BE NOT AFRAID continues (based on the resource REFORMED WORSHIP #137). This year as we wait, we offer up our fears to God and hear God's comfort in angel voices: “Do not be afraid.” The Scripture focus of Advent 2 is Luke 1:5-25 with the message title, “The Fear of Disappointment.”

COME AND WORSHIP!! Throughout the Advent season **ADDITIONAL ONLINE EVENING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** are being made available with choirs OF CALVIN UNIVERSITY. To participate in these services, simply use the following link <https://worship.calvin.edu/news-events/events/>

THE LORD'S SUPPER – For those who are unable (or for whom it is unsafe), the elders are willing to suggest or arrange a means of receiving communion. If you might be interested in communion, please contact your elder.

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 **Irene O.** This past Tuesday, Irene underwent tests and assessments and is now awaiting word as to whether she will be admitted to the clinical trial to treat her leukemia.
- Pray for **Sylvia R.** who continues to recover from a broken arm and sprains after a recent fall.
- Pray for **Keith & Alie V's** oldest granddaughter that the medical people will be able to determine the cause of the episodes that she has been having.
- Pray for **Karen Lubbers-Odel**, her husband **Moses** and **Leah Hopp**. With elections taking place various major cities in Uganda, there have been protests, violence and loss of life.
- Pray for **Riek V., Albert P., Margaret S., Tina D., Frans H., Andy V., Sid K. 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 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.; Bernie H.; Sid K.; Melissa P.;** Marlene P., Gerry M.; **Albert P.; Joan S.; Margaret S.; Nel DV.;** Bernie and Harmina K.

In Ministry: **Leah Hopp; Karen Lubbers-Odel**

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/>)

Worship Ministries: Leader: Pray for worship leaders this Advent season. As churches plan worship gatherings in these unusual times, we ask the Spirit to guide them. Pray for clarity, creativity, and love with respect to all involved. May the celebration of Jesus' coming be the focus of the season. Pray that all may encounter Emmanuel ("God with us") in profound ways and be inspired, encouraged, and comforted.

Safe Church: Direction: Safe Church is grateful for the leadership of director Bonnie Nicholas. As she plans to retire soon from her role with Safe Church, we ask God to continue to guide and direct her path. Please keep Safe Church in prayer as we continue to grow and work together with congregational and classis leaders to support the church.

Resonate Global Mission: Uganda: Resonate missionary Josh Shaarda gives thanks for the ways God is working through Freedom in Christ disciple trainings that he is leading in Uganda prisons. Praise God that people are finding faith in Christ or recommitting their lives to him. Pray that believers who are released will also share the good news of Jesus when they return home.

Back to God Ministries: Japan: Pray for our Japanese ministry team as they prepare for Christmas celebrations with their online audiences. Although they cannot meet in person, the team is excited to find new ways to bring a sense of community to believers across Japan.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREEN SPACE: Council **urgently** needs to hear from you!! Please submit your thoughts in writing to any council member or the church email about the current

"THE STORY" DISCUSSION GROUPS:

Please feel free to join this discussion groups:

- 1) Monday afternoon November 30: 2:00 PM in the Library completing the series with chapter 31.

proposal for the Green Space so that Council can make a decision based on the desires of the congregation.

COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL: Financial update: As we are approaching the end of another year we are experiencing a short-fall in our budget giving. Please prayerfully consider Bethel's need and let the Lord direct you in your giving.

THANK YOU to Ben S, Gary & Helen B, and Yvonne B for the wonderful decorating of the church for the Advent season.

CARE & SHARE: Need a meal? Know of someone who could use a meal? Maybe a neighbour, friend or co-worker? The meals are free and available to anyone who could use one. Contact Carolyn GN or Carolyn tB.

DIRECTORY: It's time to review the current Directory. Please take your copy of the Directory and check to ensure that your information is correct. If anything needs to be corrected, please send an email to the church (bethelcrlcldn@gmail.com)

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDSHIP: If you're between the ages of 18-28 years, CRC campus minister Dr. Mike Wagenman (Western University) would like to invite you to a small group study of friendship as a resource for wellness, well-being, and flourishing. Time commitment is 1-2 hr/week for reading and meeting via Zoom to discuss your thoughts and reactions. Indicate your interest by emailing mwagenman@uwo.ca or call/text 519-851-5845.

FREE ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: He Will Be Our Peace is an email devotional series put together by World Renew, Resonate Global Mission, and the CRC Office of Social Justice that features reflections from CRC ministries around the world during Advent 2020. Each devotion will be delivered to your email inbox every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, starting December 2, 2020, through Christmas Day. Join us as we journey through lamenting injustice to looking forward to the coming of the Prince of Peace using the book of Micah. Go to justice.crcna.org/advent to sign up today!

GROUNDWORK: THE SON OF GOD BECAME LIKE US

Interested in *membership at Bethel Church?*

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

- In Advent, we eagerly begin singing about the baby Jesus. Who is baby Jesus? The Son of God incarnate. Study Galatians 4:4-7 with Groundwork to discover why it was necessary for Jesus to be human and remember the reason God now considers us his beloved children. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

RESONATE: Thank you for supporting God's mission! Your giving is making a special impact this year. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, ministry has been so challenging for your missionaries and church planters around the world. We've received many special requests for funding and resources—and your support has made it possible to keep proclaiming the gospel. When you give to Resonate Global Mission, you are investing in overcoming the challenges of this crisis and helping lead people to faith in Jesus Christ. You are investing in the future of this denomination and declaring that gospel mission is essential! Around the world, people are anxious, stressed, grieving, and searching for answers and support. Thank you for being there for them. Thank you for sending people to walk alongside them, pray with them, and encourage them. Ministry leaders around the globe couldn't do it without your support. Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for your partnership in living out the gospel. *In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Acting Canada Director*

SAFE CHURCH DECEMBER WEBINAR: Raising our Voices - This webinar will feature two courageous people who will raise their voices to share with us from their own experience of abuse, what it was like for them and how the church responded in ways that were helpful, and perhaps sometimes in ways that were unhelpful. What can we learn for the future? Learn more: network.crcna.org/safe-church/raising-our-voices

ENDNOTES: This past week the Worship Planning Team met again. We are of course busy working out the services planned for Advent, which begins today! A great resource we use from time to time is the WORSHIP SOURCEBOOK (co-published with the Calvin Institute of Worship). It has the following to say about worship during advent ...

“The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God’s actions—past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah’s coming as addressed to us— people who wait for the second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way Advent highlights for us the larger story of God’s redemptive plan.

“A deliberate tension must be built into our practice of the Advent season. Christ has come, and yet not all things have reached completion. While we remember Israel’s waiting and hoping and we give thanks for Christ’s birth, we also anticipate his second coming at the end of time. For this reason, Advent began as a penitential season, a time for discipline and intentional repentance in the confident expectation and hope of Christ’s coming again.

“The Advent season includes the four Sundays preceding Christmas. Worship on these Sundays should be designed to help people see the tension between celebrating and hoping.” (pages 427-428).

During Advent 2020, let’s pray God will strengthen us in both the discipline of waiting and the virtue of hope! -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 \$ 362.00	<p align="center">Diaconate</p> <p><u>Todays collection is for the Bethel Church Diaconate.</u> We as deacons, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, minister mercy, justice and Christian love to the Church and all people. We assess needs, promote stewardship, and hospitality, collect and disburse resources for benevolence and develop programs of assistance. As deacons we are here to help meet the needs of anyone who may need it. <i>Blessings, the Bethel Deacons.</i></p>	<p align="center">Tuition Assistance Fund</p>
Back to God Hour \$ 5.00		
Local Christian Schools \$ 322.00		
Diaconate \$ 65.00		
Care & Share \$ 100.00		
BETHEL BUDGET GIVING—2020		
Budget Received Last Sunday: \$ 2,350.00		

SERVICE SCHEDULE			
	NOV 29	Dec 6	DEC 13
ELDER	Peter O	John VT	Steve tB
DEACONS	Harry J Ray B	Ray B Richard B	Richard B Arie R
GREETERS	John VT Steve tB	Steve tB Ron H	Ron H Fred DV
SIGN-IN PERSON	Nel B	Florence O	Barb W
HALL MONITORS	John VT Steve tB	Steve tB Ron H	Ron H Fred DV
MAIL FOYER AREA MONITOR	Harry J	Ray B	Richard B
USHERS	Gay L Ray B	Ed W Richard B	Ben S Arie R
PLANNER	Steve dB	Helen B	Barb
MUSICIAN	Joan W	Nicole B	
SINGERS			
SOUND	Bronson G	Gary B	Ben H
VISUALS	Barb	Hagos E	Steven dB
SENIOR DRIVER	Jack & Clara H.	Dick & Trudy N.	Fred & Liz DV

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL...		
SUNDAY November 29	8:30 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM	THE STORY discussion group with Fred DV Worship Service AA/Al-Anon/Alateen
MONDAY November 30	2: 00 PM	THE STORY discussion group with John VT
TUESDAY December 1	7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Prayer Meeting Elders Meeting
SUNDAY December 6	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Worship Service AA/Al-Anon/Alateen

Pastor Eric Groot-Nibbelink:	519.453.0767 (<i>church study</i>)	pastor.ericgn@gmail.com
Chair of Council: Ron Hessels	226.663.4191	ronshessels@gmail.com
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E-transfer Address:		bethelcrlcdonate@gmail.com
Office Hours: By Request		Bulletin Deadline: Thursday by Noon

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 church office 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 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 CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

November 29, 2020

Advent 1 – The Hopes and Fears of All the Years

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope. (*Light candle.*) Isaiah gives a vision of a kingdom yet to come where everything has been made new and where creation is at peace. "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord – and he will delight in the fear of the Lord" (Isaiah 11: 1 – 3). We light this candle of hope as a sign of our waiting and expectation for the coming Christ.

Song: **LUYH 478: 1, 3** Hark! A thrilling Voice is Sounding

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Call to Worship: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

We wait and we hope.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

We wait and we hope.

Glory to God the Father, to Jesus the Messiah, and to the Holy Spirit.

We wait and we hope. Amen

Opening Prayer

* **God's greeting and our AMEN**

* Songs of Praise **LUYH 43: 1, 3 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer**
LUYH 407: 1, 2 If you but Trust in God to Guide You

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Song: **LUYH 407:3 If you but Trust in God to Guide You**

Prayers of the People & Offertory Prayer – Diaconate & Budget

GOD SPEAKS TO US

Scripture: *Isaiah 11: 1-10*

Message: The Hopes and Fears of All the Years

Prayer of Response

LUYH 88: Refrain O Little Town of Bethlehem

GOD SENDS US OUT INTO THE WORLD

***God's Blessing**

***Closing Hymn: LUYH 88:1 O Little Town of Bethlehem**