

BETHEL

Christian Reformed Church

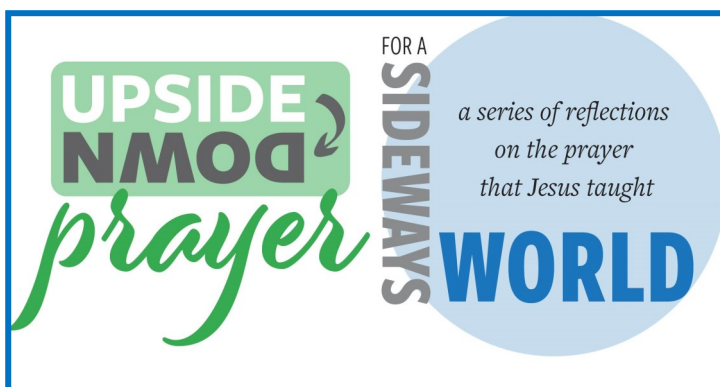
Connect . Grow . Care



NOTE REGARDING WORSHIP SERVICES: NEXT WEEK WE PLAN TO RETURN TO INPERSON WORSHIP at Bethel Church. **HOWEVER**, certain restrictions and protocols remain in place meant to curb the spread of Covid-19. Please be prepared to follow these protocols. In addition, registration is preferred so please contact the church office via email bethelcrlcldn@gmail.com if you are planning to attend. For those unable to attend in person, **LIVESTREAMING** will continue. Please look for any instructions and links that will be provided through an email from the church office as well as the website and the London Bethel Facebook page. Transcripts will continue to be made available in the same manner previously being offered.

If you have any needs or questions please contact the church office, Pastor Eric, the council chair or any elder or deacon of the church. Contact information is located near the end of this bulletin.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE HAVING ANY DIFFICULTY ACCESSING THE **Members Only** BULLETIN, please contact the office.



THE SEASON OF LENT has begun. Lent is that period of forty days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday until Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. In the history of the church, this season sets aside time for sober reflection as we remember Christ's suffering on the way to his crucifixion and death on the cross on Good Friday. In the worldwide church, lent has traditionally been a time for fasting, deep self-examination and the practice of extra compassionate acts. Ultimately, LENT is

seen as preparation for Easter and the celebration of the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus.

TODAY: February 28, 2021. 10:00 AM: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Livestream only) We continue our series Upside Down Prayer for a Sideways World with a focus on the petition of the prayer "Lead us not into temptation" (or sometimes translated as "Save Us From the Time of Trial").

NEXT WEEK: March 7, 2021. 10:00 AM: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Communion, Livestream, In-person) Next week we plan to gather as per protocols suggested by the province. We look forward to celebrating communion together as well! (For those at home, please prepare elements that you may use as the elements for the bread and the cup). Our series Upside Down Prayer for a Sideways World will focus on the petition of the prayer "Deliver Us From Evil" and will close out our study of the Lord's Prayer.

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/>)

RESONATE: EAST ASIA: A Resonate missionary serving as a teacher in East Asia asks for prayer for a former student who is not a believer. The student is struggling with some personal challenges, and the missionary asks for prayer that the student will "want to learn more about the One who is sovereign over his life."

WORLD RENEW: DISASTER RESPONSE SERVICES (DRS): Our DRS staff recently made extended driving trips to check in with existing and potential partners across the Gulf Coast and other areas hit by hurricanes and tropical storms in the past year. The needs are extensive, but the storms received limited media coverage, so response has been minimal. Please pray for wisdom on how best to pro-

ceed with disaster response in these areas.

REFRAME: ENGLISH MINISTRY: Pray for Paul, who recently retired from pastoral ministry and shared this prayer request with our English ministry team: "Please pray that I use my time wisely. Pray for my marriage, that I give my wife the attention, the time, the interest that she deserves. Please pray for my family members who do not seem to be walking with Christ."

RESONATE: PHILIPPINES: Asian Theological Seminary, a Resonate partner in the Philippines where Resonate missionary Stan Kruis teaches, equips students to serve as pastors, youth leaders, missionaries, and other ministry leaders. Pray for the students, faculty, and staff as they equip leaders and spread the gospel.

DISABILITY CONCERNS: CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY: We pray that during this time of isolation, people will find ways to connect and build community in new and unique ways. We are thankful that our book club (Finding Jesus in the Storm) starting in February will offer an opportunity for members of our community to come together and explore the depth of God's love and compassion in their lives.

CHAPLAINCY AND CARE: WORKPLACE CHAPLAINS: Many of our chaplains work in the industrial or corporate world, serving the needs of employees who are affected by crises at work or at home and who may not have a spiritual support network. During this past year, our workplace chaplains have been limited in their ability to make connections with employees experiencing trauma and crisis. Please pray for these chaplains and the people they serve.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S RETREAT: In this season of dealing with COVID, are you tired and weary? Have you struggled to stay connected with other Christians? This year we are hoping to gather women from across the country in a virtual retreat!! All women are welcome, especially if you've never been part of a Coffee Break or small group. We'd love to have you join us. Save the Date - April 16 - 17, 2021 - a virtual retreat for all women!

MARCH 7 IS CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK SUNDAY: As a founding member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, World Renew responds to the needs of families affected by conflict, natural disasters, and COVID-19 through life-saving emergency food assistance in countries around the world. In one week, we'll be taking part in World Renew's Canadian Foodgrains Bank Sunday.

This unique partnership makes it possible to reach the front lines of need in the midst of a crisis, bringing life-giving food to families who need it most. All gifts will be matched up to 4X!

GROUNDWORK: A NEW FAMILY - In his second word from the cross Jesus shows deep compassion for his mother. Join our Groundwork conversation on John 19:23-27 to discover what Jesus' great concern for his family shows us about his humanity and uncover the profound theological implications that arise from this earthly concern. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: The Practice of Justice and Mercy: Cornel West said, "Justice is what love looks like in public." How might you share the love of Jesus by practicing justice in public this week in your workplace, your neighborhood, or your city? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices)

QUILTING SISTERS SPRING 2021 QUILT RETREAT AT CAMPFIRE BIBLE CAMP: Hello to all quilters! Please join this group of Christian women who plan to meet at Campfire Bible Camp in Markdale for our spring quilting retreat being held April 26-29 DV. We enjoy a great time of sharing ideas, devotions, Christian fellowship and forging many bonds while enjoying the love of quilting. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have on costs, lodging. There will be covid regulations in place and amount of guests will be restricted so don't delay registering. I will begin taking registrations on Monday, March 1st. Registration must be made through me by email to thequiltingsisters@hotmail.com or text or phone (905-957-0917). Looking forward to hearing from you! *Benita Boerema*

INDWELL: The Vision SoHo Alliance, a newly formed partnership between Indwell, Zerin Development Corporation, Homes Unlimited, Chelsea Green Home Society, London Affordable Housing Foundation, and the Italian Seniors' Project convened by LCF, has announced its commitment to purchase the vacant Old Victoria Hospital Lands to develop a vibrant mixed-use housing complex that will help increase the supply of affordable housing in our community. The mixed-use development will enhance the SoHo neighbourhood and prioritize livability and sustainability through environmentally friendly building, green space, retail space, underground parking and accessibility to public transit.

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