

BETHEL

Christian Reformed Church

Connect . Grow . Care



NOTE REGARDING WORSHIP SERVICES: TODAY 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 bethelcrcldn@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.

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

TODAY: March 7, 2021. 10:00 AM: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Communion, Livestream, In-person) Today 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.

NEXT WEEK: March 14, 2021. 10:00 AM: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (In-Person and Livestream) Next week we continue our journey through Lent with a Scripture focus on John 14:25-27 and Hebrews 12:1-3. During Lent we attempt to put our weariness aside and resolve to move forward with the help of God's Spirit. Our Lenten candle lighting readings come from the "Bring Light to Our Eyes" series from Reformed Worship #138.

PRAYER MINISTRY AT BETHEL

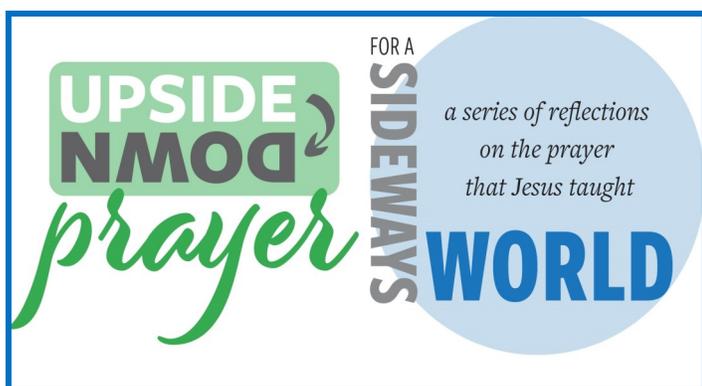
Each week we are encouraged to formulate our personal prayers using such categories as our city, our community, our world; the deepening of God's people; the extending of God's Kingdom; the flourishing of love, justice, peace and the spread of the gospel.

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: JAPAN: Give thanks for Mr. and Mrs. Pok, who were baptized in February! They struggled for years to find a church home in Korea where they could explore Christianity. But when they moved to Japan, they connected with a church where Resonate missionaries Jeong and MiSook Gho are leaders, and the Poks committed their lives to Christ!

CALVIN UNIVERSITY: ENDURANCE: Calvin University continues to hold in-person classes to equip students to think deeply, act justly, and live wholeheartedly as Christ's



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

agents of renewal in the world. Pray for our COVID Response Team as they work long hours to ensure the safety of the Calvin community. Pray that students, staff, and faculty will remain vigilant this semester and that infections will decrease.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES: Last Friday was designated as the World Day of Prayer. We thank God on this day of prayer for inviting us to bring all our praises and petitions before him. Pray that churches and Christians around the world will develop regular rhythms of turning to God with requests and thanksgiving, and of partnering with God in his concern for the world.

WORLD RENEW: MOZAMBIQUE: Record numbers of COVID-19 cases in Mozambique have threatened to overrun hospitals and exhaust medical supplies. The president ordered a curfew that disallows public events and worship services. Most private social events are also either banned or restricted. Ask the Spirit to encourage the church to continue to spread the good news in Mozambique.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: WORLDWIDE: Pray for Resonate's Journeying into Friendships Network of believers who are exploring what it means to be better friends to neighbors from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. Ask God to work through this network and these relationships to draw people into a relationship with Christ.

THEREFOREGO MINISTRIES: MENTORSHIP: Please pray with us as we work with five churches in their efforts to mentor youth and emerging adults and as we plan for future collaborations with churches in these efforts, since we are unable to offer SERVE mission trips for the second consecutive summer.

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!

EMERGENCY FOOD FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS: Today we are holding an offering to support the joint work of World Renew and Canadian Foodgrains Bank as they are 'Ending Hunger' for those affected by conflict, natural disasters, and extreme weather. Your gift will be matched up to 4X through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the Canadian government. Thank you for giving as you are able to help families living in crisis. Go to worldrenew.ca/cfgeb to donate online or call 1-888-

WRLD-RNW. All gifts will be matched up to 4X!

GROUNDWORK: WITH ME IN PARADISE - Jesus speaks his third word from the cross to the man we usually call the penitent thief, who died on a cross next to Jesus. Join our Groundwork conversation on Luke 23:32-43 to discover how Jesus defines salvation in its simplest terms and the promise Jesus is ready to give us, if we make our request. 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)

LENT CREATION CARE CHALLENGE: This Lent, we're inviting you to join us in a journey of Creation Care. We want to live out our faith by investing in the flourishing of God's creation. Each week, we'll share practical challenges and Scriptural reflections on how we can be faithful stewards during this season of worship. Get the full details here: justice.crcna.org/len-2021

FOCUS ON THE CROSS - LENTEN DEVOTIONS: Lent is a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today devotional email series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Or download the ebook! Subscribe at todaydevotional.com/len-2021

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*

CCNL (CHRISTIAN CHURCHES NETWORK OF LONDON) regularly brings together Christian Churches in the city of London for mutual encouragement and service. Check out CCNL's Events Page here ... <https://ccnl.churchcenter.com/registrations>

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.

FANSHAWE CAMPUS MINISTRY is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Mar 10, 2021 07:00 PM : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82151750619?pwd=VnFFRmdVcEw0d0hPWkVISzISRUs4QT09> Meeting ID: 821 5175 0619 Passcode: FCM In a time of anxiety, a time riddled with worry & concern, you are invited for a brief time of contemplation & peace. Western Christians enter the season Lent this coming Wednesday, February 17. In the Spirit of the Taizé community, Fanshawe Campus Ministry & others will mark and remember the One Who Came Down For Us. The service should last between 30-45 minutes.

BOOK DISCUSSION: BIBLICAL ECONOMIC JUSTICE
Join CRC campus ministers Rick Mast (University of Alberta, Edmonton) and Mike Wagenman (University of Western Ontario, London) for an online discussion of *Plundering Egypt: A Subversive Christian Ethic of Economy* on **Sunday, March 28 at 8pm ET (5pm PT)**. We will be joined by the author, Dr. Gregory P. Wagenfuhr, who is a church planter in Colorado and the Theological Coordinator for the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. This book has been praised for being "creative and challenging, perceptive and provocative." Register via Eventbrite - a direct link is available at www.WesternCampusMinistry.ca.

PARTNER WITH US AS WE LOVE WESTERN! This year at Western Campus Ministry, we have worked hard to support hurting and vulnerable students during this year of online and distanced learning. Our Love Western! project seeks to encourage students with care packages delivered throughout the stressful times of the year. Fall term, we delivered 400 care packs and this semester during lockdown we delivered another 550. Later this month, our goal is to deliver another 4,000 care packs. Would you, your church, your deacons, your family, your small

group, your business consider partnering with us as we serve and love students? Donations for this specific project can be made - just click the donation link at the bottom of the page at www.WesternCampusMinistry.ca. If you have any questions, reach out to Dr. Mike Wagenman at mwagenman@uwo.ca.

INDWELL: Permanent supported and affordable housing is the solution to homelessness and substandard housing. With the amazing support of the City of St. Thomas and other local organizations, Indwell is recruiting a Program Manager – St. Thomas Launch to establish Indwell housing in St. Thomas. This first program is currently under construction by the City and anticipated to be in operation late summer. Indwell is a Christian charity that creates affordable housing communities for those seeking health, wellness and belonging, and currently supports 700 people in their affordable housing communities in Hamilton, Woodstock, Simcoe and London. To learn more about Indwell and this position, go to Indwell.ca/careers. The closing date for applications is March 17.

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