

# BETHEL

*Christian Reformed Church*

Connect . Grow . Care



**NOTE REGARDING INPERSON WORSHIP SERVICES:** . Our gathering requires us to follow a number of protocols and procedures meant to curb the spread of Covid-19. 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. In addition, registration is preferred so please contact the church office via email [bethelcrlcldn@gmail.com](mailto: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-** 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: March 21, 2021. 10:00 AM: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (In-Person and Livestream)** We continue our journey through Lent with a Scripture focus on John 17:20-26 and Ephesians 4:1-6. During Lent we carry many prayers as we follow Christ in the way of the cross. Our Lenten candle lighting readings come from the "Bring Light to Our Eyes" series from Reformed Worship #138.

**NEXT WEEK: March 28, 2021 10:00 AM – PALM (or Passion) SUNDAY:** The Sixth Sunday of LENT (In-Person and Livestream) Next week we continue our journey through Lent with a Scripture focus on Mark 11:7-11 and Colossians 2:13-15. 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/>)

**CANADIAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRY COMMITTEE: SPRING** - Individuals across the country are engaging in an Indigenous reconciliation process called Hearts Exchanged. Today, as spring begins, please pray that this process will help reconciliation take root in our denomination. May we be people who love justice and equity.

**RESONATE: NORTH AMERICA:** Moving to a new country is challenging and can be isolating, but many people have found a supportive faith community and place to belong at Resonate-partner ethnic-minority church plants in Canada and the United States. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly difficult on church plants and their communities. Please ask God to provide.

**REFRAME: KIDS CORNER:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gustcher family children in Rocky Ford, Colo., have been recording puppet shows in their home and sharing them on YouTube for their church and community. Praise God for kids everywhere who are finding ways to share the good news during the pandemic.

**WORLD RENEW: EAST AFRICA:** COVID-19 cases have continued to grow in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Residents still require a negative test result to travel anywhere,

so World Renew staff are limited in their movements, adapting their programming in the communities where they serve. Pray for health and safety for our East Africa staff as they navigate the challenges of the pandemic.

**DISABILITY CONCERNS: BOOK CLUB:** Disability Concerns hosted a book club—Finding Jesus in the Storm: The Spiritual Lives of Christians Living with Mental Health Challenges. We are so thankful that there is space for important conversations about mental health in the church, and we pray that many people will use this resource to engage in discussions about mental health.

**RESONATE: CANADA:** Pray for Resonate missionaries Ray and Angie De Lange in British Columbia as they share the gospel with and disciple refugees and newcomers from a Muslim background. Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom, for guidance, and for open doors for conversations.

## REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CANADA-WIDE ONLINE WOMEN'S RETREAT:** April 16 & 17, 2021. Ladies, you're invited to a weekend retreat from the comfort of your home. Many of us have struggled in this year of living through a pandemic. Our theme is *Blessed is the one whose Hope is in the Lord*. - Jer. 17:7-8 Join us for a weekend of three keynote sessions, and a great variety of breakouts! Register this week to be sure to get your Retreat Gift Box in the mail in time. Or feel free to register without the gift box option. To register and find all the details, go to [www.inspirationalwomen.ca](http://www.inspirationalwomen.ca). Sponsored by Global Coffee Break and Resonate Global Mission.

**YOUNG ADULTS!** Fanshawe Campus Ministry is putting together Care Packages again! If you are a young adult or know a young adult, then head over to <https://www.fanshawecampusministry.com/carebags> and sign up to receive a care bag in April. You do not need to be a Fanshawe Student, or even a student, just a young adult. You can also request to receive a care pack for friends, neighbours, housemates, etc. Let us care for you this spring!

**GROUNDWORK: I THIRST** - How does this simple human request make it to the permanent record of the gospel? Why does John want to be sure we remember that Jesus expressed thirst as he hung dying on the cross? Join our Groundwork discussion on John 19:28-37 as together we discover the deep theological meaning expressed in thirst. 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 Listening: What would happen if we all listened to oth-

ers just as deeply and lovingly as God listens to us? How would that change our family life, our work life, our interactions with our neighbor, or our online presence? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices))

**RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION:** Give to God's Mission and Double Your Impact - Don't miss out on an opportunity to double your gift to God's mission! Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar when you give to our special campaign at [www.resonateglobalmission.org/EasterGift](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/EasterGift). Holidays like Easter are an important opportunity to reach people who may not otherwise come to church—you can help reach them through Resonate's ministry!

**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](mailto:thequiltingsisters@hotmail.com) or text or phone (905-957-0917). Looking forward to hearing from you! *Benita Boerema*

**RIDGETOWN CAMPUS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BOARD:** Campus Christian Fellowship GALA 2021 BY ZOOM Save the date: Friday, March 26, 2021 7 PM  
**Instructions:** 1. Get comfy.

2. Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83293680942?pwd=cTN4enlUcGR4TmxjTWJPTjY1dHhkUT09>

3. Sign in: Meeting ID: 832 9368 0942 and Passcode: 484321

about the IMPACT of Ridgetown, UofGuelph CCF in the lives of 100's of men and women. We are looking forward to you and your family sharing in this unique event.

**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](http://www.WesternCampusMinistry.ca).

**SOUTH COAST BEACH PROJECT:** Although the Port Dover winter landscape offers a rugged beauty, in a few short months this will be transformed... and with that transformation the launch of the FIRST ever South Coast Beach Project, the opportunity for young adult lives to be transformed by the warming effect of the Son's love! Read the newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/bc5c5d77b5c4/scbpmarch21>

**WORLD RENEW:** Hope Made Strong - In times like these, our hope does not disappoint us (Romans 5:5). Last year, World Renew partnered with 76 grass-roots organizations in 35 countries, touching the lives of 1,414,026 participants in their communities through local outreach. Because of your support, World Renew was uniquely positioned to assist families who were already living in extreme poverty when COVID-19 lockdowns began last March. To read stories of hope and how lives are being impacted because of your support, visit: [worldrenew.ca/annualreport](http://worldrenew.ca/annualreport)

**ENDNOTES:** You may have read or heard through some newsfeeds of the increase of racist attacks directed at people of Asian-descent since the beginning of the pandemic. This past week's shootings that killed 8 people in the US state of Georgia has contributed to ongoing concerns. A pastor of our church denomination has written that he himself has felt the increase in racist and hate-filled rhetoric. Recently he asked for prayers regarding this issue and specifically for Asian-Americans, keeping in mind that just over 10% of CRCNA congregations are Korean-speaking congregations.

Prayers requested are of the following kind: "prayers of lament for those that are anxious right now to even walk around their own neighbourhoods for fear of attack on them or their elders (seniors), prayers of lament for those that are grieving and have lost loved ones due to senseless attacks, prayers of lament for those that have experienced hateful and racist rhetoric and prayers for Asian-American clergy that are navigating the spaces of self-care, exhaustion and care for others."

As followers of Jesus and his people who break down barriers and affirm our solidarity with others (Gal.3:26-28), we want to be sure to stand against racist and hate-filled speech and attacks; and affirm every person as an image-bearer of God, looking forward to the day when "persons from every tribe and language and people and nation" will gather and know that God has brought us together "to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God." (Rev.5:9-10—**EGN**)

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

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<b>Office Hours: By Request</b>		<b>Bulletin Deadline: Thursday by Noon</b>