

# 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 [bethelcrlcn@gmail.com](mailto:bethelcrlcn@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 28, 2021 10:00 AM – PALM (or Passion) SUNDAY:** The Sixth Sunday of LENT (In-Person and Livestream) 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.

**THIS WEEK: GOOD FRIDAY, April 2, 2021 10:00 AM: Communion / The Lord's Supper:** We join in worship this coming Friday at 10 AM as we mark the sacrifice on the cross of Jesus Christ. This year's service is entitled "Paschal Lamb: A Service of Reading and Song." We focus on the theme of Jesus as the Lamb of God. In addition, we will participate in the Lord's Supper as part of our worship. If you are participating online, please have items to use as elements of bread and cup.

**NEXT WEEK - EASTER SUNDAY – "HE IS RISEN"** - (In-Person and Livestream): Next week we celebrate with the community of Christ around the world Easter Sunday. We rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Christ is Risen; He is Risen, indeed!" We look forward to worship through songs, prayers, offerings and meditation on God's word to us through the Bible.

#### **How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?**

**First**, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death.

**Second**, by his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life.

**Third**, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.

(from Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 17, Q&A 45)

#### **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: NORTH AMERICA:** Pray for CRC members working to discern God's call in their lives through our Go Local and Joining God in the Neighborhood cohorts. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide them as they explore how to be the hands and feet of Christ in their communities.

**RAISE UP: EDUCATIONAL CARE: COLLABORATION:** As we work to revise teaching manuals, pray that we can be responsive to the needs of educators who come from diverse cultures. In ministry areas where schools are just beginning to reopen, pray that our teachers will be able to live out the principles of Educational Care in the midst of much stress.

**WORLD RENEW: DISASTER RESPONSE:** Despite the pandemic, World Renew continues to respond to disasters. In July, we addressed flooding in Michigan; in August, we funded emergency supplies after the explosion in Beirut; and in November, we provided food, water, and temporary shelter to Latin Americans displaced by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Please continue to pray for vulnerable families and communities affected by disaster.

**REFRAME: BURKINA FASO:** Born into a Muslim family, Naomi first heard about Christ while attending church with her aunt. "I was moved to give my life to someone who loves us unconditionally," Naomi shared in a video testimony for our French ministry. Pray that her testimony will help to move other French speakers in West Africa to faith in Christ.

**RESONATE: MICHIGAN:** Pray for International Campus Ministry, a Resonate partner at Western Michigan University that serves students from around the world. During the pandemic, campus ministers have been connecting with students in new and creative ways that have led to deep conversations about faith. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue stirring hearts to seek and know Christ.

**PASTOR CHURCH RESOURCES: CHALLENGE:** Pray for pastors, worship leaders, youth workers, hospitality folks, sound and tech volunteers, and anyone who continues to work in challenging conditions to ensure that God's people can worship together. It's been more difficult to "carry on" than most of us know. May God fill his servants with all they need.

## 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!

**NEXT WEEK IS HOLY WEEK:** So, next Wednesday, we will be having our third Lenten Taize service. (The week directly following [April 7] we will have our fourth and final Easter Taize service). You are invited for a brief time of contemplation & peace. The service should last between 30-45 minutes. Fanshawe Campus Ministry is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: From Lent to Easter 2021: Taizé I-IV

Mar 31, 2021 07:00 PM

Join the Zoom meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82151750619?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82151750619?pwd=VnFFRmdVcEw0d0hPWkVISzISRUs4QT09)

[pwd=VnFFRmdVcEw0d0hPWkVISzISRUs4QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82151750619?pwd=VnFFRmdVcEw0d0hPWkVISzISRUs4QT09)

Meeting ID: 821 5175 0619

Passcode: FCM

**GROUNDWORK: FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS -** In the finality of Jesus Christ's dying words we discover hope. Join our Groundwork conversation on Luke 23:26-31, 44-49 to understand Jesus' experience and see how he teaches us about our relationship with God and life after death in one simple dying sentence. 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: Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Just as love to God begins with listening to His Word, so love for the brethren is learning to listen to them." Who might you show this kind of "listening love" to in the coming week? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices))

**RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION:** A Special Opportunity to Double Your Impact - Resonate Global Mission is working to help your church spread the gospel in your community. You can help provide hope and transform lives—and double your gift—by giving to our special campaign at [www.resonateglobalmission.org/EasterGift](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/EasterGift). Any amount you give will be matched dollar for dollar!

**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 Theo-

logical 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:** Share God's Hope with Refugee Families on April 11 - In two weeks, let us join World Renew in celebrating the lives that have been transformed thanks to sponsors who stepped in to welcome and offer support to refugee families escaping war, persecution and injustice. Discover how through our gifts or through sponsorship we can support men, women, and children in rebuilding their lives in Canada and finding unfailing love in Jesus Christ. For more information go to: [worldrenew.ca/refugeesunday](http://worldrenew.ca/refugeesunday)

**THE BANNER:** The Annual Banner Appeal is underway! The 2021 appeal for The Banner, the CRC's award-winning monthly magazine, has started. The Banner is delivered free in print and online, and this annual donation appeal makes it possible. To help keep this community conversation going please give online now at: [the-](#)

[banner.org/donate](http://banner.org/donate)

**MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS:** Challenge '21 begins this **Saturday, March 27th at 10 AM?** We're kicking off this 10-month seafarer-themed challenge with our third annual, **Shake Your Hips for the Ships** Zumba class led by certified instructor, Natalie Osorio. This year it will be online so everyone can participate at their own pace (and keep their video off if they wish). Go to <https://www.ministrytoseafarers.org/c21> to sign up.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL...		
<b>SUNDAY</b> March 28	10:00 AM	Worship Service
<b>MONDAY</b> March 29	6:45 PM	Elementary School Church Education Zoom
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> March 31	6:45 PM	High School Church Education Zoom
<b>FRIDAY</b> April 2	10:00 AM	Good Friday Worship Service and communion
<b>SUNDAY</b> April 4	10:00 AM	Easter Sunday Worship Service

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