

BETHEL

Christian Reformed Church

Connect . Grow . Care



New Covid-19 Meeting Protocols (as of April 3, 2021, projected to last 28 days)

NOTE REGARDING WORSHIP SERVICES: Due to the province's latest restrictions meant to curb the spread of Covid-19, we will **NOT** be gathering in person as a congregation. However, we will be able to meet virtually for worship through our live-streamed services which will be made available each week at 10 AM on Sundays. 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.

TODAY: APRIL 4, 2021 10:00 AM: EASTER SUNDAY: "HE IS RISEN" - (In-Person and Livestream): We celebrate with the community of Christ around the world this Easter Sunday. We rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Christ is Risen; He is Risen, indeed!" We will 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)

NEXT WEEK: APRIL 11, 2021 10:00 AM: New Easter Season Message series—'LOOKING FOR THE LIVING' (New Life Resurrection Stories—1) - (In-Person and Livestream): Next week we begin a new message series in which we witness other stories of the power of Easter

and resurrection. During this Easter season, we will take a look at a number of Scripture narratives that include scenes of resurrection. For our introduction to the series, we examine the story from Luke 7, 'The Raising of the Widow of Nain's Son.'

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:

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: EASTER: We serve the risen Lord! Pray for Resonate missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and other ministry leaders throughout the world who are spreading the good news of the gospel. Ask the Holy Spirit to open doors for conversations about Christ. Pray that people's hearts will be softened to the message of the gospel.

REFRAME MINISTRIES: TODAY DEVOTIONS: Eddie, a Today reader who is currently in prison, asks for prayers for his family: "Pray for my two-year-old son and my wife. Pray for strength and assurance and that they will continue striving each day during life's challenges."

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: PEACE AND GRACE: Pray for women leaders affected by the pandemic. Unemployment caused by the pandemic has disproportionately affected women, who typically carry the majority of work in the home, including childcare. Pray for peace in the midst of chaos, relational support in the midst of social distancing, and grace for healthy family living.

RESONATE: REFUGEES WORLDWIDE: Pray that newly arriving refugees will be able to find homes and jobs in their new homelands. Further, many people fleeing their countries have never had the opportunity to hear the gospel. Pray that making a new start in a new land will also lead to new life in Christ.

WORLD RENEW: GENDER JUSTICE: During the pandemic, gender-based violence (GBV), domestic violence, and child marriages have increased. In Nigeria the government

declared a state of emergency against GBV. In Bangladesh there was a rise in child marriages. Globally there were more reported cases of domestic violence. Please pray for peace and justice for all who have been affected by these abusive situations.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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. Sponsored by Global Coffee Break and Resonate Global Mission.

GROUNDWORK: IT IS FINISHED - It's easy to assume that when Jesus declares "It is finished," he means his suffering is finished. Join our Groundwork conversation on John 19:28-30 as we discuss why this is really a cry of accomplishment; his work done, he is victorious, and the triumph we proclaim at Easter is just the beginning. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: The Practice of Celebrating: Today we celebrate an event that changed everything: the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! As you celebrate Easter with family and friends, read 1 Peter 1:3-9 together, and invite people of all ages around your table to share how you experience the "living hope" that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection offers. And in this pandemic year, express your gratitude for the way God's love has carried us through these very difficult times. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crc-na.org/FaithFormation/Practices)

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: Spread the Good News this Easter! - He is risen! As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, say a special prayer for those joining your congregation for the first time today. Many Resonate Global Mission church planters and missionaries are working to reach this special audience and right now you can also make a special gift to help. Any amount you give at www.resonateglobalmission.org/EasterGift will be doubled!

WORLD RENEW: Extending Neighbourly Love - As we look forward to Refugee Sunday next week, join World Renew for a Live Devotional Experience on Wednesday, April 7 at 3PM EDT. You'll hear from World Renew's Church Engagement staff as they talk with Dena Nicolai and Lisa Magliocco, Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Program Team staff, about the story of the Good Samaritan and how we can extend the love of Christ by welcoming our global neighbours. Connect with us on Zoom at bit.ly/refugeelivedevo or on Facebook LIVE at facebook.com/worldrenew/live

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: thebanner.org/donate

EASTER VICTORY FROM SHAMEFUL DEFEAT? - Join CRC campus ministers Rick Mast (University of Alberta) and Mike Wagenman (Western University) for a timely discussion for the post-Easter season: what can we as Western Christians learn from the long history of theological reflection in the East? There are not only racial and economic divisions in our world that we're addressing in this year's online book club - but also our divisions as Christians. Join us on Sunday, April 25 (8pm ET | 7pm CT | 6pm MT | 5pm PT) as we engage Dr. James Payton's new book, *The Victory of the Cross: Salvation in Eastern Orthodoxy*. Payton taught church history for many years at Redeemer University (Ontario) and will share some of the insights he's drawn from a long study of Eastern Christianity. Register at www.WesternCampusMinistry.ca!

LIVESTREAMED ORGAN CONCERT: Calvin University Organ Instructor Rhonda Sider Edgington will be playing an organ concert livestreamed from the University Chapel on Friday, April 9 at 7:30pm. This concert will be a celebration of the music of American composer and organist Margaret Sandresky, born 100 years ago, on April 27, 1921. From hymn settings to variations sets to her *Five Sacred Dances*, Sandresky's works will show off the many colors of the Dobson pipe organ in Calvin's chapel, and introduce listeners to an original American voice (who is still active and composing at 100 years of age!). Join the livestream at vimeo.com/event/684136



Ark Aid Street Mission is reaching out in various ways this year to help the homeless, regardless of the CoVid pandemic. The **Ark** does more than serve as a soup kitchen in which you may volunteer but also provides programs including computer classes, tutoring, art programs, a clothing depot, help & advocacy, showers and laundry services. You can help in many ways and still stay safe. Please consider what you could donate to Ark Aid, ie, warm clothes, boots, shoes, blankets, hats, gloves, food (ie granola bars) and water, **OR** go online for more information @ arkaidmissions.com. If you need more help you can talk to Rose S.—*The Deacons*

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ENDNOTES: How will you celebrate Easter Sunday? Depending on a person's ethnic tradition, one's geography, one's church's traditions, personal family traditions and make up of one's household; a person may give a variety of answers to the question. For example, it's a long-standing practice of a Christian community in Ontario to gather early each Easter morning with members of a neighbouring church, climb a sizeable hill in the center of town, listen to one of the gospels' Easter story, sing a few Easter hymns and then proceed as a group to one of the churches for a light breakfast of boiled eggs, coffee and fellowship. Then people in that same community may join together for other worship experiences and meaningful family traditions. Many of us may know of the famous Ukrainian Easter tradition of creating intricately decorated Easter eggs known as 'pysanka'. The word pysanka comes from the verb pysaty, "to write". How will you mark Easter with joy and meaning? I pray that you will give some fresh thought to how you will celebrate and possibly even begin (or begin again) a worthwhile tradition. What better and more liberating reality is there to recognize? "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead..." (I Corinthians 15:20) - **EGN**

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL...		
SUNDAY April 4	10:00 AM	Easter Worship Service
TUESDAY April 6	7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Prayer Meeting Elders Meeting
WEDNESDAY April 7	6:45 PM	High School Church Education Zoom
SUNDAY April 11	10:00 AM	Worship Service

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