

BETHEL

Christian Reformed Church

Connect . Grow . Care



We are pleased to welcome you onsite for our services on Sundays at 10:00am. In adherence with government guidelines, COVID protocols of social distancing and masks are required.

Our services will continue to be live-streamed each week at 10:00 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.

If you have any needs or questions please contact the church office, 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: SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 – 10:00 AM [In-person and Livestream] Mr Calvin Davies will be leading this service, basing the sermon on Genesis 32 "Wrestling with God".

Next Week – SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 – 10:00 AM [In-person and Livestream] Mr Steve Baarda will be leading this service, speaking on "Don't Explain Why the Joke is Funny", based on Matthew 13: 10-17.

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 various 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: MISSION EMPHASIS WEEK: Give thanks with us for all the ways God is working through CRC churches, individuals, and partner ministries to share the

hope of the gospel throughout the world. Pray for continued and strengthened relationships between Resonate and CRC churches so that many more people will come to know the hope, mercy, and grace of Christ.

REFRAME: PORTUGUESE MINISTRY: Adam recently messaged ReFrame's Portuguese ministry team, expressing concern for his church, which has lost many members since the pandemic began. Pray for Adam as well as many other people who share this concern. Pray for churches around the world as they move forward and seek to grow, sharing the grace and love of Christ with others.

WORLD RENEW: MERCY AND JUSTICE: Pray with us for the many families around the world that are suffering: being isolated from each other, struggling through pain, or navigating the trenches of poverty. In so many places medical care is underresourced and inadequate to meet the overwhelming needs caused by the pandemic. Pray for wholeness and healing for vulnerable families and communities.

THEREFOREGO MINISTRIES: MENTORING AND SERVE: Please pray with us as we launch three mentoring networks with churches seeking to grow connections with emerging adults in their congregations this fall. We are also preparing for SERVE 2022 at sites across Canada and the United States. We are excited to see what God will do in the lives of students next summer through SERVE.

CHAPLAINCY AND CARE: CONFERENCE: At our annual conference September 23-25 we are hosting our 154 CRC chaplains online from the U.S., Canada, and around the globe. Our theme is "Rest. Sabbath. Hope." Pray for our chaplains as they collaborate with peers, find spiritual renewal, hone skills, and implement best practices to continue to minister during "moments that matter."

RESONATE: HONDURAS: Resonate missionary Caspar Geisterfer in Honduras is discipling a young adult who was recently appointed to lead the youth group at her church. She accepted the position but admitted that she's intimidated. Ask the Holy Spirit to encourage and equip her as she leads students in her church.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES: MENTAL HEALTH: As many people continue to experience mental health challeng-

es, whether these have been lifelong challenges or more recent ones, ask God to generously provide peace, joy, and hope to them and their loved ones. May God's people be particularly attentive and welcoming toward all who long to experience Christian fellowship.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD NEWS CRC is thankful that God has heard our prayers and provided us with a pastor; Lynette van de Hoef Meyers has accepted our call to be pastor of Good News CRC. Lynette will, Lord willing, be ordained at Good News on October 3rd, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. We are thankful for your prayers and support during our vacancy and would like to invite you to join us as we celebrate the beginning of this new chapter for our church with the installation of Pastor van de Hoef Meyers. If you would like to bring greetings from your church or organization during this celebration, please make your request to our clerk, Cathy Hiemstra at cathy4gncrc@gmail.com. Due to covid restrictions, we will need to limit the number of people in the church. If you would like to attend the service, please send your request via: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DYFJCSX>

PRAY FOR WESTERN UNIVERSITY: Last weekend, Western's first weekend of the new academic year, a student was murdered on campus and something like 35 female students were sexually assaulted in a residence hall. Pray for all the students and staff during this terrible time.

VON WALKING GROUP: The walking group will meet on **TUESDAY MORNINGS** (WEATHER PERMITTING) at the Brydges street entrance (1475 Brydges Street) in the smaller parking lot. There is a big white sign with blue lettering on it attached to the brick building "Kiwaniis Skateboard Plaza" at the entrance to the Kiwanis skatepark). We will meet there at 10:00 am and walk for an hour. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Call or email VON to join the group: 519-659-2273 ext 22392 or email vonlondoncss@von.ca

ABUSE AWARENESS SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 26: In one week, the Safe Church ministry of the CRC invites congregations to imagine a more holistic approach to nurturing a safe and healthy church community where abuse itself becomes unthinkable and where survivors feel supported and safe. In preparation, learn more about Safe Church now at their website: crcna.org/SafeChurch. Consider donating to Safe Church at crcna.org/SafeChurch/donate

THE BANNER: Get denominational news straight to your inbox! - The Banner, the magazine of the CRC, will send you news, features, and columns straight to your email inbox! Sign up for the weekly e-newsletter by visiting the-banner.org/signup. While you're there, you can sign up to receive The Banner print magazine straight to your door as well! TheBanner.org/signup

GROUNDWORK: YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY - The seventh commandment helps us live rightly in sacred marriage relationships. Join Groundwork as we study Exodus 20:14 and other scriptures to better understand why God cares and how we find the hope and grace to help us commit and, when necessary, receive forgiveness and re-commit to keeping this commandment. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

FAITH PRACTICE REFLECTION TIP: Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Sabbath: Read Luke 6:6-11 and ponder or discuss the following questions: In what areas of your life do you need healing and restoration? How might celebrating sabbath help you open your heart to letting Jesus "completely restore" and heal you? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices)

ALL NATIONS HERITAGE SUNDAY: October 3: In two weeks, we recognize All Nations Heritage Sunday and celebrate the multicultural church of Christ. In preparation, learn more about the CRC Office of Race Relations and its Scholarship Fund that provides financial assistance for university students of various ethnic minorities. Check out the website: crcna.org/AllNations

PRAY FOR OUR NATION: Let's pray before we vote—starting now! Canada as we know it could change dramatically unless God's people ask for His intervention. Will you commit to fervently praying for our nation and for the election? As Canadians head to the polls in September, may we lean on the wisdom and guidance of Jesus Christ. The decisions our officials make determine our nation's future - impacting our generation and the ones to come. So let's pray that His will is accomplished in the election and for our nation.

INDWELL: Indwell tenants and staff invite you to join them on a virtual Indwell Road Trip on September 23 at 7:30 pm. Register now at indwell.ca for this free event. You'll be glad you joined!

GREATER LONDON CELEBRATION WITH WILL GRAHAM: With the Celebration outreach weekend (Oct. 23-24) quickly approaching, we thank God for your partnership in the Gospel and the opportunity to share it across Greater London. God continues to open doors to reach many people amid ever-changing circumstances. The venue where the Celebration will be held—Budweiser Gardens—falls under the Ontario government's new COVID-related requirements for access to public spaces. These regulations require everyone entering Budweiser Gardens to show proof of vaccination.

Because we want everyone to hear the Gospel message, we will also be live-streaming the Celebration from churches in the community, where anyone can attend. These additional venues fall under current regulations for places of worship. We will send you more details in the coming days, and you can always check LondonCelebration.ca for the latest information. Please connect with us at londoncelebration@bgea.ca if you have any questions. As we look to what God will do, let's continue in prayer for the Gospel to be heard throughout the region, "*for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes*" (Romans 1:16).

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Bulletin Deadline: **Thursday by Noon**