

# BETHEL

*Christian Reformed Church*

Connect . Grow . Care



**We are pleased to welcome you onsite for our services on Sundays at 10:00am. Capacity is limited to 60 people in adherence with government guidelines.**

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. 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: August 22, 2021 – 10:00 AM** [*In-person and Livestream*] This week Pastor Eric continues his last series of messages at Bethel Church. The series title is “Don’t Miss” and uses as an umbrella verse Hebrews 12:15 “See to it that no one misses the grace of God...” (NIV, 1984). Today's focus on God's grace, emphasizes the generosity of God. We will study Matthew 20:1-16.

**Next Week: August 29, 2021 – 10:00 AM** [*In-person and Livestream*] Next week The “Don’t Miss” series continues with a look at multiple scripture passages: Psalm 13, Lamentations 3: 21 – 26, Romans 5: 6-8. The message theme has to do with the grace of God's presence and is entitled *The “And-Yet” Character of God's Grace*. .

## **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/>

**REFRAME MINISTRIES: BURKINA FASO:** Adjaratou lost her husband about 10 months ago and said she was struggling with her faith in Christ when she found programs from ReFrame's French ministry team. Pray for her as she continues to adjust to life without her husband. Ask God to keep her faith strong despite her loss.

**DISABILITY CONCERNS: GIVING THANKS:** We give God thanks in the release of the third edition of our resource for disability advocates: *Everybody Belongs, Serving Together*, which includes an expanded section on the intersection of mental health, disability, and faith and gives greater prominence to the voices of people with disabilities. See our Network post ([network.crcna.org](http://network.crcna.org)) “New Resource! *Everybody Belongs, Serving Together*.”

**INDIGENOUS FAMILY CENTRE: CHANGES:** We are undergoing a leadership change as Shannon Perez, IFC's first Indigenous director, begins work in the role that Michele Visser had for 12 years. As we anticipate a peaceful and joyous transition, we give thanks for the ongoing support of the Christian Reformed Church and we pray for God's continued guidance in these challenging times.

**WORLD RENEW: NICARAGUA:** COVID-19 cases are on the rise in Nicaragua, but there are no official limits on gatherings. Moreover, reports of COVID cases and deaths aren't reliable, making it easier for rumors to spread on social media. Please pray for peace, wisdom, health, and protection for Nicaraguans, and for World Renew staff who have not yet had access to vaccines.

**RACE RELATIONS: LEADERSHIP AND WISDOM:** Please pray for discernment as a search team considers several candidates for the position of Race Relations director. Pray also for clarity and civility in church members' differences over the complexity of racism amid current COVID-19 and political tensions. throughout the world. Ask God for wisdom and guidance in these ministries. Pray that the Lord's global church may grow through this work.

## REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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](mailto:vonlondoncss@von.ca)

**FANSHAWE CAMPUS MINISTRY** will be providing 'Welcome to September' packs for Fanshawe students once again! These packs will include some school supplies, sweet and salty snacks, and lots of fun surprises to help you kick off your new semester. Fanshawe students can sign up to receive a care package at the link <https://www.fanshawecampusministry.com/carebags>

**SOCO BEACH PROJECT:** This coming Sunday will be our last day together! As you can imagine, we've already been doing a lot of reflecting on our time at the first ever SoCo Beach Project. Time and again, we see how God has been so faithful. A recurring comment among the participants is the realization that we won't know the full impact of this experience...if not for a couple of months...and maybe not for a year or two. Pray for us as we part ways, and re-enter the various contexts of our lives for this fall. Check out the article that was written in the local paper about us! [News article](#)

**VISION SOHO ALLIANCE:** As we continue working with our partners in the Vision SoHo Alliance to bring the redevelopment of the Old Victoria Hospital Lands to life, we wanted to share with our community a more in-depth look at our vision for the SoHo neighbourhood. We've been hard at work behind the scenes to make our vision a reality. This development is a project for the community, by the community – local Londoners, volunteers, and charities all working together to create a vibrant, inclusive space. London is in the midst of a housing crisis. The average cost of rent is rising and there are still thousands of families on the waitlist for rent-geared-to-income and supportive housing. This one-of-a-kind partnership is helping achieve the City of London's affordable housing goal while honouring and celebrating the rich heritage of the Old Victoria Hospital Lands and SoHo neighbourhood. Watch this short video to learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOh5v1eubIM>

**CRCNA PRAYER - INVITATION TO PRAY:** We are a praying church. The Council of Delegates has asked all in the CRC to make this a year of prayer. The CRCNA Prayer Team invites you to join online in monthly Prayer Gatherings. We will meet virtually on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00am EST for one hour of prayer led by the CRC Prayer Team. Our goal is that this is not the only pray-

er opportunity for CRC members/groups. We would like this to be a grassroots effort that includes many more people than we can host in one session per month. We encourage you to lead your own prayer group at a time and place and in the language that works best for you. We will provide you with Prayer Guides and even set up a zoom meeting if needed. If you would like to learn more about prayer opportunities in the CRC, please fill out this short [Google Survey](#). The next CRCNA Prayer Gathering hosted and led by the CRCNA Prayer Team will be held on September 8, 2021, at 11:00 am EST. Please [sign up here](#) to attend and receive the Zoom link for the virtual prayer meeting. If you have questions or comments, please contact us by emailing [Prayer@crnapartners.org](mailto:Prayer@crnapartners.org).

**DIVERSITY SUNDAY:** August 22 is Diversity Sunday. The Office of Diversity serves our growing number of non-Anglo congregations. The Office is sparking a new conversation where diaspora communities are leading the CRC in noticing and engaging with the changing community in which they worship. This results in growth of leadership within the entire denomination, and helps us to share our gifts and leadership in a way that grows the CRCNA as a whole.

**PART-TIME WORSHIP DIRECTOR:** Are you someone who loves Jesus and has a heart for ministry? We invite you to apply for Aylmer CRC's part-time Worship Director position. We're looking for someone who has a passion for music and enjoys being involved in the church. At Aylmer CRC, we celebrate our hope in Christ through spiritual growth that inspires a welcoming and inclusive community for all people. Learn more about the position and apply today! Visit [aylmercrc.org](http://aylmercrc.org) or email Aylmer CRC at [office@aylmercrc.org](mailto:office@aylmercrc.org) or Kennedy Vandendool at [kennedyvdool@gmail.com](mailto:kennedyvdool@gmail.com)

**HEARTS EXCHANGED:** It is the last week to sign up for a fall cohort of Hearts Exchanged. The program is designed as a learning and action journey to equip Reformed Christians to engage with Indigenous people as neighbours and fellow image bearers. If you've been looking for a supportive way to engage with reconciliation, don't miss this opportunity. [crcna.org/hearts-exchanged](http://crcna.org/hearts-exchanged)

**SAFE CHURCH BOOK CLUB:** A Church Called Tov - Safe Church Ministry is hosting a virtual book study open to all interested in learning more about creating a TOV (good) culture in our churches! We will be reading A Church Called TOV: Forming a Goodness Culture that Resists Abuses of Power and Promotes Healing by Laura Barringer and Scot McKnight. Monday evenings at 7:30 pm Eastern/4:30 pm Pacific, for five weeks, starting September 27th and running through October 25th. Sign up today: <https://bit.ly/TOVbookclub>

**GROUNDWORK: HONOR THE LORD YOUR GOD** - The first three commandments all provide guidance for our relationship with God. Join Groundwork as we study Exodus 20:1-7 and discuss the purpose of these commandments, why we still keep them, and what it looks like to follow them in our lives today. 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 Service: What is usually your first reaction when you're asked to serve in some way? What has shaped that reaction? Spend some time reflecting on that today. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [crc-na.org/FaithFormation/Practices](http://crc-na.org/FaithFormation/Practices))

**WORLD RENEW:** Will you help Haitians left homeless after the earthquake? - On August 14th an earthquake shook Haiti and has so far claimed over a thousand lives, left thousands more injured or missing, destroyed property, and compounded the suffering of the island nation that has been struggling with economic instability. The Haitian healthcare system is ill equipped to tend to all the injured. An estimated 30,000 people have been left homeless—exposed to the elements including the wind and rain that Tropical Storm Grace brought down just days after the earthquake. World Renew, as a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, has joined the Humanitarian Coalition in asking Canadians to give generously to help those impacted by the crisis. World Renew is working to deliver emergency supplies to families left homeless by the earthquake; our initial response includes non-food items like tarps for shelter and kits containing household and personal care items. To donate visit: [worldrenew.ca/haiti](http://worldrenew.ca/haiti)



**A Fall Full of Good News:**

Thank you for your heart to reach Greater London through the Oct. 22–24 Will Graham Celebration. We can't wait to see what God will do! **Volunteer for the Cele-**

**bration Outreach Weekend** During the Celebration outreach weekend, thousands will have an opportunity to hear the Gospel—maybe for the first time. An army of passionate volunteers like you help make this possible! If your heart is to reach your community with Jesus' Good News, consider applying to volunteer in one of the dozens of roles throughout Oct. 22–24. Join us on Sept. 9 at 7:00 pm at London Gospel Temple to learn more about how you can volunteer.

|                                      |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <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>     |
| <b>Chair of Council:</b> Ron Hessels | 226.663.4191                         | <a href="mailto:ronshessels@gmail.com">ronshessels@gmail.com</a>         |
| <b>Office Admin:</b> Barb Wesselius  | 519.453.6565                         | <a href="mailto:bethelcrcldn@gmail.com">bethelcrcldn@gmail.com</a>       |
| <b>E-transfer Address:</b>           |                                      | <a href="mailto:bethelcrrdonate@gmail.com">bethelcrrdonate@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Office Hours: By Request</b>      |                                      | Bulletin Deadline: <b>Thursday by Noon</b>                               |