

SING TO GOD, SING IN PRAISE OF HIS NAME,
EXTOL HIM WHO RIDES ON THE CLOUDS:
REJOICE BEFORE HIM—HIS NAME IS THE LORD.

—PSALM 68:4

Ascension Sunday

Welcome to another edition of CCRC's bulletin! It has now been 10-and-a-half weeks since the World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented 11th Sunday in a row that we have not had the privilege to gather at the church for communal worship.

The ongoing pandemic continues to keep the church building **closed and all scheduled events, including public worship services, have been suspended until further notice.** All staff is working from home. Discussions are ongoing about what returning to the church might look like including a possible live stream, so stay tuned. It is important and respectful that we follow government guidelines and that we do not hasten any sort of quick return.

The elders and deacons along with the pastors have been seeking to keep in touch with the entire congregation. If there are any concerns please don't hesitate to call one of the pastors, your Community elder or deacon or Shalem Mental Health Network using the Congregational Assistance Plan.

These continue to be challenging times for our region, province, country and the entire globe. May the living Lord grant us his peace as we move forward.



During COVID19 restrictions the CAP counselling ministry through Shalem Mental Health Network continues to make anonymous professional counselling support available to congregants of our church at no charge. All services are provided through a secured video or telephone connection.

To book a CAP appt, call Shalem directly at **1-866-347-0041**. And for more resource information check their website at <https://shalemnetwork.org/>

COMMUNITY CRC CHURCH FAMILY

(The bracketed numbers indicate the Community to which these individuals belong)

Our condolences and prayers are extended to **Peter & Pat E (11)** with the passing away of Peter's youngest brother Robert, of Welland, Ontario, this past Thursday, May 21. May the Lord be near to the E family during this difficult time.

Wedding Banns: Aaron Peter Bokma (6) and **Melissa Irene Kuipers** have indicated their desire to be united in marriage. If there are no valid objections, they will exchange their vows this coming Saturday, May 30, 2020. Pastor Amanda Bakale will be officiating. May the Lord grant you a beautiful and memorable day as you exchange vows and rings and begin your married life together!

As the news reports, almost daily, the Long-Term Care facilities of this province continue to face some severe challenges with COVID-19. Forest Heights Revera, where **Sandra K (9)** lives, has been especially challenged. At the time of writing there have been 49 deaths attributed to the virus in that home alone. Meanwhile, amidst it all Sandra remains healthy.

Matters for Prayer:

- Pray for CCRC and the season of transition it is in with the departure of Pastor Carel at the end of next week and the departure of Pastor John preaching his farewell on June 21.
- Pray for the Administrative Council as it meets this week Tuesday. This is the last meeting for Pastor Carel and Pastor John. **The ad hoc Committee of Council will be bringing a recommendation of a candidate to fulfill the one-year interim pastor position.**
- Pray for guidance and wisdom for the Search Team as they begin their work searching for a Pastor – Preaching and Pastoral Care. Members of the team are Agnes B, Laura D, Jim R, Scott K, Mia F, Greg S and Kim T.
- Continue to lament the effects of the pandemic on our region, country and world.
- Be bold before the Lord and pray for an end to the virus creating such havoc in our world.
- Pray for those seeking to find a vaccine.
- Pray for continued resiliency, energy and creativity for those remaining at home with few places to go.
- Pray for families caring for young children and at the same time with parents having to work from home. It makes for some stressful times.
- Pray for those “on the front lines” who are called upon to serve during this pandemic. Pray for courage, health, strength and safety.
- Pray for those in leadership positions in government as they seek to guide us throughout the pandemic, and as they seek to work on easing restrictions. Pray for courage, health, strength and wisdom.
- Pray for those dealing with mental illness and addiction which is exacerbated by the pandemic.
- Pray for those dealing with other illnesses that seem to have taken a back seat to COVID-19.
- Pray for those who find themselves stuck in abusive relationships or homes.
- **Anthony and Barbara P** with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island, **Hank and Rosario S** volunteering in

Guatemala, **Pastor Brian B** serving with Waterloo Campus Ministry.

- Pray for the church locally and internationally as it addresses COVID-19. Pray for an ability to share the good news of Jesus even now.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: We would like to thank you for the many phone calls, emails, and cards that we received our 70th wedding anniversary. A special thank you to Community #8 for the lovely outdoor planter you gave to us. All praise and thanks be to God!
John and Sybil W (8)

We would like to thank everyone for the calls, emails, Facebook messages of congratulations and the many cards with loving messages written in them. God has blessed us greatly over the past 50 years and we are grateful for our church family to have them at this time of COVID-19 as we were not able to celebrate normally. Thank you everyone.

With Love & Hugs,
Ben & Marjo M (14)

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to **George and Irene F (11)** as they celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary tomorrow, May 25, 2020.

Congratulations to **Wayne A and Angela B-A (5)** as they celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary on May 27, 2020.

May the Lord continue to bless and strengthen these marriages for many years to come!

UPCOMING SERVICES

May 31 | Pastor Carel Geleyne | Pentecost Sunday | Pastor Carel's Farewell/Retirement
June 7 | Pastor John Medendorp
June 14 | Pastor Amanda Bakale | Lord's Supper

Check "Church at Home" on the website for details on this service as it is made available. Items available on the website include a **link to the sermon, a link to the prayers of the people, a song list from YouTube to tie into the liturgy, and a link to the offering for which we are having a second offering.** Please note that the services are pre-recorded and therefore can be watched at any time during the week.

OFFERING SCHEDULE

There are two offerings taken on a weekly basis at Community CRC. The first offering is for the Ministries of Community CRC and the second offering is for various causes that our church supports.

This week our offering is for Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI). *"We beseech Thee, O Spirit divine . . ."* In 1939, these six words were broadcast across the airwaves with the launch of the Christian Reformed Church's first weekly radio program. These Gospel messages weren't just for church members though—they were for everyone. Over the last 80 years, media technology has expanded from radio to television to smartphones. Each step brought new opportunities to share God's Word with people everywhere! Today your church, along with congregations across North America, partners with BTGMI to share the Gospel in 10 of our world's major languages. Although the biblical messages we share using today's media don't usually use "thee's" and "thou's," like the first radio message, their purpose remains the same:

- Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

COMMUNITY CRC EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Disciple believers,
- Strengthen the local church.

Thank you for your prayers, offerings, and support that helps people in nearly every country reframe life with God's story. We invite you to show this short video <https://vimeo.com/417836444>.

Next week (May 31) we celebrate Pentecost and our offering is for Resonate Global Mission. *"What is the promise of Pentecost? That you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. That same promise is for us today - but not just for us, for everyone. The disciples' sermon being heard in every tongue is a lesson of the Holy Spirit's power and plan for mission. Resonate Global Mission is privileged to go with you on this mission. Whether your path leads you through your own neighborhood or to "those who are far off," may the Spirit go with you into every area of life and equip you for God's redeeming work."* For more information on Global Resonate Mission go to <https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/>.

Upcoming Offerings:

June 7 | Worship Ministries

June 14 | Woodland Christian High School

Offerings Received as at May 17, 2020 including Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)

May 17	\$	20,472
Year to Date	\$	244,575
Budgeted 2020 Total Contributions	\$	885,705
Second Offerings		
Benevolence Fund	\$	1,305
Missionary Support	\$	500
World Renew	\$	300

Zoom Meetings | If you need to book a Zoom meeting, please note that process is now being looked after by the church office (office@ccrc.on.ca).

Preparatory Class for Children at the Lord's Table | Pastor John Medendorp and Pastoral Elder Darlene B will be leading a class for children who have expressed interest in participating in the Lord's Supper. This two-session class will provide opportunity for children together with their parents to learn about the sacrament, hear Bible stories, and share stories of God's faithfulness. The first session will take place on **Sunday, May 31, and the second on Sunday, June 7**, at a time that works best for registrants and their families. Both sessions will be held over Zoom. To register, please contact Pastor John (john@ccrc.on.ca) with the names and ages of your children who will be attending.

The Administrative Council will meet this Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

2020 ICF Walk of Faith, Hope, and Love - Everyone is invited to support **Indigenous Christian Fellowship (ICF)** by going for a walk on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. People are invited to pray and walk in a spirit of faith, hope and love to bless the ministry. Walkers are encouraged to raise funds for the ministry by gathering pledges for their steps of support for ICF. Traditionally this 5 km walk has been based at the ministry's location in North Central Regina. Due to the current restrictions on public gatherings, people are encouraged to walk a distance in a location of their own choosing across the country. For more information please contact one of the following ICF Walk of Faith, Hope and Love

committee members: For more information on ICF and the CRCNA please follow this link: <https://www.crcna.org/indigenous/about-us>

Safe Church Webinar - May 27 - On Wed May 27 at 12 pm Eastern, Safe Church is hosting a webinar with Chuck DeGroat, author of *When Narcissism Comes to Church: Healing Your Community from Emotional and Spiritual Abuse*. The webinar will take place via Zoom and Facebook Live. Learn more at network.crcna.org/safe-church/safe-church-webinar-chuck-degroat-author-when-narcissism-comes-church.

Internship Opportunity at World Renew - World Renew is looking to hire a Communications & Social Media Intern to work with our Digital Communications staff based in our Burlington office! If you're a 3rd or 4th year university student with experience in the following areas: business, international development, film, media studies, communications - check out our website for more details and information: worldrenew.net/careers. The application deadline for this opportunity is June 3, 2020.

From World Renew: *"Already homeless after fleeing Myanmar two years ago, Rohingya refugees are living in densely populated camps in Bangladesh where physical distancing is impossible. International agencies worked hard to prevent the coronavirus from entering the camps. But now the virus has hit, and over a million already vulnerable and undernourished Rohingya refugees are at risk of contracting COVID-19. With the added crisis of Cyclone Amphan's landfall in Bangladesh, heavy rains and possible flooding are expected in the camp, leaving them even more vulnerable and exposed.*

Refugee and displaced families need food assistance more than ever. Globally, we are

watching as the number of people in the world experiencing extreme hunger because of COVID-19 continues to rise. Experts are predicting that the number of food-insecure people will double globally because of the coronavirus, and the displaced and refugees are among the most vulnerable. Families who were already homeless from a previous crisis are now living in worsened conditions as their meagre resources are disappearing. Displaced families from Myanmar, South Sudan, Syria, and Venezuela are badly in need of food assistance. We must act right now. And we will — with your help.

Thanks to a 4X match from the Canadian Government through Canadian Foodgrains Bank, your donation will be multiplied to provide food for as many displaced and refugee families as possible.

Right now, World Renew is responding globally through our partners to provide emergency food assistance to displaced Syrians, Venezuelans, South Sudanese, the Rohingya, those fleeing from extremists in northern Nigeria and other places.

Your donation of any amount will be matched 4X to provide critical food and hope to families living in crisis". If you would like to donate directly to World Renew please go to: https://donate.worldrenew.ca/site/Donation2?df_id=8340&8340.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&utm_source=World+Renew+News+and+Updates&utm_campaign=8d2cde5404-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_05_20_03_35&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ca63e34c8a-8d2cde5404-70958713. You can also give via your contribution envelope - please make sure you indicate the cause is for World Renew – Cdn Foodgrains Bank.

