



Welcome to Bethel Church

March 22, 2020

Welcome

Children's Story

Scripture Reading - 1 John 4:7-21

Messenger – Kevin Hildebrand (The Bunker) – “Love Stories”

Prayer & Benediction

The Ministerial Committee met this week to discuss how we can best serve the church while doing our part to keep everyone safe. We realize that the recommendations from the government and/or medical community may change and evolve, and we are attempting to stay informed. As Ministerial we recommend that groups do not meet in person as recommended by Canada's Chief Public Health Officer.

Here is a recap of the schedule for programs and ministries here at Bethel:

- Sunday worship services will be available online at www.ourbethelchurch.com and posted on the church's Facebook page at Bethel Bergthaler Mennonite Church.
- The following ministries are postponed until further notice: Jr and Sr Youth, Care Groups, Men's Breakfast, Mom's Morning and the baby and bridal shower scheduled for March 17.
- Awana is cancelled and the awards presentation will be re-scheduled.
- The Mexico Mission trip is also being re-scheduled.
- The church office and library will remain open, but we suggest calling ahead of time to ensure someone will be there.

Donations can be dropped off or you can go online to donate. Feel free to call the office for further instructions as to how to set that up.

We want to continue to be a support and encouragement to the church family and so please email or call us with any **praise items** or **prayer requests** that you wish to be shared with either a pastor or perhaps the church family.

Check our website, our Facebook site, as well as your emails, as we will be using the prayer chain and social media to communicate our schedule and updates for various events.

What's Coming Up

APRIL 27

Women's Event @ 7pm – Save the date!

Registration for the 2020/21 AWANA year is open to the public after March 25th.

Please contact Jarrad Toews at jarradtoews@gmail.com



Praise & Prayer Highlights

Remember to pray for ...

... Frank (Mary) Enns

... June Klassen

Missionaries of the Month:



THE BUNKER

Prayer: - One of our volunteers receiving confirmation of cancer
- Wisdom and direction for Bunker leadership

Praise: - Amazing plans and partnerships with other organizations coming together
- Hearts of many youth beginning to soften and open up

We want to encourage you all with the following excerpt from an open letter that was sent out by Kevin Stone, the president of the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches.

Obviously all of us are in the midst of some unprecedented circumstances. Whether or not we have been exposed to COVID-19, each of our churches is facing questions about whether to meet, how to respond, etc. Please consider the following thoughts.

1 – God's people are not to live in fear

(Luke 12, 2 Timothy 1:7, 1 John 4:18)

While we make responsible decisions and take appropriate precautions, we should not allow fear to control or define us. Our boldness in the face of uncertain times is part of what communicates to the unbelievers around us that life in Christ is different. Our perspective should be eternal.

2 – God's people are called to love others

(John 13:34, Romans 12:10, 1 Peter 4:8)

While we are not to live in fear, we should be mindful that others can be impacted by our decisions. If our freedom from fear causes us to ignore precautions that could have protected someone else, we are not loving well. *Galatians 5:13* specifically addresses the abuse of freedom.

3 – God's people are called to submit to authority

(Romans 13, Titus 3:1)

If the authorities asked us to do something decidedly wrong we would resist. However, when they ask us to help our community and protect the health of our weakest members by not meeting, this seems like a legitimate use of their authority. We should give ample consideration to that request.

Salt and Light

God calls us in *Matthew 5* to be "salt and light." I believe this is a salt and light moment for us. We can make the best use of this moment in many ways. For example:

- Do your neighbors, coworkers and family members see you reacting to current events with confidence in God rather than fear?
- Do they see you responding to current inconvenience or hardship with an attitude of love and humility?
- Are you actively loving others who may have greater need during this crisis?
- Can you use the current situation as a way to begin conversations about life, death and eternity? Watch for opportunities to share the Gospel.

Finally, I want to encourage our people to give generously throughout this crisis. Give to your neighbors who are in need, give hope to those who so desperately need it. Consider donating blood or some other service which might be overlooked during this time of "self-quarantine."

Let's pray for one another, encourage one another, and bless one another as we are able. Let's be salt and light to the world and tell others about an amazing Savior who gives us a sense of peace regardless of our earthly circumstance.

May we all be able to say with Paul:

...I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. - *Philippians 4:11-13 (ESV)*

May God strengthen, bless and encourage you.

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

Words: Joseph M. Scriven, 1855.
Music: 'untitled' Charles C. Converse, 1868. Setting: "Book of hymns and tunes", 1874.
copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision.

♩ = 100

1. What a Friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble a - ny - where?
3. Are we weak and hea - vy la - den, cum - bered with a load of care?
4. Bless - ed Sa - vior, Thou hast pro - mised Thou wilt all our bur - dens bear

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
We should ne - ver be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sa - vior, still our re - fuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
May we ev - er, Lord, be bring - ing all to Thee in earn - est prayer.

O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends des - pise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Soon in glo - ry bright un - cloud - ed there will be no need for prayer

All be - cause we do not ca - rry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.
Rap - ture, praise and end - less wor - ship will be our sweet por - tion there.

Our Mission

Exalt Christ - Equip for Service
Edify one Another - Evangelize the Lost
Extend Christ's Love

BETHEL BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH

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