



NEWSLETTER

Deep Connecting
Lifelong Equipping
Compassionate Serving

April 20, 2025

Services/Events

Today - **Easter Sunday!**

Apr 27th - GEMS & Cadet Sunday

Apr 28th - Elders meeting 7:30pm at the church

Apr 29th - Men's Morning Bible Study 6-7AM – studying Genesis 1-11. (see below for info)

May 4th - Voting on & selection of new Elders & Deacons.

May 5th - Council meeting, 7:30pm at the church

NOTE:

- Our **Classis Niagara Church Visitors** will be meeting with Council to listen & discuss how Council is doing in its servant leadership of Bethany, and how the ministry of Bethany is doing. Results of this conversation are then reported at the next Classis meeting. This is our way of accountability for us as sister CRC churches in Classis Niagara (regional church assembly). Classis Visitors consist of one pastor and one elder from nearby CRC's.
- **The Church Visitors are also available for anyone who, after coming to Bethany Council** with a question or issue, have as yet been unable to find resolution with Council. You are then welcome to bring this to the Church Visitors in person to seek their advice. If you wish to do this, please inform the Council clerk, and the Classis Visitors will meet with you at the church in the hour before the start of the Council meeting (i.e. from 6:30 to 7:30).

Collections

Today - Resonate Global Mission (match campaign until the end of April)

April 27th - GEMS/Cadets

May 4th - New Ground

May 11th - Summer Camp

May 18th - Smithville Christian High School

May 25th - Cairn/Dunnville Christian School

Council Meeting Summary - April 7, 2025

All but two (2) members were present.

Ed opened with devotions, reading from Jonah 4 and discussed the importance of getting out of our comfort zone and being open to share the gospel with those around us. Are we too focused on our own goals and achievements?

Ed opened in prayer.

Council continued to review the Belgic confession, with the Pastor providing some detailed context.

The key highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Discussed nominations, noting a final list has been prepared (see blow). Elections are planned for May 4th 2024 with biographies provided in advance.

Final List

a. Deacons

- Ian Gerryts
- Harrison Exelby
- Nate Anjema
- Darren Wierenga
- Mitchell Van Hoffen

- Bryan Denbak
- b. Elders
 - Brian Prins
 - Gerry Vermeer
 - Tim Van Hoffen
 - Jim Slappendel
 - Ray Van Huizen
 - Calvin Hessels
- Council discussed the spring Congregational meeting date, which is TBD
- Noted the church will be used for federal elections in April
- Discussed the upcoming Classis Niagara meeting and in particular the Classis budget, noting it needs to be scaled back a bit. Bethany Council prepared a few suggestions for Classis to consider
- Motion to lapse Wes Janssen membership approved.
- Human Resource Team noted they are in the hiring process for summer camp.
- Care Team is performing regular visits.
- Next meeting planned for May 5th 2025.
- R. Terpstra closed in prayer.

Seniors Outing: We are planning an outing with our Seniors Group. We are looking at doing the GRAND RIVER CRUISE on **June 11th, 2025**. This 2 ½ hour cruise would include a preshow of Blazing Fiddles and then once aboard the boat we will be enjoying a lunch. Our plan would be to meet at the church that morning and carpool to the Boat Dock. If anyone is interested please let Hans Dam know, he will be at the WELCOME DESK for the next few Sundays with more info. Hans can also be reached at hdam1952@gmail.com OR his cell#289-686-3101. This event is open to anyone in the church, all are welcome to join.

Men's Morning Bible Study:

This is a call out to men who would like to join the Men's Morning Bible Study group Tuesday mornings at 6:00 a.m. at Bethany. Our next study **starts Tuesday, April 29th**. We will be studying Genesis chapters 1-11 over 5 sessions. You might ask, why study the Bible? Here are three simple but good reasons: We are called to be ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20), and as such we have a responsibility to learn and grow from God's Word that we might know Him and represent Him better. Study equips us with being able to identify false teachings, theology or ideas, and proclaim God's truth in the world. (Cf. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Colossians 2:8) Having a knowledge and understanding of God through his Word establishes us with a proper Christian worldview, which in turn impacts our life's decisions going forward. If you have questions or would like to join the group, please speak to either Steve VanLochem or Ben Cousineau.

People of all ages are invited to attend an important and inspiring seminar, *Securing Your Legacy*. This will take place at the Riverside Christian Reformed Church of Wellandport on Monday, May 28 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Did you know that the average age of a widow is just 56? Being prepared can ease the burden on your loved ones during a difficult time. Joanne Schreuders (Van Tuyl), a widow, retired homeschooling mom of ten, a Christian author and speaker, will be sharing personal stories and practical tips on how to prepare for more than 87 decisions your family may face amid grief. You are guaranteed to come away with new insights and helpful information you didn't know before. Bring your spouse, adult children or a friend. No charge, just a free will offering.



Dunnville Christian School is seeking teachers for the 2025/2026 school year.

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:6&7). We are looking for educators who are rooted in Christ, dedicated to developing as a teacher and desire to faithfully serve the Lord through teaching. We offer competitive salaries,

based on years of experience and certification, including pension and a benefit plan.

When teachers share their curiosity and wonder, students are excited to participate in the learning journey! We are deeply thankful to have dedicated teachers who answer the call to train young hearts and minds to love and serve the Lord. Send your cover letter, resume, statement of faith and your philosophy of education to principal@dunnvillechristianschool.ca. We look forward to interacting with you and hearing how the Lord has been preparing you for His purposeful work of teaching!

Please join us for Dunnville Christian School's Celebration of Learning on Thursday, April 24, from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Students will be sharing what they have been learning this year!



On April 26th, 2025, the Cairn Christian School Board of Directors is hosting our annual Gala dinner! Join us in person for an evening of musical entertainment, delicious chef-prepared food, & a silent auction OR pick up a prepared meal to enjoy at home—all in support of Christian education! To reserve or order, visit <https://bit.ly/CairnDinner2025>

Cairn Christian School/Smithville Christian High School are looking for a bus driver for our St. Catharines to Smithville High School express route, effective May 12. If you have your 'B' class licence or know someone who does and would love to drive for our schools either for a few weeks to end the school year or to continue on a more regular basis in September, please contact Kevin Huinink 519-546-9159 or khuinink@cairnchristianschool.ca

The Classis Niagara Ministry Leadership Team invites students intending to go into ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church to apply for financial support after their undergraduate studies are completed and after they qualify for entry at Calvin Seminary or a comparable institution recognized by Classis. Because Classis Niagara values well-trained servants in ordained leadership positions in the church, Classis makes the commitment to provide financial assistance to students training for ordained ministry. Applicants need to receive endorsement from their home church. Contact Pastor Mike Vandyk (mike.vandyk@gracecrc.ca) for an application form and funding criteria. (Deadline May 31, 2025)

Insight Biblical Counselling in Welland is looking for new board members to join the current board in overseeing Insight as a not-for-profit organization and to envision the future. It is a three year term with monthly meetings. Insight helps believers live out the gospel of hope through the resurrection power given to them by the Spirit. And they equip believers to love others well and live out the truth as presented in Scripture. Insight offers both individual and group counselling and also offers training through internships, courses, seminars and conferences to those who would like to mentor and disciple others. If you are interested in learning more about Insight or what it is involved in being a board member, you can contact Glen Slingerland at the Welland office (905-734-4379). You can also connect with Wilma Vahrmeyer (905-246-3552/wvahrmeyer@gmail.com) if you have any questions. For more information about Insight Biblical Counselling, please check out their website at <https://seekinsight.ca/>

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece (October 13 - 24, 2025): Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (4 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

~~~~~Concerts in the area~~~~~

CORAM DEO CHOIR: presents their Spring Concert entitled "He Has Made All Things New." to be held at the Heritage Reformed Congregation, 15th St Jordan Station on **Friday May 9th @7:30**, and at Maranatha Free Reformed Church, Old Mohawk Road, Hamilton on Saturday, **May 10th @7:30**. Tickets go on sale Thursday, April 10th @6pm and can be purchased through our website <https://www.coramdeochoir.ca/tickets>. We look forward to seeing you there!

Need support, prayer or to talk to someone?

Contact Pastor Colin 905-931-5841 (call/text) colin@bethanycrc.ca or Jessica Dyer 905-380-8559 (call/text)
Bethany also offers members/attendees the following confidential congregationally supported counseling:

Insight Biblical Counselling - Book directly with them. Usage is confidential and available to all congregants with the first 6 sessions paid by Bethany. Mention you are a part of Bethany CRC. 905-734-4379 www.seekinsight.ca & info@seekinsight.ca

Congregational Assistance Plan (CAP) Shalem Mental Health Network provides professional faith-based counseling services to our church through the Congregational Assistance Plan ... confidential and available to all congregants, at no cost for the first 6 sessions. Mention you are a part of Bethany CRC. To book an appt call Shalem directly at: 1-866-347-0041, or text 289-335-3543, or emailoffice@shalemnetwork.org

All other church contact info: 905-892-8980 info@bethanycrc.ca www.bethanycrc.ca