

## Welcome to Bethany

This is our third Sunday of the Advent season (the 4 weeks before Christmas). This Sunday we focus on the JOY that the coming of Jesus Christ to earth meant and means still today. These days the news stories out there are mostly bad news. God publishes the good news of great joy for all people, received through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. May we offer our hearts to Him to receive His joyous presence through all the trials of life.

### CHILD CARE

Child-care is available for both infants and toddlers located in the lower level of the church.

### BETHANY KIDS

Children ages 3-8 leave during the service to attend Bethany Kids/Jr. Cadets/Jr. GEMS program downstairs. Please sign in your child each Sunday if they are going to attend.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & HEARING ASSIST DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE USHERS.**

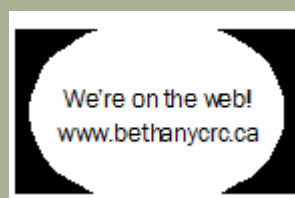
All are welcome to join afterwards for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

### Why Are We Here?

Bethany ministry vision:

**Everyone Growing in Jesus!**

deep connecting—lifelong equipping—compassionate serving



## Ministries Bethany supports

**Locally:** Bible League, Elisha House, Family Outreach, Friendship Club, Hannah House, Harvest Kitchen, Open Arms Mission, Pelham Cares, Pro-Life, Rose City Kids, Shalom Manor, Covenant Christian School, Smithville Christian High School.

**Regionally:** Brock University Chaplaincy (St. Catharines), Shalom Manor Chaplaincy (Grimsby), The Bridge church plant (Niagara Falls)

**Globally** Check out CRC ministry around the world at [www.crcna.org](http://www.crcna.org)

**Devon & Lerato Van Hoffen** in Africa. Email [devon@handsatwork.org](mailto:devon@handsatwork.org)

## Happening Today

**Worship Leaders** 8:00am – time of praise, prayer, & preparation

**Pre-service Prayer** 9:15am – Council & worship leaders (in Multi-use room)

## Upcoming

**Next Sunday's offering: Deacons**

**Next Sunday's Children's Song: "Away in a Manger"**

**Dec 24:** Christmas Eve Candlelight service 6PM

**Dec 25:** Christmas Day Service 10AM

**Dec 31:** End of year service 9:30 AM (no evening service)

**Jan 1:** N Y's Day combined at Grace CRC 10AM (660 S Pelham Rd, Welland)

**Jan & Feb: please note worship services start at 10AM** (2 month trial)

## Get Equipped for Faith Life



**GEMS:** Meets Thursday evenings from 7-8:30pm for girls in grades 4-8. For more information, contact Cynthia: 905-892-2217 or email: [bnauta@cogeco.ca](mailto:bnauta@cogeco.ca)

**Theme Verse for 2017/2018** - "Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did (1 John 2:6)"



**Cadets:** Meets Thursday evenings from 7-8:30pm for boys in grades 4-8. For more information, contact Mike, email: [mikecdreyer@hotmail.com](mailto:mikecdreyer@hotmail.com) or cell: 289-687-3105

**Theme Verse for 2017 / 2018** - "For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them." Ezekiel 34:11

**MERGE (youth group)** - for grades 9-12. Questions? Call Andrea 905-975-8484



**Men's Bible Study** - Resumes on January 9<sup>th</sup>

Tuesdays at 6:00am (coffee provided!)

**Women's Coffee Break** - Tuesdays at Grace CRC at 9:30am

**Heart to Heart (women)** - Fridays at 9:30am

**Women's Bible Study** - Meets at Bethany in the Fireside Room every Tuesday night 7 o'clock. Our next Bible Study will be January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018



**NIAGARA YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP**

Meets once a month with the area CRC's taking turns hosting. We are studying the book by Francis Chan

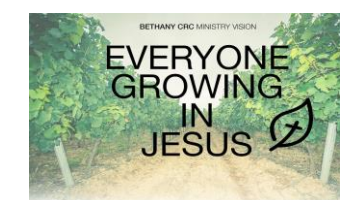
"Crazy Love". Questions? Contact Mary Bokma 905-892-0529.

# Welcome to Bethany!



## Bethany Christian Reformed Church

**December 17, 2017**  
**9:30am**



**Deep connecting**  
**Lifelong equipping**  
**Compassionate serving**

## Connecting

**Administrator** Denise Glasbergen 905-892-8980  
[info@bethanycrc.ca](mailto:info@bethanycrc.ca)

**Pastor** Colin Vander Ploeg 905-931-5841 [call/text]  
[colin@bethanycrc.ca](mailto:colin@bethanycrc.ca)

**Youth Director** Andrea Veldhuizen 905-975-8484 [call/text]  
[andrea@bethanycrc.ca](mailto:andrea@bethanycrc.ca)

**Children's Director** Lorraine Wierenga 289-897-8963  
[lorraine@bethanycrc.ca](mailto:lorraine@bethanycrc.ca)

**Worship Director** Karina Wierenga 289-686-9461 [text]  
[karinawierenga@gmail.com](mailto:karinawierenga@gmail.com)

## Today in Worship



### The Lord Gathers Us

Welcome & Announcements

Opening prayer ...

\*Opening Song

“Prepare Him Room”

\*God’s Word of greeting

\*Songs of Praise

“Joy Has Dawned”

“Hark the Glad Sound!” – PH335

### The Lord Shows Us His Marvelous Grace

Prayer of Confession & the Good News: 1Peter 1:3-9

Song of Assurance

“Christmas Alleluia!”

Children’s Song of Thankfulness

“I’ve Got the Joy”

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent readings – “JOY” (children invited up front)

**(Bethany Kids ages 3-5 are dismissed)**

### The Lord Leads Us by His Word & Spirit

Prayer for the ministry of the Lord through the preaching

Bible reading – Luke 2:8-20 (p.893)

Message title “The Lord is coming: the headlines of joy”

### The Lord Moves Us to Celebrate & Serve

Prayers of God’s people & for offerings

“Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven”

Offerings: 1. Ministries here at Bethany & the CRCNA

2. Shalom Manor

\*God’s Word of Blessing

\*Closing song

“Angles We Have Heard on High” – PH347

## Sermon notes

### Serving Assignments

**Today [Please arrive by 9:15am for Nursery & Toddlers]**

**3-4 Year olds** Lisa O, Joanne B, Jessica O, Jody VH

**5 Year olds** Sierra K, Karen V, Austin O, Connor D

**Dylan** Jacqueline S

**Autism Support Person** Wendy K (Morgan G)

**Nursery** Alex W, Kristy VS, Chloe LW, Naomi S

**Toddlers** Tyler G, Jody V, Brandon VS

**Ushers** Dustin V, Kevin D

**Coffee Servers** Tim & Kathleen VH, Matt & Kelly D

**Greeters** Ken & Nell O, Harry & Sharon H, Andrea V, Annie V

**Sunday School Sign In:** Pete & Denise G

**Next Sunday [Please arrive by 9:15am for Nursery & Toddlers]**

**3-4 Year olds** Ray & Nicole VH, Karson V, Jody VH

**5 Year olds** Cynthia N, Andria B, Austin O, Connor D

**Dylan** Bernice S

**Autism Support Person** Morgan G (Jen K)

**Nursery** Diane D, Dan VG, Ann K, Emily B

**Toddlers** Tracy G, Richard VL, Noah VS

**Ushers** Chris S, Mary B

**Coffee Servers** Gerry & Cynthia V

**Greeters** Cor VS, Hans & Hilda D, Ans R, Joanne D

**Sunday School Sign In:** Rudy & Debbie B

**Christmas Morning**

**Nursery** Lorraine W, Mike K, Jayden V

**Toddlers** Ralph T, Colleen K, Luke VL

**\*\*As the 2017 year is coming to a close, we are reminded by God's Word in 2Cor 8:11 to "finish the work (of giving) so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it according to your means." As Council we ask that we all examine our faith giving for the current year. As you can see below, we have not yet received the needed income that we together as members of Bethany committed to giving in order to meet all our ministry needs/commitments for the year. If you have fallen behind in your giving plans, now is the time to catch up. If you are unsure what to give, examine how the Lord has financially/materially provided for you this year and see if you have given in proportion to that (biblically 10%+). Even if you have not given this year yet, now is a great time to take some steps in faith and begin participating in what the Bible in 2Cor 8:7 calls "the grace of giving. Your servant leaders in Christ's name, the Council.\*\***

**Ministry Funding/Budget Update as of November 30/17**

**Bethany Income Plan: \$421,012.57**

**Bethany Income actual received: \$368,761.05**

**Bethany Expense Plan: \$421,012.57**

**Bethany Expense actual: \$393,222.78**

## Bethany Church Updates & Prayers

### Birthdays this week

Coty B (17<sup>th</sup>), Mike D (17<sup>th</sup>), Ann H (17<sup>th</sup>), Holly R (17<sup>th</sup>), Kelly D (18<sup>th</sup>), Avery W (18<sup>th</sup>), Brad O (20<sup>th</sup>), Wendy V (21<sup>st</sup>), Sonya VD (21<sup>st</sup>), Lorraine W (21<sup>st</sup>), Ellen D (22<sup>nd</sup>), Layla W (22<sup>nd</sup>)

### Anniversaries this week

John & Debbie VM (17<sup>th</sup>), George & Betty G (19<sup>th</sup>)

### Prayers requested

- ❖ Pray for the staff and residents of Shalom Manor & Gardens as they deal with a respiratory illness outbreak. Pray for healing for those who are ill and protection for all.
- ❖ Pray for **Devon & Lerato VH** in Africa. Lerato’s visa has been denied. Continue to keep them in prayers for next steps as well as the whole the family here in Canada who are eager awaiting their return.
- ❖ Pray for **Dylan VD** and for **Scott & Sonya** as they make preparations for an upcoming surgery Dylan has to undergo in January. Pray that the Spirit uphold them with peace and trust that all arrangements will be in place. This will most likely be a two month process of surgery and rehab afterwards before coming home again.
- ❖ Pray for Anita V’s father, **Jan R** (in Abbotsford, BC). He has been in hospital for the past week being treated for severe pneumonia. Give thanks that there has been some measure of improvement as he late in the week he was able to move out of ICU. Pray for patience and peace for him and for Pastor Colin & Anita.
- ❖ Continue praying for healing for **Anita W** through her treatments. May the Lord strengthen her for each day and grant her His healing power.
- ❖ **Gregg H** (Harry’s son) received some good test results and can stop treatments for now. Give thanks to the Lord and pray for recovered strength and ongoing healing for him.
- ❖ Grace V’s sister-in-law **Catharine S’s** condition has deteriorated will remain now in hospital. Her cancer treatments have been stopped. Pray for her and Simon and the family as they wait on the Lord’s will for His child Catharine.

- **Need of support or want to talk to someone?**
- **Contact Pastor Colin 905-931-5841 or Joyce De Roo at 905-386-6719.**
- **Confidential counselling services Bethany supports:**
- **SHALEM network 866-347-0041 & Elisha House Ministries 905-735-9934. (mention if you are member/regular attender of Bethany)**



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 17	Joshua 19-21; Luke 18:1-23
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 18	Joshua 22-24; Luke 18:24-43
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 19	Nehemiah 1-3; Luke 19:1-27
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 20	Nehemiah 4-6; Luke 19:28-48
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 21	Nehemiah 7-9; Luke 20:1-26
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 22	Nehemiah 10-11; Luke 20:27-47
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 23	Nehemiah 12-13; Luke 21:1-19