

Welcome!

This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, 2015. This morning we focus on the peace that was promised to come through the child born in Bethlehem. The non-Israelite Magi (ancient scholars) from a faraway land were guided by the Creator to meet His answer to our natural sin-driven animosity and hostility to God. The good news of peace in Christ is for all people, no matter who or where or when they are. This morning we are also privileged to hear what the Lord of peace is doing in countries on the African continent through our mission worker, Devon Van Hoffen with Hands at Work. May the peace of the Lord be the source of your strength in all that you face this week.

Visitors/Guests Notes

CONTACT CARD

We want to get to know you! Feel free to fill out the Contact/Prayer Card in the bench and drop it in the offering bag or slide it under the pastor's office door.

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 Children's Church downstairs.

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?

VISION STATEMENT

We are a God Honouring Community
Witnessing for Christ!



We're on the web!
www.bethanycrc.ca

We Partner With

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.

Globally Check out www.crcna.org

Devon Van Hoffen serving in Africa. **Email Devon at** devon@handsatwork.org

Follow Devon on his blog at www.devonvanhoffen.wordpress.com

Happening Today

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

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

Upcoming

Christmas Day offering: World Renew

Next Week's offering: Deacons

Thursday - Christmas Eve Service at 6:00pm

Friday - Christmas Day Service at 10:00am

December 31st - New Year's Eve Service at 7:00pm

January 1st – New Year's Day Service at Riverside CRC in Wellandport at 10:00am

Get Equipped for Faith Life



Men's Bible Study

6:00am Tuesday mornings

Women's Coffee Break

9:30am Tues at Grace CRC

Heart to Heart (Women)

9:30am every Friday

Konnect 20 (Young Adults)

7:30pm once a month

Potluck/Bible Study Group

4:30pm on 1st Sunday of every month



GEMS: 2015-2016 Theme:

Psalm 119:105 "Choose Truth"

Meets every Thursday evening from 7-9pm for **girls in grades 4-8** from Sept.-Apr. For more

information contact Diana at

Cell: 289-696-5567 or email:

dj.diana.slappendel@gmail.com

CADETS: 2015-2016 Theme:

Matthew 4:19

"Hooked on Christ"

Meets every Thursday

evening from 7-9pm for

boys in grades 4-8 from

Sept.-Apr. For more information

contact: **Mike Klapwyk 905-892-3036**



Faith Instruction (Catechism) every

Tuesday at 7:00pm @ the church for grades 9-12. **Resumes in January.**

MERGE (youth group) from 7-9

is for grades 9-12.

Welcome to Bethany!

Let us rejoice in the Lord together!



4th Sunday of Advent

Bethany Christian Reformed Church

December 20, 2015

9:30am

Connecting

Church Office Denise Glasbergen 905-892-8980

info@bethanycrc.ca

Pastor Colin Vander Ploeg 905-931-5841 [call/text]

colin@bethanycrc.ca

Youth Director Andrea Veldhuizen 905-975-8484 [call/text]

andrea@bethanycrc.ca

Children's Ministry Lorraine Wierenga 905-892-6961

lorraine@bethanycrc.ca

Worship/LIFE Groups (position vacant—contact Pastor Colin)

Today in Worship



The Lord Gathers Us

- *Opening Song
"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"
"Prepare Him Rom"
- *God's Word of greeting
- *Songs of Praise
"O Come All Ye Faithful"
"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

The Lord Shows Us His Grace

Lighting of Advent Candle

Prayer

(Children ages 3-6 invited downstairs for Sunday School)

The Lord Speaks to Us through His Word

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12 (p.840)

Message: "Peace bursting the borders."

Prayer of blessing & Prayers of God's People

The Lord Sends Us Out to Celebrate & Serve

- *Song of Response
"Wonderful Counselor"
- Prayer & Offerings
 1. Ministries here at Bethany & the CRCNA
 2. Shalom Manor

Devon sharing

*God's Word of blessing

- *Closing Song
"Angels We Have Heard on High"



<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	December 24	Micah 1-3; Luke 21:20-38
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	December 25	Micah 4-5; Luke 22:1-20
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	December 26	Micah 6-7; Luke 22:21-46

Sermon follow-up ...

1. Look up Psalm 86:9. What promise do you see in this verse? What reassurance does the story of the Magi give us about the spreading of the gospel?
2. What common reasons do Christians give for not spreading the gospel to all nations? Are any of these reasons valid?
3. Should we be more concerned about sharing the gospel with those near or those far away?
4. Look up Ephesians 2:11-17. In this passage, who are "those who were far off"? Are people in foreign countries farther off from the gospel than you were when you first heard it? Explain.
5. What is the primary means God uses to make disciples of all nations? How can you actively take the gospel to all nations in the upcoming year? List some specific ideas.

Think of someone you know who is actively involved in reaching the nations with the gospel. Take time this week to pray for them by name and write them an encouraging email or letter.

Serving Assignments

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

Sunday School during Advent Season

Worship Leader: Kathy VanHoffen

Teachers/helpers: John Langendoen, Michelle Langendoen, Bill Thies, Annie Vahrmeyer, Colleen Keizer, Jessica Ormel, Cadence Kiers

Courtney	Riley Kremer
Dylan	Jacqueline Slappendel
Nursery	Babies Erika Garner, Debbie Boverhof, Colleen Slappendel, Chloe Lapenna
Toddlers	Ann Kiers, Ryan Veldhuizen, Braden Nauta
Ushers	Mike DenBak, Kevin DeBoer
Coffee Servers	Tim & Kathy Van Hoffen, Matt & Kelly Dam
Greeters	Jerry Kiers, Ken & Nell Overbeeke, Harry & Sharon Hielema, Andrea Veldhuizen, Annie Vahrmeyer

Christmas Eve

Nursery/Toddlers – Stephanie Wegelin, Josh de Roos, Andrea Veldhuizen

Christmas Day

Nursery-Lorraine Wierenga, Colleen Keizer, Jessica Ormel, Cadence Kiers

Toddlers-Teryl Dam, Jenny deBoer, Nathan DenBak

Next Sunday

Sunday School during Advent Season

Worship Leader: Sierra Kiers

Teachers/helpers: Lisa Ormel, Joanne Benson, Sharon Hielema, Ray Wubs, Kelly Dam, Stephanie Beldman, Madison Lapenna

Courtney	Mackenzie Kremer
Dylan	Kelly Slappendel
Nursery	Hilda Dam, Betty Gritter, Ans Roorda, Tawnya VanHoorn
Toddlers	Nellie Scholman, Matt Dam, Gabi VanSoelen
Ushers	Chris Smit, Mary Bokma
Coffee Servers	Bill & Ann Van Lochem, Kyle & Steph Wegelin
Greeters	Cor & Ina VanSoelen, Hans & Hilda Dam, Ans Roorda, Mark Vahrmeyer, Colin deRoos, Joanne Dam

If you are interested in serving please contact the office

Bethany Family Updates & Prayers

Birthdays this week

Brad Overbeeke, Wendy Vahrmeyer, Sonya VanDriel, Lorraine Wierenga, Ellen Dykstra

Anniversaries this week

None this week

Prayers requested

- ❖ If for any reason you are in need of support or want to talk to someone, contact Pastor Colin 905-931-5841 or Caregiver Joyce De Roo at 905-386-6719 or SHALEM network 866-347-0041 (confidential, financially supported counselling for Bethany members)
- ❖ Pastor Colin's mother Helen (Ray) was admitted to hospital in Woodstock this past week with a recurrence of mobility issues and she has also contracted an anti-biotic resistant "superbug." She is in semi-isolation as she awaits assessment on her walking ability. Pray for patience for the pastor's parents and for healing for his mom.
- ❖ Pray for the residents and staff of Shalom Manor & Gardens as they deal with an illness outbreak. May the Lord protect and heal according to His gracious will.
- ❖ The **Dykstras** received difficult news this past week. Medical specialists have confirmed that **Arnold** has inoperable cancer throughout his liver. There are limited treatment options for this and he has other attendant health complications as well. As a family they are praying for healing, for with the Lord all things are possible. But they also know that God is sovereign overall and will never leave them or forsake them on any pathway. Pray for Arnold, Ellen, Brittany & Arnell and the rest of their family as they adapt to this news. Pray for peace, for the strength found in the Spirit's gifted faith they have, and for a deep sense of God's love surrounding them all. Since Arnold tires easily and has difficulty sleeping so please no drop-in visits or phone calls at this time. Those who regularly have been supporting them are doing so. If you wish to connect with them please first contact either Pastor Colin or Elder Rudy Boverhof.
- ❖ Pray for **Dalton Jacques** (Shelby Kremer's brother). He continues to deal with his progressing cancer. Doctors have stopped treatments as they were aggravating the cancer. He is on pain management only and is being cared for at home. Please note the Christmas gift project Dalton is carrying out (see previously emailed notice). Pray for God's gracious presence to surround this family in this very difficult journey and that Dalton may receive all the peace and assurance of God's love that he needs in this time.
- ❖ We are very thankful that **Kevin Vanderlee's** (Denise Glasbergen's brother) blood counts are the highest they have ever been. He will not see a doctor again until February.
- ❖ Pray for strength and comfort each day for **Wilma VanHuizen** (Ray's mother) and her family.
- ❖ Pray for **Harm Lottering** (Bill Thies' bro-in-law) who is dying of cancer. Harm is ready to enter the glorious presence of his heavenly Father. Pray for wife Jane and their son and family as they walk this difficult journey. Harm is 81 years old and lives in The Netherlands.