

## Welcome to Bethany

We arrive at our 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent which this year is also the day of Christmas Eve. Hope you can all come out tonight at 6pm for a service of song and readings celebrating the coming of our Savior to us in Bethlehem. This morning we focus on just how close and personal is the love of Almighty God as He sends His only begotten Son to open the way for each of us to enter into God's loving kindness now and into eternity.

### 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.**

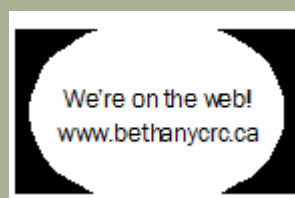
All are welcome to join afterwards for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

### Why Are We Here?

Bethany ministry vision:

**Everyone Growing in Jesus!**

**deep connecting—lifelong equipping—compassionate serving**



## Connecting

<b>Administrator</b> Denise Glasbergen	905-892-8980 info@bethanycrc.ca
<b>Pastor</b> Colin Vander Ploeg	905-931-5841 [call/text] colin@bethanycrc.ca
<b>Youth Director</b> Andrea Veldhuizen	905-975-8484 [call/text] andrea@bethanycrc.ca
<b>Children's Director</b> Lorraine Wierenga	289-897-8963 lorraine@bethanycrc.ca
<b>Worship Directors</b> Karina Wierenga	289-686-9461 [text] karinawierenga@gmail.com
Brittany Terpstra	905-380-0391 [call/text] rbterpstra@gmail.com

## 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)

**Tonight!** Christmas Eve Candlelight service 6PM

## Upcoming

**Christmas Day offering: World Renew**

**Next Sunday's offering: Deacons**

**Attention Vouchers users:** "Please be aware that unused 2017 vouchers cannot be used in 2018 so if you still have some, please make sure they are used by the end of this year."

**Next Sunday's Children's Song: "Go Tell it on the Mountain"**

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

**Dec 30: Bethany breakfast fellowship 9AM**—donations welcome at the door for Hands at Work. (see Bugle for more details and how to RSVP)

**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

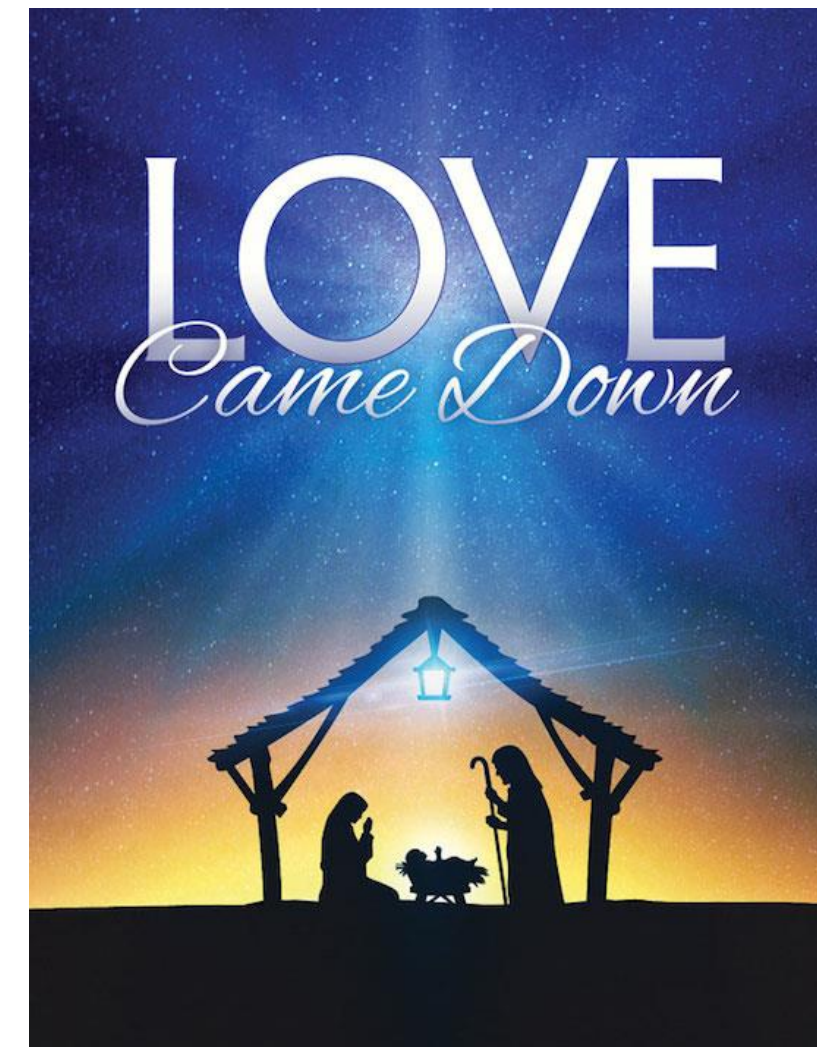


**NIAGARA YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP**

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

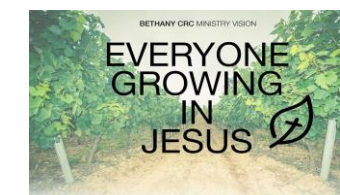
"Crazy Love". Questions? Contact Mary Bokma 905-892-0529.

# Welcome to Bethany!



## Bethany Christian Reformed Church

**December 24, 2017**  
**9:30am**



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



## Today in Worship



### The Lord Gathers Us

Welcome & Announcements

Opening prayer

\*Opening Song

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” – PH340

“Prepare Him Room”

\*God’s Word of greeting

\*Songs of Praise

“Come and Stand Amazed You People” – PH338

“The Son of God Came Down”

### The Lord Shows Us His Marvelous Grace

Prayer of Confession & the Good News: Romans 5:1-11

Children’s Song of Thankfulness

“Away in a Manger” – PH348

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent readings – “LOVE” (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 1:26-38 (p.892)

Message title “The Lord is coming: up close and personal love”

### The Lord Moves Us to Celebrate & Serve

Prayers of God’s people & for offerings

“One Still Night”

Offerings: 1. Ministries here at Bethany & the CRCNA

2. Deacons

\*God’s Word of Blessing

\*Closing song

“Joy to the World” – PH337

## Christmas Greetings

### From Pastor Colin & Anita:

"As we celebrate the Lord's birth in Bethlehem, we want to take a moment to wish you the Lord's rich blessing of His powerful and personal care for each of you today and as we enter a new year of our Lord. A blessed Christmas and New Year to you all! May the Lord be glorified in our lives, lived for Him!"

## Serving Assignments

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

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

**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 V, Ann K, Emily B

**Toddlers** Tracy G, Richard V, Noah V

**Ushers** Chris S, Mary B

**Coffee Servers** Gerry & Cynthia V, Chris S

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

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

**Christmas Eve**

**Nursery** Brenda B, Jessica O, Tawnya V

**Toddlers** Jeff V, Ben B, Kaleigh S

**Christmas Morning**

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

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

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

**3-4 Year olds** Andy V, Deb P, Jessica O, Jody V

**5 Year olds** Ray W, Anne-Marie W, Austin O, Connor D

**Dylan** Andy V

**Autism Support Person** Jen K (Anita W)

**Nursery** Sharon H, Heidi T, Gabi V

**Toddlers** Steve V, Halee B, Evan V

**Ushers** Dustin V, Scott V

**Coffee Servers** Don & Theresa T, Bert & Cynthia N

**Greeters** Pete & Karen V, Rudy & Deb B, James V, Emily V

**Sunday School Sign In:** Clarence & Tracy V

**FROM BETHANY COUNCIL:** As the 2017 year is coming to a close, [2Cor 8:11](#) reminds us 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." Let us all examine our faith giving for the current year. As you can see below, we have not yet finished our work of giving the planned income that we together as members of Bethany committed to give for our ministry needs/commitments for 2017.

If you have fallen behind in giving, 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%+). Or 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."

[Ministry Funding/Budget Update as of November 30](#)

Bethany Income: plan: \$421,012.57 --- actual: \$368,761.05

Bethany Expenses: plan: \$421,012.57 --- actual: \$393,222.78

## Bethany Church Updates & Prayers

### Birthdays this week

Frank B (27<sup>th</sup>), Kyler G (28<sup>th</sup>), Devon VH (28<sup>th</sup>), Noah P (29<sup>th</sup>), Kristyn T (30<sup>th</sup>)

### Anniversaries this week

Rob & Glenda B (27<sup>th</sup>)

**Wedding Bells:** Lord willing, **Emily V & Joshua V** will be united in marriage in the Lord on Friday January 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm here in Bethany church. May the Lord bless the preparations for their celebration.

### Prayers requested

- ❖ Pray for **Devon & Lerato VH** in Africa. Lerato’s visa application to come to Canada has been denied. Continue to keep them in prayers for next steps as well as the whole the family here in Canada who are eagerly awaiting their return.
- ❖ At the time of this writing, **Anita V’s father, Jan R** (Abbotsford, BC) remains in hospital being treated for pneumonia. Give thanks that there has been some measure of healing. Pray for patience in this slow process.
- ❖ Continue praying for healing for **Anita W** through her treatments. May the Lord strengthen her for each day and grant her His healing power.
- ❖ Pray for comfort for **Grace & Anno V & Grace’s brother Simon S** and their families in the recent passing away of wife & mother and sister-in-law, **Catharine S**. The memorial service was held this past Friday. May the Lord be with them all.
- ❖ **From Shalom Manor:** We are thankful to announce that we have just been cleared of the respiratory outbreak that had taken place in the Mapleview home area. We are thankful that this could be over before the Christmas holiday and this is due to the assistance of residents, families, volunteers and our supporting community in their visits and for their extra hand washing. We look forward to seeing you visit soon! Please remember to be diligent in handwashing and please do not visit if you are ill.

- **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)



**BIBLE**

Reading Plan

<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 27	Zechariah 1-4; Luke 22:47-71
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 28	Zechariah 5-8; Luke 23:1-25
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 29	Zechariah 9-12; Luke 23:26-56
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 30	Zechariah 13-14; Luke 24:1-35