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***A place to belong and grow in faith***

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**June 25, 2023**

572 East & West Line

Box249

Virgil, ON L0S 1T0

905-468-3505

Email: office@bethanymennonite.ca

Website: www.bethanymennonite.ca

 59 June 25, 2023 11:00 Service No. 26

**Gathering**

 Prelude

 Welcome & Call to Worship Herb Sawatzky

 JuBELLation

 Prayer

**Life Together**

 Announcements

 Ministry time

 Pastoral Prayer

 Song – “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

**Hearing the Word**

 Scripture – 1 Peter 3:10

 Message – **“Watermelon Seeds "** Herb Sawatzky

**Responding**

 Song – “Thy Word”

 Offering & Prayer

**Going**

 Song – “Be Still and Know”

 Blessing

Musicians – Kenton & Sheryl Janzen & Friends

**Welcome here!**

We’re glad you came! Your being here is a sign of God’s love for the world and encourages other Christians. We hope our worship together helps you find

***A place to belong and grow in faith***.

**Praise and Concerns**

***Prayers:***

* Helen Andres as she recovers from surgery
* Jason Wiebe as he deals with his cancer diagnosis
* Erika Dyck at home
* Sheila Gayman - undergoing cancer treatment
* Our sister church in Pereira, Colombia

*I am happy to announce that my voice has returned* and I am able to go back to work!  **Thank you for your prayers** and your kind words of support!  Patty King

**Heartfelt thanks** for your gifts of food, flowers, cards, phone calls, texts, emails and for your prayers, following my recent surgery. I have really still felt connected to you all, and I am on the mend, slowly but surely (or is that Shirley?). Shirley Dick

**Helen Andres thanks** everyone for their cards, prayers, visits, and well-wishes as she recovers from her surgeries last week. She is recovering at home.

**Please join us for cake next Sunday** as we celebrate Hielke De Jong’s 90th Birthday. All are welcome to join downstairs after the service.

**Bethany Announcements**

**Church Picnic** is this Sunday at Virgil Sportsplex. Our service begins at 11:00 am and lunch at 12:00. Hamburgers, drinks, Rollkuchen and watermelon will be supplied. The Team is looking for volunteers to bring Rollkuchen and help with BBQing. Please contact Linda, Anne or Patty. In honour of National Indigenous People’s Day, you can wear your orange t-shirt!

**Monthly Prayer Breakfast** - if you are willing to be one of 2-4 people who would coordinate a Monthly Prayer Breakfast (8-9 times a year), please contact pastor Herb Sawatzky at pastor@bethanymennonite.ca. The Coordinating Team will not do the work themselves, but bring in others to help and participate.

**Attention all Coyotes, Badgers, Millennials, etc.** We are hoping to do mid-week gatherings throughout the summer and we are looking for people to volunteer to host on Tuesday or Wednesday nights. If interested in hosting, please contact Kenton or Sheryl. We will be hosting the first one on July 5th at our home at 728 Line 2 at 7 pm. Please bring a dessert to share.

**Bethany Mennonite Church is going to a ball game again**! We have tickets to a Welland Jackfish baseball game, on Sat. Aug. 19, at 6:05 p.m. Please contact Patty King, to reserve your tickets and to arrange payment. Carpooling can be arranged for those who may be interested.

**Looking for a home for a grand piano!** “My husband had a passion for music but no one near me has a room for the piano at this time.” Please call the office if you would like to have a piano or know anyone who would appreciate the instrument.

**Local Food Bank Drive:** Area food banks inform us that donations are down 30% this year while need is up 20%! Your continued support for our food drive to local food banks is much appreciated. Please drop off your donations in the food bin at the front door. Foods and snacks for breakfasts and school lunches are especially appreciated.

**Our Donations Touching Lives**

**You can make your offering to Bethany by:**

• **E-transfer** to office@bethanymennonite.ca

• **Mail** to church at Box 249, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0

• **Drop in the mailbox**  beside the front door on Wednesdays or Thursdays 8:30-3:30 and let Marianne know.

• **Canada Helps** button on [www.bethanymennonite.ca](file:///I%3A%5CBulletins%5Cwww.bethanymennonite.ca). CanadaHelps charges 3.75% of the donation, but you will be receipted for full amount.

***Prayers:***

***Mennonite Church Eastern Canada***

* Pray for **those who are living in an area impacted by war**. May we learn to be channels of God's peace.
* Please pray for [**Bloomingdale Mennonite Church**](https://www.bloomingdalemennonite.com/). Zac Klassen provides pastoral leadership for this congregation. Pray for this congregation as this summer they intentionally focus on seeking peace together and learn what it means to be a people of God's peace.
* Pray for **Pastor Onesiphore Kiota** from Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Québec, who lost his mother at home in Congo (Africa). Alongside his congregation, we offer a hand of mercy to the family. Please pray for Pastor Kiota and his family.

***Mennonite Central Committee***

* During Indigenous History Month and always, please pray that eyes, ears and hearts are open and soft to hear, understand and absorb the truth on the journey towards reconciliation.
* We are thankful for Restorative Justice program staff, volunteers and the broader community of individuals and organizations that come together to help people reintegrating from prison find belonging, housing and employment.

**Mennonite Church Canada**

**Silver Lake Mennonite Camp**

**Fall Retreats –** Registration now open for a wide variety of fun retreats coming up this fall including: Labour Day Weekend Retreat (Sep 1-3), Men’s Retreat (Sep 15-17), Bruce Trail Hike (Sep 18-21), Fall Hike Retreat (Sep 29-Oct 1), Fall Work Weekend (Oct 27-29). Click here for more info… [slmc.ca/retreats](https://slmc.ca/retreats/retreats/)

**Overnight Camps –** There are still spots available for SLMC overnight camps and outtrips and we welcome last minute registrations! Go to [slmc.ca/summer-camp](https://slmc.ca/summer-camp/) to see what’s available.

**Stay Connected –** Follow SLMC on Instagram [(@silverlakemennonite](https://www.instagram.com/silverlakemennonite/)) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/silverlakemennonitecamp/) to stay up to date on what’s happening at camp and see recent photos!

**MCC, MDS, MEDA**

The June version of **On the Level,** anMDS Newsletter, is available from the office.

**Crisis in East Africa** – In East Africa, extreme hunger is a growing threat. Conflict, climate change and economic shocks are driving hunger to increasingly high levels. MCC is responding in countries like Ethiopia, South Sudan, DR Congo and Kenya. Donate to food projects today. Donations made by individual Canadians until June 30 are eligible to be matched by the Government of Canada, up to $5 million.

Greetings from Bethany Mennonite Church, on the occasion of your retirement:

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:3-6

Dear Randy,

On behalf of Bethany Mennonite Church, I am pleased to extend our wishes for God’s richest blessings to you on your retirement!

Our congregation was privileged and blessed to have been served by you so faithfully for many years. You also served the broader church and community during those years, and I remember well your enthusiastic participation in the spring cleanup at Silver Lake Camp every year, and also your dedication to service in Civil Air Rescue Emergency Services in Niagara.

I also want to acknowledge Renate, as she was an important part of the ministry that you shared at Bethany, and our best wishes, of course, extend to both of you, and to your extended families as you celebrate this milestone, and move into a new phase in your life’s journey,

I trust that the words from Jeremiah 29:11 are as true today as you retire, as they were when you began your ministry; “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Finally, I want to add that it was my personal privilege, shared with Dennis, to work with both you and Renate in many aspects of our church life and to have that relationship grow into a deep and lasting friendship between our families, and to thank you for ongoing love and support over these past years.

Blessings,

Shirley Dick

Church Board Chair

Bethany Mennonite Church

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

June 25-July 2 2023

Today 11:00 a.m. – Church Picnic at Virgil Sports Park

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

*Speaking:* Herb Sawatzky

*Scripture*: Malachi 2:17-3:5

*Theme*: Judgement Day

**Worship services are recorded** live and kept on our youtube channel indefinitely. Recordings begin shortly before 10am and end after 11:04. Those who prefer not to appear in the recording are encouraged to sit near the back of the sanctuary in front of the cry room, and exit through the door on that side.



**Thy Word Is a Lamp**

*Refrain:* Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

*Verse 1:*

When I feel afraid, and I think I’ve lost my way, still you’re there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

*Refrain*

*Verse 2:*

I will not forget your love for me, and yet my heart forever is wandering.

Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side; I will love you to the end.

*Refrain*

Text: Amy Grant (USA) and Michael W. Smith (USA); refrain based on Psalm 119:105, © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company, Word Music, LLC

**Be Still**

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Text: Adapt. from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.