

Greeters:

Dec 18: Alan & Kathy Taylor
Dec 25: Seth & Jocelyn Van Veen

Nursery attendants: (contact person: Jolene M, Erica A)

Dec 18: AM: Josie Z, Andrea A, Kara B, Austyn H
PM: Sonya F, Annette O
Dec 25: AM: Jess C, Jolene M, Truus M, Alayna H
PM: Jocelyn V, Carp; W

Sunday School (contact person: Jessica K) **All children ages 3-5** are welcome.

Dec 18: Kerri P. & Austyn H Dec 25: Jess K, Ben B

Library Attendant: (contact person: Thea E.)

Dec 18: Sarah B Dec 25: Brenda E

Janitor for the Church: Dec 18-Dec 24: Marian A, Annette O

Dec 25-Dec 31: Thea E, Wilfred D
Jan 1-Jan 7: Thea E, Wilfred D

If you are unable to clean church on your scheduled week, please find your own replacement. Thank You, from the Administration Committee.

Coffee Service:


Dec 18: Nick & Ashley Duursma, Dick & Gredina Merken
Dec 25: John & Kim Van Veen, Ed & Brenda Ewald
Jan 1: Rick & Ludi Vandergugten, James & Kara Biscop



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

Visit: www.bethelsmithers.ca

Email bethelsmithers@gmail.com for bulletin notices

 **Facebook:** Bethel Reformed Church of Smithers

Pastor:

Vacant

Church Address

Box 3847
3115 Gould Place
Phone: 847-5100

Elders

James Bisschop – Clerk
Dave Onderwater – Chairman
Alan Taylor--Vice Chair
Rick Vandergugten - Vicar

Deacons:

Aaron Adema
Ben Meints
Mitch Pederson

bethel

United Reformed Church of Smithers

(URCNA, NAPARC & ICRC)

Services: **10:00 AM & 2:30 PM**

Church Website: bethelsmithers.ca



December 18, 2016

*The Lord himself shall give
you a sign; Behold a virgin
shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall call his name
Immanuel
(Isaiah 7:14)*

Welcome to everyone worshipping with us today. Please join us for refreshements after the morning service.

Church Family News

We are nearing the end of the Advent season. Christmas is one week away. As we draw closer to Christmas we intentionally remember God, sending His son as a helpless baby to rescue and redeem His people. However, Advent is not only about looking back and remembering, it is also about looking ahead in eager anticipation as we await our Saviour's return. So, as we approach Christmas, let us take time to remember the two fold reason for Advent.

“In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious”. Isaiah 11:10

We continue to hold up in prayer the lonely and shut-ins at this time. During holidays like Christmas, the loss of loved ones can be felt more deeply. We want to remember Henry Seinen and Clarence Vanderschaaf as they continue to deal with cancer and the challenges of treating the disease. We pray for strength for these brothers and their families.

We welcome everyone worshipping with us on this Lord 's Day. We pray that the Lord will bless the reading of His Word. We pray the Lord will give us ears to hear and hearts that desire to live in obedience to Him. JB

Preaching Schedule:

Dec 18: Reading Services

Dec 25: Mr. Arjen Vreugdenhil

Dec 31: Combined New Year's Eve service in Telkwa URC (James Folkerts)

Jan 1: Mr. Arjen Vreugdenhil

Collection Schedule:

Dec 18: M.A.R.S.

Dec 25: Word and Deed

Jan 1: Sparrows

Update on Pete Van't Hoff:

To the churches of Classis Western Canada (URCNA)

Dear Brothers, greeting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Please allow this to serve as a follow up to our recent request for assistance for Mr. Pete Van't Hoff with respect to his preparation for an upcoming Candidacy Exam. As per the advice of Classis, we undertook to offer him an internship which we communicated to you in early November. At that time, we proceeded with the internship, trusting that the churches would respond and we are grateful for the assistance to date, together with the communications we could receive with regards to our effort.

On Dec. 6, 2016 Mr. Pete Van't Hoff advised us that he does not wish to proceed with an internship as we proposed. Rather, he wishes to study at his own pace and explained to us that he has found work which makes him able to support his family. His intention is to study diligently towards a time when he will request that we seek an examination for him.

After having considered his request at our council meeting we have agreed to his proposed course of action. This means we are no longer in need of assistance and we sincerely thank all of you for your consideration and support.

We look forward to the time when Pete will present himself as ready for an examination, and in the meantime we recommend him to the churches for pulpit supply where needed. It is our prayer that our Lord will bless the Van't Hoff family as they seek to do His will.

In His service, Clerk, Grace Reformed Church.

Library Report

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A devout Muslim encounters Christianity
by Nameel Qureshi (new)

“Engaging and thought-provoking, this book tells a powerful story of the clash between Islam and Christianity in one man's heart- and of the peace he eventually found in Jesus”. This is a truly amazing story.

United in Prayer: Up-to-date Requests from our Missionaries.

Denver, CO - Rev. Derrick and Debbie Vander Meulen

1. Give thanks that though Pastor Carl Heuss is not able to resume his pastoral and preaching duties, the Lord has granted him wonderful healing and provided for his temporal well-being.
2. Give thanks that Pastor Derrick Vander Meulen has accepted the call to be the pastor Coram Deo Reformation Church.
3. Please pray that though this past year has been a trying and difficult one for Coram Deo, the church will be a shining light of the gospel in the Denver community and be faithful to our Lord's commission to make disciples.

Highlights of the Council meeting, Dec. 14 2016

1. All were welcomed. James Bisschop was absent with notice.
2. Dave Onderwater opened with reading Mark 13:26-37 and prayer.
3. The minutes of the Oct. 20 2016 meeting were approved as distributed.
4. Matters arising from the minutes were discussed.
5. Member concerns were discussed.
6. Correspondence: There will be a statement in our bulletin regarding the status of candidate Pete Van't Hoff.
7. The Deacons reported on their work in the congregation. A discussion followed.
8. Administration Report: The annual building inspection was completed. All systems are satisfactory.
9. Refugee Committee: A cheque was forwarded regarding the application fee.
10. Matters of new business were discussed:
 - a. Letter from Smithers Can Ref Church. A decision will be made at next Council meeting.
 - b. Letter regarding educational funding for a student.
 - c. Scheduling the Lord's Supper was discussed.
 - d. Council plans to meet with Rev. Lievaart on Jan. 9 2017.
 - e. Children's gifts for the Church Christmas celebration have been ordered.
 - f. John McEwen has offered to organize a committee for the Bethel Church 25th anniversary in the summer of 2017.
 - g. Was noted that date for the AGM, and auditing, needs to be organized.
11. Next Meeting: Wednesday Jan. 25 2017 (Aaron Adema -VIP)
12. Rick Vandergugten closed the meeting in prayer.

Catechism Classes: Tuesday, Jan 3, 2017:

Our Catechism classes will take a 2 week break for the Christmas holidays. Classes will resume again on January 3, 2017

Thursday Night Bible Study

Thursday Night Bible study group will meet again in the New Year, on January 5th. We will meet at Len Meints' house at 7:30.

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study:

We will be studying chapter 9 of the Book of Mark at the church on

Jan 7 at 8:00 am

Calendar at a glance:

Dec 25: Christmas Day and program after the morning service
Dec 31: New Year's Eve service at Telkwa Faith URC at 7:30 pm
Jan 3: Catechism Class; 7:00 pm Gr 7-9, 7:45pm Gr. 10-12
Jan 5: Thursday Night Bible Study at 7:30 at the Meints home
Jan 7: Men's Bible Study, 8 am at the church
Jan 11: Consistory Meeting at church at 7:30 pm
Jan 25: Council meeting at church at 7:30 pm

Christmas Program:

Could all parents please ensure that all Sunday school children and any other kids willing to sing with them meet in the sanctuary for a short practice session:) Thanks. Jessica Koldyk

The Christmas Program will begin right after the morning service. Everyone is invited and encouraged to stay and watch this short program

Highlights from the Consistory meeting held on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016

1. All were welcomed. James Bisschop was absent with notice.
2. Dave Onderwater opened with prayer.
3. Minutes from the Consistory meeting of Nov. 9 2016 were adopted.
4. Matters arising from the minutes were discussed.
 - a. Special visits were reported on.
 - b. Pulpit supply in the coming months is reviewed.
5. Home visits were made to the following members and families: Mack Schat, Kevin and Andrea Alles, John and Carol Wright, Daryl and Jess Koldyk, Dwayne and Carrie Van Veldhuizen, Arnie and Norma Hofsink, Marvin and Josie Zandberg, Mitch and Rachel Pederson, Nick and Ashley Duursma.
6. Next meeting: January 11 2017 (James Bisschop VIP)

Thank You!

A massive Thank-you to all of you who donated and volunteered to help at the bake sale!

We were overwhelmed with your generosity! Thanks again!

Smithers Pro-life Society