



WILLOWDALE WEEKLY

Willowdale Christian Reformed Church
70 Hilda Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M2M 1V5
Tel: 416-221-7829 / Deadline: **Thursdays at noon!**
willowdalecrc.com

July 26, 2020

Prayer Requests:

Pray for all young children and families of our church and community. May the Lord provide ample patience and grace during the summer months ahead.

Pray for everyone who is burnt out by physical distancing, as we continue to adjust to this new normal, praise that the Lord provides us with creative ways to stay connected.

Pray that we all continue to adjust to our new normal of wearing masks in public places, especially in the heat of the summer. May the Lord give all strength, stamina, and patience to endure this challenging time.

At Holland Christian Homes, both Grace Manor and Faith Manor have no new resident or staff cases of COVID-19. In the Towers, the COVID-19 case reported last week has been resolved and there are no new cases at this time, praise the Lord. More information may be found at: <http://www.hch.ca/latest-hch-covid-19-updates/>. Please continue to pray for the staff and residents of Holland Christian Homes, and all care homes dealing with the challenges of COVID-19.

Pray for our second offering cause, Spiritual Growth Ministries. Nasser Zand and Sylvie Charliekaram reach out to Iranians seeking Christianity. During the past year the outreach and evangelism work has reached an audience of over 6,000 Farsi speakers worldwide. Nasser's social media contacts receive devotionals daily, church history lessons/articles in relation to Christianity in Iran. These are shared on the SGM Facebook page and/or on its Telegram Application channels and receive a great response from followers. This offering supports their ministry.

Anniversaries in August:

August 2 — John & Helen C. (63rd)
August 22 — Jane & Henry H. (50th)
August 22 — Jack & Martiny V. M. (56th)
August 23 — Harry & Margaret de B. (40th)
August 31 — Jake & Gerdina C. (63rd)

Birthdays this week:

July 29 — Jessica M.
July 29 — Nuzy M.
July 31 — Emmy H.
August 1 — Michael V. L.

A Message from your Deacons:

These are difficult times and government is trying to help. However, if you are needing to choose between paying the rent and buying food, the

deacons can help with grocery coupons. This is a totally confidential service. Only the 6 deacons would know you asked for help. We are here to show God's Grace for basic needs. Contact us at: deacons@willowdalecrc.com



From the Operations Team: If you've passed by the church recently, you may have seen a storage container in our parking lot; it actually belongs to Willowdale Christian School – they needed a spot to store it and asked for our help. This container will be used to store excess furniture when they prepare the classrooms for school in the fall.

**Council met on Wednesday, June 22, via ZOOM.
Matters discussed include:**

Pastor Search – As mentioned at last Sunday’s ZOOM service, Pastor Elizabeth Vander Haagen and Pastor Jay Blankespoor are willing to move forward via ZOOM with exploring a potential call from Willowdale CRC. This will include meetings with Council and staff members, as well as preaching and other virtual meetings with the congregation. Stay tuned!

Church services - It was agreed to continue with ZOOM for the time being and reassess again in a month. Please contact any member of Council if you have questions or concerns about the way services are going or about returning to in person services.

Lord’s Supper will be celebrated this coming Sunday, July 26 – please have your elements prepared.

Elders/pastors who lead the congregational prayer will continue to highlight the offering and its causes during the prayer. Please consider your part in the offerings.

Nominations – A significant amount of time was spent discussing the list of nominees and a list was approved by council. Some contacts need to be made before the list can be published to the congregation.

Voting for Elders and Deacons – In this time of not meeting physically, we need to explore alternate ways of voting. The bylaws of Willowdale CRC allow for different methods of voting, if approved by members of the congregation. This approval will be sought during a congregational meeting called on ZOOM after a worship service, date yet to be determined. More information on the recommended method of voting will be shared then and will also be sent to all members via email after the service. There are a few members who do not use email and they will be contacted directly by telephone.

Intercultural Enfolding Team – At the previous council meeting, a proposal to establish a team to build community by understanding themes such as worldview, trust, relationships, power, authority, leadership, etc. was presented, discussed, and approved. This time we discussed who could serve on this team and came up with a list of names. Over the next few weeks these people will be contacted, with a view to beginning to meet in September with Pastor Lesli as the moderator.

Council notes continued:

Well after 10:00 p.m., we came to the last items on our agenda. One item that will be discussed further, prior to or in conjunction with the turnover of council members, is a recommendation for Shalem to lead council and other church leaders and want-to-be leaders in a workshop/retreat. This would focus on working WITH each other as a Council and working WITH our teams and the people we serve.

We discussed correspondence that had been received.

We adjourned and clicked on “Leave” at 10:20 p.m. It is anticipated that the next meeting will be a meeting with Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Jay!

Weekly Zoom Events – Join us!:

- Worship Service – Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.
- Bible Study – Sunday afternoon at 7:30 p.m., contact Hye-jin Im or Rob Datema
- Bible Study – Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m., contact Rob Datema
- College & Careers Virtual Pizza & Board Games – Wednesday evenings at 8:00 p.m., contact Jennifer Dekker or Suanne Miedema
- Alpha Course – Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m., contact Alana Yoneyama for meeting details

Zoom Video Conferencing is available for your small group, Bible study, or special visits with friends for free through the church Zoom account. To book your Zoom gathering please contact Jennifer Dekker (jenniferanndekker@gmail.com).

Preaching Schedule:

July 26 — Pastor Tom van Milligen — Psalm 89

August 2 — Pastor Syd Heilema — Psalm 139

August 9 — Rev. Lesli van Milligen — Psalm 51

August 16 — Rev. Lesli van Milligen — Psalm 32

August 23 — Peter Schuurman

August 30 — Pastor Syd Heilema — Psalm 23