



Emo Christian Reformed Church

Care & Share

From the Pastor's Heart

Dear Family

Some of my earliest memories of my childhood go back to gatherings as a family over Christmas time. Sometimes it was the only time of year I got to see some family. My parents would take my brother and I to church on Christmas morning and then we would go back home where a big meal awaited. But what I remember even more than the food is the great conversations I enjoyed with family members. We would talk about our faith, about the latest family news, about some highlights from the past year, about so many things. And at some level we all knew our reason for gathering together was our celebration of the birth of Jesus. While we may not have realised it, our exchange of gifts was deeply meaningful from a theological perspective, highlighting the fact that Jesus is the Greatest Gift we've ever experienced. Moreover, the exchange of gifts reminded us of the generosity we're called to show towards each other all throughout the year. A generosity that brings us closer to other people, especially those who are hurting the most.

It's often been said that shepherds were quite marginalised in the context of first century Israel. It's not that they were excluded from the community, but they were not viewed as the kind of people you would want to hang out with. Yet, as was the case during Jesus' public ministry, Jesus' birth reaches out to the margins of society and draws people in. The Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, records how these shepherds were the first people to whom the birth of the King of Kings was announced. These marginalised people are the first ones invited to come and worship Jesus. As we think about Christmas time and we think about God the Father giving us the gift of Jesus, I wonder if the Lord may be inviting us to reach out to people on the margins, offering people the gift of Jesus. How do we do that? By inviting people into our lives and sharing the love of Jesus in the context of community. For some people, Christmas can be an extremely lonely time of year, even more so if the person is not part of a community of faith. May we offer people the gift of Jesus, God with us.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Marno

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The time of Advent is here. A time of activities, Christmas concerts and preparing for the 25th of December. And how are we doing that? Where is our focus? Are we believing the TV commercials or is there a deeper celebration of joy? I have nothing against celebrating together with family and friends. Is there a Christmas in war torn countries, when you are not sure if your loved one is alive or not? My thoughts go back over the last year. Yes, some of our church members stood at an open grave. There is an empty chair in the house. On the other hand, other families received new life. In all this, we see God's hand and I believe we can celebrate Christmas with pain in our hearts because Jesus came to take away the pain and give peace! My highlight is the Christmas Day worship service, and especially the closing song, "Ere Zij God/Glory to God with the organ.

My thoughts go back 35 years—our family's first time worshipping with Emo CRC with Pastor Pete on the pulpit. We got picked up to go to church by Thys and Thea Sinninghe. What an experience! All unfamiliar faces. We felt very welcome. 35 years ago, Arjen was 9 years old and Louise was 2 years old. In between, there was Remco, Feitze and Jasper. The Monday after our first service at Emo CRC, Pastor Pete & Glenda came for a visit with lots of goodies, groceries, etc. (lots of toilet paper :)) from the church family. It was overwhelming and we are still so thankful. The boys were enrolled at SCAP in Stratton and their first lesson was French. :) The Wiersema family was a great help. Now, 35 years later, it is just Jan & I. All our children are adults with families of their own. We had not all smooth sailing but looking back, God was with us. Our prayer is that the Lord will be with our family. Thank you to our church family. May the Lord bless you.

Now that 2022 is nearing its end, we look back on a year with more ups than downs. Jan's hip replacement and his remarkable recovery. Annie's broken ankle and her slow but still amazingly well healing. The passing of Annie's Mom, and not being able to travel to the Netherlands to attend the funeral. But in the midst of all there always was the assurance that God was watching over us, proving all the patience, healing, comfort and strength we needed. There were phone calls, cards, flowers, gift baskets, meals and cookies. And not to be forgotten the rides to Thunder Bay, the visits and hugs, and helping hands from volunteers and friends from within and outside our church. To us they were a Godsend and we are extremely grateful for all of those. Thank you! We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2023!
Jan and Annie van Rozen

Eltjo Wiersema remains in the Fort Frances hospital where he is recuperating.

Grace Hettinga is recuperating from her broken leg at home.

Remember Eltjo and Grace in your prayers—for patience and healing—and all others who experience health concerns.

Our condolences go out to the Bax family with the passing away of Mark Bax. Mark was the son of Herb & Janet (Kaemingh) Bax.

From the Dorcas ladies:

Thank you so much for your support at our stampot dinner. It was truly a blessing to gather together and raise funds and eat a wonderful meal. We made \$1071 after expenses. At the congregational meeting we raised \$296 with our dessert fundraiser. In all, we will donate \$1300+ to World Renew.

PS. We also would like to thank the Van Rozens for donating the kale and carrots for the stampot dinner.

The seniors will be coming together on the 12th of December for a Christmas potluck and activities at the church.

Our seniors celebrating their birthdays in December are Janice Wiersema (on the 4th), Hila Schryvershof and Eltjo Wiersema (on the 7th), Peter Van Heyst (on the 12th) and Darlene Byma (on the 30th). Hilda, we wish you a special time celebrating your 90th birthday with your family!!!

Those celebrating 40+ anniversaries are Henry & Thea Kaemingh (64th on the 19th) and Louis & Darlene Byma (48th on the 27th).

We wish God's blessings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in December.

Thought for the Month:
*Life is God's gift to you.
The way you live your life is your gift to God.*
Leo Buseaglia

True Christian Christmas

Christmas isn't showy gifts
Or glittering decoration;
It's honoring our Savior, Jesus Christ
In humble adoration.

It's serving those less fortunate,
Meeting their needs before our own;
It's making sure at Christmas time
That no one is alone.

It's taking what we would have spent
On things that no one needs,
And using it to help someone
With service and good deeds.

Our Savior showed us how to live
With charity, faith and service.
It makes the holidays a joy,
More peaceful, and less nervous.

So let's remember Christmas is
About our Savior's birth;
That's the way to happiness,
The way to peace on earth.

Poem by Joanna Fuchs



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear friends at Emo Christian Reformed Church,

Thank you for standing with your missionaries and ministry leaders worldwide!

Your congregation's support for God's mission through Resonate reaches the hearts and minds of people in more than 40 countries, including places where Christians are vulnerable to persecution, isolation, and prejudice. You make it possible for Christian Reformed ministry leaders to be there for people: you send them to teach, preach, welcome, and encourage—wherever God has called them. What a gift you've given!

Sending missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers remains a vital way that your church can join with others throughout the denomination to share the gospel story, both here at home and overseas. Seekers and new Christians alike need pastors and mentors to help them grow in faith and in their walk with Jesus Christ.

Thank you for being part of the family of faith that walks alongside them.

On behalf of Resonate Global Mission, and of all those who are no longer alone or afraid to live out their faith, thank you for all you do. I know you are a faithful witness through prayer and involvement with your own community and I am grateful you also have chosen to bless your brothers and sisters in Christ around the world through Resonate!

In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Acting Canada Director

You are making a difference! On behalf of the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, thank you for your gifts to ministry shares. Your support enables congregations to do so much more to further God's Kingdom than any one church could do alone. Our denomination could not impact the world through missions, media, and church development without your incredible and faithful support. Thank you! To discover more visit crcna.org/ministryshares.



One of the things that we love about working for Wycliffe Bible Translators and [SIL](#)* is experiencing innovation firsthand and witnessing it contribute to the Kingdom of God. While these organizations have been around for many decades, they continue to lead innovation. These innovations are, in turn, deployed in service to the most marginalized peoples in the world. They enable better distribution of Scriptures. They enable communities to use their languages in today's digital world. SIL's technologies are generally behind the scenes, laying the foundation for many other ministries.

I, Justin, along with a colleague, recently had the great honour of accepting an innovation award on behalf of SIL's Language Technology Team. [Here](#) is the video of the award presentation at Missio Nexus.

[Missio Nexus](#) is an organization that brings together leaders from North American churches, mission agencies and businesses that are focused on the “Great Commission.” They state their mission as “catalyzing relationships, ideas, and collaboration within the Great Commission Community.” Each year they present the Excelerate Award to celebrate excellence, innovation and partnership. It was given to SIL’s Language Technology Team for three of the many technologies they have developed.

- [Keyman](#) helps you type in over 2000 languages on just about any device — Windows, macOS, Linux, iPhone, iPad, Android tablets and phones, and even instantly in your web browser.
- [Bloom](#) opens potential for anyone with minimal computer skills to quickly produce reading materials in any language and add it to a library accessible on a phone. There are currently 12,484 books in 531 languages in the Bloom library. During the recent pandemic it was used by agencies around the world to quickly produce and disseminate materials about the virus (373 books in 201 languages).
- [Scripture App Builder](#) allows users to build simple Bible apps with synchronized Scripture text and audio in local languages which can be easily shared.

These are just some of the various tools that are used today in the work of Bible translation and other development work related to languages.

Thank you for your prayers, for your interest in this work, and for your financial partnership with us so that all people can have access to the Word of God in a language they understand best.

Justin & Tammy Hettinga

**[SIL](#), is a global, faith-based nonprofit that works with local communities around the world to develop language solutions that expand possibilities for a better life. SIL’s core contribution areas are Bible translation, literacy, education, development, linguistic research and language tools. SIL and [Wycliffe Bible Translators](#) are close and interdependent partner organizations.*

Since 2016, Justin has been serving SIL as the Americas Area Director, which involves giving leadership to all of SIL’s work in North, Central, South America, and the Caribbean. Tammy is his administrative assistant, as well as part-time receptionist for Wycliffe Canada.

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wycliffe.ca

Finance Update:

As missionaries working with Wycliffe Bible Translators (giving leadership to the work of Bible translation and language development in the Americas), we trust God to supply our financial needs through churches and individuals who wish to partner with us. Part of our reliance on God is to make our needs known as we have them. **We are currently lacking about \$150/month to reach 100% of the ministry budget that Wycliffe Canada has set for us. Would you prayerfully consider becoming a financial partner with us? Or consider an increase in your monthly donation if you are already a financial partner?**

To Partner Financially:

If you would like to make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation (pre-authorized payments), visit Hettinga.ca, and click "Give Now." To donate by credit card over the phone, please call 1-800-463-1143 (9am-4pm Mountain time) and ask for the Receipts Department. To donate by mail, please make cheque(s) payable to Wycliffe Canada and mail to the Wycliffe address above. (Please include a separate note that states "for the work of Justin & Tammy Hettinga.") If you have any issues with any of these giving options, please do not hesitate to ask for our assistance.

PARTNERING IN MISSION



TIMOTHY LEADERSHIP TRAINING CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION

Albert and Carolyn Strydhorst
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astrydhorst@tlti.org

Dear Friends,

The summer of 2022 flew by! In early July we drove to Alberta to celebrate Albert's parents' 60th wedding anniversary, coming back to Grand Rapids over Northwestern Ontario to spend a little time with Carolyn's family there. Jessica and Ian and William were out from KZ for the summer, and were part of most of our travels. We were blessed to be part of William's dedication at Ian and Jess' home church in Emo on July 17.

In August we had a wonderful cottage-week in West Michigan with all the kids (and William!) before Ian and Jess returned to KZ for another year of teaching. So many beautiful summer memories, with a lot of them somehow connected to grand parenting this little guy!



The TLT Action Plan

"This course was *practical*." We often hear this from those completing a Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) manual - whether on pastoral care, preaching, or any of the other six TLT courses. TLT is a CRC church leadership training program available in 30-plus languages, and used by churches in about forty countries.

So what is it that makes TLT practical? Usually the answer comes down to the Action Plan. The TLT Action Plan is the final assignment of each three-day course. For this assignment, every participant is required to create a three-four-month plan for how they will apply what they have learned.

After three-to-four months, they report back to their group what has happened by God's grace as a result of their Action Plan. Often real life has a way of modifying plans. But everyone reports: *What did I do? What were the results? What did I learn?*

The Impact of an Action Plan

Last month, a training group in Bangladesh shared this testimony, "After the training on stewardship, a pastor named Mithu made an Action Plan to help those who had suffered from



loss of work during COVID. Specifically, he encouraged those who had a good amount of land and crops to be faithful with their offerings. He taught about stewardship. He learned that some members had extra land; he talked with them, and some of them gave paddies to those in need. 13,000 Taka (about \$150) was collected to help those without work - even if they didn't come from the same religion. This made a strong impression. There are now more evangelistic opportunities to reach many unreached people..."

James 2:17 comes to mind: "...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." The TLT Action Plan is faith in action. Call it practical, if you will.

Prayer Request

After a two-and-a-half-year COVID delay, a group of 21 pastors from the *Gereja Kristus Tuhan* church in Indonesia met for 5 days of TLT training in September 2022 to complete their final courses. Thank God for their achievement, pray as they now train others, and pray for the 150+ TLT groups globally who are back to their regular training activities.



Thank you for your support and encouragement in our work with TLT. God's grace and peace to you!

Albert and Carolyn Strydhorst



December

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Daniel 8:1-27	1 John 2:1-17	Psalms 120:1-7	Proverbs 28:25-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Daniel 9:1-11:1	1 John 2:18-3:6	Psalms 121:1-8	Proverbs 28:27-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Daniel 11:2-35	1 John 3:7-24	Psalms 122:1-9	Proverbs 29:1
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Daniel 11:36-12:13	1 John 4:1-21	Psalms 123:1-4	Proverbs 29:2-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Hosea 1:1-3:5	1 John 5:1-21	Psalms 124:1-8	Proverbs 29:5-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Hosea 4:1-5:15	2 John 1:1-13	Psalms 125:1-5	Proverbs 29:9-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Hosea 6:1-9:17	3 John 1:1-15	Psalms 126:1-6	Proverbs 29:12-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Hosea 10:1-14:9	Jude 1:1-25	Psalms 127:1-5	Proverbs 29:15-17
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Joel 1:1-3:21	Revelation 1:1-20	Psalms 128:1-6	Proverbs 29:18
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Amos 1:1-3:15	Revelation 2:1-17	Psalms 129:1-8	Proverbs 29:19-20
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Amos 4:1-6:14	Revelation 2:18-3:6	Psalms 130:1-8	Proverbs 29:21-22
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Amos 7:1-9:15	Revelation 3:7-22	Psalms 131:1-3	Proverbs 29:23
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Obadiah 1:1-21	Revelation 4:1-11	Psalms 132:1-18	Proverbs 29:24-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Jonah 1:1-4:11	Revelation 5:1-14	Psalms 133:1-3	Proverbs 29:26-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Micah 1:1-4:13	Revelation 6:1-17	Psalms 134:1-3	Proverbs 30:1-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Micah 5:1-7:20	Revelation 7:1-17	Psalms 135:1-21	Proverbs 30:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Nahum 1:1-3:19	Revelation 8:1-13	Psalms 136:1-26	Proverbs 30:7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Habakkuk 1:1-3:19	Revelation 9:1-21	Psalms 137:1-9	Proverbs 30:10
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Zephaniah 1:1-3:20	Revelation 10:1-11	Psalms 138:1-8	Proverbs 30:11-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Haggai 1:1-2:23	Revelation 11:1-19	Psalms 139:1-24	Proverbs 30:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Zechariah 1:1-21	Revelation 12:1-17	Psalms 140:1-13	Proverbs 30:17
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Zechariah 2:1-3:10	Revelation 13:1-13:18	Psalms 141:1-10	Proverbs 30:18-20
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Zechariah 4:1-5:11	Revelation 14:1-20	Psalms 142:1-7	Proverbs 30:21-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Revelation 15:1-8	Psalms 143:1-12	Proverbs 30:24-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Zechariah 8:1-23	Revelation 16:1-21	Psalms 144:1-15	Proverbs 30:29-31
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Zechariah 9:1-17	Revelation 17:1-18	Psalms 145:1-21	Proverbs 30:32
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Zechariah 10:1-11:17	Revelation 18:1-24	Psalms 146:1-10	Proverbs 30:33
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Zechariah 12:1-13:9	Revelation 19:1-21	Psalms 147:1-20	Proverbs 31:1-7
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Zechariah 14:1-21	Revelation 20:1-15	Psalms 148:1-14	Proverbs 31:8-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Malachi 1:1-2:17	Revelation 21:1-27	Psalms 149:1-9	Proverbs 31:10-24
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Malachi 3:1-4:6	Revelation 22:1-21	Psalms 150:1-6	Proverbs 31:25-31



DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Janice Wiersema 10:00 WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL	5 Timon Kaemingk Donna Sinninghe	6 Jackson Arpin 7:00 COUNCIL	7 Leni Kaemingh Hilda Schryershof Eltjo Wiersema 10:00 COFFEE BREAK 7:00 EDS	8 7:00 ZOE YOUTH	9 Luke Esselink	10 Dan Veldhuisen *Larry & Dove Stahn (33rd)
11 Emma Kaemingh 10:00 WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL 5:00 CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT PRAISE & WORSHIP	12 Peter Van Heyst	13	14 10:00 COFFEE BREAK 7:00 EDS	15	16	17 Ruth Stewart 7:00 LADIES' NIGHT
18 Tina Geerdink Dwight Stang 10:00 WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL	19 Kerrilyn Esselink *Henry & Thea Kaemingh (64th)	20 7:00 CONSISTORY	21	22	23	24 Kari Lemelin Paiton Veldhuisen
25  Christmas Day 10:00 WORSHIP	26	27 Theo deGroot (Snr.) *Louis & Darlene Bosma (48th)	28	29 Grace Kooistra Clare Veldhuisen	30 Darlene Byma	31 Mindy Van Zwol