CONGREGATIONAL ASSISTANCE PLAN (CAP): Shalem Mental Health Network provides professional faith-based counselling services to our church through the CAP ministry. CAP usage is confidential and available to all congregants, at no cost for the first 6 sessions. To book an appt, or for more info, please call Shalem directly at: 905-528-0353, 1-866-347-0041, or text 289-335-3543, or email office@shalemnetwork.org.

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS IN GREECE (APRIL 3 - 13. 2026): Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

SHALEM MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK

Join us for a Couples Weekend Workshop!

The Hold Me Tight® Workshop, developed by Dr. Sue Johnson is a weekend workshop **April 25 - 26, 2026** in Oshawa, designed for couples around seven conversations based on the new science of love and the wisdom of Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy (EFT). The Hold Me Tight® is appropriate for couples who:

- want to connect more deeply
- want to get "unstuck" from their patterns
- are in established or new relationships

At this workshop, you will reconnect with your partner in ways that foster trust, intimacy, and mutual support. With the right tools, you can move beyond the patterns that keep you stuck and rediscover the love that brought you together.

This workshop will be held Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON and facilitated by Registered Psychotherapist Aimee Berends (RP).

The workshop will be held from **9am – 5pm on Saturday and Sunday**.

Registration includes refreshments and materials for the workshop, including lunch.

Onsite accommodations are available at an additional cost – please contact us for more information.

"Hold Me Tight®" may not be appropriate for all couples. A screening call will be held prior to the weekend to confirm enrollment.

To register for this weekend, please complete the form below, or reach out to us at

office@shalemnetwork.org

If you belong to a CAP church, please contact us to complete your registration, you could apply some of your CAP sessions for this workshop.

Pastor
Ben vanStraten
Tel: 705-341-4114
pastorbenvs@gmail.com

Director of Faith Formation
Patrick Bigelow
Tel: 514-914-7282
jenningscreekfaithformation@proton.me

Treasurer
Chris Terpstra
Tel: 705-878-6025
jenningscreektreasurer@gmail.com

Office Admin
Sarah Cooke
Tel: 705-328-0177
jenningscreekcrc@gmail.com

Jennings Creek Church Office Hours : **Wednesday 11-2:30; Thursday 9-3 & Friday 9-12:30**

Jennings Creek
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

belong. grow. serve.

This Issue

LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE SCHEDULE: 2026
Sunday, April 5, 2026 (Easter)
Sunday, June 7, 2026
Sunday, July 26, 2026
Please join us. Everyone welcome

GROWING IN FAITH:

Family & Faith Formation Night: Thank you to all of our volunteers and participants for making these ministries successful. Truth Seekers, Club Kingdom Builders & Youth are happening at the church Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.

Ladies Bible Study: Coffee Break runs every Thursday at 9:30am; Nursery is available. Feel free to bring a friend. (Sept. to May). Thank you to all of our leaders.

Precept Bible Study Is happening again on Monday's at 7pm or Tuesday's at 9:30am. Milly Nokes is the leader.

Odyssey takes place every 4th Sunday of the month. Youth are released after the Sermon.

Something for everyone and everyone is welcome!

NEXT MONTH'S COUNCIL MEETING:

Next council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7th, at 7:30pm. Council packets will be distributed on the Friday prior to the Council Meeting.

Monthly Finance Updates

OFFERING TOTAL RESULTS: MARCH 2026

Church Ministry Budget	$22,969.50
Special Offerings	
Deacons	$1,907.00
W/R Disaster Response	$100.00
Canadian Justice Ministries	$125.00
Lindsay Soup Kitchen	$360.00
Centre Community Church	$958.00
Thrive Ministries	$646.00
Youth Unlimited	$657.00
Heritage Christian School	$361.00
W/R Canada Food Grains Bank	$445.00
Kawartha Lakes Pregnancy Centre	$125.00
Centre for Public Dialogue	$100.00
W/R Justice for All	$45.00
Calvin Theological Seminary	$361.25
Facility Rental Income	$500.00
TOTAL INCOME FOR MARCH	**$29,634.75**
YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL	**$128,933.00**

This is the month in summary and includes Sunday morning Offerings, and February's PAR & GIVE App totals.

Church Family

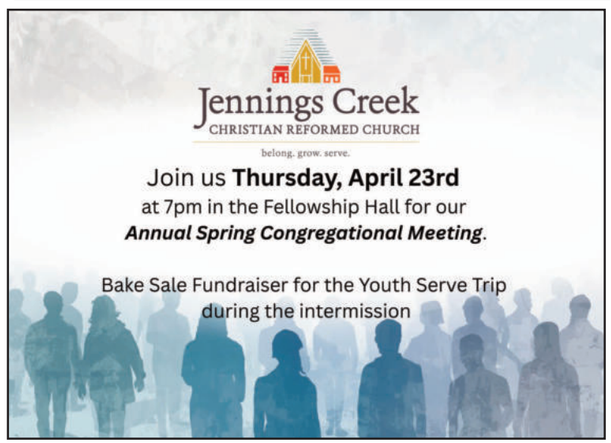
MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER:
If you have something that you would like to share with the congregation, please submit to the church office. Deadline for contributions is the Wednesday (9:00am) prior to the end of the month. The Newsletter will be posted online on the 1st Sunday of the month to update everyone on what is going on in our church, community and beyond. There will be a limited amount of copies available on the Welcome Centre for those individuals that do not have internet and for guests.

HERITAGE UPDATE:
Gift card profits for the months of **March** was **$3,471.28.**
If you would like to purchase gift cards or would like more information, please contact **Hank Bossema at 705-328-2061**.

YOUTH SERVICE: Sunday, April,19; 2–7:30pm. All high school youth are invited to join their friends for a time of fun, fellowship and worship on Sunday April 19, 2:00–7:30pm at Maranatha CRC in Belleville. Together we'll enjoy a variety of games, activities, tasty treats, pizza dinner ($5) and a time of worship, led by "Awaken Worship" band. If you have any questions or to **RSVP (by April 17)**, please contact either Sarita VanDyke (sarita@maranatha-church.com) or Joe Groeneveld (pastorjoe@brightoncrc.ca).

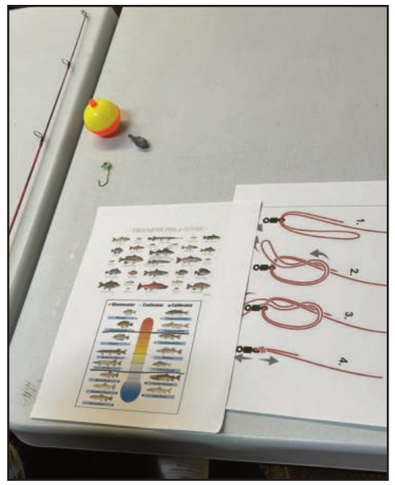
Young Adults Meeting:
ages 18-35
(or thereabouts)
Tuesday, April 7th & Monday, 20th at 6:30pm

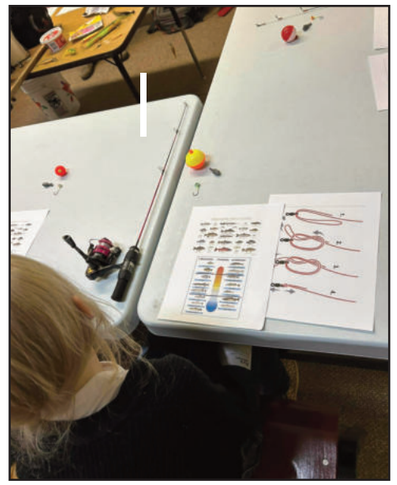
Jeff & Carol Pypkers, 37 Blackbird Rd, Lindsay



Club Kingdom Builders ~ ICE FISHING

~ photos submitted by Jen vanStraten





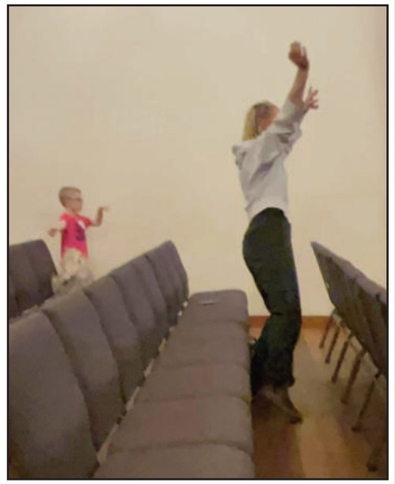
CKB ACTIVITY: our Club Kingdom Builders group with the help of our volunteer leader Eric learned all about ice fishing. Different types of fish, different types of lures and knots.

Canadian National Gathering

Call for Nominations to the Canadian National Gathering - The 2026 Canadian National Gathering is creating space for a diverse and well-rounded group of participants from across Canada, representing different regions, generations, and experiences. Nominations are open to any member of a CRC in Canada. If someone comes to mind, please nominate them! This is a meaningful way to affirm their gifts and invite them into something that will have a lasting impact on our wider church community. Learn more and make a nomination: www.crcna.org/canada.

Truth Seekers ~ Club Kingdom Builders

~ photos submitted by Jen vanStraten



Truth Seekers & Club Kingdom Buiders: start the evening off together in a time of praise and worship. Enjoying fellowship together and perhaps some future worship leaders.

Truth Seekers ~ Learn how to make glasses

~ photos submitted by Jen vanStraten

TRUTH SEEKERS ACTIVITY: Our youngest group-got to learn how to make glasses. How fun is this! Looking sharp!

On Sunday morning, January 25, 2026, God called His beloved child, **Rev. Gerard Ringnalda**, home by name. Gerard died as he lived—in profound gratitude. Among his final words were, "Thank you everyone, thank you God."

Born in Den Haag, the Netherlands, on October 23, 1928, Gerard studied for the ministry at the Free University in Amsterdam. It was during his seminary years that he met the light of his life, Nelly Verseveldt. They married on July 23, 1955, beginning a 70-year journey that included five children, six congregations, and a life-changing immigration to Canada. While Gerard prayed about each new call, Nelly famously got busy packing the suitcases.

Ordained in the Christian Reformed Church, Gerard's gift was deeply pastoral. Though he preached a good sermon, he truly relished personal visits and teaching catechism. He served congregations in Oudehorne (Friesland), ***Lindsay***, Belleville, Edmonton, Burlington, Ottawa, and Orillia. In 1987, he transitioned to hospital chaplaincy in Toronto, serving until his retirement in 1995.

Gerard embraced Canada for its freedom and vast wilderness. He put his "whole self" into everything—whether building his own boat at age 30, flinging himself across a soccer goalmouth at 40, or singing loudly and off-key in church at any age. He taught his family to fish, waterski, and seek justice for the oppressed. To his children and grandchildren, his exultant "Good show!" was the ultimate praise.

He is survived by his wife, Nelly; his five children and their spouses, Jackie, Arda (Jim), Helen (Ed), Wilma (Rick), and Arie (April); 15 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. His grandchildren will forever cherish their "Opa," and his great-grandchildren will remember how "OverOpa" would kneel to catch their eye and make them laugh.

To the end, Gerard modeled faithfulness to his Savior and deep love for his family. He often told his children, "It is between you and the Lord," a blessing that allowed them to walk freely with God.

A private family service and interment was held on Saturday, January 31, with a Celebration of Life to be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to World Renew. Cards for Nelly are gratefully received at Faith Manor Rm 504, Holland Christian Homes 7934 McLaughlin Rd., Brampton, ON, L6Y 5A7.

Precept Bible Study

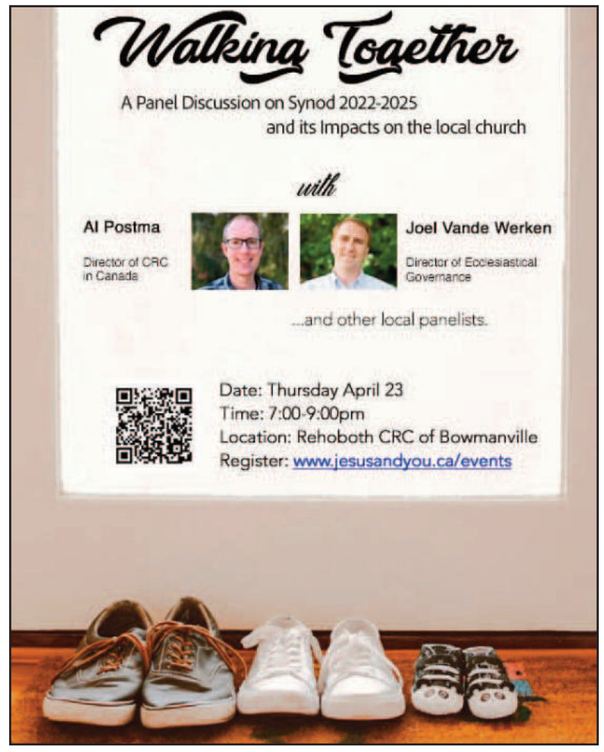
Precept Bible Study:

"Jesus' Witnesses Empowered by His Holy Spirit",
a 16-week study of **ACTS Part 1 (Acts 1 - 12)**
Mondays (7pm) and
Tuesdays, (9:30am)

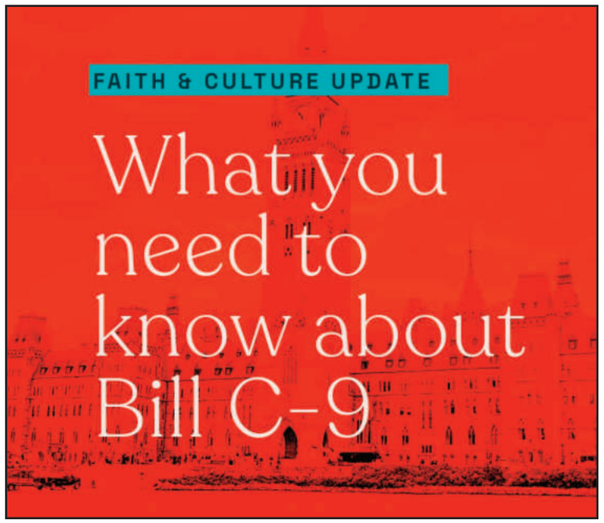
NO CLASSES April 6/7, 2026 ***EASTER***

LESSON 5
April 13/14, 2026
April 20/21 - **DVD**

LESSON 6
April 27/28, 2026
May 4/5 - **DVD**



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: A PASTORAL WORD ON BILL C-9



Every once in a while something in the news or on social media starts circulating that raises questions or concerns among believers. Over the last couple of weeks, I've heard from a few of you about Bill C-9 and its proposed changes to Canada's hate-speech laws. A lot of what's being shared online right now ranges from unclear to outright incorrect, and I think it's important for us—as Christians—to be *thoughtful, informed, and not easily alarmed*.

Let me start here:
I generally do not speak much about politics.
One of my core convictions as a pastor is that Christians can faithfully serve and vote within any of the major political parties in our country. In our church we have people with different political perspectives, and that's okay. The unity we share in Christ is greater than any party platform.

That said, this particular topic touches on something people care about deeply: freedom of religion and the ability to preach and live out our faith. So I want to offer some clarity—not political commentary, just pastoral guidance.

What's happening with Bill C-9?

Bill C-9 is a federal proposal that updates some sections of the Criminal Code related to hate crimes and hate speech.
One part of the bill has gotten a lot of attention: a committee amendment that removes a specific clause protecting "good-faith religious expression."

This sounds alarming, and I understand why people react strongly to it.

But here's the key point:

Even if that clause is removed, Canadian pastors and churches will still be legally protected.

That's because our main protections don't come from that one clause—they come from:

- The Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Supreme Court rulings
- The extremely high legal threshold for hate-speech charges
- Requirements for Attorney General approval before prosecution

In other words, there is no scenario—none—in which quoting Scripture, preaching orthodox Christian doctrine, or teaching biblical morality becomes illegal.

What's the real concern then?

The concern is less about criminal prosecution (which remains exceedingly unlikely) and more about clarity and perception.

Poorly communicated laws can create:

- unnecessary fear
- confusion among believers
- the impression that religious expression is being restricted

So while the legal risk is minimal, it's still reasonable for churches to desire clear, well-framed legislation.

What Christians need to avoid right now

I want to gently encourage you to be cautious with:

- social media posts that fuel fear
- claims that Christianity is about to be criminalized
- statements suggesting pastors could be arrested for preaching biblical truth

These claims are not accurate. They add heat, not light.

Let's be a people marked by wisdom, truthfulness, and a calm trust in God, not by reactionary alarm.

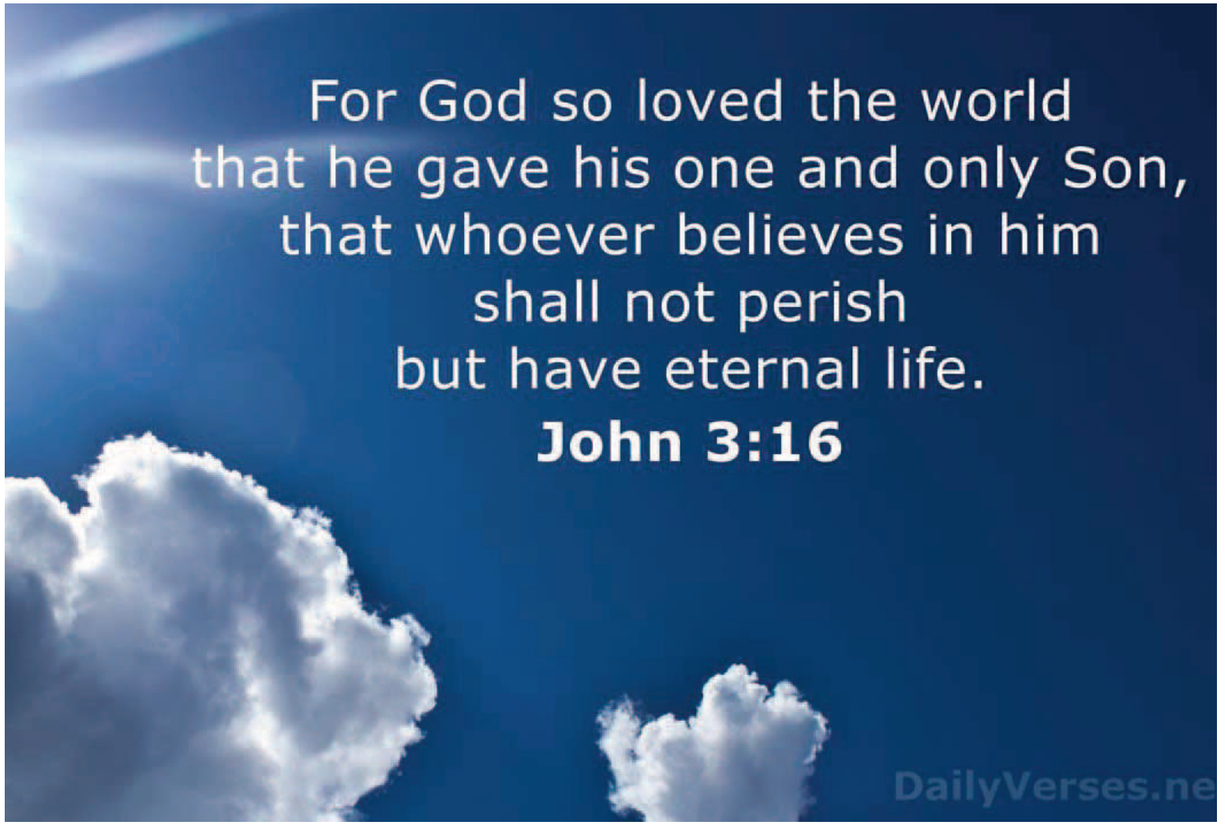
What we can do

As Christians:

- We can pray for our leaders—regardless of party.
- We can engage respectfully with our MPs and Senators.
- We can stay informed without being swept into online rhetoric.
- And above all, we continue to preach Christ with clarity and love.

Whatever becomes of this bill, Jesus' promise remains unchanged:
"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Friends, I want you to hear this clearly:

You do not need to be afraid.
Our calling is the same today as it was yesterday—to live faithfully, love our neighbours, speak the truth in love, and trust in the Lord who reigns over all earthly authorities.
If you ever have questions about bills like this, or about how laws affect our ministry, please feel free to reach out. I'm always happy to talk things through and help us walk forward with clarity and confidence.

In Christ,
Pastor Ben vanStraten