

Nobleford Christian Reformed Church

newsletter ~ Oct 31, 2021

ELIM SOCIETY FOR SENIORS CARE

Today, independent living options for Christian seniors ; in the future, a full range of care.



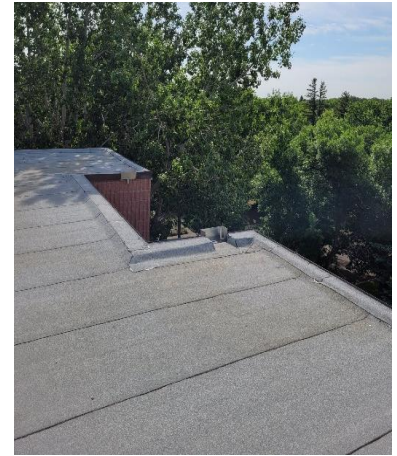
157 Generous individual Donors

Two Major Gifts



Bethel Free Reformed Church

made the Cover the Roof campaign a success!



After replacing the aging elevator at Balmoral House in 2019 at a cost of \$229,000, the need to also completely replace the roof came as unwelcome news! The Society turned to our supporting community for help. Our Cover the Roof campaign quickly raised \$76, 630, precisely enough to cover installation with a bit besides to repair damage caused by roof leakage. God answers prayer in miraculous ways!

Ryan's Roofing completed construction in June. Thank you to all the Society members and supporters who donated \$41,631 to the project, and to major donors, Bethel Free Reformed Church (\$20,000) and the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southern Alberta (\$15,000). We know that our residents will now be warm and dry for years to come!

BALMORAL HOUSE UPGRADES CONTINUE

Once the building of Elim Village was complete and residents were comfortable settled in, it was time to turn the Board's attention to Balmoral House. Built in 1968, the aging apartment building needed some serious upgrades! We began with the replacement of balcony window/door units to increase the heating efficiency of the building (\$98,729). Then we replaced the fire alarm system (\$79, 101) and the elevator (\$199,363). We were so grateful for the resilience and graciousness of our residents during that process. This year, we replaced the roof. We are also in the middle of a five-year upgrade of kitchen cabinets (\$127, 629). Thank you, Curtis Custom Woodwork, for the lovely upgrades to the first ten kitchens!

Regular maintenance work involves replacement of non-working appliances, bathtub leaks, and repair of damaged flooring, lighting, etc. In the future we hope to upgrade all flooring from carpet and embossed linoleum to laminate planking, but those improvements will have to wait their turn. The Board always seeks to find a balance between maintaining reasonable rents and spending on facilities.

Balmoral House will remain a well maintained, attractive living space for residents. A waiting list is always available for people interested in renting as suites become available.

ELIM BOARD IN SERIOUS NEED OF REFRESHING

No new members were elected to the Elim Board of Directors at the 2020 annual meeting. Now the Board finds itself in the unusual situation of having *only two directors* with terms extending into next year. We need new board members! Terms are three years each, and directors can serve only two terms in succession. A full information package is available to anyone willing to consider a post.

We would particularly encourage supporters with family members living in our facilities to consider joining the Board.

COVID RESTRICTIONS REQUIRE NIMBLE RESPONSES

Navigating the frequently changing restrictions surrounding the provincial COVID health emergency response has occupied much time and patience from our administrator and Operations Committee. The Board has cancelled any number of planned social events that would allow for mingling between Directors, residents, and staff, and has often asked for heavenly wisdom in choosing appropriate responses.

We want to thank everyone who has worked hard to keep lines of communication open and all of us safe and healthy. Most Elim Village residents have been fully vaccinated against COVID. Now that Health Canada has fully cleared the new COVID vaccines, we would encourage those who are vaccine hesitant to get vaccinated to reduce risk to themselves and others, and to reduce the stress on our health care system.

OENZE AND FRIENDS ENRICH THE MENU



Oenze Plantinga is an Elim Village resident and an extraordinary gardener, and he has a great set of resident friends who lend a hand in the Village garden to provide wonderful produce for the Elim Village kitchen. Not only have they provided vegetables, but also fresh fruits like honeydew, cantaloupe, and sour cherries, all a wonderful blessing to the dining table.

Many of the vegetables from the garden were on display when residents of the Village were given the opportunity to tour the kitchen in September. They were amazed at the size of the walk-in fridge, freezer, and mixer, and surprised by the row of spices on the shelf. They came away a different perspective on the scope of the work done by the kitchen staff. 3 meals a day, 365 days a year!

JOB SHARE WITH MARY

When Mary Hendriks announced her intention to step back from her time consuming role as Administrator, the Board came up with a solution that will allow us to keep Mary's expertise while allowing someone else to grow into the job. We are now looking for a part-time person to share the administrator position, working 16 hours per week. Please check the Society website and Facebook pages for details. www.elimlethbridge.org.

CHANGES TO CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES RECEIVE APPROVAL

At our 2020 annual meeting, the membership approved a new set of charitable purposes that would allow the Society to legally serve a broader community of seniors than just those in financial need. These purposes have now been registered with Alberta Corporate Affairs and approved by the Canadian Revenue Agency as appropriate for maintaining charitable status. The full document is available on the Society website, www.elimlethbridge.org.

World Hunger 2021: Special Dinner Opportunity - Have you signed up to host a Dinner for Good? Not sure what we are talking about? It's not too late! Visit worldrenew.ca/world-hunger-dinner to learn more. We'll also take a collection next week that will go directly to World Renew's work with people like the ones you've met during your devotion time. Join us in the hunger for good!

Today is World Hunger Sunday. Join us! - Today we are having an offering to support the work of World Renew and help put food on tables around the world. World Renew has the plans, the systems, the partners, and the people to come alongside communities experiencing hunger. We are excited to join this program as a faithful response to the God who can accomplish abundantly more than all we ask or imagine. Thank you for giving as you are able to help solve World Hunger.

Help End World Hunger. Host a Dinner for Good. - Have you signed up to host a Dinner for Good? Not sure what we are talking about? It's not too late to pick up a World Hunger devotional to learn more. We'll also take a collection next week that will go directly to World Renew's work with people like the ones you've met during your devotion time. Join us in the hunger for good!

Your Gift to End Hunger Has Made a Difference! - God has filled the hungry with good things! Thank you to everyone who brought in a Peter Fish or made a donation to last week's World Hunger Sunday collection. Our church alone raised [put in your \$ amount] for World Renew's sustainable approach to tackling the problem of world hunger. Together, we are coming alongside families so they can put food on their tables.

Praise Prayers - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. What are some words that you can use to describe God? When we tell God how wonderful we think he is, it helps us remember who he is and everything he has done for us. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

Confession Prayers - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Have you ever hidden from someone or something? In our prayers, God does not want us to hide from him. He wants us to seek him by confessing our sins to him when we pray. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

Thanksgiving Prayers - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Have you ever wondered if it's okay to thank God for really little things? 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 encourages us to thank God no matter what is happening. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC's weekly emails for all the new content.

Family Fire - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

Groundwork: Jonah: Running Away from God - What happens when we try to run away from God? Join Groundwork as we begin our study of Jonah. Together we'll discuss the resonance of Jonah 1 for our lives today and find assurance in God's persistent and relentless love for his people. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Diaconal Ministries Canada

Deacon Training - Diaconal Ministries Canada - Deacons! Join us for Benevolence 101 Training (via Zoom) on Tuesday, November 9, from 7:30pm MST (6:30pm PST). This event will be led by Western Canada Regional Ministry Developer, Rachel Vroege. Attendees will have a chance to share how they are navigating through the pandemic as deacons and talk about their benevolence concerns. Participants will walk away with great information and valuable resources and support! Find out more on our website and register today! diaconalministries.com/events/ (After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.)

Diaconal Ministries Canada - AGM - Join us for our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 8:00pm EST. This meeting will be held via Zoom. All are invited to attend - ordained deacons, pastors, elders, ministry leaders - and you! Find out more on our website: diaconalministries.com/agm/

The Restore Conference - It's no secret that COVID has taken a toll on the church. But, now that we're able to meet in person, Resonate Global Mission is spearheading "The Restore Conference" (www.restoreconference.ca) set for November 18-20th at New Life Church in Abbotsford. It's time to come together again to restore, renew, and resend. It features great speakers from across Canada, worship, prayer, fellowship, food, and so much more. It's only \$149, the proceeds of which will go to local and international missions. If you can't make the full conference, come to the worship concert on November 19th at 7 PM which features amazing artists, speakers, and worship leaders. Just go to the website to register for either the conference or the concert. Let the church rise up again!

Inspire 2022 - Are you missing gatherings and times of growing together? Plan to join us next summer in Chicago for Inspire 2022. People from across the denomination will gather August 4-6, 2022 at the Tinley Park Convention Center for worship, prayer, speakers, and workshops. We'd love to see you there! Learn more and sign up for email updates at www.crcna.org/inspire

Join Us at Inspire 2022! - You're invited to be part of a denomination-wide gathering in Chicago next summer. We'll engage in worship, fellowship, and learning as we come together on the theme, Inspired to Be One! Plan to join us August 4-6 at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Registration opens in January. Learn more and sign up for email updates at www.crcna.org/inspire

At-home Faith Practice Reflection tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Gratitude: Today is “Reformation Sunday.” Read “Ten Ways My Reformed Identity Shapes My Life” (tinyurl.com/10WaysReformed) and ponder or discuss the following questions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject) If you identify with the Reformed tradition, what difference does holding this worldview make in your daily life? What parts of the Reformed worldview especially spark gratitude in you? How might you more fully experience God's abundant grace so that you can live out of gratitude?

At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Generosity: Read Acts 4:32-35 and ponder or discuss the following questions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject) The early church was characterized by a spirit of generosity. How does today's church (or your own congregation) measure up? Do today's Christians have a reputation for generosity? In what ways is that true or untrue?

At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Generosity: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and ponder or discuss the following questions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject) Think back over the past year. Where have you “sown sparingly”? Where have you “sown generously”? How do you “decide in your heart” what and when to give? How intentional are those decisions? How might you find more joy in giving generously?

At-home Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Generosity: Read 1 John 3:16-18 and ponder or discuss the following questions. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject) This passage clearly ties love of our neighbor to sharing material possessions with people in need. How do you discover needs in your neighborhood, city, country, and world? What needs are you able to meet? How might you remind yourself daily of God's generous love for you?

Office of Social Justice, Resonate Global Mission, World Renew

Free Advent Devotion: You Shall Call His Name Jesus - Is your soul weary? Take heart in the names of Jesus that remind us of God's character, presence, and work in the world. Sign up for this free Advent devotion from World Renew, Resonate, and the CRC Office of Social Justice at crcna.org/advent.

Dear friends at Nobleford CRC,

As the season of gratitude moves quickly toward shorter days and cooler weather, we are thankful for you and your congregation's faithful support. As we continue to take stock of all God has done, and all that God is doing, we wanted to take a moment to reach out and share some updates. Please take a moment to watch this short video:

<https://vimeo.com/637159627/3dc9804c90>

Please feel free to email this to your congregation, share it in your Facebook group, or show it before, during, or after the service. If you have questions or would like any additional resources, please let us know.

On behalf of World Renew, Iona

October is Infant Loss Awareness Month. Lethbridge and District Pro-Life would like to honor and acknowledge the grief of mothers, fathers, and their families who have experienced infant loss, by offering a place to commemorate these children. Our Memorial in Royal View Cemetery in North Lethbridge has space for names and dates of children who do not have a burial site or were not able to have a funeral. These plaques are for miscarriages, abortions, stillbirths, or tragic losses after birth. There is no cost to the families. Please email infantmemorialdpl@gmail.com with the child's name (can be first only or first and last) and date you would like to acknowledge, or if you have any questions about this memorial. Absolute confidentiality will be maintained. Going forward, this will be an annual event during October and the memorial will be updated with names once per year. For 2021 we are taking names until November 30. Names submitted after that will be added the following year.