

Nobleford Christian Reformed Church

newsletter ~ DECEMBER 1, 2023

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Ponder this quote from Mother Teresa: “This Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God’s own concern.” How might you and your family love and serve others during this season? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - In the Bible, the Greek term that is usually translated as “hospitality” means “love of strangers.” How might your home (whether it’s a house, an apartment, a dorm room, or another place) become a space to practice the love of strangers? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - “. . . and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.” In what ways might you make more space for Jesus in your everyday life? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

The Light of the World is Jesus - At the darkest time of the year, Christmas is the light of hope. What will you do this Advent season to prepare the way for Jesus to be born into this world for you? Share God’s light of hope with those who live in poverty through World Renew’s Gift Catalogue. Spread the good news of hope for the future at worldrenew.ca/gifts or call 1-888-975-3769 to give.

Kids Corner: The Prophet's Message of Hope - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. The devotion is all about how the prophet Isaiah talked about how light shining in the darkness gave people comfort. We know Isaiah 9:2 is about Jesus coming to earth and dying on the cross for our sins. How amazing is that! The hope we have is a person! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast “The Story of the Prophets.”

Kids Corner: Promises and Peace - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. During Advent, we remember the story of Mary, a teenager, called by God to be Jesus’ mother. “How could this be?” she wondered at first. But the angel Gabriel assured Mary. “God’s favor is on you,” he said. “Anything is possible with God.” Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast “The Birth of Jesus.”

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.

Devotions for a Blue Christmas - In the midst of hard times, find strength and encouragement through God’s word. A set of fourteen encouraging Today devotions reassure you that even during the darkest of Christmas seasons, you’re not alone. Receive this free email series and ebook when you subscribe to Today at todaydevotional.com/bluechristmas

Groundwork: Jesus: Our Wonderful Counselor - The prophet Isaiah calls the coming Messiah a ‘Wonderful Counselor.’ Join Groundwork as we explore Isaiah 9:6, Proverbs 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:18-24, and Colossians 1:15-19 to discover what this title communicates to us about Jesus and its connection to the biblical wisdom tradition. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.

Stories & Strategies: Strengthening the CRC in Canada - Are you interested in learning more about church planting and renewal in the CRC? Join the Canadian Ministry Board for stories (and best practice learnings from those experiences) and how they might be applicable to your local church context. We look forward to discussing these ideas with you alongside other church members & leaders. More at crcna.org/Canada

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Our God is a generous God. Read Psalm 36:5-9, and spend some time thinking about the abundant gifts God has lavished on us in creation and in other ways. Make a list of everything you can think of that testifies to God's generosity. If there are kids in your home, invite them to draw pictures of those things. Hang your list where you can see it often! Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

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Groundwork: Love God By Loving One Another - Differences and disagreements are inevitable, even among Christians, because the gospel calls people of many ages, backgrounds, and experiences. Join Groundwork as we study Paul's instructions for Christian living in Romans 14-16 to discover what it looks like to live in a community and to hear the heart of Paul's message—love for God and love for each other. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Kids Corner: When We All Work Together - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Did you know that Nehemiah convinced everyone to help build a wall around Jerusalem? Together they finished the work in 52 days! This week's devotion is all about how when we trust God and work together, he can accomplish some pretty amazing things through us. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast "The Story of Nehemiah."

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It's Giving Tuesday! - This coming Tuesday, November 28, is now known as #GivingTuesday - a day to give just a little bit back to make our world a better place! The NewGround program (formerly called Operation Manna) of Diaconal Ministries Canada equips and supports churches who want to make a difference in their local communities. This year we saw a sharp increase in grant requests: from \$35,000 last year to \$90,000 this year! Diaconal Ministries would love to help these churches be on mission in their own backyards: will you help us help them? Donate today - every single dollar will make a difference to a community in Canada that needs to see and experience the love of Jesus! Visit <https://diaconalministries.com/donate-now> today.

Explore the Intersection of Faith and Art in Italy! - Join the Institute for Christian Studies for ART in Orvieto, an advanced summer studies program in art, religion, and theology located in Orvieto, Italy, a magnificent hill town 90 minutes north of Rome. The program offers an ecumenical exploration of Christian understandings of the arts through a three-week residency designed for practicing artists, art teachers, graduate students in relevant fields, and other adult learners. The first eight applicants are eligible for a \$500 early bird scholarship, and additional financial aid is available for teachers, graduate students, and working artists. Want to learn more? Visit

icscanada.edu/art-in-orvieto, or join us for an online Info Session on November 30 at 6:30pm. Email recruitment-coordinator@icscanada.edu to RSVP.

"Advent in the Neighborhood" Free Webinar - How do you share the hope and peace of the gospel with your neighbors this season? Many of your neighbors might not know what Advent is, but most of them likely get into the festive spirit of Christmas. Advent is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Christ, but how? Join us Monday, December 4 from 7-8:30 pm EST for a free webinar. Learn more and register at: www.resonateglobalmission.org/adventwebinar

Do we prevent or assist

suicide?

We should always
prevent suicide.

But the Canadian government
has recently legalized **medically
assisted suicide**. And

IN MARCH 2023*

the Canadian government will open up
assisted suicide to Canadians
with **mental illness**.



This would allow Jeff, a young adult suffering from depression, to ask a doctor to help him end his life.

This would allow Clivia, a middle-aged adult who has unsuccessfully attempted suicide in the past, to fulfil her desire to end her life.

This would allow George, a retired veteran suffering from PTSD, to ask a doctor to end his life.

This has to change.

Write to your MP.

Write a letter to your editor.

Sign a petition.

Together, we can
prevent suicide for everyone.



care

For more information and to take action visit:
CARENOTKNOW.CO

WILL YOU PRAY?

Please join us in praying for a stop to
euthanasia for mental illness.

- Please pray for family, friends and neighbours struggling with mental health.
 - Pray for hope and strength. Pray they would know the love and presence of Christ.
 - Pray for them to have the loving support of family and community.
 - Pray that timely and affordable professional care would be available.
- Please pray for a change in the law.
 - Pray that the law allowing euthanasia for mental illness would be reversed.
 - Pray for MPs and Senators to have open minds and hearts.
 - Pray for wisdom, strength and courage for MPs and Senators.
- Pray for a society that sees all lives as having meaning and value.
- Please pray for medical professionals' ability to care well for their patients in an overburdened system.

***Date is now March, 2024**

EBC

** this copy did not come across well. You will find highlights of this pamphlet below.

DO WE PREVENT OR ASSIST SUICIDE?

We should always prevent suicide.

But the Canadian Government has recently legalized medically assisted suicide. And in MARCH2024 the Canadian Government will open up assisted suicide to Canadians **with mental illness..**

This has to change.

Write your MP

Write a letter to your editor.

Sign a petition.

Together, we can prevent suicide for everyone.

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Please pray for medical professionals ability to care well for their patients in an overburdened system.

Dear friends at Nobleford CRC

Thank you for joining us on mission with our God whose compassions never fail.

Your congregation's support for Resonate helps spread the gospel in more than 40 countries where your missionaries and church planters are at work. Every day, people who are struggling find hope in Jesus Christ through the work you've made possible. What a great example of faith in action!

Many of those your ministry leaders are working with come from difficult circumstances, but through Resonate you are a witness to the truth that God's compassions are new every morning.

Thank you for supporting this work of living and sharing the gospel—we couldn't do it without faithful supporting churches! It's your generosity that helps to share the everlasting hope we have in Jesus with people who are lonely, anxious, and struggling.

And what's more—mission work is an area of unity for the denomination. Mission work brings us together! Your giving is an encouraging reminder of what we can accomplish as the body of Christ across North America. Thank you!

In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Director

Hello Friends,

Greetings from World Renew, it is remarkably busy season for us, field trips, fundraising events, church visits, and workshops with groups, youths, and Christian schools.

I am happy to let you know that the church and community engagement team has a site that you can access directly to get all your resources and connect with us directly. You can access the church and community engagement team site [here](#).

Good news we are now expanding the Christian Leaders Tour Guatemala. This tour is designed for Church leaders, World Renew supporter, church Deacons, and World Renew Ambassadors to visit our field operations in Guatemala.

Have you ever?

Wrestled with the relationship between poverty, justice, faith, and development?

Wanted to witness World Renew community development work firsthand?

Worshipped our creator God with brothers and sisters of a different culture?

Wondered how your financial donations are put into action?

If you are curious about the above questions, this trip is for you. See the flyer [here](#).

Please kindly share this email with your chair of deacons, people of interest and church community.

To join the discovery / listen & learn trip spring 2024, please contact me for details.

cnwene@worldrenew.ca

Blessings.