



There is nothing easy or fairy-tale-like about being a girl today. This generation of girls faces unique challenges and unsustainable pressures in a culture of confusion and lies about who they are and what is truth.

At GEMS Girls' Clubs, girls opened their Bibles to Queen Esther's story and discovered what it looks like for a girl living in a faithless culture to put her hope in God. Equipped with God's Word, girls learned their Truth-filled identity and five Truths about God to help them rise up with a strong and courageous faith.

On this GEMS Sunday, we celebrate our...

**GEMS Leaders.** They live the GEMS name and passion—Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior.

**GEMS Clubs.** Clubs are a fun and welcoming place for girls to belong and be loved.

**GEMS Girls.** They worshiped God, read their Bibles, prayed, shared, served, and learned that where they place their hope changes everything. Through God's Word and caring GEMS volunteer leaders, girls discovered that when they place their hope in God, they can rise up, stand secure, and have complete confidence they will be okay, no matter what.

## GRACE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

**Sunday April 28, 2024 | Year 63, No. 03**

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**SUNDAY SERVICE — 10:00AM**

Leading us in worship today: Pastor Mike Vandyk

*Please Note: We are blessed to record our worship services. By entering and by your presence here, you consent to being recorded for our livestream broadcast.*

## Today's Service

### **Sunday April 28, 2024**

Welcome to worship this Sunday at Grace church. We are glad you are here. We welcome our GEMS girls and their leaders as they take part in our service. May God be praised and we be blessed as we worship together.

#### **We enter into Worship**

Gathering Songs: "Come, Now is the time" and "You are Holy"

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 20:7-8 – Rise up

God Greet us - we greet one another

GEMS come forward – guide posts

GEMS Hymn: "Jesus is all the world to me"

Sharing about the GEMS ministry – Theme Rise Up: Lessons from Queen Esther

GEMS: Theme verse: Isaiah 40:31

Five truths of God

Serve Projects

GEMS theme song: "Rise Up"

#### **We see God's Grace in forgiving our sins**

Confession of Sin – Esther 3:5-6 – the evil that destroys

Assurance of Pardon – Esther 9:20-22 – our God who saves

Song: "Everlasting God"

#### **We bring our Offerings out of Gratitude**

1<sup>st</sup>: Grace Christian Reformed Church

2<sup>nd</sup>: GEMS

Offertory Prayer

#### **Children's Message:** John S.

Children's Song: "The Bible", "Awesome God"

#### **We Pray in Faith to our loving God**

Congregational Prayer

#### **We Hear the Word of God**

**Scripture Reading: Esther 2:5-7, 3:1-5, 4:12-17**

**Sermon: Rise Up for Jesus**

**Theme:** That we would put our hope, our trust in the Lord Jesus for everything. You need to stand for something or you will fall for anything. As he delivered Mordecai and Esther and God's people so God delivers us from the power of sin and death through faith in Jesus who conquered the powers of evil through his death and resurrection.

Prayer of Application

#### **We Depart to Serve**

Closing Song: "We receive your blessing"

Blessing

## Upcoming Services

**Next week May 5** we focus on prayer for God's providing our daily bread based on the Lord's prayer. We also partake of the bread and juice in our **Lord's Supper** celebration as the spiritual food that nourishes our souls. Pastor Mike will lead our worship.

## Offerings



**This week—G.E.M.S.** is an acronym for Girls Everywhere Meeting the Saviour. Our vision is to see girls around the world actively and enthusiastically expressing love for God and others—girls equipped, motivated, and passionately engaged in living out their faith. Our mission is to bring girls everywhere into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.










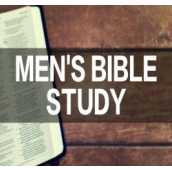



**Next week—NEWGROUND** —“Diaconal Ministries Canada is a partner agency of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) that promotes diaconal work in Canada. The NewGround program partners with deacons and churches to break new missional ground, nurturing Spirit-led ideas that bear everlasting fruit. Examples are youth initiatives, community opportunity scans, new ministry grants and support, and deacons scholarships.”

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Tuesday April 30	A/B Meeting	7:30 pm
Sunday May 5	Lord's Supper	10:00 am
Monday May 6	Deacon Meeting	7:00 pm
Thursday May 30	B & G Committee Meeting	7:00 pm
Wednesday June 5	Council Meeting	7:30 pm
Wednesday June 12	Elder Meeting	7:30 pm

<b>Volunteer Schedule</b>			
<b>HELPERS</b>	<b>THIS WEEK April 28</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK May 5</b>	<b>TWO WEEKS May 12</b>
<b>USHERS</b>	Bryan & Marlene	Henry & Lorraine	Hank & Betty
<b>READER</b>	Pete V.	Janice Z.	John vdB.
<b>CHILDREN'S MESSAGE</b>	John S.	-----	Kayla B.
<b>HALL MONITOR</b>	John VV	Kathy vdB.	Hilda VL.
<b>LIBRARY</b>	Alice Z.	Pauline B.	Carla L.
<b>SOUND</b>	George S.	Tim L.	Martin Z.
<b>PROJECTOR</b>	Christine V.	Marika L.	Linden N.
<b>LIVESTREAM</b>	John D.	Eric V.	Stephen B.
<b>NURSERY</b>	Angela W. Madison B.	Marg. L. Adriana E.	Alana V. Olivia B.
<b>PRAISE TEAM</b>	Lori, Ted, Michael, Kelsey, Kim, Emilia, Fran	Joanna, Michael, Barb, Hank, Alana, Andy, Esther	Lori, Ted, Michael, Kelsey, Emilia, John
<b>COFFEE CLEAN UP</b>	Marty & Karen	John D.	Pete & Fran
<b>Children's Ministry</b>			
	<b>Sunday school</b> is available weekly for children ages 3 yrs. old to Grade 6. Students will be dismissed to their classes following the children's message.		
	<b>Nursery</b> is available for children ages 0-3. Please sign your children in and out using the Nursery entrance at the back door.		

	<p><b>GEMS – GIRLS EVERYWHERE MEETING THE SAVIOUR (Ages 9-13)</b>  Theme: “Rise Up”  <b>Every Thursday 7:00—8:30 p.m.</b>  <i>If you would like more info please contact Janice—289-696-2882</i></p>		<p><b>GRACE MEMBERS “COFFEE &amp; FELLOWSHIP GET TOGETHER”</b>  <b>Every Thursday morning</b>  <b>Time:</b> 9:30am —12:00  <b>EVERYONE WELCOME!!</b>  Enjoy a coffee with treats, games &amp; fellowship.  <i>Contacts: Henry &amp; Lorraine</i></p>
	<p><b>CADETS BOYS GROUP (Ages 7-13)</b>  Theme: “Rooted and Grounded”  <b>Every Thursday 7:00—8:30 p.m.</b>  <i>If you would like more info please contact Wilbert—416-930-8648</i></p>		<p><b>SENIOR’S GROUP</b>  <b>Next Event:</b> TBA  <b>Time:</b>  <b>Location:</b>  <i>Contacts: Lorraine, Irene D. &amp; Pete H.</i></p>
	<p><b>GRACE YOUTH GROUP (GYG) &amp; CATECHISM (Grades 9-12)</b>  We will be studying Psalms.  <b>Every Monday 7:00—8:30 pm</b>  <b>Location:</b> At the church  <i>Contacts: Pastor Mike &amp; Kelsey T</i></p>		<p><b>MEN’S COFFEE SOCIAL</b>  <b>Every Tuesday morning</b>  <b>Time:</b> 9:30 am  (McDonalds, Niagara Street)  <i>Contact: Marten Z</i></p>
	<p><b>LADIES COFFEE BREAK</b>  <b>Every Tuesday morning</b>  <b>This week:</b>  <b>Time:</b> 9:30 am  <i>Contact Barb V. 289-931-3124</i></p>		<p><b>FOOD ITEMS NEEDED</b>  <b>Month: APRIL</b>  <b>MAC &amp; CHEESE</b></p> 
	<p><b>MEN’S BIBLE STUDY</b>  <b>Every Tuesday morning</b>  <b>Time:</b> 9:30 am  <b>Location:</b> At the church  <i>Contact: Pastor Mike</i></p>		<p><b>HANG OUT (Adults 18-30)</b>  <b>Next Event:</b> After church  Picnic lunch and Hike  <b>Date:</b> Sunday April 14  <i>Contact: Emilia V.</i></p>

## Announcements

**NEW MEMBERS CLASS:** We have started a new members class for those who would like to become full members of Grace church. We have our meetings on Sunday after the morning service in the Council room. All those who are interested should join us as we learn and grow in faith and prepare to enter more fully into the life of this church.

If you have any questions, please call Pastor Mike.

**NOMINATION PROCESS for Elders and Deacons:** God calls each congregation to appoint Elders and Deacons to serve within the congregation. God works through the Council and the congregation to call individuals to service. It is both an honour and an obligation to serve in office. If you have been nominated, your Elder will visit you with an official nomination letter. If there are reasons that you are simply unable to serve at this time, we would ask you to make those reasons known to the Administration Board at its meeting on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 PM. In the alternative, if you are unable to attend the meeting, please make your reasons known to your Elder. If you plan on attending this meeting, you are asked to please notify the clerk, Christine Van Lochem. The names of those that will be standing will be published in the bulletin on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

- Office Bearers are called by God to serve and, therefore, the congregation is instructed to hold these people up in prayer. It is the Office Bearers who lead us as a congregation in the work of Christ. We request your prayers over the next few weeks as we seek to follow God's will in appointing new Office Bearers.

The Council of "Grace" CRC.

**CAIRN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:** Christian Education Weeks have just passed at Cairn Christian School. They were able to celebrate their mission to inspire students to love, learn, and lead at both sites with pastors, grandparents and senior friends! What a wonderful time of sharing and connection with their work directly on display. We celebrate our kids, the teachers, para educators, volunteers, leaders and administrators! We celebrate the growth both in enrollment at the school, but more importantly in their hearts and in the communities they impact! Smithville still has its Celebration of Learning on Friday, May 3, from 2-3 pm, and you are invited to come to see the important work they have been engaged in this year.

**THRIVE FAITH FORMATION TIP:** Pastor Rich Villodas observed, "Prayer is not about throwing holy words at God to see what sticks; it is, rather, entrance to a new way of seeing reality, the opening of ourselves to God's presence, and an act that trains us in love." Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

## Announcements

**SMITHVILLE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL'S Echoes Magazine.** How does a Christian high school prepare students for what comes next, and, do weekly chapels really make a difference? The latest issue of Smithville Christian High School's Echoes is in your mailboxes and ready to read.

Are you ready for something light-hearted? **Smithville Christian High School presents, The Importance of Being Earnest**, by Oscar Wilde, a farcical and absurd comedy in which the main characters pretend to be fictitious personae to escape their burdensome social obligations. Four performances: May 10, 11, 16 & 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets can be purchased with a credit card here [bit.ly/Being\\_Earnest](https://bit.ly/Being_Earnest) or reserved by contacting the school office at [office@smithvillechristian.ca](mailto:office@smithvillechristian.ca) or (905) 957-3255.

**INSIGHT BIBLICAL COUNSELLING** invites you to attend a Sweet & Savoury Social, at 7pm on Friday, June 7th at The Shed Out Back in Smithville. Enjoy delectable Charcuterie platters along with delicious desserts, and Insight ministry updates! Tickets are available for individuals, couples and tables of eight. There is no cost to attend but a free will offering will be taken. Eventbrite Reservations are required by May 25th. Go to [bit.ly/Insight-Social-2024](https://bit.ly/Insight-Social-2024) to register!

**CHURCH FAMILY:** We would like to say thank you to everyone who sent cards, words of encouragement and prayers with the passing of Stephen's father. We are very grateful for our Grace family.

**FROM THE DEACONS:** Your Deacons are doing a small project for BEYOND THE STREETS. From Sunday April 21st—Sunday May 5th we are asking you if you have gently used tents and sleeping bags that you do not use anymore to be given to the homeless in our community. If you do—you can drop it off at Grace CRC. There will be a table set up in the fellowship hall to place your items. We thank you for helping.



### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Angela W. (Fri. May 3)   Scott V. (Fri. May 3)

Karen V. (Fri. May 3)   Alana V. (Sat. May 4)