



### Family Chats Jan. – Apr. 2022

*All sessions at 7 p.m., livestreamed, and uploaded to YouTube*

Feb. 08, 7:00 p.m.      *Human Development in Space: A Call to Stewardship*      Dr. Brian Martin

**Location: West End; Jim hosts**

Astronomer Dr. Brian Martin writes: “An early spring morning and I am ending a satisfying observing session under the stars when I notice a bright satellite in the western sky, and then another, and another, and within a span of 30 seconds a string of 60—a satellite train making up part of Elon Musk’s grand plan for the 42 000 satellite Starlink Network. Cause for elation or dismay? Astronomers are worried about the proliferation of “space junk.” Dr. Martin will share some concerns about our use and misuse of the orbital region. At stake is not just the beauty of a star-filled sky but also the safety and sustainability of vital global satellite networks.

Feb. 22, 7:00 p.m.      *Paralympics, Olympics & Pro-Sports: Worthy Pursuit or Idol of Our Time?*  
Lucas Van Berkel, Heidi Peters, and Ben Greidanus

**Location: Inglewood; Bob hosts**

Of course, we admire greatly our Olympians, Paralympians and sports heroes—their talent, dedication, and achievement. But has the pursuit of such excellence, tainted by commercialism, politics, drug use, abuse, and physical injury, gone too far? Then there’s the question of whether high-level athletes should compete in countries that seriously violate human rights. Should we participate in, assist, and encourage those who compete at that level? Let’s ask those who have first-hand experience.

Mar. 08, 7:00 p.m.      *Addressing Homelessness in Edmonton*      Tim Pasma

**Location: West End; Jim hosts**

Tim Pasma, Manager of Homeless Programming at Hope Mission, will speak to us about homelessness in Edmonton. He will discuss the causes of homelessness, shelters, the effects of the pandemic and opioid crisis, and the dynamics of working with the three levels of government, other social service agencies and private donors. Given that Hope Mission is a Christian organization, he will discuss how that affects its work and goals. In his talk he will focus on some specific individual stories and will comment on how we, as individuals and churches can support the homeless and those in danger of becoming homeless.

Mar. 22, 7:00 p.m.      *Pacific Salmon: How Well are They/We Doing?*      Dr. Harry Cook

**Location: Covenant; Bob hosts;**

Every four years Dr. Cook likes to witness sockeye salmon spawn in the Adams River. He will invite you to do the same (in October, 2022). Dr. Harry, a biologist, retired from The King’s University, will inform us about the biology of Pacific salmon, the rivers they migrate through, the regulation of fishing of the six Pacific salmon species and the effects of our warming climate on salmon. He will present some slides of the Adams River spawning event. He will also discuss the pros and cons of raising salmon in aquaculture operations and the place of salmon in our diet.

Apr. 05, 7:00 p.m.      *CRC Ministry in Canada: Beyond Frustration*      Roscher, DeMoor & ???

**Location: Inglewood; Harry hosts**

In trying to remain a binational denomination, the Christian Reformed Church in North America has a long history of structuring and restructuring its ministries in Canada. But serious discontent remains on both sides of the border. Every Canadian ministry director has left the post in frustration. The Canadian Revenue Agency is demanding greater control by Canadians of moneys received in Canada. Tension continues to exist between the Canadian churches, who want coordinated positions of leadership, and our U.S. cousins who want a centralized leadership of our ministries. As yet another proposal goes from the Council of Delegates to Synod 2022 in June, it’s anybody’s guess if we can make it work this time. We’ve asked a local panel of those well-acquainted with the issue to help us think this through.

Apr. 19, 7:00 p.m.      *How to Maintain Unity as We Debate Human Sexuality*      our pastors

**Location: West End; Jim host**

It is clear that issues surrounding human sexuality and our interpretation of Scripture on these issues have divided many churches and denominations. Our denomination is no exception. As a very controversial report is going to this year’s synod in June, our disagreements could very easily get out of hand. How do we follow Christ as we face difficult decisions? How do we maintain the unity of the Body in the bond of peace? How do we show love to one another when we have such different perspectives? We’ve invited the pastors of the three congregations that participate in these Church Family Chats to give us their perspectives and pastoral advice.

*Dec. 07, 2021*