



The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service & Children’s Church during sermon
6:00 PM Prayer Meeting
Nursery is available in the supervised room downstairs or the unsupervised room in the back of the sanctuary with audio

SERMON
Scripture: Acts 20: 17-31
Speaker: Pastor Peter Erratt

OUR ELDER SHEPHERDING GROUP

A-B → Lyndon Unger
C-D → Tim Archibald
E-H → David Street
I-M → Pastor Peter Erratt
N-R → Tom Smith
S → Cory Leniuk
T-Z → Dennis Burriss

According to the first letter of your last name, feel free to bring any questions or concerns to your assigned elder or email them at elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

GET TO KNOW US

✉ office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
🌐 www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca
☎ 403-347-7900
📍 3901 44 St. Red Deer, AB T4N 1G7

Lead Pastor:
Peter Erratt
peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Assistant Pastor
Daniel Lara
daniel@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Church Admin & Children’s
Ministry Coord:
Lilian Lara
lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Health Needs: Lorraine Hort, Gord Rue
- Email us your prayer requests or to join the Prayer Line!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

VBS
It has been at least five years since we last organized VBS, and we are thankful that so far, we have 15 volunteers committed to helping this year. Our goal is to serve 40–50 children from our church and the surrounding community. We pray that the children will learn that the Lord is their Shepherd, Leader, Comforter, Provider, and Promise Keeper. Please pray for Lilian as she coordinates and directs VBS. Pray that all volunteers will understand their role and work together in unity. Pray that the Lord will provide additional volunteers as needed. Pray also for the children whom the Lord will bring to us. May we seek His Kingdom and His righteousness first, above all else.

JOIN OUR LIFE GROUP

- EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON
- Tim & Michelle Archibald
- EVERY OTHER SUNDAY
- Martin & Lorna Scholz
 - Tom & Tina Smith
 - Peter & Nancy Erratt
- EVERY WEDNESDAY
- Don & Jan Collier
 - David & Laurel Street
- EVERY THURSDAY
- Mark & Shannia Guenther
- EVERY OTHER THURSDAY
- Lyndon & Leah Unger

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3
6:30 pm Adventure Club
6:30 pm Youth Group
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4
6:30 am Men’s Breakfast
9:30 am Seniors’ Ministry
(Presentation of Golden Circle programs and Alberta Seniors Benefits)
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5
7 pm Choir Practice Resumes
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6
9:30 am Ladies’ Bible Study
FEBRUARY 6 - 8
Ministry Leader Retreat (Staff)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7
7 pm SingPlus at Waskasoo
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8
10:30 am Mission Sunday
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13
6:30 pm Youth Night

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15
10:30 am Baptism
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20
6:30 pm Men’s Night

Evangelism is a byproduct of a healthy body. Healthy things reproduce. As individual Christians live holy lives, they reach people for Christ.
– Dann Spader, 4 Chair Discipling

December Financial Report		
General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$32,829	\$79,144

OFFERING

E-TRANSFER: treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

OR DROP OFF YOUR EVELOPE AT THE OFFICE

Donation Policy

The spending of funds received by Bethany Baptist Church is confined to Church approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or the specified program or project cannot be reasonably carried out or has not been approved, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued as soon as possible after the year end.

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.” Psalm 136:1

Our God is so good! Even after Jacob deceived his father to steal the blessing from His brother, our God in His mercy said to Jacob, “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.” Jacob was given the promise of God’s presence and protection despite his recent sinful activities. It is so humbling that the God of Jacob is our God too. He is ever good and compassionate to His children. May He be the prize in our hearts and nothing else.

We are very humbled and thankful to our God for the Christmas Camp that was had in December. It was a joyful weekend that saw the 70+ children be challenged with the gospel through the Christmas story. There was even the word of salvation among the girls. The seed was sown in their hearts, and we trust the Lord for His work of GRACE in their hearts. Thank you for praying!
We are humbled and thankful for the upcoming summer registration. God is working in little hearts and preparing them to come to camp. We opened registration on the 12th and by the 13th God had provided over 160 registrations. Pray with us that we would do the gospel well with them and encourage others to grow!



We are humbled and thankful for the giving of God’s people towards the camp. The General fund is regularly provided through prayer. The House project fund had \$88,000 in it. Through prayer alone and all glory to God, a gift was given towards the House project for \$400,000. We are amazed at the generosity of our God. He is at work and is blessing us like Jacob despite our obvious need for Him! Every heart that gives is so important. Pray that the Board moves ahead with much wisdom as we start this project and that we will not lose sight of winning boys and girls and families to the Lord.
“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.” Psalm 136:1



Does the Bible teach that there should be a plurality of elders?

Some churches have just one elder or pastor leading them. Others have a plurality of elders—that is, church leadership is shared among several individuals. While this is not a salvation issue, it has implications for church administration, which affects church growth and overall health. As with any other subject, we seek to understand what the Bible says about a plurality of elders.

Although there are no explicit passages forbidding the practice of having a single leader as overseer of a church, a strong biblical case can be made for having a plurality of elders. When we examine the structure of the early church and the instructions given by the apostles, it becomes apparent that modern churches should lean toward shared leadership.

In Acts 14:23, Luke records that “Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.” Prior to this, in Acts 11:30, Luke mentions “the elders of the church in Jerusalem” (NLT). Other passages in Acts also reference a plurality of elders, such as Acts 15:2; 16:4; 20:17; and 21:18.

The epistles also support a plurality of elders. In Philippians 1:1, Paul introduced the letter with greetings to “all of God’s holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the elders and deacons” (NLT). Some translations use the term overseers instead of elders, but the office is the same.

Paul’s letters to Timothy and Titus provide well-known references to the subject of eldership. In 1 Timothy 5:17, Paul instructs that “the elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.” Notice the plural form of elders. Additionally, Timothy’s ministry was in the church of Ephesus, indicating the presence of multiple elders in one church. While the word elder in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 is singular, considering the overall context, one can infer the existence of many elders in the church in Ephesus.

The letter to Titus also affirms a plurality of elders. Paul wrote, “The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you” (Titus 1:5).

There are some passages that mention a single elder (2 John 1:1, 3 John 1:1), but in those salutations, the word elder is simply a title, with little bearing on ecclesiology.

Many contemporary churches employ a hybrid system, having elders and a lead pastor. The pastor may have more influence and responsibilities than the other elders, but he is still considered an elder and held accountable.

We should be willing to approach the subject of church leadership with grace, wisdom, and understanding of different perspectives. Ultimately, concentrating all authority in the hands of one person in the church carries risks: overworking the pastor, cutting him off from counsel, and fostering a personality cult. Church leaders require some level of accountability, and a plurality of elders provides just that.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. When things are going well in a church, why do you think leadership often becomes “invisible”? What tends to make us suddenly pay attention to leadership, and what does that reveal about what we value?

2. If you have attended church for a long time, what did you know about church eldership? What stands out to you about Paul addressing multiple elders in Acts 20 rather than a single pastor? How does this challenge or affirm your previous assumptions about church leadership?

3. Why do you think Scripture uses different terms elder, pastor, overseer for the same office? How does this shape our understanding of leadership as service rather than position?

4. What dangers does Paul warn about in Acts 20:29–30, and why are those dangers better addressed through shared leadership rather than a single leader?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

5. How does remembering that the church was “obtained with Christ’s own blood” change the way we think about leadership, decision-making, and disagreement in the church?

6. Some people worry that shared leadership can slow decision-making or lead to disagreement. How might taking more time and working through differences actually contribute to wiser, healthier leadership in the church over the long term?

7. What does it look like for you to actively participate in this system of shared shepherding? How can you allow yourself to be known, cared for, and supported within a system of shared shepherding? How can you support, pray for, and partner with the elders for the health of the church?
