

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

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday School
 We will be concluding our Sunday School program on May 10, with classes resuming again in September. Cory and Diana Leniuk have been faithfully coordinating Sunday School for all ages—from young children (age 4) to adults. Each session offers an intensive and meaningful one-hour opportunity to grow deeper in the Word of God, with engaging interaction alongside dedicated Bible teachers. We warmly encourage everyone to join us and to share what we learn with family and friends. We are also deeply grateful for all the teachers who work diligently to prepare and faithfully teach the truth in each class.

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

MONDAY APRIL 27
 7 pm SLB Meeting

TUESDAY APRIL 28
 10 am Mums' Fellowship
 6:30 pm Youth Group
 6:30 pm Adventure Club

WEDNESDAY APRIL 29
 6:30 am Men's Breakfast
 9:30 am Seniors' Ministry

APRIL 30 - May 1
 Euip 2026

FRIDAY May 1
 9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study

FRIDAY May 8
 6:30 pm Life Group Leader Meeting

SATURDAY May 9
 11:30 am Eastview Community BBQ

SUNDAY May 10
 Last Sunday School

FRIDAY May 22
 6:30pm Youth Night

SATURDAY May 23
 9am Workbee

*"Blessed are the pure in heart,
 for they will see God"*
 - Matthew 5:8

March Financial Report

General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$31,835	\$26,382.62
Missions Giving	First Quarter Received	March
	\$13,835	\$3,625

OFFERING

E-TRANSFER: treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

OR DROP OFF YOUR ENVELOPE 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.



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 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service & Children's Church during sermon
- 6 PM Prayer Meeting

Nursery is available in the supervised room downstairs or the unsupervised room in the back of the sanctuary with audio

Sermon

Speaker: Pastor Peter

Scripture: 1 Cor. 6:9-11

That's Not Who You Are Anymore

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

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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

1) With the shift from the area of the ministry centre to the new church, the need for a larger minibus became evident.

The believers and many others who attend church are living in the area around the ministry centre (which is also our home). The distance from the ministry centre to the new church building is about 3 km (1.86 miles). It takes between 20-40 minutes to walk this distance, in good weather and if you are fit and mobile. Therefore, when we go to church on Sundays, we often take people with us. Few people have their own vehicles, so we were using two vans to transport those who need a ride. We praise God for the provision of those two vans. However, sometimes there was a challenge securing two drivers.

The quest for a dependable second driver was a wild card. Elmas says, “Unfortunately, I do not drive, so Hamdullah always needs to find a second driver to help him.”

We prayed, and Hamdullah looked, bartered and bargained. God showed him a healthy minibus that seats 16, which we purchased. Now we only need one driver, and it costs less to move than it would with two smaller vans. The sale of the older, smaller van was part of the trade-in. The new minibus has already taken several journeys at full capacity! Praise God. We still owe about ½ the price of the vehicle. Please pray with us that God would provide so we can retire this debt.

Practically, the new-to-us, larger minibus allows for a much larger group of people to be moved with one driver. We are transporting earthquake survivors all the time - to the church on Sunday, the youth on Saturday, to KUCAK children’s summer camp, to family camp in eastern Turkiye, to the mid-winter youth conference in eastern Turkey, volunteers between the church and the ministry centre, as well as many unscheduled journeys for which the larger vehicle is essential. We have also begun to have a yearly children’s conference in Antakya, and the children living in the neighbourhood of the ministry centre need to be bused to the church building. Praise the LORD for this vehicle, and please pray with us so we can pay the debt.

2) Natural gas service for the church

There is progress. Praise God. The gas company came and inspected the property. They required a) a cupboard to be built for the gas combination boiler on the meeting room floor [Serkan fitted this. He is our carpenter. Pray for his salvation], and b) a long gas pipe in the kitchen needed to be changed for a thicker diameter pipe [Nizam has bought and fitted this - please pray for him]. Now... we wait. The gas company says “very soon,” so we wait in hope.

3) A backup electricity source

With winter came more and longer electricity cuts in Antakya. The need for backup electricity has always been evident, but the darkness and cold brought it home viscerally. Even if the gas had been connected, everything is dependent on electricity. Heating, hot water, lights, musical instruments, etc., all need electricity. One Sunday, the electricity was off all day, and the church was very cold. We had two battery-powered boom boxes, so we had volume for the message. With the aid of two acoustic guitars, we sang hymns using words sent to everyone on WhatsApp, but, of course, the electric heating, the piano, and the drums did not work, and it was cold.

We believe the right solution is to install a solar electric system to provide power to the church building. Pray with us that we would know the mind of God and that He would provide the funds needed.

We have had a quote of €25,000 EUR (\$30,000 USD) for a solar panel array of 48 panels, three inverters (the building is three-phase) and batteries to create a 30 kWh system, which is enough for the church’s needs (excluding the lift).

We are grateful, first to the LORD our God who has begun and is doing a great thing here in Antakya - and then to you, for your part in joining in this undertaking. God is good - always. May our LORD bless, encourage and use you as you walk with Him.

1. In the past, have you ever said “I’m fine” when, underneath, you know something is not right between you and God? Are you able to relate this? If so, why do Christians do this?

2. What are some “settled patterns” in people’s lives that Christians have grown comfortable with, even though Scripture would call it sin? Why is it so hard to confront anyone honestly about those things?

3. Paul asks, “Do you not know...?” How does forgetting what we already know from God’s Word contribute to drifting spiritually? How can this be corrected?

4. “Such were some of you” reminds believers that their past does not define them. What parts of your past are hardest for you to leave in the past emotionally or mentally?

5. Paul says believers have been “washed, sanctified, and justified.” How would you define each of those three terms in your own words, and what encouragement do you personally take from each truth as you think about your walk with Christ?

6. What would it look like in your current season of life to “live like who you are” in Christ, especially in one specific area where you are currently struggling or discouraged?

Got Question Article: What is justification?

Simply put, to justify is to declare righteous. Justification is an act of God whereby He pronounces a sinner to be righteous because of that sinner's faith in Christ. According to one theologian, "the root idea in justification is the declaration of God, the righteous judge, that the man who believes in Christ, sinful though he may be, is righteous—is viewed as being righteous, because in Christ he has come into a righteous relationship with God" (Ladd, G. E., *A Theology of the New Testament*, Eerdmans, 1974, p. 437).

Properly understood, justification has to do with God's declaration about the sinner, not any change within the sinner. That is, justification, per se, does not make anyone holy; it simply declares him to be not guilty before God and therefore treated as holy. The actual change toward holiness in the sinner occurs with sanctification, which is related to justification but, for definition's sake, distinct from it.

A key passage describing justification in relation to believers is Romans 3:21-26: "But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, . . . so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus." Several important facts about justification are to be noted:

- Justification comes apart from the law; that is, we cannot earn justification through rule-keeping or our own good works.
- Justification is made possible in the sacrificial death of Christ; it is based on the shed blood of Christ.
- Justification is the free and gracious gift of God bestowed on those who receive by faith the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- Justification demonstrates the righteousness of God.

Related to God's justification of the sinner are several things:

- 1) The remission of the penalty of sin, which was death (Romans 3:23; 8:1; 1 Peter 2:24).
- 2) The restoration to God's favor, which had been lost due to our sin (John 3:36). So, justification is more than an acquittal; it is full acceptance. We are now friends of God (James 2:23) and co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17).
- 3) The imputation of righteousness, which is the reckoning of Christ's righteousness to our account (Romans 4:5-8). We are declared to be righteous forensically (legally) because "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

(The preceding three points are adapted from Henry Thiessen's *Lectures in Systematic Theology*, revised by Vernon Doerksen, Eerdmans, 1979, pp. 275–277).

We are justified, declared righteous, at the moment of our salvation. Jesus Christ finished the work required for our justification on the cross. "Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" (Romans 5:9). He was then "raised to life for our justification" (Romans 4:25).

The question arises, "Is justification just? If He is holy, how can God forgive a guilty sinner?" The answer is that justification does not excuse our sin, ignore our sin, or endorse our sin. Rather, our sin is fully punished, Christ having taken our penalty for us. He was our substitute (1 Peter 3:18). Because the wrath of God is satisfied in Christ (Isaiah 53:4-6), we are free from condemnation (Romans 8:1), and God remains both "fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus" (Romans 3:26, NLT).

Because God justifies us by grace through faith in Christ, we now have peace with God (Romans 5:1). Like Joshua the priest, we have been stripped of our "filthy clothes" (Zechariah 3:4), and, like the prodigal son in the parable, we are now clothed with "the best robe" (Luke 15:22). God the Father sees us as perfect and unblemished, and we are to be devoted "to doing what is good" (Titus 3:14).

Romans 5:18-19 in the Amplified Bible sums up the basis and result of justification: "So then as through one trespass [Adam's sin] there resulted condemnation for all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For just as through one man's disobedience [his failure to hear, his carelessness] the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one Man the many will be made righteous and acceptable to God and brought into right standing with Him."