

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY JUNE 29
7 pm SLB Meeting

WEDNESDAY JULY 1
9:30 am Summer Moms Group

July 6 - 10
9am to 12 pm VBS
(Age 4 to Grade 6)

WEDNESDAY JULY 8
6:30 pm Elders' Meeting

TUESDAY JULY 14
6:30 pm Baptism Class
7:30 pm Membership Class

Sept 4 - 6
Family Camp

"Legalism is a web of attitudes of heart and character. It is the thought that God's love for us is conditioned on something we can be or do. It is the attitude that I can offer certain things—my ethical goodness, my relative avoidance of deliberate sin, my faithfulness to the Bible and the church—that support Christ's work and make me acceptable to God." - Tim Keller

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Prayer Line

We are thankful for our 49 Prayer Line members who faithfully dedicate their hearts and time to praying for the needs of our brothers and sisters and their families.

If you would like to join our Prayer Line ministry, we warmly invite you to let the church office know. If you have a prayer request or a burden on your heart, please feel free to email the church office.

We are grateful that the Lord hears our prayers and answers them according to His perfect will. May God continue to bless our Prayer Line members as they experience His faithfulness and goodness through the privilege of prayer.

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

May Financial Report

General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$31,835	\$29,694.81
Missions Giving	Received YTD	May
	\$22,835	\$4,150

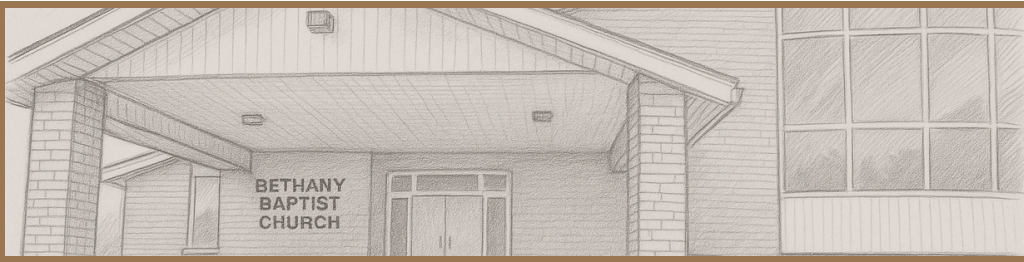
OFFERING

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 Fellowship Coffee

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 Daniel

Scripture: 1 Cor 8:1-9

Food Offered to Idols: Part One

OUR ELDER SHEPHERDING GROUP

A-B → Lyndon Unger

N-R → Tom Smith

C-D → Tim Archibald

S → Cory Leniuk

E-H → David Street

T-Z → Dennis Burriss

I-M → Pastor Peter Erratt

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

1) I (Ric) am really looking forward to our return, DV, to Antakya in three months' time. Whilst we always look forward to being in Antakya and in the fellowship, this time there is an added bonus. In the first 18 months after the earthquakes in February 2023, the city was the scene of endless demolition. Entire city blocks, entire areas of town were totally demolished to enable rebuilding. Massive swathes of the city were closed off as construction sites. Major roads were blocked to enable construction work to have the absolute priority. After those first 18 months, demolition continued, but a major push on new construction began. The work has continued at a feverish pace. While some units in the city have been released for people to move out of emergency accommodation, we are on the verge of many thousands of flats being completed. LORD willing, in September, tens of thousands will be turned over to the people. A new city has risen where the old once stood. These massive blocks of flats, well built and resistant to earthquakes, stand ready. Praise the LORD - but pray. Many thousands of people are so traumatised that the idea of living in a concrete block of flats is terrifying. As people move in, they have to reestablish life, meet neighbours, and hope the shops have been occupied so they can live. Like so much in life, while this is a tremendous blessing, there is a heavy overhead for the people moving in. Please pray.

2) Please pray for a practical, mundane item. Power comes, and power goes in Antakya. Sometimes it goes due to planned work, sometimes it goes because of the weather, and sometimes it just goes. On a Sunday, we put the words of the hymns up on the screen for people to join in, and when we share from the Word, the verses are put on the screen. I believe that, especially when I am charged with speaking, it is beneficial for the people to see and read the words of God as I read and talk about the verses. The musical instruments are electric-dependent. With the abundant, extended, bright solar energy that is a constant in Antakya, the best solution is a solar array paired with batteries. This will harvest electricity, reducing our dependence on the power grid and the cost of that electricity and providing us with a seamless backup during times of a power outage. By God's grace, we have 20% of the funds needed to do this. This is an investment that keeps on giving after installation - and would safeguard the times when electricity is essential. Please pray.

3) Please pray for the children's camp on 6-11 July. The venue is the same campsite as the South-east Turkiye Family Camp. A ministry specialising in youth ministry comes and provides the programme. Children are the future, children are delightfully innocent, children are the joy of a meeting. Sadly, children, as children everywhere, are subject to various forms of abuse and harm. Some, even within the people who come to the meeting, have been abused. Added to this ongoing danger is the past trauma of losing friends and family members, being homeless, hungry and frightened by the earthquakes of February 2023. The children need a healing touch from our loving heavenly Father. Please pray for the children, the children's work and the upcoming children's camp.

4) A new development: there has been a change in the way the Ladies' Meetings are being organised. Now, as a goal, every other week, a smaller subset of ladies, all baptised believers, meet in someone's home for encouragement, teaching and building relationships. The other week is the normal, 'whosoever will', to come to the larger ladies' meetings. This is a mixed meeting of believers and many who are not yet in the Kingdom of God. Please pray for these two different-format ladies' meetings.

5) Praise the LORD, the radio work has continued and is growing. Pray for Anil as he works to coordinate, produce, and run the Antakya branch of the radio ministry. The studio has moved forward, so more on-site production of content for the radio can be done professionally. God is good. Please pray that this radio ministry will reach many who have no opportunity to hear God's Word and the Good News.

6) Please pray for the South-east Turkiye Family camp run by the association of churches in the south-east of Turkiye. Last year, we took many of our new believers... and there were challenges that needed to be worked through. Family camp is a great time for believers from all over the East, many in small or isolated situations, to come together, worship God and hear His Word. Please pray that many from our fellowship will again join in this great opportunity. Pray that God would prepare hearts and continue to build His church. DV, this will take place on 27-31 July.

7) Praise the LORD, our return trip to the UK was excellent. Tülin played for the morning meeting in Antakya. I (Ric) shared from God's Word, and after saying goodbye at the after-meeting tea time, we left for the airport. The connections were tight, but everything worked extremely well. We were back home in Hemel Hempstead by 22:00 (British time). God is good, and God is gracious. We did not deserve or merit such a flawless journey - we are grateful and thankful to God. Please pray for our time in the UK as we continue to support the work in Antakya.

Thank you so much for your prayer partnership in what God is doing in Antakya. We are all part of God's family, the one universal church and look to Jesus, not only as the author and finisher of our faith, but also to Him who is the head of the church. God is good - always. In these turbulent times, even more we need to remember and focus on Him who does not change and whose word is "yes and amen" in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Got Questions Article

What does it mean that knowledge puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1)?

Our identity in Christ is first and foremost one of newness. We are new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Identity is defined as “the collective aspect of the set of characteristics by which a thing is definitively recognizable or known,” so our new identity in Christ should be recognizable both to ourselves and to others. If we are “in Christ,” that should be evident, just as being “in the world” is equally evident. A further definition of identity is “the quality or condition of being the same as something else.” In the case of our identity in Christ, our lives should indicate that we are the same as Christ. The name “Christians” means literally “followers of Christ.”

In our new identity in Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin (Romans 6:6), but we are reconciled to God (Romans 5:10). This new identity completely changes our relationship with God and our families, just as it changes the way we see the world. Our new identity in Christ means we have the same relationship with God that Christ has—we are His children. God has adopted us as sons. We are able to call Him “Abba! Father!” (Romans 8:15-16). We are both joint heirs (Galatians 3:29) and friends (John 15:15) of Christ. And this relationship is even stronger than those we have with our earthly families (Matthew 10:35-37). Instead of fearing God as judge, we have the great privilege of coming to Him as our Father. We can approach Him with confidence and ask of Him what we need (Hebrews 4:16). We can ask for His guidance and wisdom (James 1:5) and know that nothing will take us from Him (Romans 8:38-39). We also rest in His authority and respond to Him with trusting obedience, knowing that obedience is a key part of remaining close to Him (John 14:23).

The family of God encompasses a vast body of believers who strive together to grow closer to God (1 Corinthians 12:13). It’s a family that is stronger for the gifts of each person in it (Romans 12:6-8). Members of this new family seek the best for one another (1 Corinthians 10:24), encourage each other (Galatians 6:1-2), and forgive each other (Matthew 18:21-22). Each member has a specific role, but the roles are acted out with respect and grace (1 Peter 5:1-5). Most of all, we respond to each other in love—not the feeling, but a selfless, conscious act of sacrifice, which is reflective of the agape love of the God who loved us and gave Himself for us (Galatians 2:20).

We are no longer citizens of the world but apart from it (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1). We understand that we are a part of a heavenly, God-ruled kingdom. Things of the earth no longer draw us (Colossians 3:2). We don’t fear or over-emphasize suffering on earth or the trials we face (Colossians 1:24; 1 Peter 3:14; 4:12-14), nor do we place importance on things the world values (1 Timothy 6:9-11). Even our bodies and our actions reflect that our minds are no longer conformed to the world (Romans 12:1-2) but are now instruments of righteousness to God (Romans 6:13). And our new kingdom perspective means we understand that our enemy is not the people around us but the spiritual forces that endeavor to keep the people from knowing God (Ephesians 6:12).

All of this is the ideal—the character of a mature follower of Christ. One of the greatest blessings about our identity in Christ is the grace we’re given in order to grow into the spiritual maturity that truly reflects our new identity (Philippians 1:6). Our lives in light of our identity in Christ are filled with a heavenly Father, a large, loving family, and the understanding that we are citizens of another kingdom and not of this earth.