



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
6 PM Church-wide Quarterly 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
Scriptures: 1 Cor. 10:1-13
Warnings from Israel's History

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: Curt Radke & Damaris Hofer
→ Email us your prayer requests or to join the Prayer Line!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Family Camp
Family Camp is a once-a-year opportunity to connect with our brothers and sisters. Whether you come for one day or the whole camp, we hope you will enjoy a meaningful time of fellowship, fun activities, and getting to know one another –without worrying about cooking! This Sunday is the deadline for registration and payment. We highly encourage you to join us. Please pray for Laurel as she organizes the camp. May God bless our time together and encourage us in our faith as we share life with one another.

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

MON AUGUST 24
7 pm Missions Meeting

TUE AUGUST 25
6:30 pm Youth Night

WED AUGUST 26
6:30 am Men's Breakfast
9:30 am Summer Mom's Group

MON AUGUST 31
7 pm APP Training

TUE SEPTEMBER 1
9 am Pastoral Meeting
6:30 pm Adventure Club Leaders' Meeting
7 pm APP Training

Sept 4 - 6
Family Camp

TUE SEPTEMBER 8
6:30 pm Adventure Club
6:30 pm Youth

WED SEPTEMBER 9
6 pm Shelly Brown's Bridal Shower
6:30 pm Elders' Meeting

SAT SEPTEMBER 12
11 am Shelly & Ted's Wedding

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions." -Rom. 6:12

July Financial Report		
General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$31,835	\$32,590.42
Missions Giving	Received YTD	July
	\$22,835	\$3825

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.

What are some modern forms of idolatry?

All the various forms of modern idolatry have one thing at their core: self. Most of the world no longer explicitly bows down to idols and images. Instead we worship at the altar of the god of self. This brand of modern idolatry takes various forms.

First, we worship at the altar of materialism which feeds our need to build our egos through the acquisition of more “stuff.” Our homes are filled with all manner of possessions. We build bigger and bigger houses with more closets and storage space in order to house all the things we buy, much of which we haven’t even paid for yet. Most of our stuff has “planned obsolescence” built into it, making it useless in no time, and so we consign it to the garage or other storage space. Then we rush out to buy the newest item, garment or gadget and the whole process starts over. This insatiable desire for more, better, and newer stuff is nothing more than covetousness. The tenth commandment tells us not to fall victim to coveting: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor” ([Exodus 20:17](#)). God doesn’t just want to rain on our buying sprees. He knows we will never be happy indulging our materialistic desires because it is Satan’s trap to keep our focus on ourselves and not on God.

Second, we worship at the altar of our own pride and ego. This often takes the form of obsession with careers and jobs. Millions of men—and increasingly more women—spend 60-80 hours a week working. Even on the weekends and during vacations, our laptops are humming and our minds are whirling with thoughts of how to make our businesses more successful, how to get that promotion, how to get the next raise, how to close the next deal. In the meantime, our children are starving for attention and love. We fool ourselves into thinking we are doing it for them, to give them a better life. But the truth is we are doing it for ourselves, to increase our self-esteem by appearing more successful in the eyes of the world. This is folly. All our labors and accomplishments will be of no use to us after we die, nor will the admiration of the world, because these things have no eternal value. As King Solomon put it, “For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. What does a man get for all the toil and anxious striving with which he labors under the sun? All his days his work is pain and grief; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless” ([Ecclesiastes 2:21-23](#)).

Third, we idolize mankind through naturalism and the power of science. We cling to the illusion that we are lords of our world and build our self-esteem to godlike proportions. We reject God’s Word and His description of how He created the heavens and the earth, and we accept the nonsense of atheistic evolution and naturalism. We embrace the goddess of environmentalism and fool ourselves into thinking we can preserve the earth indefinitely when God has declared that this current age will have an end: “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.

The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness” ([2 Peter 3:10-13](#)). As this passage states, our focus should not be on worshiping the environment but on living holy lives as we wait eagerly for the return of our Lord and Savior. He alone deserves worship.

Finally, and perhaps most destructively, we worship at the altar of self-aggrandizement or the fulfillment of the self to the exclusion of all others and their needs and desires. This manifests itself in self-indulgence through alcohol, drugs, sexual sins, and food. Those in affluent countries have unlimited access to alcohol, drugs (prescription drug use is at an all-time high, even among children), and food. Obesity rates in the U.S. have skyrocketed, and childhood diabetes brought on by overeating is epidemic. The self-control we so desperately need is spurned in our insatiable desire to eat, drink, and medicate more and more. We resist any effort to get us to curb our appetites, and we are determined to make ourselves the god of our lives. This has its origin in the Garden of Eden where Satan tempted Eve to eat of the tree with the words “you will be like God” ([Genesis 3:5](#)). This has been man’s desire ever since—to be god and, as we have seen, the worship of self is the basis of all modern idolatry.

All idolatry of self has at its core the three lusts found in [1 John 2:16](#): “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” If we are to escape modern idolatry, we have to admit that it is rampant and reject it in all its forms. It is not of God, but of Satan, and in it we will never find fulfillment. This is the great lie and the same one Satan has been telling since he first lied to Adam and Eve. Sadly, we are still falling for it. Even more sadly, many churches are propagating it in the preaching of the health, wealth, and prosperity gospel built on the idol of self-esteem. But we will never find happiness focusing on ourselves. Our hearts and minds must be centered on God and on others. This is why when asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” ([Matthew 22:37](#)). When we love the Lord and others with everything that is in us, there will be no room in our hearts for idolatry.

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Andrew & Tanja Rokeby

We pray that this letter finds you soon to be celebrating Canada Day. Currently, Tanja is doing a homeschooling unit on Canada with the kids. Our ministry travels this month have afforded us the opportunity to see many of Ontario's historical sites.

"We want to go to onsen! Let's go to onsen!" the kids exclaimed. Regrettably, we had to let them know that public hot springs where one enters the water wearing only one's birthday suit are almost non-existent in Canada. Owing to its high volcanic and seismic activity, Japan has some 3,000 hot spring facilities! Rooted in Buddhist and Shinto teachings on ritual purification, the onsen is now enjoyed as a great way to relax.

As we visited churches in Ontario this month, we were continually amazed by Christ's love and generosity manifested in His church. Furthermore, our associate director's seminars on church-centered missions deepened our focus on the centrality of the church in the task of displaying the nature of Christ and proclaiming the gospel. We are looking forward to learning more about how churches in Japan function when our internship at YIBC starts in November.

In July, Andrew will speak at three churches and already has mid-week meals and visits scheduled. We are all excited for John and Anna to attend the Hespeler Baptist day camp. We are eager to see how they grow in their understanding of God's Word throughout the week.

Below is our schedule for church visits while on home assignment. Changes made since our last update are in bold. Please be in touch if you would like your church to be added to our schedule.

July 5: First Filipino Baptist, Toronto ON
July 12: New Life Fellowship Baptist, Innisfil ON
July 19: Calvary Baptist, Oshawa ON
August 9: Bethany Baptist, Red Deer AB
August 16: Renfrew Baptist, Vancouver BC
August 23: Hillcrest Baptist, Port Angeles WA
August 30: Lord's Love Church, Vancouver BC
September 4: Salt Spring Island Baptist, Salt Spring Island BC
September 6: Northwest Langley Baptist, Langley BC
September 13: Parksville Fellowship Baptist, Parksville BC
September 15: Port McNeill Baptist, Port McNeill BC
September 17: Oceanview Community, Ladysmith BC
September 20: Central Baptist, Victoria BC
September 27: Faith Fellowship Baptist, Vancouver BC
October 4: Sardis Fellowship, Chilliwack BC
October 11: First Baptist, Kamloops BC
October 18: Dunbar Heights Baptist, Vancouver BC

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Paul uses Israel's history as an example and warning for Christians. How can we learn from Old Testament stories without becoming legalistic? How does seeing Christ in these stories help us read and apply them correctly?

2. Paul takes sin and God's judgment very seriously. Why must God punish sin? How does the seriousness of God's judgment in the Old Testament compare with the New Testament? What does this teach us about God's character?

3. If sin has such serious consequences, why do Christians still choose to sin? What lies does temptation tell us? How can remembering the consequences of sin help us resist those lies?

4. Paul specifically includes grumbling among Israel's serious sins. Why do you think grumbling is such a serious spiritual issue? What does our complaining reveal about what we believe about God and His provision?

5. How can Christian community help us avoid falling into sin? Why is it important to have people who know us well enough to ask difficult questions? How can confessing temptations or struggles to trusted Christians help us support one another?

6. Paul says God "will not let you be tempted beyond your ability" (v. 13). Is Paul primarily talking about our personal strength or God's ability to help us endure temptation? What are some practical ways God might provide a "way of escape" when we are tempted?

7. Are you ever surprised that you still have to fight certain temptations as a Christian? How does verse 13 "God is faithful" encourage you when temptation continues? What would it look like for you to stay humble, watchful, dependent on Christ, and trusting in God's faithfulness?

8. Could I really fall? If the answer is yes, what do I need to do differently now, personally, spiritually, and relationally, to remain faithful to Christ?
