



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 Ministry Kick-Off Potluck Breakfast
- 10:30 AM Worship Service & Communion
- 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

Topic: 4 Chair Discipleship Part 1

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

Elders

Our elders have just had their monthly meeting. Please keep them in your prayers as they seek to faithfully carry out God’s charge for Bethany Baptist. Pray that they would lead well in the direction God is calling us, and that they would faithfully shepherd and care for those entrusted to them.

Pray for wisdom, unity, humility, courage, and a deep dependence on the Lord as they serve. Please keep Dave Street, Tom Smith, Tim Archibald, Dennis Burriss, Cory Leniuk, Lyndon Unger, Pastor Peter, and Pastor Daniel in your prayers.

*“If you think of ways just yesterday and the day before that you should have trusted God, and didn’t, in those very times Jesus obeyed God.”
- Mark Dever*

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUE SEPTEMBER 15
6:30 pm Baptism Class
7:30 pm Membership Class
6:30 pm Adventure Club
6:30 pm Youth

WED SEPTEMBER 16
6:30 am Men’s Breakfast
9:30 am Seniors’ Ministry

FRI SEPTEMBER 18
9:30 am Ladies’ Bible Study
6:30 pm Ladies’ Night

SAT SEPTEMBER 19
8:45 am Youth Amazing Race

SUN SEPTEMBER 20
9 am Sunday School resumes
12 pm Life Group Potluck Lunch

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

July Financial Report		
General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$31,835	\$32,590.42
Missions Giving	Received YTD	July
	\$22,835	\$3,825

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.

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Ric & Darlene Munro

1. Praise the LORD, the time for our return to Antakya has come. We are leaving on the 8th of September and, DV, will arrive on the 9th. There are many challenges and difficult situations awaiting us, and we need the wisdom, grace and love of God in all. Our desire is to be available to God and to His solutions, and for His grace and His love to flow into all areas and every life. Please pray for us.

2. Praise the LORD for the baptisms that happened in the last week of August. Of the number of candidates preparing, only three were baptised. One person had not completed the baptism course and so was not ready. Another had an operation, which made it impossible for them to be baptised at this time. Another, when they informed their parents of their desire to be baptised, had a loud argument (requiring some medical attention for both the baptisee and their mother). In the end, it was agreed with the father that, according to the 5th commandment to “honour your father and mother”, she would not be baptised at this time, and the father would take time to get to know more about us. The result was that three people followed the LORD in baptism. Praise the LORD for those baptised, and please pray for those who were not, but are still on the road to baptism. Pray especially for the father to ‘taste and see that the LORD is good.’

3. Praise the LORD, we have ½ of the funds needed to install a solar/battery system on the church building. With the abundance, some would say, ‘excess,’ of sunlight in Antakya, this is a good win for the fellowship and will reduce the ongoing expenses of electricity. Please pray that the LORD will provide all that is required to accomplish this.

4. Please pray for the four little girls who are in very difficult straits. The mother has abandoned them, and the father is overwhelmed and unable to care for them. They have been hosted at the church for many weeks and have seen the love of God. However... the children need to go to school, and to go to school they have to be registered, and it has proven difficult to the point of being impossible for the church or non-family members to register them. Additionally, caring for the children is not a short-term commitment, but a multi-year commitment. The cost of providing accommodation and the big challenge of finding someone who would provide the day-to-day care was not easily met. We have been unable to identify anyone to take on that rôle. The children have entered the hearts of many of the people helping them, and so it is incredibly difficult to send them back to the greater family to raise them. In Turkish culture, the greater family would normally take on this responsibility (sadly, it does not always provide a positive outcome). This is a very sad and heart-wrenching time for everyone – especially the children. Please pray for them and everyone involved.

5. Praise the LORD for the children’s programme over three days at the start of September. In all, 78 children were involved. Remember, of this number, only a minority is part of the church. The rest come from families who embrace and only follow the dominant faith in the land. God is good. Many came and had a very good experience. One came to faith during the activities. Please pray for the children.

6. Please pray for Hamdullah and Elmas. As some of you may be able to imagine, it is difficult and emotionally heart-wrenching to deal with these situations. They are facing violence, opposition, abuse, being unable to protect and provide for innocent children and the weight of all the other stresses and problems of the church. Please pray for them, for God’s grace, strength, wisdom, discernment, and to know the mind of God in each situation.

7. Please pray for the ladies’ meetings – both the larger (whosoever-will-may-come) and the smaller, more intimate meetings for believing ladies. The larger meetings are great and spread the love of God and the Good News to many people who are happy to come. The smaller meetings offer the opportunity to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God. People are people, and we can naturally divide into ‘us’ and ‘them’, the ‘in’ group and the ‘out’ group. Please pray for grace, understanding, love and acceptance to be shown and experienced by all.

Thank you, thank you, for your prayer partnership in what God is doing in Antakya.

How do we make disciples?

Just before His ascension, Jesus commanded His followers, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19–20). The instruction to “make disciples” is central to the Great Commission. We would do well to learn what it means.

A disciple is literally a “learner” or a “follower.” The Amplified Bible adds an explanatory note in Matthew 28:19 to provide a fuller understanding of Jesus’ command: “Help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words.”

That is, making disciples involves three basic things: education, faith, and obedience.

Making disciples starts with helping people learn who Jesus is and what He did for them. It’s no use telling people to “believe in Jesus” if they don’t know who Jesus is. John 9 contains an interesting exchange between Jesus and a formerly blind man He had healed:

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out [of the synagogue], and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. (John 9:35–38)

Note that the man, when asked if he had faith, responded with a request for more information. Whom was he to believe in? His faith needed a specific object. Jesus identified Himself, and then the man believed and worshiped the Lord.

The same sequence occurs when we make disciples: the people we evangelize need to know who Jesus is: the Son of God and Savior of the world. Once we guide them into that basic understanding, they can move to the next step, which is faith and commitment.

A true disciple of Jesus Christ must believe in Him. “And this is [God’s] command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ” (1 John 3:23). Those who follow Jesus are committed to Him and place their complete trust in Him. They trust in His death to take away sin and believe in His resurrection unto eternal life (see Romans 10:9–10). The result of faith in Christ is salvation by grace (Ephesians 2:8), the forgiveness of sins (Acts 10:43), and the right to become children of God (John 1:12).

Those who know and trust in Jesus for their salvation are ready to take the next step of discipleship: obedience. According to Jesus, obedience is a proof of love for Him (John 14:15). Writing to those he was discipling, Paul says, “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:22–24).

Salvation in Christ brings a Spirit-fueled change to one’s nature: “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Discipleship is marked by a commitment to the Lord, obedience to His commands, and loving Him. A disciple will learn to “walk by the Spirit” and “not gratify the desires of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).

To make disciples, then, is to guide those without Christ into the knowledge of Christ so that they have faith in Christ and learn to obey and love Christ. Every Christian is at some stage of being discipled. At the same time, every Christian is to actively seek to engage others with the gospel and bring them into the process of discipleship. The multiplication of disciples is a crucial element of Jesus’ call of Peter and Andrew: “And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men’” (Matthew 4:19). Become a disciple, and you will make disciples.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. After what we've talked about during the sermon, what has changed or been clarified for you about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

2. When you think back to when you first encountered Jesus, who or what helped you take that first step toward Him? What did they do that was helpful? Who is someone in your life who may be curious about Jesus but isn't yet ready to follow Him? How could you create an opportunity for that person to “come and see”?

3. Jesus gave the interested disciples His time. How willing are you to give your time to someone who is asking questions or exploring Christianity? What might that look like?

4. What are some practical ways you could invite someone to come and see Jesus for themselves? Think beyond simply inviting them to church.

5. Jesus doesn't want to simply renovate one part of our lives. He wants to reshape our whole lives. What area of your life is Jesus currently asking you to surrender more fully to Him?

6. What are you doing right now to continue growing in your walk with Jesus? Is there something you need to start, stop, or change?
