

January 7, 2024

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

THIS SUNDAY we start a new series, **Built Different**, going through 1 Thessalonians. Paul writes to people who welcomed the message of hope in Jesus in the midst of suffering. And yet they continue on, as evidenced by their increasing faith, deepening love and strengthening resolve. *How?* They refused to be shaped by the world's story and culture in order to embrace God's story and the new world He makes among us through Christ. Paul writes with joy, encouragement but also challenge – all messages we need – so that followers of Jesus might be equipped for the road ahead pursuing a life of closeness to Jesus that's built *different*.

The message this Sunday will focus on 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, "Thank God for All of You."

BETHEL IN THE NEW YEAR: In 2024, we want to grow closer with God. This will take focus, commitment, and intentionality from all of us. Here are few ways we hope you can join us:

- 1. Read Scripture with us:** This year our Bible reading plan is broken into several shorter plans. On January 1 we began with our first plan, which is only 20 days, through the Gospel of Luke using BibleProject resources! If you are looking for an intentional way to read Scripture in the new year, subscribe to this plan. You can find more information and the link to sign up on our website by clicking [here](#). We will continue to update this page with new readings plans throughout the year.
- 2. Start the year in prayer:** On **January 10**, we will be hosting a **Day of Prayer**. We invite you to pray with us throughout the day, but especially through 3 scheduled prayer sessions as we reflect on how God wants us to follow Him in 2024. Please click [here](#) to learn more about this all day event.
- 3. Continue Growing Together:** We are offering the following discipleship courses in the new year following the pattern of "Tuesday Night Teaching" that we used this fall. You can sign up for either of these courses by going to www.discoverbethel.com or by signing up at the Welcome Desk.

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS: This is part two of the Emotionally Healthy Discipleship Courses. Starting February 6 at 7:00-9:00 p.m. this powerful 8-week course will equip you with practical tools to love people in difficult situations and continue to mature into an adult follower of Jesus. This course will address core biblical principles to guide you and others into an experience of discipleship that will deeply change your life. In the EH Relationships Course, everyone will learn 8 practical relationship skills to develop mature, loving relationships with others. Cost: \$40. Click [here](#) to register.

FINANCE MANAGEMENT COURSE: Feeling those January bill blues? Sign up for the new 6-week Finance Management Course which starts on February 13 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. This course will give you an easy-to-follow personalized plan for money management. You will be guided through Dave Ramsey's "7 Baby Steps", which starts with saving for an emergency fund and ends with building wealth and giving. Learn how to handle money, budget with confidence, and set, track and reach your financial goals. Within the first 90 days of following the 7 Baby Steps, the average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700. Cost: \$75

If you have any questions about discipleship at Bethel, please email Pastor Wendy at (wendy@discoverbethel.com). Scholarships are available if cost is a barrier to participating. We look forward to starting this new year with you—becoming like Christ and sharing him with others!

OUR OFFERINGS

- 1) **BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) **MINISTRY SHARES:** Supports various CRC initiatives that send missionaries around the world, start new churches, train pastors and leaders, and use media to spread the gospel.

NEXT WEEK – REFUGEE FUND: This ministry of the deacons provides support for refugee families to get to Edmonton and to help support them as they prepare for life in Canada.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR CONDOLENCES: Our condolences go out to the families of two former members of Bethel Church. **DIRK DIEPEVEEN** was one of the founding members of Bethel. He left Bethel when he moved to Abbotsford in 1990. Dirk was 95 years old, and his life will be celebrated in Surrey BC on January 8, 2024

Our condolences also go to the DeJong and Christensen families with the passing of **RALPH DEJONG**. Ralph was a member at Bethel from 1997 until 2011 when he moved into the Emmauel Home. Ralph enjoyed his time at Bethel very much. Ralph was 89 years old, and he will be celebrated in a private ceremony later this year.

Praise the Lord for His Goodness, **CALVIN BRUINSMAS** sleep test last month was “clear & normal”. Calvin would like to thank everyone for their prayers and concerns over the past year. There are no further tests ahead and Calvin is grateful he can drive again. God Bless you all in the new year. Thank you all very much. Calvin Bruinsma

Please continue to remember **CURTIS COENEN, MIKE JACKSON, PAULINE LENDEIN, JENNY PENFOLD, DON & ELEANOR PROKUDA, JANE SHULTZ, CELINE SIGVALDASON, and JILL SNEEP** as you pray for our church community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCOVER BETHEL CLASS: Are you checking out Bethel or looking to join? We will be offering a Discover Bethel class on Wednesday, January 17 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. For those looking to join Bethel, this is your first step. For those who just want information about the church, this is the place to have all your questions answered. If you would like to come, please sign up at the Membership Desk or click [here](#) to register.

BANDCAMP ADULT SESSIONS: Do you have a desire to dig deeper into questions like: Why do we worship? Why is God worthy of my worship? How does what I believe about God impact the way I play with my band members? BandCAMP is a 4-session program run by Melanie Salte exploring questions like these and more. Every session will include time to connect, explore worship in Scripture, and worship through making music together. The heart of BandCAMP is to create a space for you to grow a heart and skill for worship. The dates for these sessions are Tuesdays January 16 & 30, February 13 & 27 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. To sign up please message lisa@discoverbethel.com.

WORSHIP AND WONDER: If you are seeking a space to worship and pray, come join us in the Lower-Level Chapel at 7:00 p.m., January 24, 2024. This will be a night of prayerful worship where we come together in a time of renewal, seeking the presence of God. Email lisa@discoverbethel.com for any questions.

BETHEL KIDS AND YOUTH PRAYER CARDS: In 2024, we will continue our tradition of creating prayer cards for all children and youth at Bethel. Our hope is that every child and teen (ages 0-17) would have a member of the congregation intentionally praying for them. If you consider Bethel to be your home church and would like your teen(s)/child(ren) to be included in this initiative, please fill out the form [HERE](#) to upload photos.

YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR Bethel Community Christian Reformed Church seeks a part-time 0.50-0.75 FTE (20-30 hours/week) **Youth Ministry Director**. The objective of this role within the Bethel church community is to curate and promote an environment where teenagers (ages 12-18) are disciplined in their faith and grow in community, as well as partnering with and supporting families as they nurture their youth's spiritual walk. For more about this position, please visit Bethel's Employment page by clicking [here](#).

To Apply: Send resume and cover letter to hr@discoverbethel.com **Closing Date:** January 15, 2024.

BETHEL YOUTH

YOUTH CRC WIDE YOUTH EVENT @ WEST END CRC: Friday, January 12, Bethel Youth (Grades 7-12) will gather with other CRC youth groups at West End CRC (10015 149 St, Edmonton, AB T5P 4Y4) for pizza, games, and the movie, "Jesus Revolution." Doors will open at West End CRC at 6:30 p.m. and the event will end around 9PM. If there is enough interest, we will either arrange a bus or carpool for transportation from Bethel (leaving at 6PM and arriving back at 9:30PM at Bethel). Register [here](#).

FAMILY FAITH AND FUN NIGHT WITH THE OIL KINGS – Join faith groups from across Oil Country for an exciting night at Rogers Place with the Edmonton Oil Kings on **Friday, January 19th at 7PM!** This event is fun for the whole family! Tickets are \$20/person and can be purchased [here](#).

BETHEL YOUTH PAUL AND PANCAKES: Youth grades 7-12, join us for fellowship, pancakes, and Bible study as we continue our series in 1 Corinthians. The next Paul and Pancakes is **Sunday, January 21**, during the Sunday service.

BETHEL YOUTH MISSIONS BOTTLE DRIVE: Throughout the month of January, Bethel Youth Missions team will be collecting empty bottles, cans, and drink containers to raise money in support of our partner church in Hermosillo, Mexico. Save your empties over the next few weeks then, starting in January, bring in those bags of bottles & cans and leave them outside of Pastor Melanie's office. The last date for collection will be Sunday, January 28th.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

COLLECTIONS IN DECEMBER:

January 7	Ministry Shares
January 14	Refugee Fund
January 21	Mustard Seed (Mosaic Centre)
January 28	Dynamic Youth Ministries - Cadets


Please visit our website at discoverbethel.com/give to see the ways that you can donate and support our different collections. If you have any questions about our giving options, please contact Sara at accounting@discoverbethel.com

OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY: We give thanks for the \$66,000 received towards the operating expenses at Bethel in November. As of the end of November our giving trails our expenses by just over \$24,000. *Did you know that an average offering of just over \$250 per month by each member at Bethel makes this budget possible? For some this is not possible and for others it is easily managed. Together we can support the ministry and vision at Bethel this year.* Thank you for considering Bethel for your tithes and year end giving. Every little bit makes a difference.

OTHER GIVING: The deacons gratefully acknowledge the following receipts for other collections taken in November:

Ministry Shares:	\$ 1,855.00
Dunamis Fellowship Canada:	\$ 1,095.00
EduDeo Ministries:	\$ 915.00
Benevolence Fund:	\$ 1,875.00
Other Causes:	\$ 1010.00

COMMUNITY NEWS

CALVIN UNIVERSITY JANUARY SERIES 2024: You are invited to the 37th year of the Calvin University January Series beginning January 15, 2024 and continuing weekdays through February 2. Each lecture will be shown livestream from Calvin University from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM MST. The series aims to cultivate deep thought and conversations about important issues of the day, to inspire cultural renewal and make us better global citizens in God's world. Visit www.calvin.edu/january daily at 10:00 a.m. MST and click on the "Watch Now" link, enter a few questions  (name, email, etc.) and you will be given access to the livestream. The presentations are available digitally on demand each day until midnight MST. In addition, this year you will be able to watch two of the lectures in community. On January 23, 2024, the lecture by Dr. Lydia Dugdale on "The Lost Art of Dying" will be offered at West End CRC starting at 10:00 am, and on January 26th, at 7:00 pm we will watch a session by Dr. Felicia Wu Song on "Christian Formation in a Digital World". Please join us for these in-person communal events.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR WINTER WALK: Hosted by Adeara, this 4th annual event will take place Saturday, February 24th, 2024. Last year, with the support of our community, we raised \$60,419 to help women and their children recover from their traumas, learn healthy boundaries, breakaway from co-dependencies, develop new life skills, and ultimately, stop the horrific cycle of addiction. With your help, we would like to reach more women and continue to provide the essential service of addiction recovery to families right here in our community. **Would you please consider starting a team as a Church?** The Coldest Night of the Year is completely FREE to sign up and all ages are welcome. It's a great way for the local Church to continue to partner with Adeara (and it's a fun family-friendly event for a good cause!). To check-out all the event details, please click [here](#).

QUANDARIES: Quandaries, a public lecture, and podcast series at The King's University, approaches contemporary moral dilemmas with wisdom in an age where we tend to react or withdraw too quickly. "Perspicacious Perfectionism", on Tuesday, January 9 from 7:30-8:30pm at King's, Christopher Lee will share his thoughts on how to manage the pressure to perform and to be perfect in a culture of hustle and productivity. Christopher is a practising intern psychologist in Edmonton and a former Christian Reformed Church pastor. Visit the website [here](#) for more info or to register.

MICAH CENTRE: Invites justice-seekers, church communities, and people of faith concerned about our changing climate to an evening of personal and biblical exploration with Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat on 'The Lament of the Land and the Tears of God'. Biblical scholar and farmer Dr. Keesmaat will explore the themes of creational destruction, God's lament, and faithful human response in the biblical text and in our own lives. Dr. Keesmaat's reflections will be followed by a panel discussion with pastor Rev. Jonathan Crane, economist Dr. Gerda Kits, and artist & activist Céline Chuang hosted by Dr. John Hiemstra. The event begins at 7:30 PM in Room N102 at The King's University on Monday, January 22. All are welcome.

KING'S UNIVERSITY CAMPUS VISIT DAY: Come see if King's is the right fit for you on Friday, January 26! Sit in on classes, take a tour, meet current students, and experience a bit of life on campus. This is a build-your-own visit. Register for just the morning or afternoon or stick around all day! Registration closes January 23. Click [here](#) for more info or to register.

HOPE MISSION: On March 9th, we will be walking in solidarity with our hurting and hungry neighbours to raise funds that will provide meals, shelter, and life-changing care to all who come to the doors of Hope Mission. Sign up as a team captain and then rally your family, friends, colleagues, or church group to join the cause. You can also sign up as an individual walker or join an existing team. Click [here](#) for more information or to sign-up.

CRC NEWS: Check out what's happening in the CRC community [here](#).

CRCNA ANNOUNCEMENTS: Connecting church members with the ministries of the denomination. Find out more by visiting the website [here](#).

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, January 7

10:00 a.m. Worship - in person and live stream

MONDAY, January 8

6:45 p.m. Council Meetings

7:00 p.m. Prayer (Zoom)

TUESDAY, January 9

5:00 p.m. Taekwondo

7:00 p.m. Cadets

WEDNESDAY, January 10

DAY OF PRAYER

6:30 a.m. Prayer - in person and Zoom

9:30 a.m. Oasis

12:00 p.m. Prayer – in person and Zoom

6:30 p.m. Prayer – in person only

8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, January 11

12:30 p.m. Food Bank

5:00 p.m. Taekwondo

7:00 p.m. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, January 12

6:30 p.m. CRC Youth Event at West End CRC

SATURDAY, January 13