

February 18, 2024

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

This Sunday we begin a new sermon series for Lent, **I AM**. Each of the statements Jesus makes about himself in the Gospel of John invite us to follow Christ more fully because of who he is and not what we would prefer him to be. We start this series by looking at Jesus as the "bread of life," the source by which all hunger can be satisfied, and every thirst quenched. Jesus reminds us that God is the ultimate provider for all our needs. If we turn to him in faith, we will receive everything we need. We are who God says we are (in Christ) because God is who he is, the great I AM (cf. Exodus 3:14).

The message this Sunday will focus on 6:25-59, "I AM the Bread of Life."

OUR OFFERINGS

- 1) **BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) **REFRAME MINISTRIES:** Around the world, the CRC is working through ReFrame Ministries (the new name of Back to God Ministries International) to share the gospel. Relying on the guidance of the holy spirit, they create contextual media resources that proclaim the gospel, disciple believers, and strengthen the church throughout the world in 10 major languages.

NEXT WEEK – BETTER TOGETHER LIBERIA: A not-for-profit organization continuing the good work started by Bethel Community Church building and supporting remote communities in Bettesu, Liberia, through education and healthcare by providing ongoing support to both the Bettesu Elementary School and the Bettesu Health Clinic. In a country with a high population of children and elderly, donations received through Better Together Liberia will spread the love of Christ by raising leaders with integrity and strong values, seeking to break down barriers of distance and cost by making education and healthcare accessible to all families in those remote communities.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

With a heavy heart, we want to share that **MARY VRIEND**, mother to **CALVIN and RICHARD VRIEND**, as well as **ANNE KONING** is now in the eternal arms of Jesus. She was a dear grandmother to **BRAYDEN and CALEB KONING** and many other grandchildren. She was an aunt to **WES VISSER**. She passed away last Saturday, February 10. The family will mourn her loss but are grateful and comforted that her suffering is over, and she is with her Lord. The Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, February 19, at 2:00 p.m. at the First Christian Reformed Church. Please pray for the whole extended family as they prepare to lay their mother and grandmother to rest.

MARGARET CAZEMIER went in for eye surgery on February 9. The recovery is expected to be about 4-6 weeks long. She is also mending from a stress fracture in her foot. We pray that her body heals fully and quickly.

DON PROKUDA has been scheduled for surgery on March 8. Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares for this.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS: With the start of a new year, it's a good time to think about Bethel's mission. A key factor in fulfilling that mission relies on the many different people who serve in our church. Within that group are the church leaders (Elders and Deacons). Each year, a number of these leaders finish their terms and need to be replaced. That is where you come in. We need you to prayerfully consider who you think would make good, Christ-centered leaders for these different roles. To nominate someone, please send us an email with their name to clerk@discoverbethel.com. The individual you nominate must be a professing member of Bethel. To see our current list of elders and deacons visit our leadership page [here](#).

***Please send all nomination submissions by February 29, 2024.**

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 February 27 & March 12 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. To sign up please message lisa@discoverbethel.com

FAMILY WORSHIP CAMP: Join us for our monthly Family Worship Camp series and learn how to equip your child to live a life of worship. Family Worship Camp aims to help families understand the different ways people connect with God, giving practical tools to help kids and teens engage in worship at church and home. Parents and their kids ages 4-18 (nursery care provided for ages 0-3) are invited to join us once a month after Sunday worship to have lunch and learn more about how you can engage in worship. There are four sessions – sign up for all or just the sessions you can make. Our next session will be Sunday, March 10 from 11:45-1:30. For more information and to sign up, click [here](#).

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Men of Bethel, we would love to have you join us this Saturday, February 17, at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel for food and fellowship. Please register [here](#). We are looking forward to seeing you!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY STARTING! We are planning to start a study on the book of James commencing Wednesday February 21st at 7:00 PM. We will be guided by a study plan from Francis Chan and there will be handouts available at each session. There will be no cost to you! Just come ready to listen and share as we journey together through the book of James. Register at discoverbethel.com/events.

GUITAR TRAINING CAMP: Come join Trent Jeske for some group guitar lessons. Just starting out or getting back into it - this is for you! If you just want to play, come Jam with us! This will happen February 22 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. E-mail lisa@discoverbethel.com to sign up!

WILLOWOOD CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL: is looking to add a few more people to our substitute teacher list. WillowWood is a play based preschool program where we grow strong, resilient children who are rooted in God's love. Our classes run Monday - Friday from 8:30 -12:00. If you have a heart for early childhood education, hold level 1, 2, or 3 ECE certification, and are available on weekday mornings on short notice we would love to talk with you. Contact us at willowwood@discoverbethel.com or call Selikke Duthler at 780-499-3731 for more information.

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR 2024: We have been working through a series of Bible reading plans this year through [YouVersion's Bible](#) reading app. We want to read and pray through the Scriptures with you. Sign up and join our reading group!

- Reading through the Gospels - February 10 - May 9, 2024
*Click [here](#) to subscribe to reading the Gospels

TODAY DEVOTIONALS FOR MARCH AND APRIL are available now. Find them in the literature rack or at the Membership Desk.

FROM THE LIBRARY: Before, during and after the pandemic several books and DVDs have gone missing from our library. Please check at home to see if you have any materials that belong to the Bethel Library. Just put them in the return box with no explanation needed.

Fiction: The View from Rain Shadow Bay (Coble), Protecting Tanner Hollow (Eason), Sea Rose Lane and Sandpiper Cove (Hannon), Tell Her No Lies (Irvin), Project Solomon (Stuber), Mary Magdalene (Taylor)

Non-fiction: Praying God’s Will For Your Life (Omartian), Unseen (Hagerty) The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth (Maxwell), It’s Time to be Bold (Michael W. Smith), It’s Okay Not To Be Okay (Walsh), Gifts of Grace-25 Advent Devotions (Wilson)

Youth: Egypt to the Promised Land (Larsen), Firebird (McCorkle & Parker), Noah’s Ark & Other Bible Stories (Smith), Your Brave Song (Voskamp)

DVD: Boz-Thank you God for Advent, The 5th Quarter, The Inheritance, Veggie tales-Duke & the Great Pie War, Lord of the Beans, Lyle & the Kindly Viking, Verve, What’s in the Bible, Women of the Bible

We have also recently received some great donated books and some Indigenous Culture materials. Come check them out.

BETHEL YOUTH

BETHEL YOUTH PAUL AND PANCAKES: We invite youth in Grades 7 to 12 to join us downstairs during this Sunday’s service for an opportunity to gather for fellowship and Bible study while making and eating pancakes together.

FAMILY FEUD NIGHT: We’ve surveyed 50+ people and the top answers are on the board! Youth in Grade 7-12, it’s your turn to find out what the survey says with your team of five on Friday, February 23, between 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Make up your own team of five or join a team when you arrive and get ready for the ultimate showdown!

BETHEL COOKBOOK – RECIPES NEEDED: Some of you may have a copy of the first “Bethel Community Church Cookbook” compiled in 2006. Our youth missions’ team has determined we are past due for an updated version, and we need your support! Share your family favourite recipes with others in Bethel and be part of our second edition of Bethel’s Community Cookbook. Send recipes to Pastor Melanie at melanie@discoverbethel.com before **February 29**.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The 2023 Tax Receipts were sent out by email or mail on February 16, 2024. If you have not received your statement or have any questions, please contact the church office.

COLLECTIONS IN FEBRUARY

February 7	Ministry Shares
February 11	Resonate Global Missions
February 18	Reframe Ministries
February 25	Better Together Liberia

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

FROM EDUDEO MINISTRIES: Thank you, Bethel Community Church for your generous gift of \$945 to EduDeo Ministries! Your support plays a crucial role in our mission of providing Christ-centered education, which brings about life-changing transformations for students and communities worldwide. Through your generosity, we can implement vital initiatives such as teacher training, empowering vulnerable students, and improving classrooms and schools for the purpose that students and teachers may know what it is to live as Christ.

COMMUNITY NEWS

EDMONTON CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL PRODUCTION: Step into a world of uproarious laughter and timeless comedic charm with Brandon Thomas's classic farce, 'Charley's Aunt.' Join Charley and his friend Jack as they embark on a hilariously tangled adventure, attempting to secure a chaperone for their romantic pursuits. When a fortuitous twist leads to the unexpected arrival of Charley's wealthy and eccentric Brazilian aunt, chaos ensues, and the stage is set for a riotous comedy of mistaken identities, romantic entanglements, and side-splitting antics.

Shows will be on February 22, 23, & 24 at 7:00 p.m. at La Cite Francophone Theatre - 8627 rue Marie Anne Gaboury (91 st). For tickets, please contact the school office at 780.408.7945. Adults are \$20 / Students and Seniors \$15. Tickets will also be available at the door, subject to availability.

EMMANUEL HOME MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Emmanuel Home's [annual membership drive](#) is underway. This is your chance to renew or begin your membership in support of the Emmanuel Seniors Living Society by giving you an active voice in our mission to provide housing and care for seniors in a supportive and vibrant Christian community. Your membership contribution will be used toward health care initiatives which go beyond what is funded by Alberta Health Services. You can donate online at www.emmanuelhome.ca/donate or give us a call at 780-478-2051. Thank you for your support!

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIPS SERVICES - WINTER CONVERSATION SERIES: So, you think a joint account is the easy answer to minimizing probate? Do you know there are new rules in place for joint accounts? Learn the pros and cons of joint accounts, ownerships, and more. Co-ordination with your will and other named beneficiaries while understanding tax implications is an ongoing process. Throughout this winter, Christian Stewardship Services will be hosting complimentary open Q& A sessions every other week to answer all of your question and more. Explore the topics and register [here](#)! For more information, contact: info@csservices.ca.

FAMILY FRIENDLY SOCCER: Are you looking for a fun organized soccer league? Games and practices are scheduled for Wednesdays & Saturdays in May & June at McLeod Community League. Registration is **online only** on March 1 at 7 pm. We fill up quickly so don't wait! Accepting children born 2006-2018. Cost is \$45. Questions? Diana VanderWekken at edmontonFFSL@gmail.com
If you are willing to coach or for more information visit our new [website](#)

ADULTS FAMILY FRIENDLY CO-ED LEAGUE registration is March 1 at 5 pm. Adults play Tuesdays and Thursdays. Email AdultsFFS@gmail.com for more information.

MAKE TAX TIME PAY: This is a free tax clinic that is happening on March 2 at 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m at 1142 Hermitage Rd. It is for low-moderate income individuals to get your taxes done for free.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTRE – BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN 2024: Are you part of a group, large or small? If you've ever wanted a fun, creative way to raise funds and awareness for the Pregnancy Care Centre, reach out to us for more information about our Baby Bottle Campaign. If you'd like more information, please reach out by clicking [here](#).

REMBRANDT'S JESUS: REFLECTION FOR LENT - In our walk of life and faith, the timeless art of Rembrandt invites us to explore the light of God as it shines in our dark places. Join art historian and pastor, Tony Maan, author of Rembrandt's Jesus: Meditations on the Life of Christ for an evening of Lenten reflections and renewal as we journey with Jesus through the eyes of the Dutch master. Come Thursday, March 14, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at The Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert. Early registration is \$20. Register at [here](#) or call 780-459-5511.

EMERGING ADULT EVENT: On Friday March 22nd, there will be an Emerging Adult event in Edmonton. This is a gathering for those who are aged 18-30ish, (single or married) who desire a place of worship, prayer, and authentic community. Attendees will be invited to dive into relevant, deep conversations about what it means to be communities of faith who love Jesus Christ and want to live for him. The location of this event will be at the River Community Church 2101 Millbourne Rd W, Northwest, Edmonton. Doors open at 6:45pm. For more information, please contact Ron deVries at rondevries@crcna.org or 780-619-6566.

INTERMISSION SILENT RETREAT: Getting tired of Netflix? Maybe it's time for something different. InterMission Silent Retreat is coming up May 31-June 2 at King's Fold Retreat Centre west of Cochrane, a lovely and cozy retreat house on the ridge of the Ghost River overlooking the Rockies. Two nights accommodation, 4 meals, 2-3 spiritual direction sessions, silence, rest, peace, quiet, spirit, soul. Single private room. "Be still and know that I am God." Registration is \$500/person. Contact rev.klok@gmail.com to register.

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, February 18

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

MONDAY, February 19

6:00 p.m. Prayer – Zoom

TUESDAY, February 20

5:00 p.m. Taekwondo
7:00 p.m. Emotionally Healthy Relationships
7:00 p.m. Personal Financial Management
7:00 p.m. Cadets

WEDNESDAY, February 21

9:30 a.m. Oasis
7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study
8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, February 22

12:30 p.m. Food Bank
5:00 p.m. Taekwondo
6:00 p.m. Guitar Training
7:00 p.m. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, February 23

7:00 p.m. Family Feud Youth Night

SATURDAY, February 24