

July 2, 2023



## THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

**THIS SUNDAY:** We will be worshipping together through one service in person and over live stream at 10:00 a.m. To join us online, go to Bethel's home page and click on the button that says: "[Worship Online with Us.](#)"

We begin our summer series, **1 Samuel: After God's Own Heart**, by looking at the beginning of David's story, which prepares the way for us to understand Jesus' journey as king. How God chooses to act is surprising, exceeding our wildest expectations. God looks at the heart of us all. Among the most humble, meek, and unseen are the people God desires to use the most in order to demonstrate his power, authority, and love for the world. This is why God withdraws his blessing over Saul as king and anoints David, the humble shepherd boy. He sees past outward appearances to anoint the most unexpected person to lead his people. *What does he desire to do through you?*

Our message Sunday will focus on 1 Samuel 16, "Looking at the Heart."

## OUR OFFERINGS ON SUNDAY

- 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 – CORNERSTONE COUNSELLING** is a not-for-profit agency providing affordable counselling in the Edmonton area. Their Mission Statement is: To demonstrate the love of Christ by providing professional counselling services to help people become renewed and whole.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Thank you for your prayers over the **JAGER** and **ABMA** families. We shared earlier this week that Helen Jager, sister to **FRED ABMA**, went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, June 24, following a recent cancer diagnosis. Her family and friends gathered for a memorial service on Thursday of this week. We grieve with them and ask for God's ongoing comfort and care in the weeks and months to come.

Thank you for your prayers for **DON PROKUDA** over the past few weeks. Don is preparing to undergo significant surgery to remove his bladder at the end of this month. He and Eleanor welcome our prayers and support during this time.

Please continue to pray for **CURTIS COENEN, MARCEL CROCKER, ELEANOR PROKUDA, CELINE SIGVALDASON, JILL SNEEP, LINDA VROON, and WILLY VROON.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PASTOR OF OUTREACH AND MISSION + UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL VOTE ON JULY 2:** Thank you for your prayers during our discernment process for calling a pastor to focus on outreach and missions. We are excited to announce that we have an update.

The calling committee interviewed and recommended council extend a call to Cathy Ferchau, who recently became eligible for Ministry of the Word at Synod. Cathy and Garry have been a part of Bethel for the past 20 plus years, alongside their 3 children. Though Cathy has been involved in a wide range of Bethel ministries, recently she has served Bethel as a pastoral intern, preaching on occasion, and leading among the prayer ministries.

Full Council voted on the motion to recommend to the congregation that we call Cathy Ferchau to the position of Pastor of Outreach and Mission. Council strongly affirmed this motion. We now have the wonderful opportunity to vote as a church this Sunday, July 2nd. This vote will be taken by ballot from Bethel members after the service. If you cannot be present in person for the vote, please submit a proxy vote by email to [clerk@discoverbethel.com](mailto:clerk@discoverbethel.com).

We are grateful for God's call on Cathy's life, her desire to serve at Bethel and the gifts that she brings to this position. We are also excited for the vision God has for us to reach out to the neighbourhood and world with the love of Jesus.

If you have any questions about the upcoming vote, please contact the Governing Elders ([governingelders@discoverbethel.com](mailto:governingelders@discoverbethel.com)).

**WELCOMING A NEW OFFICE BEARER:** This Sunday we will be installing Ashley Patton to serve as a Shepherding Elder. We welcome her and are grateful for her willingness to serve.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR A NEW CLASS:** Starting Tuesday, September 19, we will be offering the 8-week Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course, in which we will be looking at discipleship that deeply changes our relationship with God. When we get closer to fall we will open registration. If you would like to read ahead about what this course will entail, you can find a link [here](#).

**SHOUT OUT TO THE PROVIDERS OF MEALS FOR ALPHA SPRING 2023!** We would like to send a huge THANK YOU to all of the individuals who helped to provide meals for Alpha these past 11 weeks! You went above and beyond with your delicious meals, and saying thank you doesn't seem sufficient to express our gratefulness. Please know that your hard work did not go unnoticed. We were all SO blessed by your generosity, attention to detail, and (of course!) by your AMAZING culinary skills. *-on behalf of the Alpha Team.*

**SYNOD SUMMARY 2023:** We met to pray about Synod, our denominational gathering, at the beginning of this month. We want to close off the month by sharing a small summary. Like in many gatherings, there are good things we gladly celebrate and other items that we wish could have happened differently. Synod affirmed many of its decisions from last year related to sexuality. However, there were several items related to the implications of these decisions they did not fully address; these will need to be addressed next year.

We remain committed as a local body to become like Christ in all aspects of our community. This must include how we relate to LGBTQ+ people. This commitment means we must wholeheartedly pursue the truth God compels us to embrace in Scripture, and that we must be mindful of how we engage in conversation with one another. It is crucial that *what* we affirm must be expressed by *how* we affirm God's heart for one another.

Classis Alberta North sent several delegates to Synod. They sent out a summary if you are interested in a few more details about the gathering, [here](#).

Also, the documents, resources, and reflective articles about Synod are available publicly on the CRCNA page, [here](#), if you would like to read further.

If you would like further conversation about things discussed at Synod, please reach out to Council, Pastor Cris and Pastor Wendy.

**WE'RE HIRING:** Bethel Community Church is looking to hire an Administrative Assistant. This position is developed as a job share arrangement. Each of the employees is hired to work one half of the 0.6 FTE which the position requires. To see the job description and learn more about this position click [here](#). If you are interested, please send your applications to [hr@discoverbethel.com](mailto:hr@discoverbethel.com).

**CANADA DAY CELEBRATION!** We would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has donated food and is willing to donate their time for Canada Day, we were able to get all food and volunteers that we needed! We encourage you bring your families to come on out to enjoy a fun BBQ and carnival for all ages! Hope to see you there.

**KID'S CAMP:** If you have a heart for working with children and would like to help share stories from the Bible with them, this is the chance you've been waiting for! Kid's camp will run from August 14th to 18th, and we need your help! There are lots of ways to volunteer and get involved. Register now or sign up to volunteer [here](#). For more information e-mail Grace at [grace@discoverbethel.com](mailto:grace@discoverbethel.com).

**YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS:** Join Bethel Youth the week of July 24th until the 28th as we dive into a week filled with sports/art camps for Grades 6 to 12. The cost for each youth is \$2.50 per day or \$10.00 for the whole week. Even if you can only make it for one of the days, we would love to see you. Lunch will be provided. To register visit Bethel's summer page [here](#) or scan the QR code located in the summer information pamphlet that can be found in your mailboxes and at the back of the sanctuary.

**PLOT:** Drop in youth events will happen every Tuesday this summer starting Tuesday July 4th for grades 6 and up. Join us for activities like tie dye colour run, life size Monopoly, fear factor, and SO MUCH MORE!! No registration is needed and there is no cost!

**YOUTH DAY TRIPS:** Registration for the Youth Day Trips are up on our summer webpage. Sign up [here](#) to register and learn more information about our West Edmonton Mall Trip on July 15. For more information feel free to contact Elena at [elena@discoverbethel.com](mailto:elena@discoverbethel.com).

**BANDCAMP:** We're excited to offer BandCAMP, beginning Tuesday, September 19, from 6:15 - 9:00 p.m. This 6-week program will provide a community for those aged 12-25 who want to develop a heart and skill for worship. Each gathering will consist of four segments: specific skill development, community connection, worship foundations in Scripture, and band dynamics. At the end of these six weeks, we hope that every person involved will not only have new tools for leading and understanding worship but will be inspired to live an authentic life of worship wherever they go.

This program will be facilitated by Melanie Salte under the direction of Lisa Vander Heide. If you have any questions about the program, please email [lisa@discoverbethel.com](mailto:lisa@discoverbethel.com).

**COLLECTIONS IN JULY:**

July 2	Ministry Shares
July 9	Cornerstone Counselling
July 16	Cuba Connection
July 23	Bethel World Mission Vision
July 30	Meals Ministry

Please visit our website at [discoverbethel/give](http://discoverbethel/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](mailto:accounting@discoverbethel.com).

**FINANCIAL UPDATE: Our Mission and Ministry:** \$72,817.00 was collected in the month of May for a total of \$601,527 this year. \$665,337.74 was anticipated by this time based on our restated budget for this year. Currently, the giving of the church has been greater than our expenses. We are blessed by the continued support for our ministries.

**Other Giving:** The deacons gratefully acknowledge the following receipts for other collections taken in May:

Ministry Shares:	\$	2,620.00
Bethel World Mission Vision:	\$	820.00
ReFrame Ministries:	\$	785.00
Rehoboth:	\$	985.00
Other Causes:	\$	1,210.00

## THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### **SUNDAY, July 2**

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

### **MONDAY, July 3**

7:00 p.m. Prayer (Zoom)

### **TUESDAY, July 4**

7:00 p.m. PLOT

### **WEDNESDAY, July 5**

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

8:00 p.m. AA

### **THURSDAY, July 6**

7:00 p.m. Worship Practice

### **FRIDAY, July 7**

1:45 p.m. Food Bank – parking lot

### **SATURDAY, July 8**