



January 21, 2024

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

This Sunday we continue our series through 1 Thessalonians, *Built Different*, by reflecting on how connected our world is and what this means for faithfully following Jesus. Though Paul is writing from afar, he is deeply interested in his fellow believers, so much so, that his own faith aligns with their own journey. How they experience provision, blessing, even how they respond in suffering, impacts Paul's own life. With great care and concern, he sent Timothy to check in with them; what he heard back was extremely encouraging. This models for us how connected we are called to be as followers of Jesus. The church is one community and one body under Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). In our seemingly compartmentalized world, it is tempting to approach life and faith on our own. Paul and the church among the Thessalonians remind and challenge us—this is not the way. Instead, they prompt us to intentionally care for one another and tap into our interconnectedness as a source of strength and encouragement.

The message this Sunday will focus on 1 Thessalonians 3, "Faith in a Connected World."

BETHEL IN THE NEW YEAR: In 2024, we want to grow closer with God. In our series, *Built Different*, we are learning what it means to:

Consecrate – What does God desire that I lay at His feet? How do I make this part of my life holy, repenting what I have wrong in my life?

Commune – How does the Lord desire me to connect with Him and other people? I get to be with God in my life; how can I listen to God more?

Contend- How does God want me to fight for His goodness in this world? How does God want me to use my place, authority, and influence to advocate for the good in this world to bring about His Kingdom?

At Bethel we want to be intentional about applying these concepts in our lives personal and communally. Some ways to do this are through our Scripture Reading Plan or by joining one of the upcoming courses on Emotionally Healthy Relationships and Personal Financial Management. These are often areas in our lives that we need to consecrate to the Lord. Participating in the Scripture reading plan or attending one of these courses can help in communing with God as you learn and listen to what He wants for you in these areas. Allowing God to transform these areas of your life you will be better prepared to contend for His Kingdom right where He has placed you!

1. **Join the Scripture reading 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. **Continue Growing Together:** You can sign up for either [EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS](#) or [PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COURSE](#) by clicking on the course name, or signing up at the Welcome Desk. For more details about these courses visit www.discoverbethel.com/events.

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) **MUSTARD SEED - MOSAIC CENTRE:** The Mosaic Centre is a non-profit wellness centre serving people challenged by poverty, hunger, and homelessness in northeast Edmonton.

NEXT WEEK – Dynamic Youth Ministries: provides programs, curriculum, materials, and training designed to bring children and youth into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. This collection will specifically support the Cadets ministries.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to remember **CURTIS COENEN, MIKE JACKSON, PAULINE LENDEIN, JENNY PENFOLD, DON & ELEANOR PROKUDA, JANE SHULTZ, CELINE SIGVALDASON, JILL SNEEP** and **COBY SNYDER** 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](#).

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 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, join us this Wednesday, January 24, in the Lower-Level Chapel at 7:00 p.m. 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 information.

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.

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.

FAMILY WORSHIP CAMP: Join us for the first class in 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 first session will be Sunday, February 11 from 11:45-1:30. For more information and to sign up, click [here](#).

PERSONAL FINANCIAL 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. Cost: \$75. Register [here](#).

BETHEL YOUTH

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 this **Sunday, January 21**, during the Sunday service.

BETHEL YOUTH MISSIONS BOTTLE DRIVE: Reminder to bring your bottles on or before Sunday, January 28. Our Youth Missions Team is raising funds to sponsor a group of teens and young adults from Mexico to join in the ministries we are taking part in this summer in our community. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Melanie at melanie@discoverbethel.com

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

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS: The quarterly statements for December 2023 have been emailed. Please review your statements carefully and report any errors to the church office so that errors can be corrected before tax receipts are issued in February. If you have not received your statement, please contact the church office to update your email address.

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 p.m. 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](#).

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.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIPS SERVICES - WINTER CONVERSATION SERIES: Is there a charity close to your heart that you would love to see thrive for years to come? Christian Stewardship Services is hosting open Q&A sessions every other week this winter to answer your questions on charitable giving and estate planning. Explore the topics and register [here](#)! Each session will have a 10-minute introduction, and then an interactive Q&A. The first three topics are: adding a Charity Child, estate documents, and donating life insurance. For more information, contact: info@csservices.ca.

MILL WOODS CARE CLOSET is looking for volunteers to help with their food and clothing banks. For more information about this organization go to www.carecloset.ca. please contact Pastor Bev at 780-680-2463 or bsesink@calvarycommunity.ca for more details.

CEO OPPORTUNITY AT EMMANUEL HOME: The Emmanuel Seniors Living Society is now accepting applications for its next permanent CEO. There are some exciting things happening in the Society and the Board is seeking the right person to lead the Society through the next chapter of its growth! More information, including the Job Posting and Organization Profile, can be found at emmanuelhome.ca and inquiries can be sent to the Transition Committee at info@emmanuelhome.ca.

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 21

10:00 a.m. Worship - in person and live stream
10:30 a.m. Paul & Pancakes

MONDAY, January 22

6:00 p.m. Prayer - in person and zoom

TUESDAY, January 23

5:00 p.m. Taekwondo
7:00 p.m. Drum Clinic
7:00 p.m. Cadets

WEDNESDAY, January 24

6:30 a.m. Prayer - in person and zoom
9:30 a.m. Oasis
7:00 p.m. Worship & Wonder
8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, January 25

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

FRIDAY, January 26

SATURDAY, January 27