



December 10, 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](#).

This Sunday our advent sermon series, *Behold and Become: Unto us a Child is Born*, continues by reflecting on the struggles of God's family to walk closely with him. We see it in Israel through the families of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph – not to mention what takes place when they receive the blessing of the promised land. Even as the Lord raised up prophetic judges who called out for God's goodness, the people turned away from the God who had saved them before. The wars taking place in our world today and the pain in our communities unfolds for the same reasons: we would prefer life on our own terms, with our own leaders, with our own interests in mind. Unto us a child was born, the Lord promises a different kind of king who will bring everlasting peace. This king will bring an end to pain. If we behold Jesus as this king who reigns, even at his birth, we welcome his peace.

ADVENT AT BETHEL - Walk with us through the journey of advent (Daily readings, question of the day, candle lighting guides and more). For details and resources, visit www.discoverbethel.com/advent

PROFESSION OF FAITH: We rejoice that this Sunday, **ETHAN THOMAS** will share his testimony during our worship service. We hope that you join us in praying for Ethan and the important step this is for his faith journey.

OUR OFFERINGS ON SUNDAY

- 1) BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) BETHEL WORLD MISSION VISION – Seeds of New Creation:** Resonate Global Mission missionaries, Back to God Hour Ministries International and several local ministries have rallied together and created Seeds of New Creation. As a community of service and a transformational network, Seeds of New Creation yearns to see churches, ministries, and communities in El Salvador transformed by the Gospel, showing evidence of love, justice, peace, and hope. The team shares a Ministry House and works together to strengthen the mission of the church through training and collaborative efforts that serve the local Christian Reformed Church (ICRES) and hundreds of leaders of different denominations, impacting regions throughout the country.

NEXT WEEK – ADEARA: Adeara's long-term programming is built to end the cycle of addiction, not just for one woman, but for her children and their future children. By providing faith-based accredited programming in a community setting, Adeara provides women the opportunity to step out of rhythms of drug abuse, crime, and trauma.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE HOURS: Our official office hours have changed. New office hours will be Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. On regular weekdays the building will continue be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR Bethel Community Christian Reformed Church seeks a part-time (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: <https://www.discoverbethel.com/jobs/youth-ministry-director>

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

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MOVIE NIGHT: We invite youth in Grades 7 to 12 to join us **Friday, December 15 from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.** Come dressed in your pajamas to join the Christmas festivities, games, snacks, and a Christmas movie.

PAUL AND PANCAKES: We invite youth in Grades 7 to 12 to join us downstairs during the Sunday service on **December 17th** for an opportunity to gather for fellowship and Bible study while making and eating pancakes together.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING -- and so is your opportunity to bless the Bannerman community. The annual Christmas hampers & gift program needs Bethel's support. Last year, we blessed families and children with gift cards for groceries and gifts. This year, we are providing gift cards for hampers and physical gifts for families -- and you, your family, or your small group can play a special role in a few different ways:

1. Make a financial donation to "Christmas Hampers and Gifts" through all the usual Bethel giving methods.
2. Visit the Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary, choose a gift tag (or multiple tags!) and purchase gifts to bless kids in the Bannerman community. Each tag has the age and gender of a child in need of a present, as well as a number. Pick the gift tag, fill out the attached info card, and leave the information card so we know which gift you are buying. **Please bring all gifts & the attached gift tag to the church by Sunday, December 17th.**

Please contact Marjean at mjv.eirene@gmail.com if you have any questions or need more information. Thank you for blessing the Bannerman community!

YOUTH MUSIC AND MISSIONS: Please note that this will be postponed until the new year. There is no meeting December 12th.

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. Last date for collection will be **Sunday, January 28th.**

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR IS BACK! Join us at our next practice on December 14 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. as we prepare for our Christmas Eve Service. To sign up for our choir or to receive further information please email lisa@discoverbethel.com.

POINSETTIA AND HOLIDAY GREENERY FUNDRAISER: For those who ordered poinsettias and/or holiday greenery from our Youth Missions Fundraiser, your order can be picked up during office hours on December 8, during the Bannerman Christmas Party on December 9, or after the service on December 10. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Melanie at melanie@discoverbethel.com.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES: In place of Sunday morning worship on Christmas Eve, there will be two services at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

SENIOR'S OPEN HOUSE: Bethel seniors, you are invited to an open house Sunday, December 17 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. hosted by John and Grace Vleeming at 325 Estate Drive, Sherwood Park. All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share and a beverage of your choice. Coffee and punch will be provided. Parking is limited on the driveway so if you can carpool or park farther away to leave the driveway for those who need it. There are 9 stairs in the house to navigate to get to where the fun, games, and an opportunity to win one of two gift baskets awaits. If you have some folding chairs that you could drop off a few days before, please let Grace know.

WINTER CLOTHING COLLECTION: As the weather begins to get colder, there is a need in the local community for winter clothing. Please bring in gently used winter coats, snowpants, boots, and other warm gear. Items should be in wearable condition, clean and without holes. There is a Rubbermaid container under the mailboxes in the Sanctuary where you can place these items.

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 we will be running are Tuesdays January 16, January 30, February 13, and February 27 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. To sign up please message lisa@discoverbethel.com.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Our Mission and Ministry: Thank you for the offerings received in October of approximately \$67,000. As of the end of October our income is approximately \$19,000 less than our expenses. Please continue to pray and discern how God is calling you to commit financially to the mission and vision of Bethel this year. We are trusting in God's provision through the generosity of His people.

COLLECTIONS IN DECEMBER:

- December 3 Ministry Shares
- December 10 Bethel World Mission Vision – Seeds of New Creation
- December 17 Adeara
- December 25 World Renew
- December 31 Days for Girls

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

YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE! On behalf of the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, thank you for your gifts to ministry shares. Your support enables congregations to do so much more to further God's Kingdom than any one church could do alone. Our denomination could not impact the world through missions, media, and church development without your incredible and faithful support. Thank you! To discover more visit crcna.org/ministryshares.

THANK YOU FROM RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: Your congregation's support for Resonate helps spread the gospel in more than 40 countries where your missionaries and church planters are at work. Every day, people who are struggling find hope in Jesus Christ through the work you've made possible. What a great example of faith in action! Many of those your ministry leaders are working with come from difficult circumstances, but through Resonate you are a witness to the truth that God's compassions are new every morning. Thank you for supporting this work of living and sharing the gospel—we couldn't do it without faithful supporting churches! It's your generosity that helps to share the everlasting hope we have in Jesus with people who are lonely, anxious, and struggling.

COMMUNITY NEWS

EMMANUEL HOME: Emmanuel Home's Year End Appeal is underway. This is your chance to assist our residents by helping to fund services that are not covered by the health system, such as Spiritual Care and Crisis Support. With your help aging residents can continue to live in Emmanuel Home, despite their increased challenges. Please consider a Year End gift that will put a smile on the faces of our residents! Donations can be made online at www.emmanuelhome.ca/donate or you can call us at 780-478-2051. Thank you for your generosity!

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: While there is good reason for the 'celebrative' atmosphere of Christmas, it can also be a challenging, even painful, time for those who live with the reality of brokenness or loss in their lives. A "Blue Christmas Service" is a service that allows that reality to be acknowledged and brought before the Lord, while at the same time recognizing the one who is bigger than a season. You are invited to participate in such a service (with communion) held at West End CRC on Sunday, Dec 17 at 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend in-person but would like to participate, please join us via livestream using the link on the West End CRC website, westendcrc.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, December 10

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

MONDAY, December 11

6:45 p.m. Council Meetings

7:00 p.m. Prayer (Zoom)

TUESDAY, December 12

5:00 p.m. Taekwondo

7:00 p.m. Cadets/Gems

WEDNESDAY, December 13

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

9:30 a.m. Oasis

8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, December 14

12:30 p.m. Food Bank

5:00 p.m. Taekwondo

6:00 p.m. Choir & Worship Practice

FRIDAY, December 15

7:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party

SATURDAY, December 16