

October 29, 2023

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

THIS SUNDAY: We conclude our sermon series, The Good News, this Sunday by reflecting on the last speech in Acts between Paul, Festus and King Agrippa. Paul has been in prison for several years while a transition from one leader to the next takes place. Paul, before the most influential leaders in Caesarea, must give a defense for his faith. This for Paul is not a chance for his to "save himself" from harm, but an opportunity to share the Good News. He tries to convert King Agrippa! We do not know where following Jesus will take us faithfully or who it will bring us to be with, but we can prepare to give answer for the Good News in all situations (1 Peter 3:15), expressing our sure confidence in the God's saving power through its sharing (Romans 1:16).

The message this Sunday will focus on Acts 26, "Contending for the Good News."

Following the message, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together. For those attending in-person, we will invite you to come forward to receive the elements at the front, sharing them together as a group. If you are not able to come forward, please raise your hand and the elements will be brought to you. Gluten-free bread is available for those who desire this option.

For everyone online, please have communion elements ready at home (bread, juice/wine) to join with us in sharing the meal. You can partake of the elements at home while they are being served in the sanctuary.

We look forward to celebrating Christ's meal of grace with you Sunday. Please prepare your hearts for this time of remembrance and celebration in light of our forgiveness through the cross.

OUR OFFERINGS ON SUNDAY

- 1) **BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) **BETHEL WORLD RENEW – WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY:** Families living in poverty face many barriers. Lack of access to clean water, healthcare, and resources to generate income keep families in a cycle of poverty and hunger that impacts generation after generation. Through your congregation's participation in World Hunger Sunday those facing hunger and poverty are encouraged to learn ways to improve their lives and write a new story that is filled with hope and promise.

NEXT WEEK – 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.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the **VROON FAMILY** who are mourning the loss of their brother-in-law, Ted Vander Hoek, age 81, who passed away October 23 in Langley, BC. Evert & Linda hope to fly there for the funeral and to be with family and friends for a while.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPDATE ABOUT CLASSIS ALBERTA NORTH: We would like to share an update from Classis Alberta North, which met October 13-15. As many of you are aware, Pastor Wendy and Pastor Cathy were both examined to be ordained as Ministers of the Word. Thank you for your prayers and support.

We're excited to share that Pastor Wendy passed her exam. We've decided to adjust the date for her ordination to **November 12** during the Sunday morning service. Congratulate her when you see her! Please consider this your notice to be present that Sunday for the ordination.

Pastor Cathy's ordination will be in progress this year. While she did excellent on most of the exam, there was a specific part of the exam that Cathy has been invited to do again at the Spring Classis. Once this has been completed, we can schedule when her anticipated ordination would take place.

We're grateful to have these two pastors serving us, alongside Pastor Cris, and pray for God's continued leading in our witness.

BETHEL YOUTH DINNER AND GAMES NIGHT: We invite youth (Grade 7-12) to join with other CRC youth groups in Edmonton & area for dinner and games. The first of these combined quarterly events will be hosted at Bethel on Sunday, October 29th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30p.m. Come for taco in a bag and a variety of group and board games.

TIME CHANGE REMINDER: Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5, 2023. Please don't forget to set your clocks back one hour that Saturday night.

WOMEN OF BETHEL! Are you looking to stay warm up this winter? On Friday, November 17th, from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., you are invited to our Snow Much Fun winter event at Bethel Community Church in the chapel. We are partnering with the Pregnancy Care Centre by making some cozy baby blankets and Christmas cards to add to their care packages for pregnant and new moms. At this event, you can also expect to be warmed with fellowship, laughter, and delicious treats/drinks. You can sign up online through the [google form](#) or in person at the back of the church. The cost of this event is \$10. Please pay ahead of time at the information booth or pay debit/cash upon arrival at the event. You should come! It's a snow-brainer!

ADVENT IS COMING! Advent begins December 3rd. We will once again have advent candle sets to help bring meaning in a unique way to you and your family during Advent. The advent candle sets are available for purchase for \$25. This includes the 5 candles with the wooden base as well as different passages to read with your family as you light a candle each week. Candles can be ordered by sending an email to lisa@discoverbethel.com by November 10th.

TODAY DEVOTIONALS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER are available now. Find them in the literature rack or at the Membership Desk.

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, November 29 will be our Congregational Meeting

COLLECTIONS IN OCTOBER:

- October 1 Ministry Shares
- October 8 Edmonton Food Bank
- October 15 Disability Concerns
- October 22 Bethel World Mission Vision – Rachel Beveridge
- October 29 World Renew – World Hunger Sunday

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

KINDRED HEARTS CAMBODIA FOUNDATION had a very successful wine and cheese event and raised nearly \$21,000! This is 2/3 of the annual operating budget! All funds will go directly to the medical clinic and mental health programs that will improve the lives of people in Cambodia. Thank-you for your support!
Leanne & Patrik Foff.

FRIENDS OF REHOBOTH CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ("RCM") ANNUAL DONATION DRIVE! This October you are invited to become a friend of RCM and help raise \$250,000 to support RCM programs and services for adults with disabilities in Edmonton, Coaldale, Lethbridge, Calgary, Airdrie Three Hills, Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and Grande Prairie. Please mail (3920 - 49 Avenue, Stony Plain, AB, T7Z 2J7) or submit your donations online (www.rcmflourish.ca/donate/donation-form) by October 31st. For further inquiries please contact Jo-Ann Tavenier-Vriend (780-569-2597).

As an ambassador for RCM, we extend our gratitude to the members of The Joyful Noise Choir and their Director, Rein Selles, for their participation in our worship service several weeks ago!

THE JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR celebrates 45 years! Join the celebration by attending their concert on Saturday, November 18 at 7:00 pm at the West End Christian Reformed Church in support of Rehoboth Camp. There is no admission charge but an offering for camp will be taken. The Music Of Our Hearts (2) brings current and former members of the choir together to lead songs of praise and worship. Come celebrate and sing with us! Over the past 45 years, 800 children have been ambassadors for Rehoboth Christian Ministries as choir members.

CRC DIRECTORY 2024/25: ADVERTISEMENTS: The new 2024/2025 Christian Reformed Church Directory of Greater Edmonton is underway once again and ready for you to place your advertisement. Don't miss out on a super-low advertising price for your business for a two-year period and a user base of approximately two thousand homes! Please call Brenda Paszek at 780.479.0738 or email at: dbpaszek@telusplanet.net for information. Advertising deadline: Nov 20, 2023

A JOYOUS NIGHT OUT: The Annual University of Alberta Festival of Nine Advent & Christmas Lessons and Carols takes place at the Winspear Centre Monday, December 4, 7:30 p.m. Join with the U of A mixed chorus, including handbells, and wonderful organists and sing eternal praise, honour and glory to the only One truly worthy! All Seats: \$30. Call the Winspear Box Office (780) 428-1414 or get your tickets at the door. Proceeds for U of A Campus Food Bank

BLESS A FAMILY: The Pregnancy Care Centre is gearing up for their annual Client Christmas Party. Once again, we need you to support our Bless a Family campaign! We look forward to celebrating with our precious PCC families again this year. That includes providing each family with a Christmas gift basket. That's where you come in! There are three ways to participate in this year's Bless a Family campaign. You can sponsor a family or shop for families. Email tanya@pregnancycarecentre.ca to participate. One-time financial gifts are also welcome to help create a special Christmas morning for our clients. E-Transfer to finance@pregnancycarecentre.ca, indicate "Bless a Family" in the comments along with your contact information (for a tax-deductible receipt). If you'd like to donate through another method, please call 780-424-2624.

MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS: With the Fall season comes preparations for Christmas at Sea. This year the Ministry to Seafarers will again be delivering Christmas gifts for seafarers. Your donations for this project can be made by cheque payable to Ministry to Seafarers, and mailed to 401 E Waterfront Rd, Vancouver, BC V6A 4G9. You can also make donations online via our website, ministrytoseafarers.com. Please designate gifts for "Christmas at Sea." Thank You! To view the Fall newsletter click [here](#).

EMMANUEL HOME AND LIGHTHOUSE UPDATE: Emmanuel Home is pleased to announce that the Lighthouse seniors' home is on schedule to open in the west central community of Inglewood in the Spring of 2025. Residents of our Christian retirement communities enjoy beautiful courtyards and grounds, spacious and comfortable suites, and a diverse range of programs and activities. If you would like to learn more about the Lighthouse give us a call at 780-478-2051 to arrange an appointment at the site or to have an information package sent to you. Enjoy independent living in a caring, Christian environment at the Lighthouse!

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS IN GREECE (May 31 - June 11, 2024): Travel by motor coach (7 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

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, October 29

10:00 a.m. Worship - in person and live stream
6:00 p.m. CRC Wide Youth Event: Dinner & Games Night

MONDAY, October 30

7:00 p.m. Prayer (Zoom)

TUESDAY, October 31

WEDNESDAY, November 1

6:30 a.m. Prayer - in person and Zoom
9:30 a.m. Oasis
8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, November 2

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

FRIDAY, November 3

SATURDAY, November 4