

May 26, 2024

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

This Sunday we return to Paul's letters to the Thessalonians in our series, ***Built Different***. We often associate happiness with ease, pleasure with the immediate, and calling with comfort. Counter to this worldly expectation, Paul explains what should motivate us most are the things for which we should be thankful in Christ. Those who follow Jesus in the midst of trials endure through faith and love that flows from gratitude. This provides them (and us) incredible strength that glorifies God and makes us worthy of his calling. Embrace a life of thankfulness with Jesus, and join him in being *built different*.

The message this Sunday will focus on 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, "Strength in the Struggle."

OUR OFFERINGS

- 1) **BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) **REHOBOTH:** Rehoboth Christian Ministries offers services to "developmentally disabled" adults and children. They declare and demonstrate God's love and grace to people who have been denied full participation in the mainstream of life because of their mental or physical disabilities.

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

Our condolences and prayers for **KATHY JACKSON** as her husband, Mike, passed away Wednesday night of this week. Please keep their family and friends in your prayers. No service is planned at this time.

Please continue to remember **JANNY BARTHEL, CURTIS COENEN, DRIKA DUTHLER, JENNY PENFOLD, DON PROKUDA, ELEANOR PROKUDA, EVANS KOTIO, JANE SHULTZ, CELINE SIGVALDASON, JILL SNEEP** and **EVERT VROON** as you pray for our church community.

Please note of a phone number correction for **CURTIS COENEN** in the Church Directory. The correct phone number is 780-504-3678.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS: The council of Bethel would like to present the following as nominees for the position of Deacon: Jessica Kalf, Helen Krol, Gary Simpson, Jacqueline Prins, Jeff Van Niejenhuis and Ron Van Der Linden. At this point we do not have any nominees for the elder positions.

We as a congregation will vote on Sunday, June 2, to affirm these nominees. If you are not able to attend the worship service that day, you may vote in advance by sending an email to clerk@discoverbethel.com. To vote, you must be a professing member of Bethel Community Church. Following the affirmation vote, we will plan to draw lots as needed the following Sunday, June 9. If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk of Council at clerk@discoverbethel.com.

UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING + BUDGET UPDATE: Governing Elders and the Finance team recently met and agreed on two significant changes for the upcoming congregational meeting.

1. First is to hold our Congregational Meeting not on a Wednesday evening but on a Sunday,

immediately after the worship service. **Our next Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 23, immediately after the worship service.** The worship service will intentionally be planned to be finished much sooner than usual. This will allow time for members to attend a Congregational Meeting who typically are unable to do so.

2. Second, the 2024-2025 total budget amount will be based on the total amounts received in the current (2023-24) fiscal year. Therefore, the budget presented will only be adopted for use if there is a surplus or no deficit in the present fiscal year. Should there be a deficit this year, the upcoming budget will be reduced in line with the deficit. For example, if the 2023-24 budget deficit is 7%, then the 2024-25 budget would be reduced by 7%. The present giving trends do forecast a deficit and if the forecast is accurate, we will reduce the operating budget by as much as \$122,000.

This past week Council met and voted to support the new budget, including how the total amount is to be determined based on this year's giving. As a member, you are encouraged to attend this important meeting on June 23 to also give your vote to the budget. Copies of the budget will be sent next week over email. Physical copies will be available for members at the Welcome Desk starting June 2. If you have questions about this update and forthcoming budget plan, please reach out to the Governing Elders in advance of our congregational meeting. You can send in questions and comments to governingelders@discoverbethel.com. The Governing Elders value hearing from you and engaging in discussion beforehand as we prayerfully prepare for ministry next year at Bethel.

OUR SUMMER INTERN IS HERE: Kaitlyn Verveda is serving as our Children's Ministry Intern. Kaitlyn has attended Bethel her whole life and volunteered at Bethel in the children's ministry for many years. She is in school for her Early Learning & Childcare Diploma and is the Assistant Teacher at WillowWood Christian Preschool. This summer, Kaitlyn is looking forward to, "providing a safe and fun place for children to come and learn more about God and their place in God's story."

NIGHT OF BELONGING: CHANGE OF DATE Through our House of Belonging series, we wanted to express to everyone who is a part of Bethel: You belong here. Join us for an "All-In" family gathering on Monday, **June 3rd, at 6:30 p.m.** for a time filled with faith stories, fellowship, fun and a friendly dessert competition. We are grateful for the family God has made among us, and we're excited for what's next! Click [here](#) to sign up!

FINANCE TEAM UPDATE: Changes are happening with our Finance Committee. Hans Vandenbrink is retiring from his role as Treasurer on the committee. He has held the position of treasurer for Bethel for 12 years. Also, John Oort is retiring from serving on the committee. John is a long tenured leader at Bethel with 24+ years of service, chairing on the Finance team and on the Facilities team. Thank you for your diligent work, Hans and John! We are so grateful for your service and greatly appreciate all you have done for the church. We will plan to formally thank these two men during our next congregational meeting. Two new members have joined the committee; Linda Bird and Lorraine Vacciana, who both work in accounting and finance. We're grateful for their willingness to serve on the Finance team.

NEW BIBLE READING PLAN – MINOR PROPHETS by the Bible Project: Have you been part of Bethel's Bible Reading Plan? This is a great way to try something new or continue your journey through the bible. Starting May 25, join us as we dive into our Summer Bible Project where we will be reading through the Minor Prophets. Try it out and be part of the conversation! Find the plan [here](#). To join the Bethel Group email Pastor Wendy at wendy@discoverbethel.com

BETHEL KIDS AND YOUTH PRAYER CARDS: Parents, last call for photos! 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, please submit a recent photo of your child [here](#), so we can create an updated prayer card for them. We will be distributing the prayer cards after the service on June 2. Email selikke@discoverbethel.com if you have any questions.

BETHEL YOUTH

CATALYST, THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PRAYER: Friday, May 24th, Ashley Patton will join us from Dunamis Ministries to teach us about the Holy Spirit and Prayer. Come and join us for some games and great discussions. We will start at 7:00 p.m. and run until 9:00 p.m. See you there.

PAUL AND PANCAKES: This Sunday, May 26, we are having Paul and Pancakes. Come join us part way

through the service for a time of delicious food and discussion about 1 Corinthians 11! All youth (Grade 7-12) are welcome.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

FINANCIAL UPDATE: As of the end of March, we are 58% through the fiscal year (September 2023 through August 2024). We have collected 49.8% of the budgeted income for the year and have spent 51.1% of the budgeted expenses for the year. This means our expenses are currently higher than our income.

Thank you to Bethel for your faithful and generous giving. Please continue to prayerfully review your monthly giving, for when you give, you are investing in your church and something far greater than yourself: God's kingdom work here at Bethel.

Quarterly Statements: The quarterly statements for March 2024 were emailed May 21, 2024. Please review your statements carefully and report any errors to the church office so they can be corrected. If you have not received your statement, please contact the church office to update your email address.

COLLECTIONS IN MAY

May 5	Ministry Shares
May 12	Canadian Food Grains Bank
May 19	Edmonton Food Bank
May 26	Rehoboth

Please visit our website at [discoverbethel/give](https://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.

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, May 26

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

MONDAY, May 27

7:00 p.m. Prayer – Zoom

TUESDAY, May 28

5:00 p.m. Taekwondo

WEDNESDAY, May 29

6:30 a.m. Prayer - in person and zoom
7:00 p.m. Valleyview AGM
8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, May 30

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

FRIDAY, May 31

7:00 p.m. No Youth

SATURDAY, June 1

COMMUNITY NEWS

REHOBOTH GOLF CLASSIC: is around the corner and we're looking for you! Join on **June 1** at The Ranch Golf & Country Club. Help make this event a putting success! More info or register at [here](#).

ATTENTION ALL GOLFERS, are you interested in a 9-hole scramble? Join fellow golfers from Trinity CRC on **June 8**, with a 3:30 p.m. tee time at the Fort Inn View Golf Course. There will be a steak dinner afterwards. The total cost is \$81. If you are interested, please email Bert Goutbeck at bgoutbeck@gmail.com.

THE PREGNANCY CARE CENTRE is hosting their annual Walk for Hope 2024 on **June 1**. Walk for Hope is a family-friendly community event to celebrate and increase the positive impact the PCC has on our community. Let's STEP IT UP for women and families again this year! Every step you take in the Walk for Hope will help women and families thrive right here in your community. Whether you choose to participate virtually or in person, you'll have the opportunity to share about the important work of supporting those impacted by unexpected pregnancy. Register to Walk by clicking [here](#).

THE TODAY CENTRE: Join us on **Friday, June 7, 2024**, for our 2nd Annual 'Illuminating Hope' Garden Cocktail Party hosted at the incredible Lodge at Snow Valley. Reminding us all of the healing, bravery, and

resiliency of victims-survivors of family violence, our theme of *'Illuminating Hope'* serves to raise awareness about the profound impact services like The Today Centre have on those facing incredibly dark and difficult times. For victims-survivors of family violence, *'Illuminating Hope'* is a reminder that they are not alone in their fear, uncertainty, and trauma. It is a reminder that there is help within their unique situation and experiences, and that at the end of the day, there is hope to hold onto. For more information or tickets click [here](#).

REHOBOTH CAMP NEED YOU! Counsellors are desperately needed to ensure our weeks can run, and Campers with disabilities can enjoy their favourite week. All weeks are still looking for volunteers but R & R week, June 23-28, still requires a minimum of eight volunteers to go ahead. R & R week is for our older Campers that are looking for a relaxing and quieter camp experience – this week is perfectly paired with more mature volunteers. Help us make this summer a highlight for so many adults with disabilities! Visit our website for more information [here](#).

SYNOD 2024: As we approach Synod 2024 we are compelled to pray. The Synod 2024 Prayer Team has put together resources for you, your small group, council, and church. They are available at crcna.org/synod/prayer. Thank you in advance for your prayers. We receive this encouragement from scripture in Mark 11:22-24, *"Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours.'" (NLT)* For the call to Synod and Synod Agenda, please click [here](#).

CENTREPOINTE/PONTO CENTRAL (EDMONTON): Many of you have heard about the flooding of the Rio Grande Do Sul in Brazil resulting in 149 confirmed deaths, and many, many, more injured, missing, and displaced. *You can have a glimpse of how catastrophic this event is in this quick [video](#).* This tragedy is also on the hearts and minds of many Brazilians in Canada whose family, friends, and loved ones have been affected including our CRC community. Pastors Carlos and Meire Ramos from Centrepointe are working to mobilize community support (financial gifts and commitments to prayer) to **come alongside relief efforts in Brazil**. Please prayerfully consider how you might participate!

HOPE MISSION "NO CHILD HUNGRY" WALK: Every day across the province we see children and youth coming to school hungry. These kids come to our programs who have had nothing to eat all day, and our staff across Alberta work at not only feeding hungry tummies, but also to help teens stay in school who would have otherwise dropped out to help provide for their younger siblings. Walk with us **June 15th** to raise hope for Albertans struggling with the challenges of rising costs. The "No Child Hungry" Walk will take place in Edmonton, Calgary, Camrose, and Red Deer. You can sign up to walk or donate at this [link](#).

PRISON FELLOWSHIP CANADA – ANGEL TREE CAMPING program connects church communities and individuals with the families of prisoners through a Summer Camp experience. Children have the opportunity to step outside of their home situation and into a camp environment full of adventure and fun. It also provides them with the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ and the difference He can make in their lives. To donate and learn more about this program please visit prisonfellowship.ca.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Associate Pastor of Congregational Life at Maranatha Christian Reformed Church in Edmonton. Are you passionate about discipleship? Do you have a heart for serving a multicultural and multigenerational congregation? Maranatha CRC is seeking to add an Associate Pastor to their ministry team. Must have 2-4 years of ministry-related education and experience (including volunteer work). See our website [here](#) or contact Carolyn at fcwoudstra@shaw.ca for more information and to apply. Applications close June 29, 2024 .

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](#).

CRC COMMUNICATIONS: Call to Synod and Synod Agenda. Click [here](#)