



November 22, 2024

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

This Sunday we finish our sermon series, *Everyday Disciples*, by reflecting on how following Jesus to the very end shapes the present. Among the lessons Jesus teaches his disciples is a parable about sheep and goats, which is about the compassionate lifestyle he commands of his followers and the future judgment. This parable reminds us that we are called to eternal life, formed by Christ's righteousness, what God says is good. We are also to keep the future in mind, waiting for Christ to return. Right now, our lives have a purpose when it comes to sharing Jesus with one another. Although current events can dominate and distract our minds and hearts, we must look up and out to him if we are to follow Jesus to the very end. In this way, the end becomes the now, and the now takes on new meaning for the every day.

The message this Sunday will focus on Matthew 25:31-46, "Discipleship to the Very End."

Following the message, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together. For those attending in-person, we will pass around the elements with plates and baskets. When you receive them, please wait to eat and drink together at the same time. We welcome you to use the time for singing, prayer and reflection. Gluten-free bread is available in the centre dish for those who desire this option. Also, you may leave the disposable cups in the pews to be collected later.

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

- 1) **BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) **MINISTRY SHARES:** This is a cooperative venture of all CRC churches in Canada to send missionaries around the world, start new churches, resource congregations, train pastors and leaders, and use media to spread the gospel. The pooled resources allow the church to do more together than an individual church could do on its own. For more information visit crcna.org/ministryshares

NEXT WEEK – ADEARA

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION: Thank you for joining together to share the transformative love of Jesus around the world! Your church's generosity echoes across 44 countries, equipping your missionaries and ministry leaders to walk alongside new believers and people who are seeking the love of Christ. Through your prayer, care, and gifts, you are helping shine the light of Christ to the ends of the earth. Mission work unites us—and your belief in God's purpose for the entire Christian Reformed Church is a powerful reminder of the impact we can make when we work as the body of Christ. I hope you know how grateful Resonate is for your church's unwavering support! In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Director

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

CALVIN BRUINSMA had a seizure this past week. Pray for wisdom for his healthcare team and that God would give Calvin peace and comfort as he addresses these health concerns again.

Please continue to remember **CURTIS COENEN, JENNY PENFOLD, ELEANOR PROKUDA, JEAN SAATHOF** and **CHARLIE TSANG** as you pray for our church community.

KATHY JACKSON has a new address and phone number. Please update her contact information: 780.484.4100 #402 - 4480 McCrae Avenue. Kathy is also hoping someone in the north side of Edmonton would assist her with a ride to and from church in the winter months. Please reach contact the church office or call Kathy if you can assist.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS IS COMING: This Sunday (November 24) after worship we will be bringing out our Christmas décor to set up the sanctuary space for Christmas. We would love to have some volunteers to help assemble Christmas Trees.

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR ADVENT: Please join us as we prepare our hearts in the Christmas Season. Click [here](#) to access the reading plan.

BETHEL SENIORS: Please save the date. December 8. John & Grace Vleeming are hosting a Christmas open house and invite you to join for a fun afternoon of games, fellowship, good food, and wine. Details to follow.

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 many 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. First, please forward names of families within our Bethel community or the Bannerman community that would be blessed by receiving a Christmas hamper.
2. Make a financial donation to "Christmas Hampers and Gifts" through all the usual Bethel giving methods.
3. On November 24th, 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 before Sunday, December 15th.

BETHEL COOKBOOK: Looking for a special stocking stuffer or maybe some new recipes to try out this Christmas? We would like to offer our Bethel Cookbook once again. The cost is \$20 and all proceeds will support our partnership with Centro Biblico Familiar El Sembrador church in Hermosillo Mexico. Order your book [here](#) before December 3. They will be available December 8.

ALPHA MARRIAGE COURSE: Alpha - The Marriage Course is a seven-session video course designed to help couples invest in their relationship. Topics include Communication, Resolving Conflict, Forgiveness, and much more! Conversations during the course are between couples and are private. The Marriage Course will run Sundays, starting on January 19, 2025, after the service at 11:30 a.m. We will begin with lunch and the session will follow at 12:00 p.m. and run until 2:00 p.m. at Bethel Community Church. All married couples are welcome! Register before December 30 by clicking [here](#). The cost is \$30/couple. If a lack of childcare or cost is stopping you from signing up, please let us know by emailing Krista at kmilford74@gmail.com

ALPHA MARRIAGE COURSE VOLUNTEERS: Do you have a heart for supporting strong marriages and families? We are looking for a number of volunteers to provide a hearty stew or soup and buns, serving food and cleaning up, for each week that the marriage course will be running. Please sign up [here](#) or email Krista at kmilford74@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: We have a job opening on our Admin. team for an Administrative Assistant. The position is constructed as a job share with our other Administrative Assistant, Tara Kilkenny. If you are interested in more information about the position, visit discoverbethel.com/jobs. Inquiries can be sent to hr@discoverbethel.com

GEMS NEED JARS: The GEMS and Cadets need glass jars for a Christmas craft night they are planning. They are looking for 1 quart size (approx.) with no writing on them. If you have jars you can donate, please bring them to church and leave them in the collection box under the mailboxes. Any questions, please contact Corina and Marjy at gems@discoverbethel.com. Thanks for your support.

WOMEN'S EVENT – A CRAFTY CHRISTMAS: Do you love delicious food and getting your craft on? Join us on Sunday December 1st from 2:30-5:00 P.M. at Bethel Community Church to enjoy tasty appetizers, unwind, get crafty and mingle with the women of Bethel. Each women attending will receive a box with all that you need to paint and put together 3 beautiful layered wooden ornaments made locally in Canada. The cost for this event is \$25. This is a great event to invite a neighbor, friend or family member to join - the more the merrier! Please register [here](#). The registration deadline is November 24th.

BETHLEHEM COMES TO BANNERMAN: A Christmas Dinner Theatre - There will be two showings on Saturday, December 14th (1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m). This is an event for both the Bethel family and our neighbours. Please reserve your tickets as soon as possible (Reserve your tickets by clicking RSVP on this event on our website).

Also, we invite you to get involved. We specifically want to highlight the following areas as places we could use more help:

FOOD DONATIONS/PREPARATION: Food prepared at home and brought to the church for the event.

TABLE HOSTS: Sharing the meal and talking with guests at a table.

CLEAN UP TEAM: after the event (dishes, take down of table/chairs, etc)

DRAMA TEAM: We could use a few good men (and women) to help with the drama team. Don't worry, you don't have to say anything; just help the young volunteers with their cues and positions.

Christie and Jill will be in the back of the sanctuary by the kitchen to answer your questions and help you to sign up for food donations or other roles. If this is something you can assist with or would like more information, please stop by and see them. Sign up online for food donations or to volunteer for other roles [here](#).

MEMBER LOOKING FOR AFFORDABLE RENT: A quiet woman in our congregation is looking to rent (shared accommodations) in a Christian home on the Northeast side of the city. If you are interested in offering her a place to live, please e-mail the office at info@discoverbethel.com.

DEACON REQUEST: We have a family that has recently moved into a home and is looking for some help to furnish it. The furniture items that are needed are a couch, queen bed, double bed, and any kind of bedding with that size of bed (pillow, pillowcases, sheets, blankets). If you have any of these items and are willing to donate, please email info@discoverbethel.com.

BETHEL YOUTH

FINANCIAL UPDATE

E-TRANSFERS: Thank you to all of you who send money for various items through **e-transfers**. These transfers all go to the same recipient, which should be accounting@discoverbethel.com. There are several items for which we receive the same amount of money for payment. To help us share the funds with the correct ministry, **please help us by stating what you are sending it for in the notes section of the transfer**. An example would be sending accounting \$50 for GEMS registration or \$50 for Bethel general operating expenses. If it's not stated that the money is for a specific cause or item, we are assuming that

the funds are meant as a donation to the general fund. Thank you for your care in designating where the funds should be shared.

COLLECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

November 3	Canadian Food Grains Bank
November 10	Benevolence Fund
November 17	Bethel World Mission Vision – Seeds of New Creation
November 24	Ministry Shares

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, November 24

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

MONDAY, November 25

7:00 p.m. Prayer - Zoom

TUESDAY, November 26

5:00 p.m. Dove Taekwondo

7:00 p.m. Cadets

7:00 p.m. Life Groups

WEDNESDAY, November 27

9:30 a.m. Oasis

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

8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, November 28

12:30 p.m. Food Bank

5:00 p.m. Dove Taekwondo

7:00 p.m. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, November 29

SATURDAY, November 30

COMMUNITY NEWS

EMMANUEL HOME'S CHRISTMAS MARKET: is on Saturday, November 23, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm. at Emmanuel Home (13433-57 Street). Bring your family and friends to enjoy a festive time of crafts, Dutch food, silent auction, and great fellowship! If you would like to rent a table to sell your crafts and wares contact Aria at aria@emmanuelhome.ca, 780-822-1274. Join our online auction until November 22 on www.32auctions.com/emmanuelhome2024. If you would like to donate to the silent auction or online auction, please contact us at 780-478-2051. See you there!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE: REHOBOTH CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES: invites you to our annual Pancake Breakfast (served from 9:00 – 11:30 am) and Christmas Craft Sale on Saturday, November 30, 2024 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 3920 - 49 Ave. in Stony Plain. Cost for breakfast; \$6.00/adult & \$4.00/child. Come check out the selection of great stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts made by Rehoboth. Once again, we are pleased to have other vendors join us; call 780-217-1598 for information. We look forward to sharing the festive spirit with you.

GOSPEL-INSPIRED ORGAN CONCERT AT THE WINSPEAR: Alcee Chriss III, winner of the 2017 Bach Prize as well as First Prize in the Canadian International Organ Competition, is an internationally acclaimed organist. The son of a minister, he was raised listening to gospel music, and his interest in the organ started from watching shows like Hour of Power. Mr. Chriss hasn't forgotten his roots, and his current performances are infused with gospel inspirations. His upcoming performance on Sunday, November 24, will feature classic pieces like the Organ Concerto in D Minor by Bach, as well as more contemporary pieces like Improvisation on "Over the Rainbow", by Harold Arlen. For more information and to buy tickets click [here](#).

THE MUSTARD SEED – 9TH ANNUAL FAMILY GIFT CENTRE: We created the Family Gift Centre where low-income families can purchase Christmas gifts at our pop-up toy shop for \$2. We believe no family should have to choose between putting food on the table and giving their children the joy of unwrapping a present on Christmas morning. You can be a part of this incredible event in several ways:

- Donate New Toys: We're looking for new toys for ages 0 – 18 years (toys will need to be collected and delivered by December 3rd)
- Monetary Donations: Your financial support will help us stock the shop with a wide variety of gifts. Sponsorship opportunities available.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Multiple volunteer shifts available.

If you have any questions, please e-mail sarahwhittaker@theseed.ca.

U of A CHAPLAINS' FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS Start this Christmas in reverent reflection and anticipation on Monday, December 2 • 7:30 PM. Join in this festive tradition heralding Advent and Christmas through lessons, anthems and carols! Thrill to the music of the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus and Handbell Ringers. Sing Christmas carols and hear scripture readings alongside hundreds of others - a wholesome night out, a genuine highlight. Tickets are \$25 (plus some admin fees) and can be purchased online from Winspear or by calling the Box Office at 780.428.1414.

EDMONTON NATIVE HEALING CENTRE: Tan'si Folks, a quick invitation to join the board and staff of Edmonton Native Healing Centre on December 3rd, 2024, at 7pm for our Annual General meeting. Come, hear about our Strengthening our Spirit campaign. Our yearly membership is only \$5 and the membership form can be found at www.E-nhc.org along with payment info. Our address is 11813-123 street, T5L 0G7. Thanks Harold Roscher

CO-ORDINATOR FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ABBOTSFIELD RECREATION CENTRE NEEDED: After doing it tirelessly for many years, the current organizer is stepping down. There is an opportunity to shadow this year's planning and dinner to learn how the dinner is currently organized. Please contact Bertram Dost at dostaupro@shaw.ca or 780-475-0970 if you are interested or have questions. If we can't find someone or a group of people willing to continue this great tradition, this may be the last year for this Christmas event. Thank you for your consideration.

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS IN GREECE (March 28 - April 8, 2025): 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.

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS IN TURKEY & THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION (May 27 - June 8, 2025): Visit ancient sites connected with Paul's First, Second, and Third Missionary Journeys as well as the seven churches to whom John wrote the Book of Revelation. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational biblical tour. 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 INTERIM COMMITTEE OF CLASSIS ALBERTA NORTH IS SEEKING NOMINATIONS.

Classis Treasurer – to commence July 1, 2025. The treasurer looks after all the financial matters for Classis and should have a basic understanding of book-keeping. The treasurer serves on the Classis Interim Committee (CIC) which meets about 9 times a year in Edmonton to conduct the affairs of Classis between classis meetings. The treasurer is also an ex officio member of the Student Support Team, which meets 3 times a year. The treasurer will be supported by Mike Vos who will continue to serve as alternate treasurer.

For more information, contact Mike Vos, Classis Treasurer, at classistreasurer@gmail.com.

Alternate Stated Clerk – to commence in March of 2025. That alternate stated clerk fills in for the Stated Clerk when that person is unable to fulfil the duties of that position. Stated clerk duties include preparing the agenda, support documents and minutes for all Classis meetings and meetings of the Classis Interim Committee, as well as looking after all Classis correspondence. The stated clerk also serves on the Classis Interim Committee (CIC) which meets about 9 times a year in Edmonton to conduct the affairs of Classis between classis meetings.

For more information contact Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk, at classisstatedclerk@gmail.com.