

June 2, 2024

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

This Sunday we continue through Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians in our series, *Built Different*.

We don't like to admit it, but we are often tricked by the messages of the world. Make no mistake: the enemy is out to deceive you! The way we guard against all lies and false teaching about them is by firmly standing on biblical truth. We endure through claiming and loving God's truth that Christ has saved us and set us free. Be mindful of conspiracies that don't promote confidence in Christ. Be careful about lies that disrupt our relationship with Jesus. Avoid deception that harms one another.

The message this Sunday will focus on 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, "Truth Over Lies."

OUR OFFERINGS

- 1) **BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) **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.

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS: The council of Bethel would like to present the following 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.

This Sunday, June 2, as a congregation, we will vote 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.

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. The meeting information package including the budget were sent by email on May 30. Physical copies are available for members at the Welcome Desk. 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.

NIGHT OF BELONGING: 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!

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."

CANADA DAY: We are looking for volunteers to help us run a Canada day event on Monday, July 1st from 12-3pm for Bethel and the surrounding community. We will celebrate with games, food, face painting, and more! We need volunteers to help set up/take down, supervise activities, prepare/serve food, and do facepainting. We are also looking for people to provide live music for the event. To sign up to help please register online [here](#) or see Kaitlyn at the end of the service. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Kaitlyn@discoverbethel.com

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 YOUTH

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU: 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.

COLLECTIONS IN JUNE

June 2	Ministry Shares
June 9	Dynamic Youth Ministries - Cadets
June 16	Refugee Fund
June 23	The Pakitinâsowin Reciprocity Fund
June 30	The King's University

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, June 2

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

MONDAY, June 3

6:30 p.m. Night of Belonging

TUESDAY, June 4

WEDNESDAY, June 5

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

8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, June 6

12:30 p.m. Food Bank

7:00 p.m. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, June 7

7:00 p.m. No Youth

SATURDAY, June 8

1:30 p.m. Ify's Baby Shower

COMMUNITY NEWS

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 of 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](#).

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.

EMMANUEL HOME IS HIRING! We are planning to hire a **Site Manager** at Emmanuel Home. This is a new mid-level manager role that we are excited to add to our management team. This addition is needed as we gear up to the transition of having a second site, the Lighthouse, which will open in early spring of 2025. If interested, contact Laura Pothoven by email at lpothoven@emmanuelhome.ca and be sure to check out our website [here](#) for more detailed information.

THE STUDION SCHOOL FOR SPIRITUAL DIRECTION (<https://www.thestudionschool.com>) is now taking applications for their next cohort, beginning October 20, 2024. The Studion is a two-year, part-time program that offers comprehensive training in the skill and art of Christian spiritual direction. Inquiries can be made to thestudionschool@gmail.com or rev.klok@gmail.com to find out more. Fuel for the Heart; Food for the Soul.

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](#).