

February 25, 2024

## THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

This Sunday we continue our sermon series for Lent, **I AM**. Each of the statements Jesus makes about himself in the Gospel of John invite us to follow Christ more fully because of who he is, and not what we would prefer him to be. Next, we look at what it means for Jesus to be the "light of the world." Light in Scripture is a powerful image that draws us into an incredible truth: through Jesus, God exposes darkness and evil out in the world and within us. Not only this, but God shows us how we can embrace the "light of life" in relationship with him. May Christ shine in our hearts this Sunday and show us the way forward.

The message this Sunday will focus on John 8:12-20, "I AM the Light of the World."

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

- 1) **BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) **BETTER TOGETHER LIBERIA:** A not-for-profit organization continuing the good work started by Bethel Community Church building and supporting remote communities in Bettesu, Liberia, through education and healthcare by providing ongoing support to both the Bettesu Elementary School and the Bettesu Health Clinic. In a country with a high population of children and elderly, donations received through Better Together Liberia will spread the love of Christ by raising leaders with integrity and strong values, seeking to break down barriers of distance and cost by making education and healthcare accessible to all families in those remote communities.

**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 go out to **ROZINA PHILLIPS** on the passing of her son. Our love, support and prayers go out to her as she remembers and celebrates his life.

Congratulations to **HANS HUIZINGA** and **LORETTA DELL** on their wedding this week Saturday. They welcome members of the congregation to join them for the ceremony that is happening at 2:00 p.m. here at Bethel. The reception after is for family and invited guests. If you would like to watch the service online, please click [here](#). Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this journey of love and friendship together through marriage.

**MARGARET CAZEMIER** went in for eye surgery on February 9. The recovery is expected to be about 4-6 weeks long. She is also mending from a stress fracture in her foot. We pray that her body heals fully and quickly.

With a heavy heart, we want to share that **MARY VRIEND**, mother to **CALVIN and RICHARD VRIEND**, as well as **ANNE KONING** is now in the eternal arms of Jesus. She was a dear grandmother to **BRAYDEN and CALEB KONING** and many other grandchildren. She was an aunt to **WES VISSER**. She passed away last Saturday, February 10. The family will mourn her loss but are grateful and comforted that her suffering is over, and she is with her Lord. The Celebration of Life was held on Monday, February 19. Please pray for the whole extended family as they grieve this loss.

**DON PROKUDA** has been scheduled for surgery on March 8. Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares for this.

Please continue to remember **CATHY FERCHAU, CURTIS COENEN, MIKE JACKSON, JENNY PENFOLD, ELEANOR PROKUDA, JANE SHULTZ, CELINE SIGVALDASON,** and **JILL SNEEP** as you pray for our church community.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER!**

We're excited to announce that Zach Rayment started this week as our new Director of Youth Ministries during Melanie's upcoming maternity leave. We're grateful for Zach to join the team at Bethel and cannot wait for you to meet him!

Zach graduated from Prairie College, earning his Bachelor of Theology degree. He is passionate about the word of God and is always down to discuss the beautiful complexity of faith and how it impacts our lives. In his free time, he also loves sports, board games, baking, and the occasional hike through the mountains!

We'll be introducing Zach on Sunday. Let's make sure to give him a warm Bethel welcome!

**NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS:** With the start of a new year, it's a good time to think about Bethel's mission. A key factor in fulfilling that mission relies on the many different people who serve in our church. Within that group are the church leaders (Elders and Deacons). Each year, a number of these leaders finish their terms and need to be replaced. That is where you come in. We need you to prayerfully consider who you think would make good, Christ-centered leaders for these different roles. To nominate someone, please send us an email with their name to [clerk@discoverbethel.com](mailto:clerk@discoverbethel.com). The individual you nominate must be a professing member of Bethel. To see our current list of elders and deacons visit our leadership page [here](#).

**\*Please send all nomination submissions by February 29, 2024.**

**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? 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 for these sessions are Tuesdays February 27 & March 12 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. To sign up please message [lisa@discoverbethel.com](mailto:lisa@discoverbethel.com)

**FAMILY WORSHIP CAMP:** Join us for our monthly Family Worship Camp series and learn how to equip your child to live a life of worship. Family Worship Camp aims to help families understand the different ways people connect with God, giving practical tools to help kids and teens engage in worship at church and home. Parents and their kids ages 4-18 (nursery care provided for ages 0-3) are invited to join us once a month after Sunday worship to have lunch and learn more about how you can engage in worship. There are four sessions – sign up for all or just the sessions you can make. Our next session will be **Sunday, March 10** from 11:45-1:30. For more information and to sign up, click [here](#).

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY STARTING!** On Wednesday, February 21, we started a Bible study on the book of James, it is not too late to join. We meet at the church at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and are guided by a study plan from Francis Chan. There will be handouts available at each session that are no cost to you! Just come ready to listen and share as we journey together through the book of James. Register at [discoverbethel.com/events](https://discoverbethel.com/events).

**A DEACON NEED:** A family in our congregation is urgently seeking a 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom (or a larger 2 bedroom to accommodate a crib and adult bed along with 2 bathrooms) on or before April 1st. If you know of a rental unit that is available, please contact Doug (Deacon contact) at 587-785-3131. Any information or assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**TODAY DEVOTIONALS FOR MARCH AND APRIL** are available now. Find them in the literature rack or at the Membership Desk.

## **BETHEL YOUTH**

**FAMILY FEUD NIGHT:** We've surveyed 50+ people and the top answers are on the board! Youth in Grade 7-12, it's your turn to find out what the survey says with your team of five on Friday, February 23, between 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Make up your own team of five or join a team when you arrive and get ready for the ultimate showdown!

**BETHEL COOKBOOK – RECIPES NEEDED:** Some of you may have a copy of the first "Bethel Community Church Cookbook" compiled in 2006. Our youth missions' team has determined we are past due for an updated version, and we need your support! Share your family favourite recipes with others in Bethel and be part of our second edition of Bethel's Community Cookbook. Send recipes to Pastor Melanie at [melanie@discoverbethel.com](mailto:melanie@discoverbethel.com) before **February 29**.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

As of the end of January, we are 41.7% through the fiscal year (September 2023 through August 2024). We have collected 36.6% of the budgeted income for the year, and have spent 37.3% of the budgeted expenses for the year. This means that currently our expenses are slightly higher than our income.

The 2023 Tax Receipts were sent out by email or mail on February 16, 2024. If you have not received your statement or have any questions, please contact the church office.

### **COLLECTIONS IN FEBRUARY**

February 7	Ministry Shares
February 11	Resonate Global Missions
February 18	Reframe Ministries
February 25	Better Together Liberia

Please visit our website at [discoverbethel.com/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](mailto:accounting@discoverbethel.com).

**FROM MINISTRY SHARES:** 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](https://crcna.org/ministryshares).

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**EDMONTON CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL PRODUCTION:** Step into a world of uproarious laughter and timeless comedic charm with Brandon Thomas's classic farce, 'Charley's Aunt.' Join Charley and his friend Jack as they embark on a hilariously tangled adventure, attempting to secure a chaperone for their romantic pursuits. When a fortuitous twist leads to the unexpected arrival of Charley's wealthy and eccentric Brazilian aunt, chaos ensues, and the stage is set for a riotous comedy of mistaken identities, romantic entanglements, and side-splitting antics.

Shows will be on February 22, 23, & 24 at 7:00 p.m. at La Cite Francophone Theatre - 8627 rue Marie Anne Gaboury (91 St). For tickets, please contact the school office at 780-408-7945. Adults are \$20 / Students and Seniors \$15. Tickets will also be available at the door, subject to availability.

**CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIPS SERVICES - WINTER CONVERSATION SERIES:** Have you ever considered who would make a suitable Executor or Power of Attorney? Learn about the options you have and possible implications of your decisions on your estate, and more. Christian Stewardship Services is hosting a complimentary open Q&A session about this topic. Find out more about the Winter Conversation Series and register [here](#). For more information, contact: [info@csservices.ca](mailto:info@csservices.ca).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2024 SUMMER WILDFIRE EFFORTS:** The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services are looking for volunteers who can thrive in disaster conditions, handle long hours, be ready for deployments with potentially short notice, and especially those with cooking experience. For more information and to find out the online training times please e-mail [craig.broadhurst@salvationarmy.ca](mailto:craig.broadhurst@salvationarmy.ca).

**FAMILY FRIENDLY SOCCER:** Are you looking for a fun organized soccer league? Games and practices are scheduled for Wednesdays & Saturdays in May & June at McLeod Community League. Registration is **online only** on March 1 at 7 p.m. We fill up quickly so don't wait! Accepting children born 2006-2018. Cost is \$45. Questions? Diana VanderWekken at [edmontonFFSL@gmail.com](mailto:edmontonFFSL@gmail.com). If you are willing to coach or for more information visit our new [website](#).

**ADULTS FAMILY FRIENDLY CO-ED LEAGUE:** There is an adult version of fun, friendly, organized soccer this Spring. Games will be on Tuesdays & Thursdays in May & June in fields throughout Northeast Edmonton. The cost is only \$40. Registration begins on March 1st at 5 p.m., to register click [here](#).

**MAKE TAX TIME PAY:** This is a free tax clinic that is happening on March 2 at 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 1142 Hermitage Rd. It is for low-moderate income individuals to get your taxes done for free.

**REMBRANDT'S JESUS: REFLECTION FOR LENT** - In our walk of life and faith, the timeless art of Rembrandt invites us to explore the light of God as it shines in our dark places. Join art historian and pastor, Tony Maan, author of Rembrandt's Jesus: Meditations on the Life of Christ for an evening of Lenten reflections and renewal as we journey with Jesus through the eyes of the Dutch master. Come Thursday, March 14, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at The Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert. Early registration is \$20. Register at [here](#) or call 780-459-5511.

**EMERGING ADULT EVENT:** On Friday March 22nd, there will be an Emerging Adult event in Edmonton. This is a gathering for those who are aged 18-30ish, (single or married) who desire a place of worship, prayer, and authentic community. Attendees will be invited to dive into relevant, deep conversations about what it means to be communities of faith who love Jesus Christ and want to live for him. The location of this event will be at the River Community Church 2101 Millbourne Rd W, Northwest, Edmonton. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. For more information, please contact Ron deVries at [rondevries@crcna.org](mailto:rondevries@crcna.org) or 780-619-6566.

**DUNAMIS FELLOWSHIP CANADA:** Igniting Revival in the Power of the Holy Spirit - Come join us April 10-13 at the Providence Renewal Centre for this event which aims to equip individuals and small teams to cooperate with Jesus to see outpourings of the Holy Spirit, which could lead to revival and the Next Great Awakening. For tickets click [here](#).

**INTERMISSION SILENT RETREAT:** Getting tired of Netflix? Maybe it's time for something different. InterMission Silent Retreat is coming up May 31-June 2 at King's Fold Retreat Centre west of Cochrane, a lovely and cozy retreat house on the ridge of the Ghost River overlooking the Rockies. Two nights accommodation, 4 meals, 2-3 spiritual direction sessions, silence, rest, peace, quiet, spirit, soul. Single private room. "Be still and know that I am God." Registration is \$500/person. Contact [rev.klok@gmail.com](mailto:rev.klok@gmail.com) to register.

**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, February 25**

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

### **MONDAY, February 26**

6:00 p.m. Prayer – Zoom

### **TUESDAY, February 27**

5:00 p.m. Taekwondo

7:00 p.m. Emotionally Healthy Relationships

7:00 p.m. Personal Financial Management

7:00 p.m. Adult BandCamp

7:00 p.m. GEMS

### **WEDNESDAY, February 28**

9:30 a.m. Oasis

7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study

8:00 p.m. AA

### **THURSDAY, February 29**

12:30 p.m. Food Bank

5:00 p.m. Taekwondo

7:00 p.m. Worship Practice

### **FRIDAY, March 1**

### **SATURDAY, March 2**