



November 8, 2024

## THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

This Sunday we continue our sermon series, *Everyday Disciples*, by exploring the parable of the Sower. Many have heard the story of seed being strewn on the path, in rocky places, among thorns, and on good soil. These are descriptions of our faith lives. Which one do you identify with? How do we become seeds that are planted in good soil?

The message this Sunday will focus on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 "Planted to Grow."

**BETHEL STAFF UPDATE:** Over the past few years, we have been blessed to have Laurie Veenstra serve on our staff team as an Administrative Assistant. She will be transitioning to a new job in mid-November. This week was her last week in the office. If you would like, please reach out and express your appreciation for her. We are excited for this new opportunity ahead of Laurie. That said, we will miss the joy and enthusiasm she brought to the office, as well as her dedication and commitment to serving Bethel in this role.

This also means that 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](https://discoverbethel.com/jobs). Inquiries can be sent to [hr@discoverbethel.com](mailto:hr@discoverbethel.com)

## OUR OFFERINGS

- 1) **BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) **BENEVOLENCE FUND** is administered by the deacons, who work in collaboration with staff, elders, and trusted ministry partners, to help to provide food or financial resources for those in need in our congregation and community. Please contact a deacon if you or someone you know requires assistance.  
**NEXT WEEK – BETHEL WORLD MISSION VISION – SEEDS OF NEW CREATION** provides resources, training, and connections for a wide variety of churches and smaller ministries throughout the country of El Salvador. Seeds of New Creation assists local families to grow their own food in a sustainable way. They help people to see the Holy Spirit's call to live out God's mission in every aspect of their lives! It is a project through Resonate Global Mission.

For more information visit [resonateglobalmission.org/](https://resonateglobalmission.org/)

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

**RANDY SNEEP** sends thanks for your prayers, visits, phone calls and messages. Your encouragement has been welcome as he recovers.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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](mailto:gems@discoverbethel.com). Thanks for your support.

**IT'S BIG COOK TIME!** Fun, fellowship, and food prep. What more could you ask for? On Saturday, October 16, join us at 1:00 p.m. to help us refill the meals ministry freezer! Come ready to cut, boil, bake, fry, and portion as we put together these meals to be used at later dates! If this is for you, bring your best knives, measuring cups, and attitude.

**MEN'S MINISTRY:** The next breakfast gathering will be next Saturday, November 16. Register [here](#). In between these gatherings, we're organizing conversation groups, discussing a book, [Fighting Shadows](#) (by Jon Tyson and Jefferson Bethke). If you'd like to read with you us, you can purchase your own copy [here](#). If you'd like to join a conversation group, email Pastor Cris ([cris@discoverbethel.com](mailto:cris@discoverbethel.com)).

**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** will have two showings on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 & 5:00 p.m. We would like to invite you to get involved. Please click [here](#) to see how you can get involved or see the bulletin board across from the mailboxes to sign-up: be part of the drama team, hospitality team, food prep and kitchen teams, or set-up/clean-up teams. We look forward to joyfully serving the community together!

**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](mailto: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](mailto:info@discoverbethel.com).

## **BETHEL YOUTH**

**PAUL & PANCAKES CONTINUES!** Next meeting is Sunday, November 17 during the service.

**BETHEL YOUTH RETREAT:** a youth opportunity we have coming up is a youth retreat at [Camp Nakamun](#). This will be a gathering of several CRC youth groups similar to what we partnered with last year, which included over 100 students. The retreat will run from **Friday, November 29 to Sunday, December 1, 2024** for youth in Grades 7-12. The **cost per person is \$110** (plus processing fee) and includes lodging, meals, snacks, and session materials.

The theme for our 2024 retreat is **TRUST**. Trust is a necessary building block of healthy communities. It's what makes teenagers feel like they belong in your ministry. Research shows that trust is also critical for forming the Christlike character in teenagers that fosters long-term faith. This 4-session retreat hosted from Friday night until Sunday afternoon explores biblical stories about Jesus and Peter as your youth grow to understand that God is trustworthy and sticks with us even when we struggle to trust. During this retreat, we will play together, make something together, have fun together, and explore Scripture together in ways that will create conversation, lasting memories, and bonds between those in your youth group.

If this is something your youth would be interested in, sign up [HERE](#) for the link to the registration form.

## **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](mailto: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 purpose, **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 10

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

### MONDAY, November 11

7:00 p.m. Prayer - Zoom

6:45 p.m. Full Council Meeting

### TUESDAY, November 12

5:00 p.m. Dove Taekwondo

7:00 p.m. Cadets

7:00 p.m. Life Groups

### WEDNESDAY, November 13

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

8:00 p.m. AA

### THURSDAY, November 14

12:30 p.m. Food Bank

5:00 p.m. Dove Taekwondo

7:00 p.m. Worship Practice

### FRIDAY, November 15

### SATURDAY, November 16

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

1:00 p.m. Big Cook

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**TAKE MY HEART - A FUN RAISER FOR REHOBOTH CAMP:** The Joyful Noise Choir will host Choral Coffeehouse at West End on Saturday, November 16 at 6:30 pm. Join us for a fun evening of beverages, desserts and the opportunity to hear and join in singing the Choir's 2024 worship music. This is a ticket event (\$12/adult \$10/14 and under) and available through Rehoboth Christian Ministries until Thursday Nov. 14. For more information see: <https://www.rcmflourish.ca/events/browse/take-heart-50/>

**DUNAMIS ESSENTIALS:** This is an abridged version of each of the 6 Dunamis Projects, taken over 3 years, where we teach the content in a condensed time frame, either on-line or in-person. You will get to experience live teaching, small groups and worship together. Our goal is to make the Dunamis teachings more accessible to more people. Dunamis Essentials #1, **Gateways to Empowered Ministry**, is a core teaching on the person and works of the Holy Spirit, from a Biblical and reformed theological framework. This event as an in-person session, November 21-23, 2024, at the Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton. Registration deadline is November 8. Click [here](#) for more information or to register.

**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](mailto:aria@emmanuelhome.ca), 780-822-1274. Join our online auction from November 18 – 22 on [www.32auctions.com/emmanuelhome2024](http://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!

**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 – 9<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto: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.

**COORDINATOR 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 [dostautopr@shaw.ca](mailto:dostautopr@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.

**PREGNANCY CARE CENTRE** Are you or someone you know looking to make a meaningful impact while growing professionally in a Christ-centered environment? We have exciting news—the Pregnancy Care Centre is expanding, and we're looking for passionate individuals to join our mission! We currently have openings for Client Services Director, a Community Education Coordinator, a Receptionist and 2 Board Members. Please visit <https://www.pregnancycarecentre.ca/hiring/>.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).

**CLASSIS ALBERTA NORTH UPDATE:** Classis Alberta North is the regional assembly of all the Christian Reformed Churches from Red Deer in the south to Fairview and Fort McMurray in the north. On October 18 & 19, the Classis met in Lacombe, with the Wolf Creek Community Church serving as generous hosts.

This was a difficult meeting in which we faced the varied responses to the directives of Synod in matters relating to the Human Sexuality Report. The delegates spent considerable time in a conversation of disclosure, giving each other the opportunity to share how the decisions of Synod are affecting the life of the congregations, hearing our joys and griefs as brothers and sisters, now and as we move forward.

Classis was saddened by the release from Ministry in the Christian Reformed Church of two of our pastors, Peter Rockhold of New Life Fellowship in Red Deer, and Chad Vandervalk of Woody Nook in Lacombe. The delegates also grieved the dissolution of the Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference which has in the past been a wonderful resource to our deacons.

Of course, there were also celebrations. The delegates were reminded of the important work of the Student Support Committee which provides grants and encouragement to persons studying for ministry in the churches. Our Home Missions Committee energized the delegates with their vision for church planting.

Pastor Ken Vis and four young adult leaders from various CRCs led in a discussion about ministry to young adults. This past spring they launched a website, [www.TheLinkCommunity.ca](http://www.TheLinkCommunity.ca), with the hope that this can be a tool that is used Classis-wide for young adults to connect what is going on in our churches.

This is just a quick summary. Please talk to your congregation's delegates to Classis for more information.

Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk of Classis