



December 3, 2023

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

THIS SUNDAY: We will be worshipping together through one service in person and over live stream at 10:00 a.m. To join us online, go to Bethel's home page and click on the button that says: [Worship Online with Us](#).

This Sunday we begin the season of advent with a new sermon series, *Behold and Become: Unto us a Child is Born*, through which we'll reflect on, as Sally Lloyd-Jones puts it, "the story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them." God's rescue begins with the birth of Christ and ultimately resolves with his return. Look anywhere in the world today and you will see how far broken our world truly is—the earth cries out in pain as a result of sin. Yet God does not leave us in brokenness, He gives us hope through his birth – the promise that all suffering will come an end. We look back where this brokenness began so that we can behold Christ and become the people God created us to be. Let us join together in our longing for Jesus to come.

The message this Sunday will focus on Genesis 3, "From Brokenness to Birth."

Advent at Bethel - Walk with us through the journey of advent (Daily readings, question of the day, candle lighting guides and more). For details and resources, visit www.discoverbethel.com/advent

OUR OFFERINGS ON SUNDAY

- 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 – BETHEL WORLD MISSION VISION – Seeds of New Creation: Resonate Global Mission missionaries, Back to God Hour Ministries International and several local ministries have rallied together and created Seeds of New Creation. As a community of service and a transformational network, Seeds of New Creation yearns to see churches, ministries, and communities in El Salvador transformed by the Gospel, showing evidence of love, justice, peace, and hope. The team shares a Ministry House and works together to strengthen the mission of the church through training and collaborative efforts that serve the local Christian Reformed Church (ICRES) and hundreds of leaders of different denominations, impacting regions throughout the country.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember **CALVIN BRUINSMA, CURTIS COENEN, MARCEL CROCKER, MIKE JACKSON, PAULINE LENDEIN, JENNY PENFOLD, DON & ELEANOR PROKUDA, JANE SHULTZ, CELINE SIGVALDASON, and JILL SNEEP**, as you pray for our church community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREATER EDMONTON CHURCH DIRECTORY: It is time to update the CRC of Greater Edmonton Church Directory. This will be the last Sunday that there are tables in the back of the sanctuary with directory information. Please check that the spelling of your names is correct and confirm your address and contact information. We are requesting email addresses so that we can update Bethel's own records. These will not be printed in the directory. We also ask that as you update your information, you indicate whether or not you give permission to have it printed in the directory. If you don't see your name, please add it to the list and we will ensure it is included.

OFFICE HOURS: Starting next week, our official office hours will be changing. The new office hours will be Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. On regular weekdays the building will continue be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FROM THE LIBRARY: Just a reminder to come browse in our library for some great books.

- Books by Joel C. Rosenberg -The Persian Gamble, The Kremlin Conspiracy, The Libyan Diversion as well as several of his former books.
- The book 'Jesus and John Wayne' by Kristin Kobes Du Mez explores how white evangelicals have influenced politics and culture.
- Autobiographies on the lives of Beth Moore, Yosely Pereira and Phillip Yancey.
- Two books on Indigenous Culture which explain what it means to be Aboriginal and Christian.
- Beautiful picture books for the younger readers including a book by Christy Thomas called Quinn Says Goodbye
- The first three books of The Secret of the Hidden Scrolls series as well as the humorous book called Average Boy's Above-Average Year.
- An interesting easy-to-read picture book about the life of John Calvin.

Recently donated new fiction books include Break of Day by Colleen Coble, Double Indemnity by Robert Whitlow, Blind Trust by Natalie Walters, Cold Pursuit by Nancy Mehl, Second Time Around by Melody Carlson and Countdown by Lynette Eason.

Also check out our selection of Christmas books for young and old.

ADVENT CANDLE SETS: For those who have ordered Advent Candle Sets you can find them at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday following the service for pick up.

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 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 December 3, 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 17th.

Please contact Marjean at mgv.eirene@gmail.com if you have any questions or need more information. Thank you for blessing the Bannerman community!

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR IS BACK! Join us at our next practice on December 7 at 6:00-7:30 p.m. as we prepare for our Christmas Eve Service. To sign up for our choir or to receive further information please email lisa@discoverbethel.com.

CHRISTMAS PARTY IN BANNERMAN: Save the date and join the party planning! On December 9th, from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. we will gather to celebrate with our neighbours at the church. We would love to see you at this year's party – having fun and serving the community. Please sign up [here](#). We will have flyers printed and organized into routes at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday that can be picked up and delivered around the neighborhood. Please help us get the word out to our community.

POINSETTA AND HOLIDAY GREENERY FUNDRAISER: For those of you who ordered poinsettias and/or holiday greenery from our youth missions fundraiser, your order can be picked up during office hours on December 8, during the Bannerman Christmas Party on December 9, or after the service on December 10. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Melanie at melanie@discoverbethel.com.

YOUTH MUSIC AND MISSIONS: As a result of the great response to band camp, we have decided to continue meeting together. We invite all youth (Grades 7-12) to join us on Tuesday, December 12 (we will continue into the new year) from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For the first hour we will enjoy snacks, games, and devotions and for the second half we break out into two groups – music for those interested in band and worship ministries and missions for those interested in serving the community in a variety of ways. For more information visit discoverbethel.com/youth.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Instead of Sunday morning worship, which is on Christmas Eve this year, we want to emphasize worship at our Christmas evening services at 4 and 6:00 p.m.

A SENIOR'S OPEN HOUSE: Calling all seniors over 65 years of age but young at heart. You are invited to the Vleeming's home for a Christmas open house on December 17. Please save the date, there will be more details to come.

WINTER GEAR COLLECTION: As the weather begins to get colder, there is a need in the local community for winter clothing. Please bring in gently used winter coats, snowpants, boots, and other warm gear. Items should be in wearable condition, clean and without holes. There is a Rubbermaid container under the mailboxes in the Sanctuary where you can place these items.

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? BandCAMP is a 4-session program run by Melanie Salte occurring every second week on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM exploring questions like these and more. 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 we will be running are January 16, January 30, February 13, and February 27. To sign up please message lisa@discoverbethel.com.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Our Mission and Ministry: Thank you for the offerings received in October of approximately \$67,000. As of the end of October our income is approximately \$19,000 less than our expenses. Please continue to pray and discern how God is calling you to commit financially to the mission and vision of Bethel this year. We are trusting in God's provision through the generosity of His people.

Other Giving: The deacons gratefully acknowledge the following receipts for other collections taken in

October: Ministry Shares:	\$	1,665.00
Edmonton Food Bank:	\$	1,790.00
Disability Concerns:	\$	945.00
World Mission Vision:	\$	585.00
World Hunger:	\$	1,320.00
Other Causes:	\$	3,060.00

COLLECTIONS IN DECEMBER:

December 3	Ministry Shares
December 10	Bethel World Mission Vision – Seeds of New Creation
December 17	Adeara
December 25	World Renew
December 31	Days for Gals

Please visit our website at 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

COMMUNITY NEWS

MUSTARD SEED FAMILY GIFT CENTRE: Each year, the Mustard Seed does a pop-up shop for families in need, to provide them with the opportunity to come and purchase gifts for only \$2! It's a great event with lots of opportunities to get involved. We are currently seeking donations (both monetary and of new toys) and volunteers! Posters with more information are posted on the bulletin board. If you have any questions or are interested in partnering with The Mustard Seed this season, visit [Family Gift Centre 2023](#)

WINTER CONVERSATION SERIES & YEAR-END GIVING: Is there a charity close to your heart that you would love to see thrive for years to come? Have you ever considered who would make a suitable Executor or Power of Attorney? Why might someone donate Life Insurance? Christian Stewardship Services is hosting open Q&A sessions about these topics and more throughout the winter to answer all of your questions on charitable giving and estate planning. Find out more about the Winter Conversation series [here](#). While you are planning ahead, why not contact a consultant to maximize your year end giving, or set up an appointment to review your will in the new year? [Schedule an appointment](#) today!

KING'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT: The King's University's Chamber Singers, Cantorum, and Community & Alumni Chorus present their annual Christmas concert, this year titled "Gloria!". Join us on Sunday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church (10025-105 Street). \$20 General, \$15 Senior/Alumni/non-King's Students, \$5 children under 12, King's students are free with valid ID. Tickets are available at the door or by visiting gloria.eventbrite.ca.

ANNUAL U OF A FESTIVAL OF NINE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS is happening at the Winspear Centre Monday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m. Join with the U of A mixed chorus, including handbells and wonderful organists, and sing eternal praise, honour and glory to the only One truly worthy! All Seats: \$30. Call the Winspear Box Office (780) 428-1414 or get your tickets at the door. Proceeds for U of A Campus Food Bank.

QUANDARIES: ALLYSHIP IN AN AGE OF APPROPRIATION: Quandaries, a public lecture and podcast series at The King's University, approaches contemporary moral dilemmas with wisdom in an age where we tend to react or withdraw too quickly. On Tuesday, December 5 from 7:30-8:30 pm at King's, Cheryl Whiskeyjack from the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society will share stories from her travels in Treaty 6 and reflect on how one can demonstrate allyship in an age of appropriation. Visit kingsu.ca/quandaries for more info or to register.

STEVE BELL IN CONCERT: Featuring stories and songs from Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany as well as Steve Bell classics and favourites. Join him Sunday, December 10, 2023, at Sherwood Park Alliance Church (1011 Clover Bar Road). Tickets are \$26.00 and are available [here](#).

PREGNANCY CARE CENTRE IS RECRUITING NEW BOARD MEMBERS: Are you ready to embark on a fulfilling journey that combines your passion for Christian service with meaningful impact? The pregnancy Care Centre invites you to become a part of our dedicated Board of Directors. We are seeking those who want to lend their skills and expertise to help govern effectively. Please click [here](#) for more information.

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, December 3

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

MONDAY, December 4

7:00 p.m. Prayer (Zoom)

TUESDAY, December 5

5:00 p.m. Taekwondo

WEDNESDAY, December 6

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

9:30 a.m. Oasis

6:30 p.m. Young Adults - Offsite

8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, December 7

12:30 p.m. Food Bank

5:00 p.m. Taekwondo

6:00 p.m. Choir & Worship Practice

FRIDAY, December 8

SATURDAY, December 9

6:00 p.m. Christmas Party in Banneman