

May 17, 2020



*The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.*



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[www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca](http://www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

**Today - Sunday, May 17**

10:30 a.m. Worship Service [Livestreamed]

Pastor Peter Erratt

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Church Wide Prayer Meeting [via Zoom]

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### Children's Ministries

Children's Church: activity pages emailed weekly

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#### Wednesdays

##### Junior High & Senior High Youth

- Zoom call at 6:30 PM
- Weekly reading plans & questions
- Google Hangouts group chat for fellowship

Contact Chelsey Hausch for more information

#### Thursdays

##### Women's Encourage Group

9:30 AM via Zoom  
Contact church office or Nancy Erratt for more information

##### Women of BBC Coffee Call

2:00 p.m. via Zoom  
Contact Lisa Rice for details

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#### *Baby Bottle Campaign 2020*

Running from Mother's Day until Father's day, the baby bottle campaign will be hosted virtually. The money raised will go to material necessities and/or access to much needed support and education. To donate, go to [www.pregnancycare.ca](http://www.pregnancycare.ca)

#### **Important Notes!**

1. Since services and events are not being held at the church please contact the church office with any concerns.
2. If you wish to have a CD of the service please contact the church office.
3. Donations may be made online on the church website, [www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca](http://www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca), also by mail, or dropped off at the church office (no cash over \$100 please).

## Question: "How can a church achieve a true, biblical unity?"

Article from [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)

**Answer:** The Bible underscores the importance of "unity" and "oneness." Unity with others is "good" and "pleasant" ([Psm. 133:1](#)). Unity is absolutely essential because the church is the "body of Christ" ([1 Cor. 12:27](#)), and a body cannot be in disunity or disharmony with itself. If disunity occurs, it essentially ceases to be a body and becomes a disjointed group of individuals. Jesus' plan for His church is people unified in the faith.

The secret to unity begins with how we view ourselves within the body and how we view others. The key verse that addresses this is [Phil. 2:3](#): "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." Disunity in a church is most often caused when we act selfishly and consider ourselves better than others. Paul goes on to explain further in the following verse: "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Sadly, churches that experience disunity and are in conflict and turmoil are generally filled with people looking to their own needs, their own desires, and their own ambitions. Such behavior is characteristic of unbelievers, not those with the mind of Christ. Worldliness, not godliness, is the hallmark of the disunited church, as Paul reminded the Corinthians: "For you are yet carnal. For in that there is among you envyings and strife and divisions, are you not carnal, and do you not walk according to men?" ([1 Cor. 3:3](#)).

But Paul tells us that we are to consider others' needs before our own. In all modesty, humility and lowliness of mind, we are to "be completely humble and

gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love" ([Eph. 4:2](#)).

A church filled with such people cannot help but have peace, unity and harmony. The truly humble person sees his own faults in light of the perfections of Christ; he does not seek to see the faults of others, but when he does, he speaks the truth in love and desires their sanctification so they will be built up in the image of Christ. He sees his own heart and the corruption that lies hidden there, along with impure motives and evil ambitions. But he does not seek to notice the errors, defects, and follies of others. He sees the depravity of his own heart and hopes charitably in the goodness of others and believes their hearts are more pure than his.

Most importantly, as Christians, we are to see one another in the light of the cross. Fellow Christians are those for whom Christ died a horrible and painful death so that He might exchange His righteous perfection for their sin ([2 Cor. 5:21](#)). How can we not extend to them the love, compassion, and grace of our heavenly Father? How can we demean, criticize, and defame those covered with the precious blood of Christ? Were we not slaves to sin when He called us, hopelessly lost, dead in our own transgressions and sins ([Eph. 2:1](#))? But we are now slaves of Christ, slaves to righteousness, and as slaves of the Master, the task before us is not to quarrel and demand our needs be met but to reflect His grace and love to those who are also His by His mercy. A church full of such people enjoying their "common salvation" will be a true, biblical church unified in, and earnestly contending for, the "faith once delivered to the saints" ([Jude 1:3](#)).

## Prayer Opportunities

Pray for our Missionaries.  
Refer to your "In the Fold"  
Missionary Prayer Cards

- **Acute Health Needs:**
- **Adult:** Vice Moderator
- **Fellowship Prairies Church:** West Edmonton Baptist, Edmonton, AB

To send a Prayer Request or join the Prayer Line: Phone or email the church office

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## Small Groups Ministry

Coordinator: Martin Scholz

- **Blankestijn** - call: Addie & Diana ([Fridays](#) 6:30 p.m.)
- **Scholz** - call: Martin & Lorna (Two [Sundays](#) per month after the service)
- **Shortt/Reeve** - call: Doug & Joan ([Wednesdays](#) 7:00 p.m.)  
Don & Patricia
- **Smith** - call: Tom & Tina ([Wednesdays](#) 6:30 p.m.)
- **Street** - call: Dave & Laurel

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As a way to serve and shepherd our church family better, the Elders Board would like to invite your prayer requests, comments, and questions to the Elder associated with your last name.

### **Elder Shepherding Groups**

A - B (Richard Klassen); C-D (Pastor Peter Erratt); Du - Han (Addie Blankestijn); Har - Kom (Lyndon Unger); Kow - Me (David Street); Mu - Ree (Tom Smith); Rei - Sm (Don Collier); St - Z (Pastor Dennis Burriss)

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### **Donation Policy**

The spending of funds received by Bethany Baptist Church is confined to Church approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or the specified program or project cannot be reasonably carried out or has not been approved, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued as soon as possible after the year end.