

July 27, 2025



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



Lead Pastor: Peter Erratt - peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Lilian Lara - lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

Interim Church Secretary : Christina Erratt - office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca



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Today - Sunday, July 27

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Coffee

10:30 a.m. Worship Service [Live Streamed]

Peter Erratt

6:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Prayer

Genesis 47:13-31

13 There was no food, however, in the whole region because the famine was severe; both Egypt and Canaan wasted away because of the famine. 14 Joseph collected all the money that was to be found in Egypt and Canaan in payment for the grain they were buying, and he brought it to Pharaoh's palace. 15 When the money of the people of Egypt and Canaan was gone, all Egypt came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? Our money is all gone." 16 "Then bring your livestock," said Joseph. "I will sell you food in exchange for your livestock, since your money is gone." 17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in exchange for their horses, their sheep and goats, their cattle and donkeys. And he brought them through that year with food in exchange for all their livestock. 18 When that year was over, they came to him the following year and said, "We cannot hide from our lord the fact that since our money is gone and our livestock belongs to you, there is nothing left for our lord except our bodies and our land. 19 Why should we perish before your eyes—we and our land as well? Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we with our land will be in bondage to Pharaoh. Give us seed so that we may live and not die, and that the land may not become desolate." 20 So Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh. The Egyptians, one and all, sold their fields, because the famine was too severe for them. The land became Pharaoh's, 21 and Joseph reduced the people to servitude,[a] from one end of Egypt to the other. 22 However, he did not buy the land of the priests, because they received a regular allotment from Pharaoh and had food enough from the allotment Pharaoh gave them. That is why they did not sell their land...

(Read the rest at Biblegateway.com)

Nursery

Available during the service, supervised room downstairs
Unsupervised room at the back of the sanctuary with audio

No Children's Church

Will resume in the fall.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, July 30
Men's Prayer Breakfast
6:30 a.m. at the church

Wednesday, July 30
Youth Group
6:30 - 8p.m. at Kin Canyon

Fellowship Coffee
Every Sunday
Everyone Welcome!
9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.
Need Servers
Sign up list in foyer.
Fellowship Coffee Tasks
Listed and laminated on kitchen counter so anyone will easily know what to do!

Sunday, July 27
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Pastor Peter Erratt
Supervised Nursery
6:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Prayer

August 29 - 31
Bethany Family Camp
Camp Little Red
Register Early!
Sign up list and other info. is in the lower foyer. Payment due at the office before August 22

2025 Family Camp Fees
Family weekend \$320/Day \$200
Single weekend \$200/Day \$105

Psalm 34: 1-8

1. I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2. My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
3. Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!
4. I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
5. Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.
6. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.
7. The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him,
and delivers them.
8. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Prayer Opportunities

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

- **Acute Health Needs:** Lorraine Hort, Gord Rue
- **Ministry:** Planning Center
- **Fellowship Prairies Church:** Westlock Baptist, Westlock AB

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

Life Groups Ministry

If you are interested in leading and/or hosting a Life Group, contact Coordinator:
Martin Scholz - 403-346-8026.

The following groups meet on a variety of different nights and locations.
See link <https://www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca/ministries/life-groupsinfo>.

- **Archibald,** Tim & Michelle
- **Collier,** Don & Jan
- **Erratt,** Pastor Peter & Nancy
- **Scholz,** Martin & Lorna
- **Smith,** Tom & Tina
- **Street,** David & Laurel
- **Unger,** Lyndon & Leah

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 **or email to** elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca.

Elder Shepherding Groups

A-B (Lyndon Unger); C-D (Tim Archibald); E-H (David Street); I-M (Pastor Peter Erratt);
N-R (Tom Smith); S (Cory Leniuk); T-Z (Dennis Burriss)

June General Fund Donations: \$28,051
Monthly General Fund Donation Budget: \$32,830
See Website for Giving Options

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.

What does the Bible say about famine in the Bible?

In many parts of the world today, food supply chains are an afterthought. But, throughout Scripture, famine was not an uncommon occurrence. While the physical causes of the famines varied, the Bible indicates that God is in control, even during times of scarcity. God's desire in bringing famine upon Israel was to gain His people's attention in a sure-fire way—through their stomachs.

Not all famines are a result of God's direct judgment. We live in a world that has been cursed as a result of sin, and the ground does not produce like it did before the fall of man. Genesis 3:17–19 tells us that not only was mankind cursed, but also the entire creation. Through various times of famine, people have been faced with an opportunity to turn to the true God and Creator of everything. Joseph's time in Egypt allowed him to administrate the country through a time of both incredible bounty and severe famine (Genesis 41:25–31). It's clear that God had absolute power over this famine (verse 28), but it's not described as a direct judgment since the famine became severe among many nations (verse 57).

There are many examples of famines that are similar to the one in Joseph's time that are not given as any specific judgment. However, there are plenty of famines that were used as a judgment to display the severity of the people's sin and to bring them to repentance. As Moses was giving the Israelites some final instructions from God, he spoke of the blessings and curses of either obeying or denying the Lord. If they chose to disobey God's commands and follow idols, "then the Lord's anger will burn against you, and he will shut up the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the Lord is giving you" (Deuteronomy 11:17).

During the time of King Ahab, "the famine was severe in Samaria" (1 Kings 18:2). It's no coincidence that Ahab had previously "set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. Ahab also made an Asherah pole" (1 Kings 16:32–33). God had been crystal clear in the law: if Israel served false gods, then there would be famine in the land. Ahab bowed to false gods, and God stopped the rain. The famine during the reign of Ahab and Jezebel should have been no surprise to anyone.

Under the terms of the Old Covenant, people trying to live without God were often awakened to their true need by experiencing famine. Going without sufficient food has a way of getting our attention, as God well knows: "He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD" (Deuteronomy 8:3).

Even worse than a famine of physical food is a famine of spiritual food. Because Israel rejected the prophets, God promised a severe judgment: "'The days are coming,' declares the Sovereign LORD, 'when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD'" (Amos 8:11). How tragic to turn a deaf ear to God and be given just what we want—silence from God!

In His goodness, God sent His Son to earth. Jesus is the Bread of Life "that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world" (John 6:33). Jesus promised us that, through faith in Him, we will never experience spiritual famine again: "Whoever comes to me will never go hungry" (verse 35). So much better than the manna of the Old Testament, Jesus gives life forevermore: "I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever" (verses 48–51). In Christ, there is no spiritual famine; rather, we have a veritable feast of God's goodness. Someday the curse upon the ground will be lifted as well, and the new earth will never see a famine of any kind (Revelation 22:3). *From GotQuestions.org*

Pray for Gordon Russell



Camp Little Red

(December 31, 2024)

Acts 16:9 “And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

What a vision that Paul had! The Gospel needed to get to that part of the world! Go Paul, follow that vision! What of 500 kids this summer coming to camp...how many are needing help! Pray for us as we go to share with them the Gospel. Thanks and thank you for your prayers. We need extra prayer for a situation that is going on right now in our lives. We are ministering to others but almost with a pit in our stomachs. It is heavy to carry but our God is faithful and grants us grace and peace as we serve Him! Camps have been going on for a month now and we go straight through the summer and fall. We are looking forward to what God is going to do! Val planted flowers and the deer came and ate some of them. A garden was planted and only 11 corn came up. The grass burned up from the heat! Grandkids are excellent and a pile of fun! One of them will be an overnight camper this year...how exciting. We are praying about a vehicle

upgrade but are not sure about it yet. A computer was provided for us to replace the aged one we have. Praise the Lord!

Val hopes to go visit her sisters in Manitoba while Gord works at the camp. She will go for a week or so. Julie and Jen are doing well and are encouraging! Joel and Joanie and Walter are looking forward to getting into their new house in the fall. Bobby and Janelle and the boys are busy with so many things. School is almost out....soooooo...bring on the summer!As we slosh down a Pepsi we look forward to seeing God’s hand at work through your prayers and the ongoing work of camp! Thanks for all you do for us. We love you all.

- The Russells