



WELCOME TO BETHANY

# Weekly Bulletin

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

The following Life Groups meet on a variety of different nights and locations. See website for more info  
<https://www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca/ministries/life-groups>

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

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



## SUNDAY OCTOBER 12

**9:00 AM**

**No** Sunday School

**10:30 AM**

Worship service [Live Streamed]  
 Pastor Peter: 1 Corinthians 1:14-17

**6:00 PM**

**No** Sunday evening prayer

### Nursery

Available in the supervised room downstairs or the unsupervised room in the back of the sanctuary with audio

### Children's Church

Ages 4-8

## PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Acute Health Needs: Lorraine Hort, Gord Rue, Stan Collier, Larry Robinson
- Ministry: Seniors Ministry
- Fellowship Prairies Church: Crossfield Baptist Church Crossfield AB

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

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](mailto: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)

### August General Fund Donation

\$27,850

### Monthly Fund Budget

\$32,830

### SEE WEBSITE FOR GIVING OPTIONS

[treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

### 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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

6:30pm Kids' Club & Youth

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Seniors' Ministry  
 9:30am-10:00am coffee hour  
 10:00am-11:00am Group & Bible Study

The Seniors' Group is collecting used eyeglasses to help those in need around the world. Drop them off at the church office or in the donation box during Seniors' Group on Wednesdays.

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 17

9:30am- 11:00am Ladies' Bible Study

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 17

Men's Night 6:30 @ Bethany Baptist bring \$10 for dinner

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 24

6:30-8:30pm Youth Night!

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 25

7:00pm Sing Plus @ Bethany Baptist

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 31

6:30-8:30 PM Halloween food drive  
 Sign up in foyer

### FULL CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE



### Get To Know Us

🌐 [office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

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

☎️ 403-347-7900 or 403-343-0855

📍 3901 44 St. Red Deer, AB T4N 1G7

### Lead Pastor:

Peter Erratt

[peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

### Children's Ministry Coord:

Lilian Lara

[lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

### Interim Secretary:

Christina Erratt

[office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

Warm greetngs!

To justify this letter's "postmonsoon" title, we continue to wait for the rains to subside, but to no avail. Despite having stolen our summer, the monsoon stubbornly refuses to surrender. Concluding that a longer wait would only worsen our inexcusable excuse, we "pen" this note. So, here's the very "short and sweet." Back in the old harness! Tsering, as you may remember, needed to resign from 26 years of ministry in Woodstock due to Tony's health issues. This summer, though, the school invited her back to be the Primary Dorm Parent for Grade 6 entry level girls. Humbly so, this encouraging affirmation of her Christian witness, along with a grateful improvement in Tony's health, convinced us of God's intent for her to resume this viable, valuable ministry. Daily, during the hours that students are in classes, she gets time off. Her roster requires her to be on duty during the morning and evening hours. To allow for this, the school has provided her with an inresidence accommodation. Barring staff and other meetings, she's able to use the day time hours to spend time at our Mussoorie home—which we continue using as a guest facility. On her days off, she visits Rajpur. Woodstock is about equidistance, time wise, from Mussoorie and Rajpur. It's a happy arrangement! Continuing in the old yoke! In the recent while, Tony has decided to base himself in Rajpur, as it is most conducive and beneficial on many fronts. He continues with administrative responsibilities and a personal ministry. Technology has been helpful in changing the approach and expanding one's opportunities. A good portion of his outreach takes place via "visits" over email, WhatsApp, video, and audio calls. Newness notwithstanding, the foundation of witnessing is still very much the tried and tested old way! Gratefully, despite the inevitable olderage personal issues, Jesus' assurance remains, ". . . my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30 KJV), simply to confirm that ". . . when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10). Thank you, fellow yokefellows—for remaining harnessed and yoked (Phil. 4:3 KJV) with us as we plough, seed, water, reap, thresh, gather in harvesting God's fields. We serve in His strength alone!

In interceding for us, request God for:

1. To live a life, have character, a winsomeness, for Truth to be reflected in and through us.
2. Faith, that is evergrowing in faithfulness and hope in God.
3. Sound theology resulting from a disciplined study of the Bible and reading books by Spiritfilled authors.
4. Knowledge, wisdom, and life experiences to teach, preach, counsel, encourage, and bless.
5. Growth in grace, listening, understanding, empathy, sympathy, to make us compassionate.
6. Gospel shared will be undiluted, unapologetic, relevant, contextual, and cultural.
7. Ministry efforts, that may not be easily quantifiable but be of quality and integrity.
8. Health, that may not be perfect but of enough a measure to bring Him honour and glory.
9. Finances, that may not be enough but are sufficient to meet our needs, keep us content and giving.
10. Love for God and our neighbour, whosoever they may be—above all!

The word gospel literally means "good news" and occurs 93 times in the Bible, exclusively in the New Testament. In Greek, it is the word euaggelion, from which we get our English words evangelist, evangel, and evangelical. The gospel is, broadly speaking, the whole of Scripture; more narrowly, the gospel is the good news concerning Christ and the way of salvation.

The key to understanding the gospel is to know why it's good news. To do that, we must start with the bad news. The Old Testament Law was given to Israel during the time of Moses (Deuteronomy 5:1). The Law can be thought of as a measuring stick, and sin is anything that falls short of "perfect" according to that standard. The righteous requirement of the Law is so stringent that no human being could possibly follow it perfectly, in letter or in spirit. Despite our "goodness" or "badness" relative to each other, we are all in the same spiritual boat—we have sinned, and the punishment for sin is death, i.e. separation from God, the source of life (Romans 3:23). In order for us to go to heaven, God's dwelling place and the realm of life and light, sin must be somehow removed or paid for. The Law established the fact that cleansing from sin can only happen through the bloody sacrifice of an innocent life (Hebrews 9:22).

The gospel involves Jesus' death on the cross as the sin offering to fulfill the Law's righteous requirement (Romans 8:3-4; Hebrews 10:5-10). Under the Law, animal sacrifices were offered year after year as a reminder of sin and a symbol of the coming sacrifice of Christ (Hebrews 10:3-4). When Christ offered Himself at Calvary, that symbol became a reality for all who would believe (Hebrews 10:11-18). The work of atonement is finished now, and that's good news. The gospel also involves Jesus' resurrection on the third day. "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification" (Romans 4:25). The fact that Jesus conquered sin and death (sin's penalty) is good news, indeed. The fact that He offers to share that victory with us is the greatest news of all (John 14:19). The elements of the gospel are clearly stated in 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, a key passage concerning the good news of God: "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living." Notice, first, that Paul "received" the gospel and then "passed it on"; this is a divine message, not a man-made invention. Second, the gospel is "of first importance." Everywhere the apostles went, they preached the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Third, the message of the gospel is accompanied by proofs: Christ died for our sins (proved by His burial), and He rose again the third day (proved by the eyewitnesses). Fourth, all this was done "according to the Scriptures"; the theme of the whole Bible is the salvation of mankind through Christ. The Bible is the gospel. "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile" (Romans 1:16). The gospel is a bold message, and we are not ashamed of proclaiming it. It is a powerful message, because it is God's good news. It is a saving message, the only thing that can truly reform the human heart. It is a universal message, for Jews and Gentiles both. And the gospel is received by faith; salvation is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9). The gospel is the good news that God loves the world enough to give His only Son to die for our sin (John 3:16). The gospel is good news because our salvation and eternal life and home in heaven are guaranteed through Christ (John 14:1-4). "He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:3-4). The gospel is good news when we understand that we do not (and cannot) earn our salvation; the work of redemption and justification is complete, having been finished on the cross (John 19:30). Jesus is the propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2). The gospel is the good news that we, who were once enemies of God, have been reconciled by the blood of Christ and adopted into the family of God (Romans 5:10; John 1:12). "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1). The gospel is the good news that "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). To reject the gospel is to embrace the bad news. Condemnation before God is the result of a lack of faith in the Son of God, God's only provision for salvation. "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:17-18). God has given a doomed world good news: the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

**LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS**

1. How can admiration for leaders turn into misplaced loyalty or division, and how do we keep our devotion to Christ?

2. How can we keep unity and focus on Christ instead of personalities, preferences, or traditions in the church?

3. What, if any, practices or traditions can become status symbols, and how do we restore their gospel-centered purpose?

4. How can we appreciate teachers or ministries without replacing local church accountability?

5. How can we keep the gospel central in our ministries rather than letting clever words, programs, or traditions take the spotlight?

6. How do we sometimes alter, reduce or overcomplicate the gospel, and how can we share it clearly and faithfully? Who can you share the gospel with this week?

7.How have you seen the cross transform lives personally or in others, and how does that help you stay humble and gospel-centered?

8. What practical steps can we take this week to build unity in the church by keeping Christ and the cross at the center?