



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

#### SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

**9:00 AM** Sunday School (For both adults & kids)

**10:30 AM** Worship Service [Livestreamed]

Childrens' Church (For ages 4-8, during sermon)

**6:00 PM** Prayer Meeting

Nursery is available in the supervised room downstairs or the unsupervised room in the back of the sanctuary with audio

#### ADVENT THEME SERMON

##### **HOPE**

**Speaker:** Pastor Peter

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

#### OUR ELDER SHEPHERDING GROUP

A-B → Lyndon Unger

N-R → Tom Smith

C-D → Tim Archibald

S → Cory Leniuk

E-H → David Street

T-Z → Dennis Burriss

I-M → Pastor Peter Erratt

Welcome to talk to us: [elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

#### 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

📍 3901 44 St. Red Deer, AB T4N 1G7

##### **Lead Pastor:**

Peter Erratt

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

##### **Church Admin & Children's**

##### **Ministry Coord:**

Lilian Lara

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

#### PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Health Needs: Lorraine Hort, Gord Rue
- Email us your prayer requests or to join the Prayer Line!

#### MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

##### **Christmas Outreach**

Please pray for our Christmas Cantata on Dec. 14. We're inviting family, friends, and neighbors, and we're praying this will be a meaningful outreach opportunity. Our youths will also be helping deliver invitations to the Eastview neighborhood on Dec. 9. May God use us to shine His light in the community.

#### JOIN OUR LIFE GROUP

##### EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON

- Tim & Michelle Archibald

##### EVERY OTHER SUNDAY

- Martin & Lorna Scholz
- Tom & Tina Smith
- Peter & Nancy Erratt

##### EVERY WEDNESDAY

- Don & Jan Collier
- David & Laurel Street

##### EVERY THURSDAY

- Mark & Shannia Guenther

##### EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

- Lyndon & Leah Unger

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 2**  
6:30 pm Kids' Club & Youth Group

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3**  
6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast  
9:30 am Seniors' Ministry

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 5**  
9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study  
6:30 pm Men's Night

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 7**  
Communion Sunday

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 14**  
10:30 am Christmas Cantata

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16**  
6:30 pm Adventure Club Christmas Party

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 19**  
6:30 pm Youth Christmas Party

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 21**  
10:30 am Children's Presentation

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5**  
6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

🔔 When I become bitter or unforgiving toward others, I'm assuming that the sins of others are more serious than my sins against God. The cross transforms my perspective...When we understand how much God has forgiven us, it's not difficult to forgive others.

- C.J. Mahaney, *The Cross-centred Life*

#### October Financial Report

General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$32,829	\$27,372.40

#### OFFERING

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

OR DROP OFF YOUR ENVELOPE AT THE OFFICE

##### **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.

## MISSIONARY UPDATES

## Ric & Darlene Munro

1) Praise the LORD for the marriage seminar. Although we would wish to have couples attending, the reality of Turkiye means many of the men are working twelve to thirteen hours a day and six days a week. For many, it was not possible to take time off. Nevertheless, for those who could, they came. There were thirty at the joint sessions, with ten men. On Saturday evening, there was a men's only session for which we had 16 men. Outside of the sessions, the two Turks from Istanbul, trained in this kind of ministry, held one-on-one sessions with various people. It was good, solid Biblical teaching on relationships. It was a great beginning, but of course, our human problems defy easy solutions - much more work, the work of the Holy Spirit, is needed in their lives. The presenters spoke of returning in the new year for other seminars. Pray for the work of God to bear fruit in their lives, for the scriptural principles to take root in their hearts and lives. Praise the LORD for these Turkish servants who were able to share with the saints.

2) Coming up, Ladies' meeting. On Friday, 14 November, we will have a visiting (Turkish-speaking) lady from Holland here who will share with the ladies. This is a special time of speaking directly to and valuing and empowering ladies. Please pray that the LORD will touch, speak, set free and minister to the ladies.

3) Pray for the believers - we, being humans, create a lot of problems for ourselves. Those growing up in a society with no Biblical foundation, teaching or examples have a whole raft of other problems. They have all lived, lost and survived the earthquakes. So, in addition to the problems before, are now added living with the trauma and problems caused by the earthquakes. Whatever extreme problem you can think of they are here. We are, in Christ, seeking to help and encourage people - it is only the LORD who can set free, deliver, change, heal and make right. Please pray especially for Hamdullah and Elmas, for wisdom, grace, understanding, compassion and the right words and actions as they are confronted with these issues.

4) Praise the LORD for the ongoing Friday evening discipleship course. This is led by believers from Diyarbakir church and conducted over Zoom. The first meetings have been well received. Because the course begins with a systematic overview of the Old Testament (this Friday, the books under consideration are 1 and 2 Samuel), this will help them understand that we believe and accept both the Old and New Testaments and how the Old Testament is the foreshadowing of the completion of God's plan of Salvation in the New Testament. Please pray for those doing the course—for faithfulness, perseverance, and understanding.

5) Praise God for the gas being plumbed in at the church. As of this writing, we are now just waiting for the hookup and meters to be installed. This is great news. There will soon be hot water in the church building - and as the weather cools, there will be heating. This is a great blessing. Praise the LORD.

However, Hamdullah and Elmas are still waiting for the gas to be connected to their house. They still do not have hot water or heat. With every passing day, we are aware that winter is approaching. Please Pray.

6) Praise the LORD - on Saturday, 8 November, a van load of saints from our fellowship is travelling to the city of Adiyaman for the opening of a building for the young church there. Praise the LORD for this amazing provision. Pray for the saints there and for the Turkish leader of the fellowship and for those who, in another city, are committed to helping and supporting the work.

7) We will soon return to the UK (18 November), as our three-month visa is drawing to a close. Whilst we support the work remotely, practical things like preaching, driving, and face-to-face sharing are not possible. Please pray to the LORD of the harvest to meet the practical needs. Jesus Christ, our LORD, is the Head of the Church, loves the church, and it is Him we trust. He is able and, more than that, willing to do more than we can ask, think or imagine.

It is like we just arrived, settled in and began getting to know and be known by the saints. Now our time is coming to an end. God is good. Praise the LORD, even as we come and go, He remains, He is faithful, and He has promised never to leave our side. This is true for us as we travel, and true for the saints who remain here.

Praise the LORD.

## GOT QUESTIONS ARTICLE: What is Advent?

Advent is the season of the year leading up to Christmas. It is observed with various traditions and rituals by Catholics and other liturgical groups such as Lutherans, Anglicans, and Methodists. In recent years, Advent celebrations of one type or another have been added to many evangelical services as well.

The word advent itself means "arrival" or "an appearing or coming into place." Christians often speak of Christ's "first advent" and "second advent"; that is, His first and second comings to earth. His first advent would be the Incarnation—Christmastime.

The Advent season lasts for four Sundays. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, or the nearest Sunday to November 30. Advent ends on Christmas Eve, and then begins the official Christmas season, which includes the "twelve days of Christmas," leading to Epiphany, and continues through the first Sunday after Epiphany. So, Advent is the season of preparation, and Christmas is the season of celebration.

The Eastern Orthodox Church observes Advent, or the Nativity Fast, for 40 days, from November 15 through December 24. In the West, Advent has developed a more festive tone, although many churches also keep a fast and focus on prayer and penitence akin to what takes place during the Lenten season (sometimes, Advent is even called "Little Lent"). Advent is seen as a time to prepare one's heart for Christmas and for the eventual return of Christ (and the judgment He will bring to the world).

Churches that observe Advent usually decorate their sanctuaries in the liturgical color of Advent, purple (or in some cases royal blue). Some churches change the color to rose on the third or fourth Sunday of Advent to signify a greater emphasis on the joy of the season.

One of the most common Advent traditions involves the use of evergreen wreaths, branches, and trees. On the first Sunday of Advent, churches and homes are decorated with green to symbolize the eternal life that Jesus brings. An Advent wreath—an evergreen circle with four colored candles surrounding a white one in the middle—is placed in a prominent spot. The candles are then lighted one at a time, on successive Sundays. The first candle is the candle of "hope" or "expectation." The three remaining candles on the perimeter are given various meanings depending on the church. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, the center white candle is lighted; this is the "Christ Candle," a reminder that Jesus, the Light of the Word, has come.

Advent calendars, used to count down the days till Christmas, are popular in many homes. An Advent calendar contains a number of covered "windows" that are opened, one a day, until Christmas Day. Each open window reveals a picture related to the season or a poem or a Bible verse or a treat of some kind. Many parents find that an Advent calendar is a good way to teach their children the true meaning of Christmas—although there are secular versions of the calendars, too.

Should Christians observe Advent? This is a matter of personal conviction. Here is the biblical principle: "One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord" (Romans 14:5-6).

There is certainly nothing wrong with commemorating Jesus' birth and anticipating His return—such commemoration and anticipation should be an everyday part of our lives. Are Christians required to observe Advent? No. Does observing Advent make one a better Christian or more acceptable to God? No. Can celebrating Advent be a good reminder of what the season is truly all about? Yes, and therein lies its greatest value.

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. When have you felt like you were walking in the dark in life, unsure, overwhelmed, or uncertain about what comes next? What helped you keep moving forward?

---

---

2. As we enter Advent this Christmas, which part of God's character: His hope, peace, joy, or love...do you find yourself needing most right now, and why?

---

---

3. When you hear Isaiah describe people walking in deep darkness, what part of that description feels most relatable to our world today?

---

---

4. Can you remember a time when life felt dark, confusing, or overwhelming, and you were not sure how to move forward? What helped you during that season?

---

---

5. Isaiah says that God increases joy in the same way a harvest brings relief and celebration. What is one area of your life where you are asking God to bring renewal or joy again?

---

---

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

6. Isaiah points to a future hope long before it arrives. How does waiting on God shape your faith when His answers seem slow or unclear?

---

---

7. When you hear the titles Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, which one speaks most deeply to you in this season, and why?

---

---

8. Isaiah says that the increase of Christ's government and peace will never end. How does the idea of an ever-growing and ever-strengthening kingdom shape the way you think about your struggles in the present?

---

---

9. Scripture says that Christ's reign is upheld with justice and righteousness. Where do you long to see that kind of justice in your own life or in the world around you, and how does this promise bring comfort?

---

---