



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
PEACE

Speaker: Pastor Peter
Scripture: Luke 2:12-14

OUR ELDER SHEPHERDING GROUP

- 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

According to the first letter of your last name, feel free to bring any questions or concerns to your assigned elder or email them at elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

GET TO KNOW US

- ✉ office@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
- 🌐 www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca
- ☎ 403-347-7900
- 📍 3901 44 St. Red Deer, AB T4N 1G7

Lead Pastor:
Peter Erratt
peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Church Admin & Children’s
Ministry Coord:
Lilian Lara
lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

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

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Elders

The elders just had their monthly meeting last week. They oversee the overall spiritual health of the church and are involved in various ministries: Dennis in Seniors Ministry; Tom in Life Group; Dave in Youth Ministry, Life Group and counselling; Lyndon as Treasurer and in Life Group; Tim in Kids’ Club, building and grounds, furnishings, and Life Group; Cory in Sunday School and kitchen/events; Peter in teaching, counselling, and Life Group. They likely do even more than this! Besides their ministry work, they also have families! Please pray that they would live out what they teach. Pray for their health—physically in body, relationally with each other, and spiritually with the Lord.

🔔 “One mark of a growing Christian, then, is a growing sense of his or her sin, and an attitude of mourning over it.”
- Jerry Bridges, *The Blessings of Humility*

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

OFFERING

E-TRANSFER: treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

OR DROP OFF YOUR EVELOPE 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

Andrew & Tanja Rokeby

Dear Bethany Baptist,

We pray that this letter finds you walking off all the turkey and stuffing from Thanksgiving. We did not find a turkey this year, but Tanja made authentic pumpkin pies using canned pumpkin brought by visitors from Canada. We delivered slices of pie to our neighbours who were intrigued that we were celebrating Thanksgiving in October and not November.

Ten years ago this fall, we moved to Japan for five months to seek the Lord's leading for our future in missions. We served with church planters at what was then known as Denen Grace Chapel. We were blessed by our host church's kindness, patience, and hospitality. When we returned to Japan for long term service, we extended an offer of assistance to that same church. In April, we started a half-year process of discernment to see if Mizonokuchi Chapel would want to partner again. This month, the leadership team let us know that the church is not yet ready to receive a long-term missionary family. At first, we were disappointed, but we understand that the church is in transition as they search for a Japanese pastor. Please continue to pray for the future of Mizonokuchi Chapel as they shine the light of the gospel in Kawasaki.

November was a busy month for our family with several appointments and meetings. On top of the many hours each week we dedicate to language study, we found ourselves travelling on the weekends. Many of you prayed for our planned visit to Otawara. The congregation and church planters there greeted us warmly and we got to practice our Japanese while learning about life and ministry in rural Japan. Outside of large cities like Tokyo or Osaka, Japan can be a different place with an aging population and more traditional ways of thinking and living. Many have told us that the soil is even rockier and more resistant to the gospel. Nevertheless, the church planting pastor we visited has spent his life steadfastly proclaiming the gospel and has been used by the Lord to plant four churches to date. Please continue to pray for us as we consider this partnership.

We have a full month coming up with meetings and ministry plans. The biggest event will be our second annual neighbourhood Christmas party. Last year, about ten of our neighbours attended and we have invited them again this year. After some brainstorming and talking with others, we decided we could improve the party by making homemade hot apple cider and adding a reading from Luke 2 in Japanese. Please pray with us as we excitedly anticipate loving our neighbours and sharing the story of Christ's birth.

You are welcome to join us for our monthly prayer time. We would love to see you.

- Prayers and Praises:
- 1.Last week, we delivered our Christmas party (December 13) invitations to our neighbours. Please pray that our neighbours will attend and that the Spirit will prepare them to hear from God's Word.
 2. December 1, Andrew will have a meeting with the pastor of a church in Yokohama to discuss joining his church for an internship. Please pray for a fruitful conversation and wisdom to discern whether to pursue this opportunity.
 - 3.Next week, Tanja will have some testing done to discern the cause of a medical issue flagged at her annual checkup. Please pray for wisdom for the doctor to accurately diagnose the issue and prescribe an effective treatment.

In Christ,
Andrew, Tanja, John, Anna, and Peter

GOT QUESTIONS ARTICLE: What does the Bible say about peace?

Peace is something everyone wants, yet few seem to find. What is peace? It can be defined as “tranquility, harmony, or security.” Depending on the situation, it could mean “prosperity” or “well-being.” Various forms of the word peace are found 429 times in the King James Version of the Bible. There are different types of peace, including false peace, inner peace, peace with God, and peace with man.

In the Old Testament, the primary Hebrew word for “peace” is shalom, and it refers to relationships between people ([Genesis 34:21](#)), nations ([1 Kings 5:12](#)), and God with men ([Psalm 85:8](#)). Peace is a desired status in each of these arenas, and shalom is often tied to a covenant or a promise kept. A familiar friend (literally, “friend of my peace” in [Psalm 41:9](#)) is one with whom you would be at ease, a trusted companion. “Peace” was the standard greeting ([1 Samuel 25:6](#)), still used in many cultures today.

Peace is directly related to the actions and attitudes of individuals; but it is ultimately a gift from God ([Isaiah 45:7](#); [Leviticus 26:6](#); [John 14:27](#)). The presence of peace indicates God’s blessing on man’s obedience ([Isaiah 32:17](#); [Malachi 2:5](#)) and faith ([Isaiah 26:3](#)). There is no peace for the wicked ([Isaiah 48:22](#)).

As valuable as peace is, it is not surprising to find that it is sometimes counterfeited. Empty promises of peace can be used to manipulate others. Deceitful men speak words of peace while secretly planning evil ([Obadiah 1:7](#)). The Antichrist will confirm a treaty, producing a temporary peace which he will then abruptly shatter as he reveals his true colors ([Daniel 9:27](#)). False teachers proclaim peace when God is actually proclaiming judgment ([Ezekiel 13:10-16](#)). In Jeremiah’s day, the religious leaders dealt only with the symptoms of the national problems, without addressing the sinful root of the crisis. These false prophets declared everything was well between God and Israel: “Peace, peace,” they said, when there was no real peace ([Jeremiah 6:14](#)).

In the New Testament, the primary Greek word for “peace” is eirene, and it refers to rest and tranquility. A key focus of peace in the New Testament is the advent of Jesus Christ, as announced by the angels in [Luke 2:14](#) (“Peace on earth . . .”). Isaiah had predicted the Messiah would be the Prince of Peace ([Isaiah 9:6](#)), and He is called the Lord of peace in [2 Thessalonians 3:16](#). It is through Christ’s work of justification that we can have peace with God ([Romans 5:1](#)), and that peace will keep our hearts and minds secure ([Philippians 4:7](#)).

God commands us to seek peace ([Psalm 34:14](#); [Matthew 5:9](#)). We should “make every effort to do what leads to peace” ([Romans 14:19](#)). Of course, there will be some people who do not desire peace, but we are still to do our utmost to be at peace with them ([Romans 12:18](#)).

Believers have an obligation to “let the peace of God rule” in their hearts ([Colossians 3:15](#)). This means we have the choice either to trust God’s promises (letting His peace rule) or to rely on ourselves and reject the peace He offers. Jesus gave His disciples peace based on the truth that He has overcome the world ([John 14:27](#); [16:33](#)). Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, so, if we are allowing the Spirit of God to rule in our lives, we will experience His peace ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)). To be spiritually minded brings life and peace, according to [Romans 8:6](#).

The world will continue to have wars and interpersonal conflicts until Jesus comes to establish true, lasting peace (see [Isaiah 11:1-10](#)), but God will give His peace to those who trust Him. Jesus took the chastisement of our peace ([Isaiah 53:5](#)) and has made it possible for us to have peace with God. Once His peace rules in our hearts, we are able to share that peace with others; we become publishers of peace ([Isaiah 52:7](#)) and ministers of reconciliation ([2 Corinthians 5:18](#)).

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. When you think about your own life, where do you really feel the lack of peace...inside yourself, at home, or in the world around you...and how does that make you want the kind of peace only Jesus can give?

2. Advent reminds us that Jesus brings real, lasting peace into a world that is often chaotic. How can you hold on to that peace this season and let it guide the way you respond to stress, conflict, or fear day to day?

3. The Savior comes in humility rather than power. How does this challenge the way we often expect God to act in the world or in our lives? Can you think of a time when God worked in your life in a quiet or unexpected way, instead of the dramatic way you might have wanted or expected?

4. The manger shows that God meets us in ordinary, everyday moments. Where might God be inviting us to notice His work in unexpected or overlooked places today? What small, ordinary part of your daily life could you pay more attention to, looking for where God might be present or at work?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

5. God often interrupts everyday life with His grace and truth. His work does not depend on how ready we are in that moment. Can you think of a time when God unexpectedly showed up in your life, and how did that surprise impact your faith or perspective?

6. What does it look like for you personally to rest in the peace that comes from being reconciled with God through Jesus, especially in the chaos, stress and uncertainty in this world today?

7. How can you intentionally live out and share the peace of Christ in your daily life, even when circumstances are chaotic or uncertain during this Christmas season and beyond? What specific actions, words, or attitudes could you practice this week to reflect Christ's peace to those around you?

8. Who in your life needs to hear the message of Advent this year...the good news of God's peace and reconciliation through Christ...and how might you intentionally share this message with them?
