



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 Christmas Cantata - RUN TO HOPE [Livestreamed]
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
JOY

Speaker: Dennis Burriss
The coming of Christ brings deep, lasting joy

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

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

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

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

SENIORS

Our seniors have had their final group meeting for the year. Please keep them in your prayers—for both their physical and spiritual health. Some are facing serious health challenges. Pray that, even in the realities of aging, they will remember the love of God and continue to live out their faith with perseverance and joy.

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

If you would like to lead a life group, Please contact Martin Scholz or email the office for more details.



"Gratitude is what you feel.
Thanksgiving is what you do."
-Tim Keller

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16

6:30 pm Adventure Club Christmas Party & Caroling
6:30 pm Youth Group

FRIDAY DECEMBER 19

6:30 pm Youth Christmas Party

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21

10:30 am Children's Presentation
12:00 pm Membership Business Meeting

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28

6:00 pm Scholz's Mission Report

YEAR 2026

TUESDAY JANUARY 6

6:30 pm Adventure Club
6:30 pm Youth Group

SATURDAY JANUARY 10

7 pm SingPlus at Bethany

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14

06:30 am Men's Breakfast
09:30 am Seniors' Ministry

SUNDAY JANUARY 18

10:30 am Baptism
12:00 pm Newcomers' Lunch

November Financial Report

General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$32,829	\$28,798.26

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

Kevin & Micaela Miller

Over the past few months we've participated in a course through Fellowship International which focused on the book Walking with the Poor by Bryant Myers. The book considers transformational development and explores how the gospel engages and brings change in all areas of our lives. As part of the course we interviewed friends in Pakistan asking them questions about the Pakistani worldview. It helped spur on our conversations and sparked excitement and dreams of what returning to Pakistan can look like. In focusing on discipleship and engaging in engineering the focus is the same: bringing the good news of Jesus into people's lives. God has given us unique skills and abilities and we're delighted to be able to use them for his glory.

Edmonton Visit
At the end of September and beginning of October we took a trip to Edmonton. Micaela's youngest brother Darien Schroeder married Sarah Clark (now Schroeder) on October 4th. This time in Edmonton allowed Kevin to meet with his validators (Professional Engineer references) from previous jobs to review his application with them and get their feedback. The validator visits were encouraging and each assured Kevin their recommendation to APEGA (the Alberta Engineering governing body) would be that he receive his Professional Engineer designation.

P. Eng. Application
Kevin completed his Professional Engineer designation application. This application was an intensive process that required specific examples of his experience and how they addressed 22 different competencies. In compiling this information Kevin is confident that he has good examples for each competency and good references. The application is awaiting final submissions of one of Kevin's validators prior to APEGA's review.

Conversations with Zor
After applying for his Professional Engineer designation, Kevin reconnected with Zor Engineering. This Pakistani engineering firm provides design support for Christian ministries. EMI and Zor have already worked in partnership and it presents a good opportunity for us to return to Pakistan. Kevin discussed with Zor what partnership could look like and learned some of the history of the organization and their heart for Pakistan. We are excited for this opportunity and praying expectantly for it.

prayer Requests:

- Pray that Kevin's P. Eng. application will be approved by APEGA.
- In October, Pakistan once again was involved in a military conflict, this time with Afghanistan. This conflict currently has a ceasefire as both nations engage in peace talks. Please pray for peace in Pakistan and a lasting end to the conflict.
- Pray for Kevin's coworker Ryan Williams as he joins EMI's Disaster Response team in Jamaica this December. Ryan will be helping assess water and sanitary hygiene conditions in recovery efforts following Hurricane Melissa.

Jim & Kathy Hansen

As you know, Ethnos360 Bible Institute offers a two-year Bible program to prepare people for missionary service. Everyone on staff serves as a volunteer missionary supported by local churches and individuals. That greatly reduces our tuition, so students can complete their Bible training without any school debt (which would hinder them from getting to the mission field).

Our student body this year is one of the largest ever, but for the first time that I can remember, we are short on staff. Four of our kitchen staff need to leave within the next few months because of unrelated matters that are calling them away. Although our students also serve in the kitchen part-time, we need full-time people in order to prepare meals three times a day for upwards of 300 people.
Special prayer request: Please pray with us asking the Lord to provide for our urgent need for volunteer kitchen staff, ideally before the end of 2025.

Also, we thank all of you who have supported us financially. Because of your faithfulness, we have been fully supported for the last number of years. This year, however, our support level has dropped and we need about \$5,000 by the end of the year to get us back to where we should be.
Special prayer request: Please pray that the Lord cover this financial need through one-time donations or through increases in our monthly support.

GOT QUESTIONS ARTICLE: How can I experience joy in my Christian life?

Joy is something we all long for but that often seems difficult to grab hold of. Experiencing joy should be a part of every Christian's life. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, produced by God's work in us, and it is part of God's will for us.
We know that even the most mature of God's people experience periods of joylessness. For instance, Job wished he had never been born (Job 3:11). David prayed to be taken away to a place where he would not have to deal with reality (Psalm 55:6-8). Elijah, even after defeating 450 prophets of Baal with fire called down from heaven (1 Kings 18:16-46), fled into the desert and asked God to take his life (1 Kings 19:3-5). If these men struggled, how can we experience consistent joy in the Christian life?

The first thing is to realize that joy is a gift from God. The root word for joy in the Greek is chara, which is closely related with the Greek charis for "grace." Joy is both a gift of God as well as a response to the gifts of God. Joy comes when we are aware of God's grace and relish His favor.

With this in mind, it's evident that one way to experience joy is to focus on God. Rather than dwelling on our difficulties or those things robbing our contentment, we can dwell on God. This is not to say we should deny our discontent or stuff negative emotions. Following the example of many of the psalmists, we can pour out our hearts to God. We can tell Him bluntly all the things that ail us. But then we submit those things to Him, remember who He is, and are happy in Him. Psalms 3, 13, 18, 43, and 103 are good examples.

The book of Philippians has much to say about joy, even though Paul wrote the epistle from prison. Philippians 4:4-8 gives some guidelines for experiencing joy in the Christian life: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! . . . The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Here we see the importance of praising God, remembering that He is near, praying about our worries, and keeping our minds focused on the good things of God. We can experience joy when we intentionally praise. David wrote that the study of God's Word can bring us joy (Psalm 19:8). We experience joy by communing with God through prayer. And we experience joy by keeping our focus on godly things rather than on difficult circumstances or discontentment.

Jesus also gave some instructions regarding joy. In John 15 He talked about abiding in Him and obeying Him. He said, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:9-11). One of the keys to joy is living in obedience to God.

Another way to experience joy in the Christian life is through community. God gave Elijah rest and then sent a man, Elisha, to help him (1 Kings 19:19-21). We, too, need friends that we can share our hurts and pains with (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). Hebrews 10:19-25 says, "Brothers and sisters . . . let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Because of the grace of God, we know we can approach God confidently in prayer (Hebrews 10:19). We know we are cleansed of our sin (Hebrews 10:22). And we are joined into a new community, a family of believers. With our fellow believers, we hold firm to our faith, trusting in the character of God. We also encourage one another. Christians do not belong to this world (John 17:14-16; Philippians 3:20). We long to be with God, finally restored to our original design. Life can be lonely and discouraging. Others help remind us of truth, carry our burdens with us, and strengthen us to continue on (Galatians 6:10; Colossians 3:12-14).

Joy is meant to be a hallmark of the Christian life. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and a gift of God. We best receive this gift when we focus on the truth of who God is, commune with Him through prayer, and rely on the community of believers He has provided.