



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

No Sunday School until January 11
10:30 AM Worship Service

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

SERMON

“Why We Do What We Do” Series
Tithing

Speaker: Pastor Peter Erratt
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9

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

Adventure Club
We have around 20 kids, ages 5 through Grade 5, coming every Tuesday evening to learn about God. Our time includes songs, Bible teaching, small groups, games, and snacks. Please pray that the truth of God’s Word will bear fruit in the kids’ hearts through the Holy Spirit. Pray also for our leaders, Tim & Michelle, and volunteers: Clarissa, Don, Kim, Laurel, Lynette, Shawna, and Tina. May they enjoy the Kingdom work each week. We also pray for more volunteers, even if they can help just once with teaching, leading games, or bringing snacks.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

See you next year! 😊

YEAR 2026

SUNDAY JANUARY 4
10:30 am Communion

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

SATURDAY JANUARY 10
7:00 pm SingPlus at Bethany

SUNDAY JANUARY 11
9:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am Baby Dedication(Lai Fong)

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

MONDAY JANUARY 19
7:00 PM SLB Meeting

SUNDAY JANUARY 21
6:30 pm Baptism Class
7:30 pm Membership Class

SUNDAY JANUARY 25
10:30 am Baby Dedication(Oceana)

You crown the year
with your bounty;
Your wagon tracks overflow
with abundance.- Psalm 65:11

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

Tony & Tsering Malik

Dear Friends,
Come December, most of the world begins a countdown to the new year, some overlooking the true importance of Christmas— when, in reality, new life begins!
As we count, this Christmas letter is the 46th since beginning full-time ministry in 1979. Some of you reading it have been part of our lives for at least this long. We are humbled by your faithful perseverance in friendship, prayer and support.

Thinking of counting: A famous quote attributed to Albert Einstein is: “Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.” Life’s most important aspects are intangible, numerically immeasurable, while many quantifiable things may lack true significance.
We wish to (re)count just two:
1. Our many, many undeserved blessings. Enumerating them will fill up pages. Each day, each moment has been God’s precious gift—His blessing! (Psalm 103)
2. Our measure of trials. “My brothers, count it all joy...knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh...that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” (James 1: 2-14 KJV)
“So teach us to number [count] our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12 KJV)
Much love and God bless!

Due May 31

Jon & Christina Malpass

It’s funny (while also not funny at the same time). When Christina and I were going to get married, we talked about waiting five years to have children since we wanted to do some travelling together first. One of the places I had always wanted to go and see was Norway, and there were a number of other travels that I was hoping to go on with my wife before starting a family. The thing was, COVID suddenly hit a couple months before our wedding, changing any kind of travel plans for a while, and about a year in, our minds had changed. We wanted children right away. That five-year plan went right out the window. Turns out, though, that we wouldn’t be able to have little ones of our own until five-years down the road anyway! There’s an interesting irony to that, but it doesn’t really show the difficult season of infertility we were walking through. There were points where we wondered if we’d ever be able to have children. That’s what makes this pregnancy all the sweeter. We really feel as though God was working in us such a gratitude to where we would not take this unbelievable blessing for granted.
Another blessing with that is that there was another girl at our church who was also struggling with infertility that Christina connected with very early on. It was something that really helped them bond. However, now she is due with a little one of her own in April, so close to ours! Our little baby’s due date is on May 31 st , so we’ll see if we end up with a May baby or a June baby. I’ve always been one who thought it would be cool to wait until birth to find out the baby’s gender, but Christina is the total opposite of me in that way (she’s the kind of person who tries to get me to reveal my Christmas presents to her ahead of time, haha). Now, I can’t wait to find out either. So on her next ultrasound, which is New Year’s Eve, we’re hoping to finally find out whether we will be having a little boy or a little girl. Please pray for our little baby, that the pregnancy would continue to go well, that our baby would be developing well in the womb, and that the birth in the springtime would go smoothly, without any major complication. We are SO excited to meet our little one face to face!

Health Update
I’m at the point where I don’t need to see the neurologist anymore with my symptoms having improved greatly in the last year and half. My final appointment for the foreseeable future was on September 30 th , and while there hasn’t been a diagnosis, she is pretty sure that what was going on with me was something she called ‘migraine auras.’ These typically occur before a migraine, but I have only maybe ever had one migraine before. The thing is, there is a small percentage of people who have this without ever getting a migraine. It can be something that affects your vision or your speech on occasion, but for myself, it’s a sensory thing where I lose a lot of the feeling in my arms, legs, face, or all of them at once. So that’s the best guess I have to go on right now, but I am thankful again that Multiple Sclerosis has been almost certainly ruled out, as well as neuropathy.

How is Church?
We have been so incredibly blessed to be a part of this congregation over the past year and a half, growing much closer to them over time. Throughout my time in Wasa, Sunday morning was always a highlight of my week, and that certainly has not changed coming to Crossroads. Christina has been teaching Sunday School to the children aged 8 to 12. Just this last Sunday evening, she was the co-leader in organizing the Sunday School Christmas Concert (involving everyone aged 1-17) at our church, which went very well. It was a really good opportunity to present the Gospel to the family members who don’t come to church, but want to see their

grandchildren/nieces/nephews/family in the play or singing Christmas songs.
She’s also been helping with the weekly Girls’ Club that our church runs, while I’ve been helping with the Boys’ Club on the same night. The big change that happened in our church is that we’ve transitioned from helping with the youth group, to starting our own young adults’ group. There’s another couple who has been attending our church for the past year that stepped in to help the couple running youth group, while we have begun hosting the young adults at our home. How we’ve run it so far is that we’ve had the young adults put questions they have about God, the Bible, Christianity, etc. into a box, and then after the study, I’ll pull one out to prepare a Bible Study on for the next week. This keeps the studies relevant to their interests and their concerns. After our study, we also have a time where we’ll play some games together, but I personally like doing the study beforehand just in case the discussion goes long – I’d rather cut into games time than into our time studying the Bible.
Some of the other things that we’ve been doing throughout the year have been a personal evangelism course that we put on over a few weeks in the first half of the year, encouraging and providing strategies and resources to those who came in sharing their faith, as well as our annual ministries such as our soccer outreach in May/June, Vacation Bible School in August, and the Turkey Run on the day before Thanksgiving (a 5k and 10k run that our church hosts where the winners get turkeys. Participants always get a bag with a small snack, a t-shirt, and their bib numbers for the race, but this year we decided to include some tracts as well).
Please pray for our church as we seek to be more evangelistic in our personal lives, and as we put on programs to reach people of all different ages. One of the things our youth group has been working on recently is gathering clothing that they are going to go out and distribute, along with meals, to the homeless in a nearby city.

We Live Near Hamilton
Moving to the specific place we did in Ontario turned out to have another very specific and unique advantage. For a time, Hamilton Airport (a 40-minute drive from our house on small, quiet highways) was the only airport in Canada to have flights with PLAY Airlines. Why is that significant? Well, that airline offered dirt cheap flights to Europe. I remember being amazed at how cheap the flights were, but also a little disappointed that they didn’t travel to Norway. They did, however, fly to Copenhagen, Denmark. In the very last days of February, I decided to look into how much it would be to rent a vehicle in Denmark, and it turned out to also be quite inexpensive. Two days into March, I found out some very interesting news: PLAY Airlines was shutting down their operations in Canada at the end of April. If we were ever going to go to Norway, we had to do it then. That night, and the following morning we fully planned and booked an entire week-and-a-half long road trip around Southern Norway, driving from Copenhagen, through Sweden, into Norway. Afterward, taking a ferry, we’d go back to Denmark and fly home. By the end of the month, we were there. Norway’s weather is some of the most unpredictable there is, especially in late March/early April, and somehow, the week we spent there, we had nothing but sunny days. We were so incredibly thankful that we finally got the opportunity to do what we had dreamed of since we were engaged.

The Greatest Gift of All
Throughout the year, I’ve preached through the books of Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah, Obadiah (yes, that entire book!), and have recently been in 1 Timothy, which is a book that has a lot of difficult passages in it. I initially wanted to go through the Timothy letters because of how they related to being a young church leader, but it’s also been a great challenge to not shy away from the passages that people don’t like to discuss. I want to be real with people about what the Bible teaches. This week, however, I’m shifting to preaching on Christ’s first coming into the world. How God sent us the greatest gift of all to be received by grace through faith, Jesus our Lord, saving us from our sins when we genuinely accept. My specific focus for this sermon is going to be on the 1 John 3:8 verse which says, “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” After that, we’ll have our Christmas Eve service, before going back into 1 Timothy, then taking a bit of a break going through Jonah before heading into 2 Timothy. Please pray for me as I continue to preach, that I would teach the Scriptures well, in love, and according to the truth of the Lord Jesus rather than according to my own agenda. Pray also that, like I’ve mentioned in many newsletters before, I would continue to be a good example according to what Paul tells Timothy, “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). Pray for Christina as well, as she continues to teach Sunday School and Girls’ Club, and seeks to be a godly example in the church. Pray also for us as we prepare to be parents! Thank you so much for all your prayers and support, and I hope you have a Blessed Christmas, reflecting on the birth of our loving Saviour!

What does the Bible say about Christian tithing? Should a Christian tithe?

Many Christians struggle with the issue of tithing. In some churches giving is over-emphasized; in others it is rarely mentioned, and believers may be unaware of the biblical exhortations about the joys of giving. The actual “tithe” is an Old Testament command to Israel, but giving to support the work of ministry, as well as giving to those in need, is generally part of the good stewardship that God expects of each of us.

Tithing is an Old Testament concept. The tithe (or tenth) was a requirement of the law in which the Israelites were to give 10 percent of the crops they grew and the livestock they raised to the tabernacle/temple (Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:26; Deuteronomy 14:24; 2 Chronicles 31:5). The Old Testament law required Israelites to tithe at different times and for various purposes—to support the Levites (Numbers 18:21, 24), to celebrate the feasts (Deuteronomy 14:22–27), and to care for the poor of the land (Deuteronomy 14:28–29). Some understand the Old Testament tithe as a method of taxation to provide for the needs of the priests and Levites.

Jesus Christ fulfilled the Mosaic Law. The shadow of the ceremonial system was completed in Him. The temple was no longer needed for worship. Instead, “the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth” (John 4:23). Collectively, all who put their faith in Christ make up the church, which was instituted after Jesus’ ascension. The church is both global and uniquely expressed in local gatherings of believers.

As part of the Mosaic Law, the tithe ended with the fulfilling of the law. New Testament believers are not mandated to give 10 percent, but we are still called to financially participate in the work of the church and to care for those who spiritually care for us. First Corinthians 9:13–14 explains, “Don’t you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” First Timothy 5:17–18 says, “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, ‘Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,’ and ‘The worker deserves his wages.’” Our giving is also intended to support the work of missions (Philippians 4:10–19) and help those in need (2 Corinthians 8; 1 Timothy 5:3).

The New Testament nowhere designates a percentage of income a person should give. Christians are not obligated to give a 10-percent tithe. But Scripture does encourage believers to regularly set aside money to give “in keeping with income” (1 Corinthians 16:2; cf. 2 Corinthians 8:12). God promises His blessing on the giver: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6–7). Some Christians consider the 10 percent figure from the Old Testament tithe as a “recommended minimum” for their giving.

Although the tithe is not obligatory for the Christian, the New Testament emphasizes the importance and benefits of freewill giving. We are to give as we are able. Sometimes that means giving more than 10 percent; sometimes that may mean giving less. It depends on the ability of the Christian and the needs of the body of Christ. Every Christian should diligently pray and seek God’s wisdom in the matter of giving (see James 1:5). However much we give, we should offer it with pure motives, a cheerful heart, and an attitude of worship.

Bethany Baptist Church

Faith Promise Card

January – December 2026

Name: _____

		MONTHLY AMOUNT	ANNUAL AMOUNT
ORGANIZATION	MISSIONARY		
Action International Ministries	Scholz		
Creation Truth Ministries	Nelson		
Fellowship International	Black		
	Miller		
	Rokeby		
	Webb		
MissionGo	Malik		
MSC Canada	Munro		
SIM Canada	Hansen		
Village Missions	Malpass		
TOTAL			

Do you consent to your contact information being shared with any missionary you support through a Faith Promise?

YES ☐ NO ☐

SIGNATURE _____