



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

10:30 AM Worship Service & Children's Church 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

SERMON

Scripture: 1 Cor. 3:10-15

Speaker: Pastor Daniel Lara

How we build matters

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 Burris

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

Assistant Pastor

Daniel Lara

daniel@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

Women's Ministry

33 ladies attended the ladies' event night. We enjoyed a delicious meal with conversation around the tables as our ladies had an opportunity to get to know each other better. Shay Flyer shared her testimony of how God has guided her and cared for her through her life. Praise God! Then Nancy gave a devotional on hospitality and discipleship. The discussion that followed was very encouraging. Pray for our continued personal growth and growing community.

- Nancy Erratt

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 JANUARY 27

6:30 pm Adventure Club

6:30 pm Youth Group

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28

6:30 am Men's Breakfast

9:30 am Seniors' Ministry

FRIDAY JANUARY 30

9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1

10:30 am Communion

12 pm VBS Volunteer Meeting

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4

9:30 am Presentation of Golden Circle programs and Alberta Seniors Benefits

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5

7 pm Choir Practice Resumes

FEBRUARY 6 - 8

Ministry Leader Retreat (Staff)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7

7 pm SingPlus at Waskasoo

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8

10:30 am Mission Sunday

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15

10:30 am Baptism

"Tears come into my eyes when I think of how little we have changed after baptism, yielding ourselves to sin, going back to the oldness we had before...The youth of grace must not lead to the old age of sin." - John Chrysostom

December Financial Report

General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$32,829	\$79,144

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.

What does “you are God’s building” mean (1 Corinthians 3:9)?

The apostle Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians to a young and growing church that was struggling with division and conflict. Paul, a gifted communicator, used a series of vivid metaphors to teach and encourage unity, including an analogy of agriculture and architecture: “And you are God’s field. You are God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:9, NLT).

One point of contention in the Corinthian church centered on the issue of church leadership. The immature Corinthians were quarreling and divided over their loyalties to human leaders, specifically Paul and Apollos (see 1 Corinthians 3:3–23). Paul reminded them that he and Apollos were merely servants of God. In his metaphor, Paul likened himself and Apollos to farmers, one planting and the other watering, while God made the church community grow in His field and into His building.

Paul explained, “It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God’s workers. And you are God’s field. You are God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:7–9, NLT).

Both Paul and Apollos were serving the same purpose, and neither could accomplish anything apart from God’s Spirit empowering him. As human leaders, they were only instruments in God’s hands. Their roles were not in conflict since they worked together as a united front. Thus, there was no place for competition or divided loyalties over their leadership in the church. God alone deserved recognition for producing a crop of blessings (fruit and growth) in the church. God alone should receive credit as the architect of His building.

When Paul wrote, “You are God’s building,” he was speaking to the collective community of believers in Corinth. He emphasized that the church is not merely a human institution, but a spiritual household constructed and owned by God. The image of a building symbolizes stability, structure, purpose, and the continuing work of God among believers.

Just as a building requires an architect, foundation, and ongoing construction, Paul reminded the Corinthians that God was the ultimate source and designer of their spiritual lives. The church belongs to God; it is not built on personal ambition, rivalry, or human wisdom, but upon God’s plan and power: “Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord . . . where God lives by his Spirit” (Ephesians 2:20–22, NLT).

You are God’s building implies that the church is more than a collection of individual believers. Each member of the community is a living stone “being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5). A little later, Paul asked the Corinthians, “Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16, NLT). The unity and interconnectedness of believers are essential building blocks for the church to grow strong, pleasing to God, and productive for His kingdom.

Paul clarified, “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11). Jesus is the bedrock of the church, the firm foundation upon which the church stands. Christ is also “the head of the body, the church” (Colossians 1:18). He holds all things together (Colossians 1:17). The life and stability of the church depend on Jesus Christ, and not on any human leaders.

You are God’s building informs us as Christians that our spiritual lives and our fellowship in the community of faith are under God’s headship and constant direction. No single leader or member can claim the church as his own. All of us are custodians and participants in the house God is building for His glory. Each believer is called to use his or her gifts to support the strength and holiness of God’s building (see 1 Corinthians 12:4–14; 1 Peter 4:10–11). Bricks and mortar form a solid, cohesive structure; so the church must strive for harmony and resist division among its members.

1) Praise the LORD for the special Christmas celebration held on 28 December. Christmas is a non-event in Turkiye; it is a normal business or school day. Therefore, the first Sunday after the traditional Western Christmas date was chosen for the Church’s celebration. It was a special re-enactment, declaration, explanation and celebration of God Incarnate - Immanuel. Please pray for those for whom this is a strange and foreign thing. Pray they may come to understand and respond to God so “loving the world that He gave His only Son”.

2) Praise the LORD for the special ‘believers Christmas celebration and meal’. For many of the believers, this was their very first Christmas celebration, and so this special ‘family’ time was organised to share this together. So, they had two celebrations, one outward looking to share the Good News and this one, inward looking, rejoicing in what God has done for us. It was a great evening. Please pray for the saints to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God.

3) Please pray for a special ladies' meeting planned for 21 January 2026. A group of Koreans are coming to prepare and present the programme. Please pray that the saints grow and that those not yet in the family of God be drawn to Him.

4) Even before the devastating earthquakes, the power supply in Antakya was subject to failure. Now, as the city is being reborn, it seems the power supply difficulties have multiplied. Some people have been without electricity for over five days. Hamdullah and Elmas were without power for over a day. Suffice it to say, no power meant no heat and no hot water. The church was also without power. These are difficult times for believers and unbelievers alike. Pray for the LORD to sustain and give wisdom to His children.

5) The vagaries of Hatay’s general power supply, upon which the church depends, along with the added complication of Sunday being the ideal candidate for scheduled power cuts, make us recognise the need for an alternative or emergency power supply. After seeking advice in Turkiye, we have been told that the best option is a solar panel array-battery system. We have an abundance of very sunny days in Antakya - even in winter. The historic option, a diesel generator, is a significant investment tied to maintenance and generates very expensive electricity. The counsel we have received says that for basically the same cost, we would have a system which does not have the high maintenance overhead and produces free* electricity. We have had rough estimates of \$30,000 USD for a large enough solar panel array-battery system, roughly the same cost as a diesel generator. Please pray for the LORD’s will to be done.

* free in the sense that we do not consume diesel to make the electricity

6) In addition to all the problems besetting the people of Antakya, on Wednesday, 7 January 2026, someone reported that a suicide bomber was going to attack the University Hospital. This was rightly taken seriously, and a massive security response was undertaken. Thankfully, it appears to have been a hoax, but the psychological effect on everyone is profound. Everyone is struggling with the trauma suffered in the earthquakes, the desperation of trying to live in a destroyed city, general hopelessness looking to the future, and now this. Please pray for the people of Antakya, and especially for the household of faith, that they may know and share the Peace of God in these troubling times.

7) And, as a follow-up to the previous point, we have been told the police are taking this suicide bomb threat seriously and are providing 24/7 protection to the church building for the next ten days. Please pray for the peace of God to be the saints' daily portion... may the saints and the interested and inquiring souls not be put off by the police presence. There are two battles here, safety and psychological - please pray that the Sovereign LORD will have His way in us and in this time.

We know God is good. We know he is Sovereign. He is gracious to us in so many ways. He has promised never to leave us. So we trust and rest and know, though we are far, God is both here and there. He is active, alive, and working in the saints. Praise the LORD.