



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

10:30 AM Worship Service & Children's Church during sermon

No Prayer Meeting

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

SERMON

Scripture:

Speaker: Jonah Braun

Whose Church is this?

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

Young Adults

This year at Bethany, we are excited to introduce a new ministry focus with the arrival of Pastor Daniel. He will be leading a Young Adults group on Sundays at 4:00 PM.

Our prayer is that this ministry will become a Christ-centred community where young adults can hold one another accountable, pursue spiritual growth, find support in overcoming spiritual baggage, and experience a safe place to be vulnerable. Please pray for Pastor Daniel as he leads and prepares for each gathering. Pray for wisdom, strength, and guidance as he shepherds this group. Pray that the young adults will walk through life's struggles together during this critical stage and be transformed in Christ.

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 FEBRUARY 17

6:30 pm Adventure Club

6:30 pm Youth Group

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18

6:30 am Men's Breakfast

9:30 am Seniors' Ministry

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19

7 pm Choir Practice

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6

9:30 am Ladies' Bible Study

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20

6:30 pm Men's Night

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21

2 pm Baby Shower for Zenith

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22

10:30 am Baptism

MONDAY FEBRUARY 23

7 pm SLB Meeting

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27

6:30 pm Ladies' Night

SUNDAY MARCH 1

10:30 am Communion

SUNDAY MARCH 8

10:30 am Baby Dedication (Liam)

**JUST AS SIN NUMBS THE SPIRIT
TO THE THINGS OF GOD, SO
OBEDIENCE OPENS THE SPIRIT
TO GOD'S TRANSFORMING
POWER.**

December Financial Report

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

OFFERING

E-TRANSFER: 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.

1) We have just had the three-year anniversary of the earthquakes that took lives, destroyed the city and traumatised those who survived. God has provided Christian counsellors to help people deal with their trauma. Pray for those doing counselling who work via Zoom from other Turkish cities. Pray also for Elmas, Hamdullah, Fatosh, and others who seek to help people face-to-face. Please pray as we hope to have another counselling conference in March. The last one, in October, was well received. Ali & Pervin will again present the ministry.

2) Praise the LORD for brother Tev, who is actively recording and posting hymns and the message from our church meetings. His daughter is one of those learning to play guitar and often joins in the morning worship if she knows the song. He has skills in this field and is motivated and faithful in both the creation, curation and posting of videos. Please pray for him and his daughter.

3) Praise the LORD for the Friday evening discipleship course. It is intense, weekly and, through the process, by God's grace, profitable. Pray that the initial excitement will endure as the course continues for several more months. Pray for understanding, perseverance, dedication and faithfulness. They are blessed as they work through the study of God's Word, and are doubly blessed if they persevere to the end.

4) With winter comes more and longer electricity cuts in Antakya. One recent Sunday, the electricity was off all day, and the church was cold. We had two rechargeable boom boxes and two acoustic guitars, so we sang hymns using words sent to everyone on WhatsApp, and we had volume for the sermon. But of course, the electric heating, the piano and the drums do not work. We would like to install a solar electric system or a large generator to provide power to the church building. Pray with us that we would know the mind of God and that He would provide the funds needed if this is His Will.

5) Praise the LORD for Saturday mornings, when Fatosh organises a children's activity. They have some games, a Bible story, a craft and a snack.

6) The third anniversary of the earthquake was remembered at the ministry centre. 100-plus ladies came, participated in the hymns, and listened to Banu share from the Word of God. On the day, all were individually prayed for. Another caring believer sent funds, so we were able to give each one a gift package of essential hygiene goods. Keep praying for the around 60 ladies who have not yet received Jesus as Saviour.

7) Praise the LORD, we have tickets to fly to Antakya on 24, arriving on 25 February. Please pray that we will again gain entry to the country. Hundreds of people like us, doing what we do, have been "coded", meaning they are barred from ever entering the country again. We do not fear the authorities and know our God is Sovereign over all. We desire to go back, and it is in His hands alone. Please pray with us as we return to the country on 25 February.

Thank you for your prayer partnership in what God is doing in Antakya. I speak not only for ourselves, but also for Hamdullah and Elmas and all the saints gathered at the Antakya Christian Church. We are all part of God's family, the one universal church and look to Jesus, not only as the author and finisher of our faith, but also to Him who is the head of the church. God is good - always. In these turbulent times, even more we need to remember and focus on Him who does not change and whose word is "yes and amen" in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

What does it mean that we are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16)?

In [1 Corinthians 3:16-17](#), the apostle Paul hit on the true nature of [the church](#) as the body of Christ when he asked, "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are" (NKJV).

We are the temple of God means that we—Christians, believers in Jesus Christ—who are joined together in one family as "the church" are a holy dwelling place for God's presence. The Greek word translated as "you" in verses 16 and 17 is plural. So when Paul said, "You are the temple of God," he was referring to the believers as a group—the local church. The temple in Jerusalem was a sacred building dedicated to the worship of God. According to Paul, the church was the equivalent of the temple. God's presence resided in the church, and the church was to maintain holiness.

This passage is part of a more extensive teaching on maintaining unity and not letting the church become divided over loyalties to human leadership ([1 Corinthians 3:1-23](#)). The sacredness of God's house requires extreme care from church leaders. The Corinthian leaders needed to safeguard the unity of God's temple, and the believers needed to avoid any moral corruption that would "defile" the sacredness of "the temple of God."

From humanity's beginning, God has desired to live among and commune with His people. In the Garden of Eden, God walked and talked with Adam in Eve in the cool of the day ([Genesis 3:8](#)). When He made His covenant with Israel, the Lord promised, "I will put my dwelling place among you. . . . I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people" ([Leviticus 26:11-12](#)).

As the Israelites wandered in the desert, God wanted to inhabit a place with His people ([Exodus 25:8](#)). At that time, the people lived in portable tents, so the presence of God dwelled in the tent of the [wilderness tabernacle](#) ([Exodus 27:21; 40:34-38](#)). His presence was the guiding force that told the people when to stay put and when to pull up stakes and continue on their journey ([Exodus 40:34-38](#)). Later, after the Hebrew people entered the Promised Land and lived in fixed dwellings, God affixed His name to a place, sanctifying [Solomon's temple](#) as the Lord's holy dwelling place ([1 Kings 8:10-11](#)).

In the New Testament, God's presence was manifested in a new way: in the person of Jesus Christ—the [Logos](#), who is the living, incarnate, eternal Word of God ([John 1:1-4, 14-18](#)). The Logos took on human flesh and made His home among us. Through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, God lived among His people. His name is Immanuel, meaning "God with us" ([Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23](#)).

Jesus Christ became the new earthly temple of God ([John 2:21](#)). "For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body," says [Colossians 2:9](#) (NLT; see also [Colossians 1:19](#)). The complete image of the invisible God is revealed in Jesus our Savior ([Colossians 1:15](#)). Yet Christ is only the initial installment of God's indwelling presence.

Today, the New Testament church—the body of believers who gather in the name of Jesus—constitutes the temple of God's Holy Spirit ([1 Corinthians 3:16](#)). Jesus said, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them" ([John 14:23](#)).

Paul also taught the Ephesians that, as members of God's household, the church is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit" ([Ephesians 2:20-22](#)).

The church of Jesus Christ is a spiritual temple made of "[living stones](#) . . . being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" ([1 Peter 2:5](#)). Not only is the church as a whole or as the local body the dwelling place of God's presence, but individual believers are also to consider themselves the temple of God's Holy Spirit ([1 Corinthians 6:19](#); cf. [2 Corinthians 6:16, NLT](#)).