

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

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Young Adults

Young Adults meets on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 PM. During the summer break, the group will meet every other week. We currently have 10-15 young adults attending, ranging in age from 18 to 35. They come from all walks of life and are at different stages in their spiritual journey. They are eager to learn the Word of God and discover how to apply it to their daily lives. Please pray for Pastor Daniel as he disciples them, and pray that the Holy Spirit will help each young adult grow in living a more Christ-like life every day.

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

MONDAY MAY 25
7 pm SLB Meeting

TUESDAY MAY 26
6:30 pm Youth Group
6:30 pm Adventure Club

WEDNESDAY MAY 27
6:30 am Men's Breakfast

THURSDAY MAY 28
10:30am Staff Meeting

FRIDAY MAY 29
6:30pm Ladies' Night

SATURDAY MAY 30
10am Elders' Lunch

THURSDAY JUNE 4
9:30 am Youth for Christ Moms Group
9am Workbee

SATURDAY JUNE 6
8 am Elders Breakfast
2 pm Wedding Shower for Annelieke

SUNDAY JUNE 14
After the Service Church Picnic

July 6 - July 10
9am to 12 pm VBS
(Age 4 to Grade 6)

Gossip does not only spread information. It spreads division, suspicion, and offense.



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

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

Speaker: Pastor Peter

Scripture: 1 Cor. 7:1-6

Living God's Design in Relationships

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

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Lead Pastor:
Peter Erratt
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Assistant Pastor:
Daniel Lara
daniel@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Church Admin & Children's Ministry Coord:
Lilian Lara
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March Financial Report

General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$31,835	\$26,382.62
Missions Giving	First Quarter Received	March
	\$13,835	\$3,625

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.

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Andrew & Tanja Rokeby

We pray that this letter finds you enjoying the great outdoors. Since arriving in Canada last week, we have been impressed by the sheer size and vastness of the nature and greenery. Our new surroundings are a noticeable change from our home in Yokohama. Interestingly, Peter does not have any memories of Canada, so it is all new to him! He has taken to saying, "I'm making memories" whenever he is doing something particularly fun.

Our last month in Japan before our home assignment was filled with activity. We completed our move to Yokohama including all of the government paperwork and visits to the various offices that come with moving in Japan. After a four-hour visit to city hall and the police station in one day, Andrew was talking to the secretary at our new church and said, "I'm sorry but I'm all out of Japanese words today."

One of the highlights of our month was a return to our old neighborhood in Tokyo. Andrew and the boys needed haircuts for a family photo, so Andrew told his Nerima barber that he would be back one last time. We took advantage of the opportunity to visit Mrs. T (the rose lady). She invited us for lunch and treated us to a lavish meal of chirashi sushi, sliced beef, egg drop soup, and cheesecake. During our chat, we asked her if she had been busy (a positive thing in Japan). She sighed and replied that she is free every day. Please pray for wisdom as to how we can be an encouragement to Mrs. T and continue to be a witness from our new home in Yokohama.

So far, while not standing in line at the bank or driver's license centre, we have been spending time catching up with some of you. This coming month, we have four church visits scheduled and will begin two and a half months of visiting churches in Ontario. We are looking forward to fellowshipping with you.

In Christ,

Andrew, Tanja, John, Anna, and Peter

Prayers and Praises

1. We had a relatively smooth move to Yokohama and had an introductory chat with our new neighbour who grew up attending a Christian kindergarten and elementary school. Please pray for Mrs. M that she will be open to attending church with us when we return in November.
2. We have now been in Canada for a week and are rediscovering things (positive and less positive) about life here. Please pray for us, especially the kids, as we readjust to life and culture in the Great White North.
3. Andrew connected with Mr. S from Saikyo Nozomi Chapel who recently moved for temporary work. He let Andrew know that he is discouraged and has stopped attending church. Please pray that he would be comforted by the Spirit and connect with a loving church.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Growing up, what messages about marriage, sex, relationships, or personal happiness shaped the way you think today? In what ways do those messages line up with Scripture, and in what ways do they conflict with it?

2. The sermon talked about the deep wounds many people carry in this area of life. Why do you think conversations about marriage and relationships can feel so difficult, emotional, or personal? How can we change that within the church?

3. No human relationship can ultimately satisfy what only God can satisfy. How have you seen unrealistic expectations create pressure or disappointment in relationships or marriages?

4. Where do you see the temptation to drift toward selfishness in relationships rather than sacrificial love and service?

5. Marriage often exposes what is really in our hearts. How have conflict, disappointment, or unmet expectations revealed areas where God still wants to grow you?

6. Why do you think our culture tends to define relationships around personal fulfillment instead of covenant commitment? How can Christians live differently?

7. Healthy marriages are not conflict-free marriages but relationships in which people confess sin, forgive, and move toward reconciliation. Why is repentance and forgiveness often so hard in close relationships?

8. What is one practical step you could take this week to strengthen a relationship God has placed in your life, whether in marriage, family, friendship, or within the church?

Got Questions Article

What does the Bible say about sex in marriage?

Sex was created to be a unique experience to bind husband and wife together in what the Bible calls a “one flesh” unity (Matthew 19:6). Since God invented sex, He gets to set the parameters for its use, and He makes those parameters very clear throughout Scripture (Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:18). Sex was designed for marriage. Period. Any sex outside those boundaries is sin. And despite what current culture wants us to believe, marital sex is between a man and a woman, not two men or two women. Simple biology makes it obvious that male and female bodies were designed to fit together in a way that same-sex physiology cannot. God knows what He is doing. So let’s investigate what the Bible has to say about marital sex.

First of all, marital sex is to be the consummation of a lifetime commitment made by two people. In ancient times and in several different cultures, wedding celebrations often included a “bedding ceremony,” in which the bride and groom retreated to the bedchamber to consummate their marriage. They would return to the party afterwards, and the celebration with friends and family would go on. The marriage was not considered complete until the bride and groom experienced sexual intimacy. While that may seem a bit crass according to our modern standards, it does illustrate the value that many cultures traditionally placed on virginity and marital sex.

Because the sexual drive is so powerful, the Bible encourages marriage in order to avoid sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 7:1-2). Marital sex is to be mutual and frequent so that husband and wife are not tempted to commit adultery (1 Corinthians 7:5). The Bible gives detailed instructions about marriage, sexuality, and divorce in 1 Corinthians 7. The bodies of a husband and wife belong to each other. Verse 4 says, “The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband. Likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife.” This giving over of the body to the one we are committed to should eliminate any possibility of extramarital liaisons. When we understand that our bodies are not our own, that they’ve been pledged to a spouse, we can shut the door on any thoughts of loaning them to someone else.

Marriage was designed by God as a picture of the covenant relationship He wants with us (2 Corinthians 11:2). God places great importance on human sexuality because marital sex is the most intimate relationship two human beings can have. It is also a picture of the intimacy God created us to enjoy with Him.

In marital sex, there is a giving over of the body, and in our spiritual relationship with God, we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2). The sexual act is a consummation of the covenant made between a man and a woman. Covenants were always consummated with the shedding of blood (Exodus 24:8), and, usually, blood is shed when virginity is lost. When God made His covenant with us, the blood of Christ was shed (Hebrews 13:20). Marital sex is more than a means of procreation and a safe outlet for our sexual drives. It is holy to God because it symbolizes the pure soul intimacy He wants to share with us. To engage in sex as a casual activity is to strip it of its true meaning.

Marital sex is the only sexual expression approved by our Creator. It should be treated as a sacred gift and enjoyed by husband and wife. We should guard our hearts and eyes from any outside temptations that try to sully or steal sexual intimacy. Pornography, extramarital affairs, divorce, and promiscuity all rob us of the beauty and value God wove into the sexual act. We cannot experience all God designed sexuality to be unless we save all sexual activities for marriage.