



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 AM Fellowship Coffee
10:30 AM Worship Service
6 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 Corinthians 7: 36-40

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
Assistant Pastor:
Daniel Lara
daniel@bethanybaptist.ab.ca
Church Admin & Children's
Ministry Coord:
Lilian Lara
lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Health Needs: Curt Radke and Jessica Southwell
- Email us your prayer requests or to join the Prayer Line!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Greeters are often the first impression of the church. They arrive early, greet everyone with a smile and offer genuine hospitality. Greeters engage in conversation, ask thoughtful questions, and help connect visitors with the right people in the church. They make guests feel seen, known, and welcomed. Please pray for the greeters that as they greet, they are reminded of our hospitable God.

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 July 28
6:30 Youth Night

WEDNESDAY JULY 29
6:30 am Men's Breakfast
9:30 am Summer Moms Group

MONDAY AUGUST 3
2:00 pm Natasha Cronje's baby shower

SATURDAY AUGUST 8
2:30 Christina Erratt's Bridal Shower

SUNDAY AUGUST 9
10:30 am Rokeby Sharing & Potluck after the service

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12
6:30 pm Elders' Meeting

MONDAY AUGUST 17
7 pm SLB Meeting

Sept 4 - 6
Family Camp

*Likewise the spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
Romans 8:26*

May Financial Report		
General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$31,835	\$29,694.81
Missions Giving	Received YTD	May
	\$22,835	\$4,150

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.

Got Questions Article

What was betrothal in biblical times?

“Biblical times” covers a broad section of history’s timeline, since Bible history spans several thousand years and a number of cultures. Through those years and in those cultures, betrothal traditions varied. However, some elements of betrothal were consistent throughout.

“Engagements” in Bible times, like those in modern-day Western countries, were heterosexual relationships preliminary to marriage. Then, as now, the engagement period gave the bride time to prepare for her new role, to gather personal belongings, to adjust relationships with parents, siblings, and friends, and in some cases to become better acquainted with her fiancé. The groom used the engagement period for similar matters, including completing the house in which he would raise his family.

Arranged marriages were common in Bible times, and it was possible that the bride and groom might not even know each other until they met at the wedding ceremony. If the parents arranged the marriage while the bride, the groom, or both were too young for marriage, a much longer betrothal would ensue. What seems strange to modern Westerners is that neither sexual attraction nor love was considered a necessary prelude to engagement or marriage. Parents who arranged a marriage for their children assumed that love and affection would grow out of the intimate acquaintance and sexual bonding that naturally takes place in a marriage. This mindset helps explain why Ephesians 5:25–33 commands Christian husbands to love their wives and Christian wives to respect their husbands. Such love and respect grew after the wedding and was not necessarily required beforehand.

In modern Western culture, there is a clear distinction between betrothal/engagement and marriage. In the cultures of Bible times, the distinction was much less definitive. Betrothal in most eras of Bible history involved two families in a formal contract, and that contract was as binding as marriage itself. Betrothal then was more of a business transaction between two families than a personal, romantic choice. Dowry or bride price agreements were included, so that a broken engagement required repayment of the dowry. After betrothal, all that remained were three matters: the wedding celebration, the bride’s move into the groom’s house, and the consummation of the marriage.

The best-known example of betrothal is that of Jesus’ mother, Mary, and her fiancé, Joseph. When Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant, and before he understood the miraculous nature of the conception, he thought that Mary had violated her betrothal, which was as binding as a marriage contract. At first, Joseph believed that his only recourse was to divorce her, or “put her away.” Matthew records the account: “This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly” (Matthew 1:18–19). Matthew says that Mary was “pledged to be married,” but he also calls Joseph “her husband.” The fact that a “divorce” was required to break the betrothal shows that their premarital contract was legally binding. If, even during the betrothal period, Mary had been sexually intimate with someone other than Joseph, she would have been guilty of adultery.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/betrothal.html>

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Where are you most tempted to let the opinions, expectations, or traditions of others shape your decisions more than God's Word? How can we guard against "binding the conscience" of ourselves or others where Scripture gives freedom?

2. Paul describes the wise believer as someone who is "firmly established in his heart" and has "determined in his heart" (1 Corinthians 7:37). What helps a believer develop a heart that is settled and confident before the Lord when making difficult decisions?

3. Paul's central concern is not simply what decision we make, but whether our decisions lead to greater devotion to Christ. What is one area of your life where you need to ask, "Which choice will best honor Christ and help me serve Him more faithfully?"

4. Paul reminds the widow that although she is free to make decisions, her freedom exists "only in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 7:39). What does it mean practically for a Christian to remember, "I belong to Christ," when making everyday decisions?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

5. If we truly belong to Christ, every area of life comes under His authority. What areas of life are easiest to keep separate from Christ's influence (relationships, finances, career, plans, personal goals)? Why?

6. Paul teaches that the widow's deepest happiness was not found in her circumstances but in her relationship with Christ. What circumstances or changes in life can tempt us to believe that our happiness depends on something other than Christ?

7. George Müller said that the first great business of every day was to make his soul happy in the Lord. What practices help you cultivate greater happiness in Christ rather than depending on your circumstances to bring you joy?
