

January 10, 2025

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

This Sunday we continue our sermon series, *Everyday Prayer*, which will guide us through **21 Days of Prayer and Fasting**. We discussed the power of praying to God as Father last week, and now we will look at the discipline of fasting. The pharisees questioned why Jesus' followers were not fasting like other disciples. Jesus' response tells us several things important things. There is a reason his followers were not fasting while the bridegroom was with them, but also a time was coming when they all would fast as they wait for him to return. We will explore fasting as a discipline for posturing our hearts for Christ's return. *Come, Lord Jesus, Come.*

The message this Sunday will focus on Luke 5:33-35, "Fasting for the Time to Come."

OUR OFFERINGS

- 1) **BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) **REFUGEE FUND:** is money directed to support the transition of refugees that Bethel sponsors. The Refugee Committee works closely with the new individuals and families that come to Canada. The deacons administer the funds in collaboration with the Refugee Committee. For more information, please contact Arnie Steenbergen at arniesteen@shaw.ca or 780-999-6125

NEXT WEEK - MUSTARD SEED – THE MOSAIC CENTRE: is now called the Community Impact Centre Mosaic and is under the umbrella of the Mustard Seed. With roots from churches in North East Edmonton, the Community Impact Centre Mosaic provides a warm, safe, and welcoming environment to community participants with weekly programming. Individuals have access to a large variety of services such as housing resources, workplace reintegration, and life mentorship. For more information → theseed.ca/mosaiccentre

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

We're excited to share that **JASON WISSELINK**, our Director of Media Ministries, will be starting courses at Calvin Seminary remotely this Spring. Please pray for Jason as he pursues further theological education to equip himself for ministry.

Please continue to remember **CALVIN BRUINSMA, CURTIS COENEN, JENNY PENFOLD, and ELEANOR PROKUDA** as you pray for our church community.

BETHEL YOUTH

PAUL & PANCAKES: This is an opportunity for youth to gather for fellowship and Bible study during the service; and of course, there will be pancakes! Everyone in Grades 7-12 is invited to meet in the downstairs kitchen. Our next Paul & Pancakes will be on January 19.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The upcoming congregational meeting will be Sunday, January 12, after the worship service. The year-end financials were sent in the This Week at Bethel email on January 10th. The format looks slightly different from recent year ends as we hired an accounting firm this year. We apologize for the delay and look forward to reviewing the past year with you at our meeting.

21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING: On January 1, we started the year by pursuing God through **21 Days of Prayer and Fasting**. Our goal is to build stronger habits that help us embrace lives that are closer with God. We encourage everyone to seek out time and place to pray every day. We also encourage everyone to explore and commit to fasting. At the beginning of this year, will you join us in building and refreshing our habits and rhythms each of us need for the year to come? For resources for 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, visit discoverbethel.com/21DaysofPrayer

MEN'S MINISTRY: The next breakfast gathering will be next Saturday, January 18 at 9:00 a.m. Register [here](#). In between these gatherings, we're organizing conversation groups, discussing a book, **Fighting Shadows** (by Jon Tyson and Jefferson Bethke). If you'd like to read with you us, you can purchase your own copy here. If you'd like to join a conversation group, email Pastor Cris (cris@discoverbethel.com).

BETTER TOGETHER LIBERIA: A team will be headed to Bettesu Liberia for the Grand opening of the Health Clinic. This community has played a large role in the construction of the clinic. Thank you for your generosity. As part of the celebrations, there will be soccer matches. If you have any gently used soccer shoes you would like to donate we would love to take them with us. Please connect with Helena Myschuk 780-237-0402 or John Lendein 780-908-1429.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COURSE: Feeling those January bill blues? Join us for a 6- week Finance Management Course which starts on Tuesday, January 14 to February 18 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. This course will give you an easy-to-follow personalized plan for money management. You will be guided through Dave Ramsey's, "7 Baby Steps", which starts with saving for an emergency fund and ends with building wealth and giving. Learn how to handle money, budget with confidence, and set, track and reach your financial goals. Within the first 90 days of following the 7 Baby Steps, the average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700. Cost: \$75/household. Register [here](#).

ALPHA MARRIAGE COURSE: Alpha - The Marriage Course is a seven-session video course designed to help couples invest in their relationship. Topics include Communication, Resolving Conflict, Forgiveness, and much more! Conversations during the course are between couples and are private. The Marriage Course will run Sundays, starting on January 19, 2025, after the service at 11:30 a.m. We will begin with lunch and the session will follow at 12:00 p.m. and run until 2:00 p.m. at Bethel Community Church. All married couples are welcome! Register before January 14 by clicking [here](#). The cost is \$30/couple. If a lack of childcare or cost is stopping you from signing up, please let us know by emailing Krista at kmilford74@gmail.com

ALPHA MARRIAGE COURSE VOLUNTEERS: Do you have a heart for supporting strong marriages and families? We are looking for a few volunteers to provide a hearty stew or soup and buns, serving food and cleaning up, for each week that the marriage course will be running. Please sign up [here](#) or email Krista at kmilford74@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

WILLOWWOOD CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL IS HIRING: We are looking for additional people to join our staff as substitute teachers and assistants. This includes immediate coverage for a short medical leave. Our classes run Monday -Friday from 9:00 -11:30. If you have a passion for play-based preschool education from a Christian perspective, hold level 1, 2, or 3 Early Childhood Educator certificate or have related experience, consider joining our team. For more information and to apply, please email willowwood@discoverbethel.com.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

COLLECTIONS IN JANUARY

January 5	Nehemiah Centre
January 12	Refugee Fund
January 19	Mustard Seed – The Mosaic Centre
January 26	Ministry Shares

COMMUNITY NEWS

EMMANUEL SENIORS LIVING SOCIETY is now hiring multiple positions at The Lighthouse, our second seniors' residence located in the Inglewood area and opening in January. For more information visit emmanuelhome.ca or find us on Facebook.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR: This 2 or 5 km fundraiser walk on February 22, 2025, will support ADEARA RECOVERY CENTRE. To support or register a team of 6-8 walkers click [here](#). To learn more about Adeara's work visit [Adeara Recovery Centre](#).

KING'S UNIVERSITY'S MICAH CENTRE: You are invited to a public presentation by Adrian Jacobs (an educator, community leader, and the CRCNA's senior leader for Indigenous Justice and Reconciliation from the Six Nations of the Grand River in Ontario) on January 16th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at The King's University (Room N102). Indigenous Christians using smudging in Christian community settings has and continues to provoke visceral responses from some Christians. Fear of compromising Christian faith worries some to the point of raising objection to this practice. Adrian will review this historic and contemporary concern and address its various dimensions.

CRC NEWS: Check out what's happening in the CRC community [here](#).

CRCNA ANNOUNCEMENTS: Connecting church members with the ministries of the denomination. Find out more by visiting the website [here](#).

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, January 12

10:00 a.m. Worship - in person & live stream
11:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting

MONDAY, January 13

6:45 p.m. Council Meetings (Elders & Deacons)
7:00 p.m. Prayer – Zoom

TUESDAY, January 14

5:15 p.m. Dove Taekwondo
7:00 p.m. GEMS
7:00 p.m. Personal Financial Management

WEDNESDAY, January 15

6:00 a.m. Prayer – In-person & Zoom
9:30 a.m. Oasis Women's Bible Study
8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, January 16

12:30 p.m. Food Bank
5:15 p.m. Dove Taekwondo
7:00 p.m. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, January 17

SATURDAY, January 18

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast