

November 28, 2024

## THIS WEEK'S SERVICE

This Sunday we begin the season of Advent with a new sermon series, *God Comes Close*. We will explore what happens when God draws near in ordinary moments. God sent an angel to Mary to announce that she would give birth to a son and his name would be Jesus. Rather than choosing a natural response, fearing how this would impact her life, not yet married, Mary chose hope – hope in the favor God has shown her and hope for the fulfillment of God's promises for his people. As we reflect on Christ and his birth this December, we focus our hearts and longings on our own need for Christ to come close and be with us.

The message this Sunday will focus on Luke 1:26-38, "Words of Hope."

**NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE:** Our second week of advent will focus on Luke 1:39-56, "Praise for Peace". Christ comes to bring peace to a world in distress. Mary responds through song in light of what God is doing through her for the world, recounting the Lord's faithful promises.

## OUR OFFERINGS

- 1) **BETHEL MINISTRIES & MISSION:** The ministries and programs of Bethel.
- 2) **ADEARA:** is an accredited addiction recovery center for women and their children which is built to end the cycle of addiction. Their long-term, faith-based program guides women through each stage of their healing journey—from addiction to recovery, and ultimately reintegrating into a healthy community. For more information → <https://adeara.ca/about-us/>

**NEXT WEEK – 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, talk to a member of the Refugee Committee.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Our condolences to **CALVIN** and **AUDREY VRIEND, RICHARD** and **JO-ANN TAVENIER-VRIEND**, and the **KONING FAMILY** with the passing of their father and grandfather Dan Vriend. Dan passed away at the age of 95 on Sunday, November 24. There will be a memorial service at First Christian Reformed of Edmonton (10956 - 96 Street) at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 14.

**KATHY MCDONALD** is having knee replacement surgery on November 29<sup>th</sup>. She would appreciate your prayers. Also, if you are interested in supporting her and Larry in the weeks after her surgery by providing a meal you can sign up [here](#).

**CALVIN BRUINSMA** had a seizure this past week. Pray for wisdom for his healthcare team and that God would give Calvin peace and comfort as he addresses these health concerns again.

A note from **CHARLIE TSANG:** Thank you all for your prayers and well wishes during my recent health issue. It is greatly appreciated, and we feel humbled by it. We received good news this week that the surgery was successful.

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

**KATHY JACKSON** has a new address and phone number. Please update her contact information: 780.484.4100 #402 - 4480 McCrae Avenue. Kathy is also hoping someone in the north side of Edmonton would assist her with a ride to and from church in the winter months. Please reach contact the church office or call Kathy if you can assist.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BIBLE READING PLAN FOR ADVENT:** Please join us as we prepare our hearts in the Christmas Season. Click [here](#) to access the reading plan.

**BETHEL SENIORS:** Inviting all fun-loving seniors to our Christmas open house. Join us on December 8 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and games at the Vleeming's. There will be prizes and who doesn't love another coffee mug for your kitchen that you get for free?!? Please bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice. Punch and coffee will be supplied. If you have folding chairs to loan, we would appreciate it if you could drop them off the day before with your name on them so no one has to sit in the floor. Exercise is not a bad thing but getting up off the floor might be more difficult for some of the young at heart. We have lots of room so hope to see everyone at 325 Estate Drive in Sherwood Park. The driveway can be icy so use care. Also check the bethel Facebook page for details and updates.

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING:** and so is your opportunity to bless the Bannerman community. The annual Christmas hampers & gift program needs Bethel's support. Last year, we blessed many families and children with gift cards for groceries and gifts. This year, we are providing gift cards for hampers and physical gifts for families -- and you, your family, or your small group can play a special role in a few different ways:

1. First, please forward names of families within our Bethel community or the Bannerman community that would be blessed by receiving a Christmas hamper.
2. Make a financial donation to "Christmas Hampers and Gifts" through all the usual Bethel giving methods.
3. On November 24th, visit the Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary, choose a gift tag (or multiple tags!) and purchase gifts to bless kids in the Bannerman community. Each tag has the age and gender of a child in need of a present, as well as a number. Pick the gift tag, fill out the attached info card, and leave the information card so we know which gift you are buying. Please bring all gifts & the attached gift tag to the church on or before Sunday, December 15th.

**BETHEL COOKBOOK:** Looking for a special stocking stuffer or maybe some new recipes to try out this Christmas? We would like to offer our Bethel Cookbook once again. The cost is \$20 and all proceeds will support our partnership with Centro Biblico Familiar El Sembrador church in Hermosillo Mexico. Order your book [here](#) before December 3. They will be available December 8.

**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 December 30 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](mailto:kmilford74@gmail.com)

**ALPHA MARRIAGE COURSE VOLUNTEERS:** Do you have a heart for supporting strong marriages and families? We are looking for a number of 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](mailto:kmilford74@gmail.com), if you have any questions.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY:** We have a job opening on our Admin. team for an Administrative Assistant. The

position is constructed as a job share with our other Administrative Assistant, Tara Kilkenny. If you are interested in more information about the position, visit [discoverbethel.com/jobs](https://discoverbethel.com/jobs). Inquiries can be sent to [hr@discoverbethel.com](mailto:hr@discoverbethel.com)

**GEMS NEED JARS:** The GEMS and Cadets need glass jars for a Christmas craft night they are planning. They are looking for 1 quart size (approx.) with no writing on them. If you have jars you can donate, please bring them to church and leave them in the collection box under the mailboxes. Any questions, please contact Corina and Marjy at [gems@discoverbethel.com](mailto:gems@discoverbethel.com). Thanks for your support.

**BETHLEHEM COMES TO BANNERMAN: A Christmas Dinner Theatre** - There will be two showings on Saturday, December 14th ( 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m). This is an event for both the Bethel family and our neighbours. Please reserve your tickets as soon as possible (Reserve your tickets by clicking RSVP on this event on our website).

Also, we invite you to get involved. We specifically want to highlight the following areas as places we could use more help:

**FOOD DONATIONS/PREPARATION:** Food prepared at home and brought to the church for the event.

**TABLE HOSTS:** Sharing the meal and talking with guests at a table.

**CLEAN UP TEAM:** after the event (dishes, take down of table/chairs, etc)

**DRAMA TEAM:** We could use a few good men (and women) to help with the drama team. Don't worry, you don't have to say anything; just help the young volunteers with their cues and positions.

**MEMBER LOOKING FOR AFFORDABLE RENT:** A quiet woman in our congregation is looking to rent (shared accommodations) in a Christian home on the Northeast side of the city. If you are interested in offering her a place to live, please e-mail the office at [info@discoverbethel.com](mailto:info@discoverbethel.com).

## BETHEL YOUTH

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### COLLECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

|             |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| December 1  | Adeara                               |
| December 8  | Refugee Fund                         |
| December 15 | World Renew                          |
| December 22 | International Justice Mission Canada |
| December 25 | Hope Misison                         |
| December 29 | Ministry Shares                      |

## THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY, December

10:00 a.m. Worship - in person & live stream  
2:30 p.m. Women's Crafty Christmas

### MONDAY, December 2

7:00 p.m. Prayer - Zoom

### TUESDAY, December 3

5:00 p.m. Dove Taekwondo  
7:00 p.m. GEMS  
7:00 p.m. Life Groups

### WEDNESDAY, December 4

6:30 a.m. Prayer - in person and zoom  
9:30 a.m. Oasis  
8:00 p.m. AA

### THURSDAY, December 28

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

### FRIDAY, December 29

### SATURDAY, December 30

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE: REHOBOTH CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES:** invites you to our annual PancakeBreakfast (served from 9:00 – 11:30 am) and Christmas Craft Sale on Saturday, November 30, 2024 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 3920 - 49 Ave. in Stony Plain. Cost for breakfast; \$6.00/adult & \$4.00/child. Come

check out the selection of great stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts made by Rehoboth. Once again, we are pleased to have other vendors join us; call 780-217-1598 for information. We look forward to sharing the festive spirit with you.

**THE REFUGE MISSION FOUNDATION** provides daily programming to the houseless people in downtown Edmonton. Recently, they have seen an increase of women in need of shelter overnight. Given the colder weather, they decided a few weeks ago to provide shelter to a small group of women staying overnight at their facility. Since they are short staffed, they are currently looking for local volunteers who might be able to help a night a week (10 pm – 9:30 am), specifically some women who would be willing to provide help overnight. If you would be interested in more information about this opportunity, please contact Pastor Cris ([cris@discoverbethel.com](mailto:cris@discoverbethel.com)).

**THE MUSTARD SEED – 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FAMILY GIFT CENTRE:** We created the Family Gift Centre where low-income families can purchase Christmas gifts at our pop-up toy shop for \$2. We believe no family should have to choose between putting food on the table and giving their children the joy of unwrapping a present on Christmas morning. You can be a part of this incredible event in several ways:

- Donate New Toys: We're looking for new toys for ages 0 – 18 years (toys will need to be collected and delivered by December 3rd)
- Monetary Donations: Your financial support will help us stock the shop with a wide variety of gifts. Sponsorship opportunities available.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Multiple volunteer shifts available.

If you have any questions, please e-mail [sarahwhittaker@theseed.ca](mailto:sarahwhittaker@theseed.ca).

**U of A CHAPLAINS' FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS** Start this Christmas in reverent reflection and anticipation on Monday, December 2 • 7:30 PM. Join in this festive tradition heralding Advent and Christmas through lessons, anthems and carols! Thrill to the music of the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus and Handbell Ringers. Sing Christmas carols and hear scripture readings alongside hundreds of others - a wholesome night out, a genuine highlight. Tickets are \$25 (plus some admin fees) and can be purchased online from Winspear or by calling the Box Office at 780.428.1414.

**EDMONTON NATIVE HEALING CENTRE:** Tan'si Folks, a quick invitation to join the board and staff of Edmonton Native Healing Centre on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at 7pm for our Annual General meeting. Come, hear about our Strengthening our Spirit campaign. Our yearly membership is only \$5 and the membership form can be found at [www.E-nhc.org](http://www.E-nhc.org) along with payment info. Our address is 11813-123 street, T5L 0G7. Thanks Harold Roscher

**CO-ORDINATOR FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ABBOTSFIELD RECREATION CENTRE NEEDED:** After doing it tirelessly for many years, the current organizer is stepping down. There is an opportunity to shadow this year's planning and dinner to learn how the dinner is currently organized. Please contact Bertram Dost at [dostaupro@shaw.ca](mailto:dostaupro@shaw.ca) or 780-475-0970 if you are interested or have questions. If we can't find someone or a group of people willing to continue this great tradition, this may be the last year for this Christmas event. Thank you for your consideration.

**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](#).

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS:** Introducing the Postma Post: Your Connection to Ministry in Canada. Click [here](#) for more information.

**THE INTERIM COMMITTEE OF CLASSIS ALBERTA NORTH IS SEEKING NOMINATIONS.**

**Classis Treasurer** – to commence July 1, 2025. The treasurer looks after all the financial matters for Classis and should have a basic understanding of book-keeping. The treasurer serves on the Classis Interim Committee (CIC) which meets about 9 times a year in Edmonton to conduct the affairs of Classis between classis meetings. The treasurer is also an ex officio member of the Student Support Team, which meets 3 times a year. The treasurer will be supported by Mike Vos who will continue to serve as alternate treasurer.

For more information, contact Mike Vos, Classis Treasurer, at [classistreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:classistreasurer@gmail.com).

**Alternate Stated Clerk** – to commence in March of 2025. That alternate stated clerk fills in for the Stated Clerk when that person is unable to fulfil the duties of that position. Stated clerk duties include preparing the agenda, support documents and minutes for all Classis meetings and meetings of the Classis Interim Committee, as well as looking after all Classis correspondence. The stated clerk also serves on the Classis Interim Committee (CIC) which meets about 9 times a year in Edmonton to conduct the affairs of Classis between classis meetings.

For more information contact Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk, at [classisstatedclerk@gmail.com](mailto:classisstatedclerk@gmail.com).