

December 6, 2024

THIS 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.

The message this Sunday will focus on Luke 1, "Words of Peace."

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 – WORLD RENEW joins communities around the world to renew hope, reconcile lives, and restore creation. Working in more than 30 countries, World Renew embraces a family-centered approach to ending global poverty, hunger and illness and providing disaster response services.

For more information check worldrenew.ca

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 Church of Edmonton (10956 - 96 Street) at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 14.

KATHY MCDONALD has had knee replacement surgery. 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](#).

Please continue to remember **CALVIN BRUINSMA, 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 on the north side of Edmonton would assist her with a ride to and from church in the winter months. Please 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 on 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, a Christmas tree was set up at the back of the sanctuary. If there are any tags left, choose one 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.

Christmas Eve Service: We are getting excited as we work hard to prepare a meaningful and impactful Christmas Eve Service - a service which is so important to our community! To make this service special we need your help! It really takes about 60 volunteers to make these services happen. There are 2 services (4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.) so when responding please mention the service you are attending.

Here are some ways that you can get involved:

- 1) Candle lighting (5 required for each service)
- 2) Scripture Readers
- 3) Candle lighting help - Walk down the aisle and light all candles at the end of the pew (4 required for each service).
- 4) Christina Froehlich is in the process of building the Hot Chocolate crew. She is looking for one more person to assist on the evening. If you can help, please contact her at chrisfroehlich7@gmail.com
- 5) Outside luminary lantern cleanup after 6:00 service - (2-3 people). Bring lanterns in, shut off the lights and put them in boxes. There is one volunteer already, so you will not need to do this alone!

Feel free to email me where you can help at lisa@discoverbethel.com

Thank you in advance for your support and involvement. We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you!

BETHLEHEM COMES TO BANNERMAN: A Christmas Dinner Theatre - There will be two shows 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 the 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.

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

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.

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. Thanks for your support.

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.

COFFEE VOLUNTEERS: Have you considered joining Bethel's coffee volunteer list? There are lots of us, and we would love to have some more people! Your commitment is to help once every 3-4 months, and it takes about an hour of your time. The job is very simple. As a bonus, you get to serve with others and get to know some new Bethel people! Call or text Christina at 780-263-3636 if you have questions or would like to volunteer. The new schedule starts in January.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

COLLECTIONS IN DECEMBER

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

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, December 8

10:00 a.m. Worship - in person & live stream

MONDAY, December 9

7:00 p.m. Prayer - Zoom

TUESDAY, December 10

5:00 p.m. Dove Taekwondo

7:00 p.m. GEMS

7:00 p.m. Life Groups

WEDNESDAY, December 11

6:30 a.m. Prayer - in person and zoom

9:30 a.m. Oasis

8:00 p.m. AA

THURSDAY, December 12

12:30 p.m. Food Bank

5:00 p.m. Dove Taekwondo

7:00 p.m. Worship Practice

FRIDAY, December 13

SATURDAY, December 14

1:00 PM – Bethlehem Comes to Bannerman (first show)

5:00 PM – Bethlehem Comes to Bannerman (second show)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Blue Christmas Service: While there is good reason for the ‘celebrative’ atmosphere of Christmas, it can also be a challenging, even painful, time for those who live with the reality of brokenness or loss in their lives. A “Blue Christmas Service” is a service that allows that reality to be acknowledged and brought before the Lord, while at the same time recognizing the one who is bigger than a season. You are invited to participate in such a service (with communion) held at West End CRC on Sunday, Dec 15 at 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend in-person but would like to participate, please join us via livestream using the link on the West End website.

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).

THE MUSTARD SEED – 9TH 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:

- 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.

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 dostautopro@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 bookkeeping. 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.

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.

Council of Delegates nomination needed - We are grateful for Amy Nydam's service as our Classis representative on the Council of Delegates. Amy has recently resigned from that position, and we need to find a replacement.

The Council of Delegates (COD) is the governing board of the Christian Reformed Church. The COD is composed of members representing each classis in the denomination and carries on the governance of the church between meetings of Synod. To learn more about the COD and what is expected of its members click [here](https://www.crcna.org/welcome/governance/council-delegates) (<https://www.crcna.org/welcome/governance/council-delegates>).

If you know of a potential delegate or wish to put your own name forward, please contact Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk, at classisstatedclerk@gmail.com or 780-716-0845.