

July 12, 2020



The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.



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Today - Sunday, July 12

8:45 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Worship Service [Also Livestreamed]

Pastor Peter Erratt

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Church Wide Prayer Meeting [via Zoom]

Children's Ministries

Children's Church: activity pages emailed weekly

Wednesdays

SH Youth

→ 6:30 PM at the church

→ Google Hangouts group chat for fellowship

-Fellowship-

Important Notes!

1. Please contact the church office with any questions, concerns, or comments.
2. If you wish to have a CD of the service please contact the church office.
3. Donations may be made online on the church website, www.bethanybaptist.ab.ca, also by mail, or dropped off at the church office (no cash over \$100 please).
4. We are looking for volunteers for our audio/visual team for Sunday services, contact the church office if you are interested.

Financial Summary -- January 1 to June 30, 2020

Cash Balances	Jan 1	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	June 30
General	166,982	164,207	145,854	(15,000)	170,335
Missions	32,547	34,570	58,197		8,920
Benevolent	8,236	200	136		8,300
Camp	303	16,350	16,253		400
Facilities	22,669		9,055	15,000	28,614
TOTAL	230,737	215,327	229,495	0	216,569

Question: "Why is church membership important?"

Answer: The universal Church—the Body of Christ (Romans 12:5)—is composed of all true believers in Christ, and local churches are to be microcosm of the universal Church. As believers, we have our names written in the Lamb's book of life (Revelation 20:12), and that is what is most important. However, it is also important to commit to a local church where we can give of our resources, serve others, and be accountable.

The Bible does not directly address the concept of formal church membership, but there are several passages that strongly imply its existence in the early church. "And the Lord added to them day by day those that were being saved" (Acts 2:47). This verse indicates that salvation was a prerequisite for being "added" to the church. In Acts 2:41, it seems that someone was keeping a numerical record of those who were saved and thus joining the church. Churches today that require salvation before membership are simply following the biblical model. See also 2 Corinthians 6:14–18.

There are other places in the New Testament that show the local church as a well-defined group: in Acts 6:3, the church in Jerusalem is told to hold elections of some kind: "Choose seven men from among you." The phrase *among you* suggests a group of people distinct from others who were *not* "among" them. Simply put, the deacons were to be church members.

Church membership is important because it helps define the pastor's responsibility. Hebrews 13:17 instructs, "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account."

Whom will a pastor give an account for, except the members of his own church? He is not responsible for all the Christians in the world, only for those under his care. Likewise, he is not responsible for all the people in his community, only for believers under his leadership—his church members. Membership in a local church is a way of voluntarily placing oneself under the spiritual authority of a pastor.

Church membership is also important because, without it, there can be no accountability or church discipline. First Corinthians 5:1–13 teaches a church how to deal with blatant, unrepentant sin in its midst. In verses 12–13, the words *inside* and *outside* are used in reference to the church body. We only judge those who are "inside" the church—church members. How can we know who is "inside" or "outside" the church without an official membership roll? See also Matthew 18:17.

Although there is no scriptural mandate for official church membership, there is certainly nothing to prohibit it, and it seems the early church was structured in such a way that people clearly knew if someone was "in" or "out" of the church. Church membership is a way of identifying oneself with a local body of believers and of making oneself accountable to proper spiritual leadership. Church membership is a statement of solidarity and like-mindedness (see Philippians 2:2). Church membership is also valuable for organizational purposes. It's a good way of determining who is allowed to vote on important church decisions and who is eligible for official church positions. Church membership is not required of Christians. It is simply a way of saying, "I am a Christian, and I believe this church is a good church."

Recommended Resource: The Master's Plan for the Church by John MacArthur

Prayer Opportunities

Pray for our Missionaries.
Refer to your "In the Fold"
Missionary Prayer Cards

- **Acute Health Needs:**
- **Children:** Children's Church
- **Fellowship Prairies Church:** Faith Fellowship Baptist, Brandon, MB

To send a Prayer Request or join the Prayer Line: Phone or email the church office

Small Groups Ministry

Coordinator: Martin Scholz

- **Blankestijn - call:** Addie & Diana (Fridays 6:30 p.m.)
- **Scholz - call:** Martin & Lorna (Two Sundays per month after the service)
- **Shortt/Reeve - call:** Doug & Joan (Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.)
Don & Patricia
- **Smith - call:** Tom & Tina (Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.)
- **Street - call:** Dave & Laurel

As a way to serve and shepherd our church family better, the Elders Board would like to invite your prayer requests, comments, and questions to the Elder associated with your last name.

Elder Shepherding Groups

A - B (Richard Klassen); C-D (Pastor Peter Erratt); Du - Han (Addie Blankestijn); Har - Kom (Lyndon Unger); Kow - Me (David Street); Mu - Ree (Tom Smith); Rei - Sm (Don Collier); St - Z (Pastor Dennis Burriss)

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.