

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 1-4pm Baking Club 9-12pm Membership Class
2 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 3:1-14 – <i>Love Calling</i>) 11am Faith Formation (all ages, <i>Faith @ Home</i> – Dan on <i>Study</i>) 12pm BBYOL	3	4 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting	5 6:30pm English Conversation 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Phil 4:8 – <i>Whatever Is Pure</i> 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	6	7 7pm Youth	8
9 10am Worship – Missionfest Sunday, Pastor Tom Castor) 11am Faith Formation (all ages, <i>Faith @ Home</i> – Tom Castor on <i>Sharing the Gospel with your Neighbour</i>) 12pm BBYOL	10	11 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting	12 6:30pm English Conversation 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Phil 4:8 – <i>Whatever Is Lovely</i> 7:15pm Prayer Meeting 7:15pm Youth	13	14	15 7:30pm Union Gospel Mission
16 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 3:15-22 – <i>Love New Baptized</i>) Communion 11am Faith Formation (children), BUDGET MEETING (adults) 12pm BBYOL 6pm Hymn Sing & Trivia Night	17	18 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting	19 6:30pm English Conversation 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Phil 4:8 – <i>Whatever Is Admirable</i> 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	20	21 7pm Youth	22 9am Men’s Breakfast (NB: winter start time is later!)
23 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 3:23-37 – <i>Love to Infinity... and Beyond!</i>) 11am Faith Formation (all ages, <i>Faith @ Home</i> – Christie-Leigh on <i>God’s Beauty All Around</i>) 12pm BBYOL	24	25 7am Men’s Prayer Meeting 7pm Council Meeting	26 6:30pm English Conversation 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: Phil 4:8 – <i>Excellent & Praiseworthy</i> 7:15pm Prayer Meeting 7:15pm Youth	27	28	1 1-4pm Baking Club

MISSIONFEST
Church of the Rock
www.missionfestmanitoba.org



Bethesda Church Newsletter

Congregational letter

February 2025

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." Hebrews 10:19-20a,22

One of the greatest joys I have as a pastor is that I get to see God bringing people to life before my very eyes! Some of you, who never called Jesus Lord before, have now put your trust in him and are living a new kind of life! Others have trusted Jesus for awhile, but are discovering that God is giving you a new strength and vigour in your walk with him. Many of you (in both categories) have expressed a strong desire to be baptised! And so April 20 – our Easter Sunday service – will be a baptism service!

Easter has always been one of the most popular days to baptise people. Spring is a natural time to be thinking about renewal and rebirth, of course, which is what baptism celebrates. But far more importantly: Jesus rose from the dead on Easter!

When we baptise believers by immersion we lay them down under the surface of the water and then draw them back up out of it. It's a picture of how Jesus was laid in a tomb and then rose to new life. Since we all gather to baptise them it's like we are all saying to Jesus with them, "We want to be like you in your death. We trust that we will be like you in your resurrection. We expect that you will give us the new kind of life

that you promised to us, one that overflows with hope and joy and love!"

The "sprinkling" and "washing" which the book of Hebrews talks about, sounds alot like baptism, too, doesn't it? That's another reason that baptism reminds us of what Jesus did for us on the cross. We are "sprinkled" by his blood. That is what takes away our sins. We have been "washed" in his blood. Scrubbed clean; covered completely. And so we have "full assurance". We can now "draw near to God"!

This is amazing, since God is perfect. And more than that, he is all powerful. He made all things and he sustains all things, and everything belongs to him. So he knows everything, too: everything about everything – including you. He hears every doubt, every grumble. He sees everything you do – even if it's in secret. All this is pretty intimidating! Even so, when you believe in Jesus, you come under his own personal protection. When you identify with him, you enjoy his status as a specially loved child of God. When you claim what he promised, you can approach God's throne: humbly but courageously, freed from the worry that you are not good enough. You aren't. But that's the whole point! *Hallelujah!*



**BETHESDA
CHURCH**

Bethesda Church Office Information
Hours: Tuesdays (10-3) & Fridays (9-3)
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That guilt-free reality, plus the fact of Jesus' resurrection, are the reasons you must press on even when you feel like giving up, why you can live with confidence even though you feel like a fraud. You can be bold. Inside of you, you have the life of One who will never die again. You can risk. Your hope is based on realities that go far beyond what you (or the world) can see. You can love with abandon. You know a secret: in the Church you participate in the resurrection life of the Body of Christ – Jesus' life is not just present in you (though it is), in the Church it is intensified, amplified, applied to you, applied by you, shared by everyone, shared with everyone.

That is what it means to be baptised! We are a part of his Body! After it makes reference to "sprinkling" and "washing", Hebrews 10 goes on: "...let us consider how we may spur one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not give up

meeting together [...] but let us encourage one another..."! In other words, baptism does not simply remind us that we are united to Jesus, baptism is a tangible way to proclaim that we are united to one another as well. No wonder Jesus made such a big deal about it (Matt 28:19). He not only commanded us to do it, he submitted to it himself (as we will hear about this month as our study of the book of Luke continues!)

In fact, Jesus' cousin John was puzzled by his request to be baptised, since he knew that Jesus had no sins from which he needed to be cleansed. Jesus' answer to him showed not just a commitment to doing what is right, but also his solidarity with all who would come after him, all who might wonder whether going through this strange rite of passage is strictly necessary. Perhaps not, but as he said: "it is proper [...] to fulfill all righteousness" (Matt 3:15).

Have you been baptised? If you haven't and you have put your trust in Jesus, you should be. Baptism shows that we want to be as much like Jesus as we possible can. Baptism shows, to us and to everyone else that we belong to him and to his Body, the church. Baptism shows that we are committed to love one another, and that we are committed to the work he has called us to do together. Frankly, if you are a Christian and you have not been baptized, then you have not obeyed what Jesus clearly expects of you and of everyone else who has put their trust in him.

So if you have never been baptized – even if you have but you're not sure that you really understood what it meant before – get in touch with me ASAP so that we can find the best time to meet as a group for a few sessions together to learn what it will mean when you are baptized – or maybe baptized again – with your brothers and sisters in Christ this Easter Sunday!

Patti Yuri

February 2025

Bible Reading Plan

- Luke 13:1-9
- Num 35
- Isa 40:12-27
- Isa 40:27-41:16
- Ps 46
- Num 36
- Luke 13:10-21
- Luke 13:22-35
- Ecclesiastes 1-2
- Ps 112
- Luke 14:1-24
- Ecc 3:1-8
- Isa 41:17-20
- Deut 1:1-4
- Deu 1:5-18
- *Ecc 3:9-22
- Isa 41:21-42:9
- Luke 14:25-35
- Ps 24
- Isa 42:10-13
- Ecc 4:1-8
- Deut 1:19-46
- Luke 15:1-10
- Ps 28

- Luke 15:11-32
- Ecc 4:9-12
- Deut 2:1-15
- Isa 42:14-43:13
- Deut 2:16-37
- Ecc 4:13-16
- Luke 16:1-12
- Isa 43:14-44:5
- Ecc 5:1-7
- Deut 3:1-11
- Luke 16:13-31
- Isa 44:6-23
- Ecc 5:8-20
- Luke 17:1-10
- Deut 3:12-20
- *Isa 44:24-45:13
- Ecc 6
- Luke 17:11-37
- Deut 3:21-29
- Ps 106
- Luke 18:1-17
- Deut 4:1-31
- Ecc 7:1-14
- Isa 45:14-25

† Fun fact: Our kids are memorizing Mark 12:29-31. That's where Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:4-5!

- Deut 4:32-49
- Isa 46-47
- Ecc 7:15-22
- Luke 18:18-43
- Isa 48:1-11
- Deut 5
- Ecc 7:2-8:1
- Luke 19:1-27
- Luke 19:28-44
- Ps 45
- Ecc 8:2-8
- *Deut 6†
- Isa 48:12-22
- Isa 49
- Ecc 8:9-15
- Deut 7
- Luke 19:45-48
- Ps 111
- Isa 50
- Deut 8
- Ecc 8:16-9:10
- Luke 20:1-19
- Luke 20:20-40
- Deut 9
- *Ecc 9:11-18
- Isa 51:1-8
- Ps 67

- Luke 20:41-21:4
- Ecc 10
- Isa 51:9-52:6
- Deut 10
- Luke 21:5-38
- Deut 11
- Ecc 11
- Isa 52:7-12

***Memory Verses:**

- #1: Ecc 3:10-11
I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
- #2: Isa 45:6b-7
I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.

#3: Deut 6:4-7
Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

#4: Ecc 9:11b
The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favour to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSIONFEST MANITOBA, FEB 7-9
Missionfest is coming up soon! It's a great way to see how you can support the work that God is doing around the world! Visit missionfestmanitoba.org for the full schedule of activities.

"PERSPECTIVES" ONLINE CLASS
Tuesday nights, February 11 to May 13
For more info talk to Patti Poirier or visit: perspectivescanada.outreach.ca

2025 BUDGET MEETING, FEB 16, 11:00
Be sure to attend this important annual congregational meeting when Finance Team presents the budget for the coming year. The budget meeting will take the place of the usual adult Faith Formation classes that day (kids Faith Formation classes will go on as usual).

HYMN SING AND TRIVIA NIGHT, FEB 16, 6:00PM
On the long weekend, come back to church on Sunday evening for singing and Bible trivia! (Bring the kids!)

HERE COMES THE ... FUN (...TIVITIES...)
We need a few fun-loving people to help plan social events (and to come up with a better name for them!) Talk to Pastor Yuri if that's something you'd enjoy!

PRAYER & INTERCESSION

- Adam's wife Resina (visa)
- Her mother Maturalina (health & strength)
- E & family: (welding job; brother in prison)
- Eunice (knee/healing) & Pat
- Gilbert (baby in Homuth's extended family)
- Greg (Adam's friend – medical treatment)
- Irene (health and strength)
- Rachel C. – Visa application
- Shirley (hospital → care home)
- Sunday services (preaching of God's word)
- Homeless and those without family
- Tim (Philp's brother - chemo treatments)
- Zahra (employment)
- Kids Ministry (leaders, teachers & parents)
- Wednesday Night English classes
- Youth Ministry (growing!)
- WORLD: California fires
- Afghan Families: language, culture, school
- Andrea & Rick
- Andrew P. (mental health)
- Betty C. (Personal Care Home)
- Bernice G. (health)
- Cheryl W. (Pastor Mark's sister)
- Chris W. (Pastor Mark's son)
- Debbie M. (cancer)
- Don (Shelly's dad)
- Edwin & Kamala (Esther's parents)
- Gail B.
- Jaeho, Samjin & Eean (Lebanon)
- Joan M. (Misericordia Place)
- Lawrence & Selma
- Laylee, her sons, and her mother
- Lori & George
- Marion H. (Susanne's Mom)/Susanne
- Marye P. (Kathy's friend – cancer)
- Mike & Sunny (financial support)
- Mona
- Pastor Mark
- Pastor Yuri
- Patti P. (health and strength)
- Tania & Valentyna K. (Kathy's friends – housing, immigration issues)
- Venus C. (kidneys)
- Faith @ Home presenters

New items!