



A Message from Pastor Kelly Sikstrom ...

LET'S TALK ABOUT HOSPITALITY

When was the last time you had people over to your home for a meal? What does hospitality look like in your current stage of life? In what ways has your relationship with Jesus influenced your personal practice of hospitality?

The topic of hospitality is a frequent and important theme in Scripture. The Bible was written in the context of a middle-eastern culture that placed a very high value on hospitality. At that time and in that part of the world, there were cultural expectations to welcome strangers and guests into your home for a meal, without any notice or advance warning – and you could also expect to be welcomed into the homes of strangers and acquaintances too.

Today, in our current North American culture, this level of hospitality is becoming less common and more infrequent. Let's consider what the Bible says about hospitality, some barriers to hospitality, and ways to offer hospitality as a spiritual practice. In Scripture, there are many examples of people sharing meals together, being welcomed into

homes, and offering hospitality to one another. Abraham and Sarah offered a stranger a meal, without realizing he was an angel of the Lord. Jesus and His disciples showed up at the home of Mary and Martha for a visit and a meal. The early church met in one another's homes for fellowship, meals, and prayer.

What does the Bible say about hospitality?

- 1 Peter 4:9 – 'Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.'
- Romans 12:13 – 'When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.'
- Hebrews 13:1-2, 16 – 'Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.'

Continued Inside ...



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

10:30am

All are Welcome!

CONTACT US!

Bethel Church Office (Krysta)
Tuesday, Wed (am) & Thursday
office@bethelemc.org
403-337-2355

Pastor Kelly Sikstrom
pastorkelly@bethelemc.org

Pastor Chris Neufeld
pastorchris@bethelemc.org

Childrens Ministries (Natalie)
Tuesdays & Thursdays
childrensministry@bethelemc.org

Finance (Karen)
Tuesdays
finance@bethelemc.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

To view the most up to date
"Calendar of Events"



**Bethel's
Monthly Calendar**



Pastor Kelly's message continued ...

There are many more verses like this, but here are a few take-away thoughts from these passages:

- Hospitality was an expectation for believers in Scripture – especially for those in leadership positions in the church.
- Scripture focuses on the attitude that we offer hospitality with (cheerfully, without grumbling, eagerness), rather than on the extravagance of the food we serve or the cleanliness of our home. Hospitality begins as a heart attitude and act of obedience.
- Hospitality is about more than sharing a meal or your home – it is about sharing your life with others, and inviting them to share their life with you.
- Hospitality toward our friends and family is good, and this is easier for most of us (ex. if you have family passing through, you would invite them to stop by or stay overnight with you). Scripture also places a high value on hospitality toward strangers and people we don't already have a relationship with. This seems to be more of a spontaneous and 'on the spot' style of hospitality.
- There is an aspect of cost and sacrifice that is embedded into the practice of hospitality. When we offer hospitality, we accept that there is a cost and sacrifice that we are willing to make, in order to build a relationship, provide welcome, meet a need, or bless and serve someone else.

Despite the encouragement of Scripture to offer hospitality toward others, most of us find this to be very difficult. Why is that? Here are a few thoughts that come to mind.

- Most of us live very full, fast-paced lives without a lot of margin or free-time. It is hard to find the time to host people (along with all the preparation needed) – and if we do see a free evening or afternoon, we often have our own projects or plans to focus on, or perhaps we just need some space to catch our breath and recover from other commitments.
- We often feel a lot of pressure to serve a perfect, fancy meal in a perfect, spotless home, with easy conversation and connection happening. Sometimes the pressure to meet our own expectations (or the expectations we assume from others) prevents us from inviting others into our home.
- There may be legitimate and real barriers to hosting others: maybe you live in a smaller home that makes it difficult to host many people, maybe there are health issues or concerns that you need to consider, some dietary needs can feel quite overwhelming if you aren't familiar with them, maybe finances are short and the extra expense is too much at this time.

- There can also be emotional stresses and tensions to hosting others. Maybe you've been hosting some guests or care-giving for others for an extended period of time and need to enjoy your own privacy and space for a season, maybe welcoming a guest without notice creates a high-level of anxiety and you need time to prepare ahead of time, maybe there is an issue in your own family or household that requires a lot of attention and focus at this time.

Even though there are barriers to offering hospitality, it can be such an incredible gift for those being hosted AND for those who are hosting. Can I share a few ideas and thoughts about ways to offer hospitality to others?

- It doesn't have to be extravagant. We've invited people to our home for a meal of 'soup and buns' instead of a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings. We will often invite people over for tea and dessert (cookies/ squares), instead of a full meal too. One of my favorite memories was of a young, 21-year old college student in a tiny basement suite who invited me over to discuss baptism. He bbq-ed some burgers, opened a bag of chips, and a bottle of pop – and we had a great time together. Another family ordered pizza from a local restaurant, and we enjoyed pizza and iced tea with them, along with a great visit for the afternoon. We've enjoyed many hot dog roasts around a firepit with our friends from church. All of these were lovely and precious times together. If you enjoy making larger, more extravagant meals – then that's great – but it's ok to keep it simple.
- You can welcome people as they are, and you can welcome them as you are. It's always good to do a quick tidy and clean up, but it's also ok if there are toys on the floor, piles of stuff on the countertop, and window ledges that haven't been dusted. It's not a competition. You are sharing your life with others (as it is), and inviting them to share their life with you too (as it is).
- It's ok to get creative. Instead of having guests in our home, we've met families at the park for a walk or to let the kids play at the playground. You could meet someone at Tim Horton's for coffee. You could enjoy a backyard fire with some cookies or marshmallows. You could invite someone to join you for a community event or activity that you're interested in. Maybe you're in a position to invite someone to a restaurant as 'your treat,' so they don't have to pay. If you like playing games, maybe you could invite someone over to play a game with you. Coralie used to invite all the stay-at-home mom's in our neighborhood to our place for coffee and banana

Pastor Kelly's message continued ...

loaf once a month – the babies were crying, toddlers were sticking every toy in their mouth, and the mom's tried to visit while little ones were crawling all over them – but, it was so fun and those mom's still let us know how much they appreciated those times.

- It's also ok to do something special and beyond what you would normally do. As a kid, I remember getting excited when we had company over, because that meant we'd have dessert with our meal – and we didn't usually have dessert after most meals. Hosting someone provides a good opportunity to do more than you normally would – a roast beef or ham dinner, or a dessert that people always seem to enjoy. Maybe you use your nice dinnerware and cutlery, or pull out the teapot and teacups from the top shelf. Hospitality can be a great opportunity to bless and honor others with the best you have to offer.
- Most of us prefer to plan ahead, schedule our time with company, and have everything prepared (house-cleaned, food in the oven, table set and ready) – but, I'd encourage you to be open to unplanned, spontaneous times that are not scheduled ahead of time. I know of a pastors family who were making pancakes for supper one night (Sunday night suppers can be pretty basic for many pastor families – including ours). As they were making pancakes, another family in the church came to mind, so they gave them a call and invited them over. The two families had a wonderful evening together. I heard of another pastors family who has a tradition of frozen pizza and popcorn for their Sunday night supper – and typically, they will just call someone in the church, or someone who is new to the church, and just say, 'Hey, we're having frozen pizza and popcorn tonight – do you have plans or would you be free to come over and join us.' It doesn't always work, and people may already have plans, but it's good to be open to those 'on the spot' opportunities to bless and invite others.

-Pastor Kelly

BYG News



BYG MAY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 6:30pm - BYG NIGHT

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 12:30pm - BYG SENIOR HIGH

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 6:30pm - BYG NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 6:30pm - BYG NIGHT

**FRIDAY MAY 24 - SUNDAY MAY 26
BYG RETREAT AT RIVERS EDGE CAMP!**

**FRIDAY MAY 31 - JUNE 2
BYG AT WAYMAKERS CONFERENCE, BC.**

QUESTIONS?

Email Pastor Chris at:

pastorchrisc@bethelmc.org

Call: 403-337-2355 or text: 403-796-8890
during office hours.

Community



Carstairs Community Garden

Reserve a plot and grow your own vegetables this summer in the community garden! The garden is located just west of 13th Avenue, near the kids' park and north of the cemetery. The ground is tilled in the spring, and plots are laid out by late May. Water is available in large tanks; carry it to your plot with watering cans.

Each 10x10 ft plot costs only \$10 for the summer. You can request as many as you like, though space may be limited depending on the level of interest. Reserve your space and pay the rent at the Carstairs Town Office at 844 Centre Street.

For questions, contact Neil Carleton: Phone 587 830 2757 or carletonneil71@gmail.com.

Bethel Congregation Photo Directory



We LOVE having a Bethel Photo Directory to help everyone with the many faces and names at Bethel Church! Bethel is blessed to be growing ... and we need your participation to keep the directory updated and current!

IF YOU ARE NOT IN THE BETHEL PHOTO DIRECTORY YET ...
we'd really love to have your photo and information included!

DOES YOUR PHOTO NEED UPDATING ...
looking at the existing photos, I'd definitely say in some cases ... YES, it does!

**DO YOU HAVE A NEW ADDITION TO YOUR FAMILY?
HAS YOUR PHONE NUMBER CHANGED?
HAVE YOUR KIDS GROWN A FEW FEET SINCE YOUR LAST PHOTO!?!?**
The list goes on!! Send us your updates!

Please send your photo (with names, phone numbers, area you live) to: office@bethelemc.org
Questions? Please talk to Krysta!
Thanks so much!

Financial Giving

Want to give a financial donation to Bethel Ministry?

► **OFFERING BOX:**

Located at the back of the sanctuary are 2 locked boxes. Place your cheque or cash in an offering envelope and drop it into one of the boxes. Our ushers collect donations at the end of each service.

► **MAIL CHEQUES TO:**

BethelEMC
Box 4, Site 11, RR 2
Carstairs AB, T0M0N0

► **E-TRANSFER:**

Send to finance@bethelemc.org, no security question needed.

If it is your first time giving please ensure your address is emailed to our finance team to ensure you receive your charitable tax receipt.

**All giving will go to the general fund unless designated otherwise.



BETHEL EMC WEBSITE

- Sundays Livestream Link
- Sermon Archives
- Calendar of Events
- Ministries
- Giving Information
- Weekly Bulletins
- Resources & Schedules

www.bethelemc.org

Rivers Edge Camp

WORK PARTY AT RIVERS EDGE CAMP JUNE 8TH

ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP FOR THE DAY ... OR PART OF THE DAY?

WE COULD SURE USE VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ALONGSIDE US TO TACKLE SOME WORK BEE PROJECTS AND TASKS! LARGE OR SMALL JOBS ... WE HAVE A VARIETY FOR EVERYONE!

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

MORE DETAILS TO COME SOON!



**B
O
L
D**
2024

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord.
2 Timothy 1:7-8a



2024 SUMMER CAMPING SEASON

Registration Open.

<https://riversedgecamp.org/summer-camps/>

See the website for details!

Seniors Prayer Fellowship



BETHEL SENIORS' PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29th, 2:30pm – 4:00pm at Bethel Church

Save the date! We will have a devotion and special time of prayer. We'll also share in a short time of singing, and fellowship time with refreshments. More details coming soon!

For any questions, contact John Silcox, Bruce Lynn or Neil Carleton.

Sunday School News



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you love holding babies or playing with toddlers? It is also a great opportunity to get know others at Bethel, working alongside other volunteers and meeting families.

We are looking for more volunteers to join our team in the nursery.

If you are interested and want more information, please contact Natalie Killam

childrensministry@bethelmc.org or 403 542 3431

Sunday School News

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

May 26 to June 23

If you have an upcoming preschooler (2.5-3yrs) who will be joining our preschool class in the fall, you are welcome to come and join our preschool Sunday school class.

Parents are welcome to stay.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 3rd ANNUAL BETHEL FAMILY



Congratulations to the Neufeld and Friends Team for taking home the trophy!



BETHEL KIDS' BIBLE CAMP SUBSIDIES ... are available again for kids that attend Bethel Church! Applications can be picked up in the foyer (or printed off of Bethel website)! Instructions can be found on the application.

If you have any questions at all please contact Krysta at the church office!
403-337-2355 or office@bethelemc.org

Out & About ...



ATHLETES IN ACTION SOCCER CAMP

TINY LAFLEUR FIELD
Scarlett Ranch Blvd
Carstairs AB

JULY 15-19
9AM-3PM

- ✔ Skills & ball techniques
- ✔ Footwork exercises
- ✔ Strategy & teamwork exercises
- ✔ Fun games & trial matches

Register at westzion.com/registrations

\$70/kid | FOR KIDS
AGES 6-12

Registration Closes
July 1

FACILITATED BY
WEST ZION
MENNONITE CHURCH
403.337.2020
westzionoffice@gmail.com



Didsbury SPRING Market

May 4
10-4

Over 80 Vendors

Baking * Crafts * Gifts
Jewelry & More!

ZION CHURCH
CORNER OF HWY 582 & 20TH AVE.



Start your
TRACTOR
AND
put it in
GEAR

Sutton's Baby Shower

IS ALMOST HERE!

Sunday, May 5 at 2pm
at the Dole's

if you have any questions, please feel
free to contact Jean at 403-335-9127

*there will be diaper raffle for
those who want to participate



AMAZON BABY REGISTRY
for Sutton Myram (Parents - Shaun & Chloe)
If you need any ideas!
[Baby Registry -
amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca)



\$10/child 9AM-12:15PM
\$25/family

Answers VBS

Zoomerang

Returning to the Value of Life

Coming to West Zion
July 8-12 2024



Visitors & Newcomers

WELCOME TO BETHEL CHURCH!

Are you new to Bethel, just visiting, or new to the community?

Here are a few Bethel areas that may be of interest and information for you!

Children's SUNDAY SCHOOL ... if you would like more information on our Childrens Sunday School classes, please let us know! Natalie Killam heads up our Children's Ministry and she'd love to chat with you!

There are "VISITOR CARDS" in the pockets of the sanctuary chairs. Please feel free to fill one out when you're at the church and place it in the VISITOR BOX (on the foyer table). We'd love to know more about you!

There are also teal colored "VISITOR FOLDERS" on the front table in the foyer. Please help yourself to one! The folder is filled with information about Bethel, to help you get to know us!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP time follows every service in the café area! Feel free to wander over to the area (East side), and enjoy a cup of coffee and a time of fellowship with new faces!

If you are a new, regular attender to Bethel and would like to be included on Bethel's "Prayer and Information" email list; the Congregation Phone List; Right Now Media; and have a mailbox in the foyer – please let Krysta at the Church Office know, and she would be happy to arrange all of that for you! (office@bethelemc.org)



Womens Ministry

LADIES SPRING BRUNCH

MAY 2 • 9:30-11:30 • BETHEL CAFE
PLEASE BRING A BRUNCH ITEM TO SHARE
CHILDCARE PROVIDED



Ladies Campfire Evening

Thursday May 23 • 7:00 pm

Fire pit behind Bethel

Please bring a lawn chair and some warm layers/blankets. Snacks are gratefully accepted but not required!