

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7pm Youth	3 1-4pm Baking Club
4 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 4:31-41 — <i>Love's Authority, part 2</i>) 11am Faith Formation 12pm BBYOL	5	6 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	7 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: <i>Not Against Flesh and Blood</i> 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	8	9 2pm Bill Eichhorst Funeral (in Steinbach: Birchwood Funeral Home) 7pm Youth	10
11 10am Worship – Riley Hiebert (Matthew 6:25-34) 11am Faith Formation 12pm BBYOL	12	13 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	14 7pm Annual General Meeting NO OTHER CLASSES / MEETINGS	15	16 7pm Youth	17 8:30pm UGM
18 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (Luke 5:1-11 — <i>Love's Call</i>) Communion 11am Faith Formation 12pm BBYOL	19 VICTORIA DAY	20 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	21 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: <i>Not Against Flesh and Blood</i> 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	22	23 7pm Youth	24 8:30am Men's Breakfast
25 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (<i>"The Story"—The Beginning of Life As We Know It</i>) 11am Faith Formation 12pm BBYOL	26 9:30pm Worshipping the Ancient of Days—NEW ACOUSTIC CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, Time TBC	27 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 7pm Council Meeting	28 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: <i>"The Story"—The Beginning of Life As We Know It</i> 7:15pm Prayer Meeting	29	30 7pm Youth	31 McKinnon Foundation AGM



Bethesda Church Newsletter

Congregational letter

May 2025

**“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.”
– Proverbs 14:12**

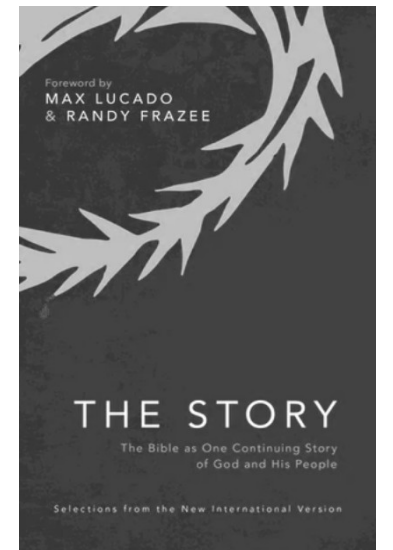
**“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”
– 1 John 5:12**

Humans need hope. Hope is the thing that tells you that life is worth living. Hope keeps you going, even if you are suffering, even if you have no prospect of relief. That's because hope is related to purpose. Purpose can come from any number of things: you can find purpose in a job, in a role, in a relationship, even in pleasure. For most people purpose is more than just one thing. It's all the reasons you exist. But when hope is gone, your purpose gradually dwindles. Without hope, there is no role, no job, no relationship, no pleasure, that will ultimately sustain you. But with hope, you can find a purpose, even discover new ones. And then you can persevere through pain, loss, and loneliness.

Children almost never question hope. But as we get older, our hopes tend to diminish. People disappoint us. Reality gets in the way of our dreams. We realize that as humans we have limits: our lives don't go on forever, and most people find that whatever power, influence and resources they have are spent well before their life ends. Because of our disappointments, because of our limits, to have lasting hope we have to believe in a story that is bigger than we are.

Humans have two basic stories of hope.

Story #1: Becoming. The story that we like the best is the one where humans discover how to make something of themselves. In this story, when we meet hardship we do our best to meet it head on: we work hard, we work together. And slowly but surely life gets better. This big story of humanity keeps us going because, even if we don't experience the better life ourselves we comfort ourselves in the knowledge that somewhere down the line someone will – at least in part because we have done our duty. Our struggle will have been worth it. A key feature of this story is we come to a place where we decide that the old ways are holding us back. So we adapt to meet the challenges. We convince ourselves we don't need anyone but each other: together we will pull ourselves up out of the muck onto firm ground; we will self-diagnose our own illnesses and then develop our own



**BETHESDA
CHURCH**

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cure; we will stop fighting and embrace; when there are shortages we will live selflessly and share; but eventually we will engineer new ways that will guarantee that we all have plenty so no one will need to share. We bask in the wonder of our existence.

Story #2: Rescue. The other Story is one we like less well. But it's the true Story. This Story starts the same way. When meet hardships we do our best to meet them head on. We work hard. We work together. At least, at first we do. But pretty soon we realize that if we hold back a little for ourselves, we won't be as deeply affected by the hardships as others. And maybe, just maybe, our children – the ones we care about the most – won't have to know hardship at all. But of course some people start to have more and others start to have less. When that is uncovered, as it always is, it provokes jealousy, hatred, even murder. And the shortages always come. So we feel even more intensely the need to

protect the people we love best. Things get worse. Not always, and not everywhere all the time. Still, some people start to whisper: we need a Rescuer.

Others scoff at this idea. They are too committed to Becoming. Some acknowledge that humans are selfish by nature, so they throw themselves harder into engineering solutions that make selfishness a feature rather than a flaw. One solution is reclassification: newly designated non-persons are removed. There are less mouths to feed. So the real people don't lose hope. Another adaption is to change what people hope for, something that simulates the old hope but seems more attainable.

Others insist: No, don't do that – there's another Story – we just need to find the Rescuer. The Story we are living in is HIS.

Things really start to fall apart as greed outpaces available resources. We need a new planet, some say.

The others say, louder: no, we need a Rescuer. We need the one who showed us how not to be greedy. We won't stop being greedy on our own. The Rescuer told us he would lift us out of the muck. The Rescuer told us he would cure our diseases. The Rescuer died so we could stop fighting each other. He died so we could start putting others before ourselves. The Rescuer died so that we could find abundance in HIM. And always want to share.

In Canada today, we have a crisis of hope and purpose. People who've always believed in Becoming are starting to understand that it can't be true. And they are filled with quiet despair. Many don't know or believe that there is a story of Rescue, that there is hope beyond this life, beyond humanity itself. They need the true story of Rescue that we have for them! Will you share it? Will you pray for them? Will you order copies of "The Story" – our summer evangelism and devotional tool – for your friends and family? Will you invite them to read a chapter a week with you? And will you come o church with them this spring/summer (starting May 25th/26th) to hear how The Story is put together, how it is connected to them ... and to you?



May 2025
Bible Reading Plan

- Jer 14
- Joshua 20
- Acts 16:6-40
- Jer 15
- Joshua 21:1-8
- Psalm 99
- Acts 17:1-15
- *Acts 17:16-34
- Joshua 21:9-26
- Jer 16:1-17:18
- Joshua 21:27-33
- *Jer 17:19-19:15
- Joshua 21:34-45
- Jer 20
- Acts 18:1-17
- Psalm 21
- Joshua 22
- Jer 21
- Acts 18:18-28
- *Joshua 23
- Jer 22
- Acts 19:1-12

- Acts 19:13-22
- Jer 23:1-8
- Psalm 149
- *Joshua 24
- Judges 1:1-18
- Jer 23:9-40
- Judges 1:19-2:5
- Jer 24:1-25:14
- Acts 19:23-41
- Judges 2:6-3:11
- Jer 25:15-38
- Acts 20:1-6
- Psalm 75
- Judges 3:12-31
- Jer 26
- Acts 20:7-12
- Acts 20:13-38
- Judges 4-5
- Acts 21:1-16
- Jer 27-28
- Judges 6:1-10
- Judges 6:11-32
- Jer 29
- Judges 6:33-8:21
- Psalm 83

- Judges 8:22-35
- Jer 30:1-31:14
- Acts 21:17-26
- Judges 9:1-21
- Jer 31:15-40
- Judges 9:22-57
- Acts 21:27-22:29
- Jer 32
- Judges 10:1-5
- Acts 22:30-23:10

Memory Verses:

- #1. Acts 17:24-25
"The Lord who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else."
- #2. Jer 17:9 (ESV)
"The heart is deceitful above all things, and

desperately sick; who can understand it?"
#3. Joshua 23:14
"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."

#4. Joshua 24:14-15
"Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods

your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

"The Story"

Spring/summer Bible Reading Challenge and Outreach starts after Victoria Day!
Order copies for yourself, your friends, and family (see back table)

Suggested donations:

- Hardcover \$27
- Student edition \$22 (best value)
- Kids version \$16
- "Little Ones" \$27

SPIRITUAL WARFARE PRAYER

– VICTOR MATTHEWS (ADAPTED by Pastor Yuri)

Heavenly Father, I bow in worship and praise before You. I surrender myself completely and unreservedly in every area of my life to You. I worship You and give You praise because You are worthy to receive all glory and honor. I renew my allegiance to You and I pray that the blessed Holy Spirit would enable me in this time of prayer. You have adopted me into Your family; You have assumed responsibility for me; You have given me the perfect righteousness of Christ. In Him You have made me complete.

Father, open my eyes that I might see how complete Your provision is for this day. Thank you that the victory Jesus won for me on the cross and in His resurrection has been given to me and that I am seated with the Lord Jesus Christ in the heavenlies. I take my place with Him, and recognize by faith that all wicked spirits and Satan himself are under my feet. I plead the blood of Jesus against their claims over me. *(continues above)*

WARFARE PRAYER (continued)

I am thankful for the armour You have provided in the Gospel – truth, righteousness, faith, salvation – and I take in my hand the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. I use it against all the forces of evil in my life. I put on this armour in complete dependence upon You, blessed Holy Spirit. I am grateful, heavenly Father, that Your Son disarmed all principalities and powers and made a show of them openly, triumphing over them. I claim all that victory for my life today and joyfully reject all the accusations and the temptations of Satan. I choose to live in obedience to You and in fellowship with You.

Show me the areas of my life that do not please You. Cleanse me from any sinful behaviour or attitudes that might give Satan a foothold. I put off the old man, and receive the victory of the cross where You provided cleansing from that old nature. I put on the new man, and receive the victory of the resurrection and the provision You have made for my holiness. In every way I receive by faith the victory of the ascension and glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ, whereby all the principalities and powers were made subject to Him. I take my place in Christ, victorious with him over all the enemies of my soul. Holy Spirit, I pray that You would fill me with Yourself. Come into my life with all Your gifts, break every idol, and deliver me from oppression.

I am thankful, Father, for the expression of Your will for my daily life as You have shown me in Your Word. I am thankful that You have blessed me with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I am thankful that that I can live filled with the fruit of the Spirit. I am thankful that the weapons of our warfare are not of this world but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, to the casting down of everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

I thus bring my every thought into obedience to You, completely surrendering myself as a living sacrifice, refusing to be conformed to this world. I affirm that You have not given me the spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind, rejoicing in your mercy and goodness, and praying all of this in the strong name of Jesus,

Amen.