

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (<i>Day of Prayer</i>) 11:15am Faith Formation: 321 Course Session 3 12pm BBYOL 1pm Sound Team Meeting	3	4 8am Men’s Prayer Meeting 7pm 321 Course: Session 3	5 6:30pm English Conversation Class 6:30pm Bible Study: <i>Parables</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	6	7 7pm Youth (Bible Study & Games)	8 1pm Hospitality Team Meeting
9 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (<i>Luke 5</i>) 11:15am Faith Formation: 321 Course Session 4 12pm BBYOL	10	11 Remembrance Day 8am Men’s Prayer Meeting 7pm 321 Course: Session 4	12 6:30pm English Conversation Class 6:30pm Bible Study: <i>Parables</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	13	14 7pm Youth (Bible Study & Games)	15 11am Advent Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm UGM
16 Communion Sunday 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (<i>Luke 5</i>) 11:15am Faith Formation: <i>Local Missions: Square One</i> /UGM 12pm BBYOL	17	18 8am Men’s Prayer Meeting 7pm Council Meeting	19 6:30pm English Conversation Class 6:30pm Bible Study: <i>Parables</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	20	21 7pm Youth (Mini Golf!)	22 11am Advent Choir Rehearsal
23 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (<i>Luke 6</i>) 11:15am Faith Formation <i>Local Missionaries: Eunice/Dave & Shanlee</i> 12pm BBYOL Birthday Sunday!	24	25 8am Men’s Prayer Meeting	26 6:30pm English Conversation Class 6:30pm Bible Study: <i>Parables</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	27	28 1pm Church Christmas Decorating 7pm Youth (Bible Study & Games)	29 9:00am Men’s Prayer Fellowship 11am Advent Choir Rehearsal
30 1 st SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10am Worship – Neil Craton (<i>O Holy Night: “Till He Appeared”</i>) 11:15am Faith Formation: <i>Local Missionaries: Caleb & Cheyenne/Tim Nielsen (Naomi House)</i> 12pm BBYOL	1	2 8am Men’s Prayer Meeting CAROLING? (TBC)	3 6:30pm English Conversation Class 6:30pm Bible Study: <i>Christmas Carols</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	4	5 7pm Youth (Games)	6 1-4pm Baking Club



Bethesda Church Office Information
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10:00am-2:30pm
Phone: 204-987-2890 (main office)
1350 Grant Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3M 2A7
Email: office@bethesdachurch.ca



Bethesda Church
Newsletter

Congregational letter
November 2025
Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. –Mark 16:15

November is Missions Month at Bethesda!

DID YOU KNOW...that the share of the world’s population that has heard the Gospel is going down? In other words, for the first time since the modern missionary movement began, the gap between the reached and the unreached is getting bigger, not smaller.

CONSIDER...

- ✦ **Less than half of the world’s people have been reached with the Gospel in any meaningful way.** Less than a quarter (23%) are “significantly reached”. The “unreached” stand at 44%, and the “superficially reached”: 7%.
- ✦ **Asia has more people who have not yet heard the Gospel than all the other continents combined.** India, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Indonesia are the countries that have the highest number of unreached people groups.
- ✦ **The vast majority of those who have not heard the Gospel are either Muslim or Hindu.** Only one out of ten of the world’s Muslims and Hindus know a Christian.
- ✦ **10% of the global population lacks even a portion of the Bible in their language.** That’s over 1000 languages without a Bible. On the plus side, for 75% of the global population, a full translation of the Bible exists in their language.
- ✦ **Historically, donations to global missions account for only about 5% of all giving to Christian organizations.**

Living where we do, it’s easy to get some mixed up ideas about Christian missions and missionaries. For instance, because we have been engaged in missionary work for quite some time, because there are more missionaries today than ever, because we can point to very bright areas of success, and because there are electronic tools that can disseminate Gospel material instantly, many have the impression that the work is nearly done. Practically everyone in the world must have heard the Gospel by now, right? Wrong. As the statistics in the left column demonstrate, this is in fact far from being true. (Most of the figures are drawn from the *State of the Great Commission* report, produced for the 2024 Lausanne Conference in Seoul.) The global population just keeps on growing, and there are cultural obstacles in many places—especially political and religious opposition—that makes telling people about Jesus both very difficult and very dangerous. Also, many Canadian Christians are fatalistic when it comes to missions (and evangelism in general). The way we act it seems that we consider missions to be a quaint vestige of a lost era, a peculiar hobby for those who like that sort of thing. We think: *Sending people out into the world was justifiable when the church was powerful and influential.* But now, compared to many other “sending” countries (like South Korea, Brazil, and the USA) Canada has a low percentage of evangelical Christians. We don’t

usually say so out loud, but many wonder: *Shouldn't we just take care of our own? Shouldn't we let someone else do the heavy lifting abroad?*

This doubt and disillusionment is compounded by what the world whispers to us: that missionaries, however well-meaning they may be, have been a tool of colonialism. This is not the place to engage in that debate. Even so, whether or not there is any truth to that story, it is (to say the least) debate-able!

Regardless, the past gives us no license to ignore the realities of the present. The Enemy is hard at work destroying people, destroying God's world. Christian missions and missionaries stand humbly in the gap. They always have, and they always will. Plus, the last words of our Lord should always convict us of our lethargy. He charged us to GO: to "witness", to "preach", to "make disciples"... everywhere! We may not have as many Christians in Canada as we once did, but we still have access to a

lot more resources (money, institutions, training, materials, etc.) than most other countries do.

We, too, are called to stand in the gap. Jesus' command makes no distinction between near and far. He ties evangelism abroad to evangelism at home. If the Gospel has truly changed your life, then you know that it will transform the world, too. You will care about sharing it here, there, and everywhere! But if you can't bring yourself to pray and support efforts to bring it elsewhere, how likely is it that you will share it at home?

This month, **pray** with us for the global church (11/2), **listen** as we hear from our local missions and missionaries and **give** generously to our annual Christmas card campaign (11/16, 23 & 30). **Be challenged** every week. God is still calling Canada to the mission field. Every true Christian is on mission somehow. What might he calling you to do? Why not discover it this month? —YH

November 2025 Bible Reading Plan				
○ Ezek 38	○ 1 Kings 14	<i>renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.</i>	<i>Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.</i>	<i>that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of heaven.</i>
○ 1 Kings 2:1-12	○ Gal 4:21-5:6			
○ Titus 1	○ 1 Ki 15:1-16:28†	#4. Galatians 5:16-26 ...I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.	#2. 1 Kings 8:23,27 ...“O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way [...] The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you.”	<i>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.</i>
○ 1 Kings 2:13-27	○ 1 Ki 16:29-18:46†			
○ Ezek 39	○ 1 Kings 19	#1. Titus 3:3-7 <i>At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and</i>	#3. Galatians 2:20 <i>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the</i>	<i>The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before,</i>
○ Titus 2	○ *Gal 5:7-26			
○ Psalm 97	○ 1 Kings 20†	*Memory Verses:		
○ 1 Kings 2:28-46	○ 1 Kings 21			
○ *Titus 3	○ Gal 6			
○ 1 Kings 3-4†	○ 1 Kings 22			
○ 1 Kings 5-6†				
○ 1 Kings 7†				
○ 1 Kings 8:1-21				
○ Galatians 1:1-10				
○ *1 Kings 8:22-66				
○ *Gal 1:11-2:21				
○ 1 Kings 9:1-9†				
○ 1 Kings 9:10-10:25				
○ Gal 3:1-14				
○ 1 Kings 10:26-11:43				
○ Gal 3:15-20				
○ 1 Kings 12:1-24				
○ Gal 3:21-4:7				
○ 1 Kings 12:25-13:34				
○ Gal 4:8-20				

O HOLY NIGHT

— BY ELLY HOOKER

Holidays tend to sneak up on us, so it might surprise you to learn that Advent is right around the corner. The first week of Advent begins on November 30, and for me, the season is going to feel different on a lot of fronts. For the last few years, my Advent season has been characterized by “coming home for Christmas”: a mad rush to meet assignment deadlines before crash-landing into the sudden stillness of sitting quietly by my family’s old “Manitoba Fir”, the previous frantic weeks a blur in my memory. This year, there are no plane rides, no final projects, no whiplash from crazy to calm, things I’ve come to associate with the season, alongside romantic images of a soft blanket of snow outside and the familiar warmth of food and fellowship inside. Christmas kind of just feels like the next thing down the line. I feel a bit apprehensive of the slower, quieter advent ahead of me. I know it will feel different to what I’ve become used to, and I’m not sure what to expect.

Unsure of what to expect, and yet called to be expectant. That feeling is written all over the Christmas story, isn’t it? The whole of the Old Testament could be seen as a centuries long season of anticipation, full of breathtaking highs and gut-wrenching lows. And our cast of characters, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, Anna, Simeon, and the wise men knew that something important was about to happen. They knew that a Messiah had been prophesied in ages past. But now, mired in the humdrum of occupation and 400 years of silence from God, I wonder if any of them could have anticipated the sudden stillness of how it all came to be. For all the history, prophecy and lineage to culminate as unceremoniously as the humble circumstances of Jesus’ birth and upbringing... he seems to come out of nowhere. After all, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (contd.)

Ministry Highlight: BBYOL (AKA Sunday Lunch!)

How heartening it is that lunch-hour at Bethesda has grown into a time of vibrant fellowship over delicious food prepared lovingly and diligently by our kitchen team. Everyone is always welcome to partake whether they bring something or not, but we always encourage those who are able to consider bringing food to share!

Maybe that same apprehensive anticipation resides among some of us at Bethesda. There’s been a lot of emphasis this year on community outreach and prayer for revival, and while we are expectant that God is working and will continue to work, it’s almost impossible to predict in what ways. We often have a framework of two extremes in our minds: we either expect bombastic signs and wonders, or we resign ourselves to simply carrying on as we always have. God’s work within the ordinary tends to catch us off-guard, in spite of the precedent we’ve always had for it in the Bible.

The life of Jesus is the most significant example of this work. If not for the radiant truth of who this baby was, it would just be another story of a tired and frightened family on a cold and crowded night, likely lost to time. But instead, this night made holy is the dividing line between the two sides of history, because little Yeshua was who he would later say he was. So, 2025 years later, we have the Christmas story, absurd and mundane, full of songs of praise and remarkable faith in the work of God. Even in their weakness, nervousness, and uncertainty, a thrill of hope permeates it all, and the weary world rejoices.

“O Holy Night” is one of my favourite Christmas songs, a classic for a reason. Its rich lyrics and powerful melody strike the hearts of believers and non-believers alike. As we prepare our hearts through the weeks of Advent, we’ll be going through a topical sermon series modeled on the lyrics of this song: “Til He Appeared”, “Fall on Your Knees”, “His Law is Love”, “His Glory Proclaim”, and finally, ending with “O Holy Night” on Christmas Eve. We will also be organizing several outreach events within and outside our church building: a Sunday Evening Carol Sing, Children’s Program, Christmas caroling around the neighbourhood, and Advent devotionals that will be made available to hand out to family and friends at the end of November.

Whether you’re feeling that warm glow of nostalgia this year, or the coldness and loneliness of the night looms over you, Jesus invites you to open your heart to what he has in store. My hope is that this will be a season of bearing with one another in eager anticipation of his plans, whatever they may be. Please join Pastor Yuri and I in praying for these upcoming events, and to prayerfully consider if there’s anyone in your life who God may be nudging you to invite. And as for us, let’s take advent as the invitation that it is: to live expectantly for the unexpected.