ANNUAL REPORT



JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

ellerslie

YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2023
ekids Summer Fun Days
Summer Youth Kick-Off
Young Adults Camping Trip
Prime Time Onoway Excursion
Mission Update Nights

AUGUST 2023
Stellar Summer Day Camp
Summerfest
Prime Time Museum Outing

SEPTEMBER 2023
Ministry Fair
Training Day
Fall Ministry Kick-Off

OCTOBER 2023
Connecting Lunch
Global Leadership Summit
Prime Time + Preteen Fall Fest
Thanksgiving Offering

NOVEMBER 2023
Youth Retreat
Father + Son Kub Kar Event
Prime Time + Starlight Dinner
Missions Update Night
Operation Christmas Child

DECEMBER 2023
Family Carol Sing
Merry + Bright Women's Event
Christmas Eve Services
Christmas Wonderland Family Event

JANUARY 2024
Family Discipleship Night Launch
Connecting Lunch
Prime Time Pizza + Movie Night
ekids Lunch + Learn

FEBRUARY 2024
Congregational Meeting
Coldest Night of The Year
Parent Training Night
Lone Prairie Winter Youth Camp

MARCH 2024
Lenten Prayer Guide
Lenten Prayer Nights
Prayer Stations Event
Easter Offering
Easter Weekend Services

APRIL 2024
Connecting Lunch
Mother + Daughter Spring Tea
Rally 46

MAY 2024
Grade 6 Celebration
The Assembly @ Ellerslie
Women's Spring Connection
Prime Time Spring Banquet

JUNE 2024
Annual General Meeting
Youth Year End Party



FROM THE PASTOR

This year, we wanted to do something a little bit different with our annual report. In previous years, we have written extensively about the events we've held, the changes in our ministries, and the impact on hundreds of lives. However, this year we didn't want to just write about ministry; we wanted to show you what these ministries look like and hear the stories for yourselves.

While this report is only a snapshot of ministry at Ellerslie, we hope it will give you a bigger glimpse of what's taking place. It will showcase how kids' lives were changed at summer day camp, how youth ministry is a place of hope, how piloting "Family Discipleship Night" was a game changer for entire families, and so much more.

One of our strategies is to Invite, Include, and Invest in God's kingdom work, and you've taken that seriously. We've seen growth in average attendance from this time last year by over 275 people – that's you Inviting! Rarely do I walk through the foyer and see someone standing alone – that's you Including! Also, this year, our budget is increasing because of your faithful giving – that's you Investing!

Thank you for partnering with us in God's mission for SW Edmonton and for creating that "Welcome Home" feeling for all who enter our doors.

Serving in Joy,



LEAD PASTOR

HIGHLIGHTS

The Ellerslie Coffee Bar was launched in March. This initiative created new opportunities to serve in our church and to connect with our congregation. Its addition was also an important element of the "welcome home" strategy and theme of the recent foyer renovation.

In December, we welcomed Michelle Jacobs as the First Impressions Coordinator. She oversees our 127 volunteers who serve Sunday mornings on various teams including prayer, coffee service, ushering, greeting, communion preparation, and the coffee bar.

The texting service we offer newcomers during Sunday announcements remains an essential part of our welcome strategy. When newcomers text “new” they are connected with a pastor, invited to visit the Welcome Centre to receive a welcome bag, and invited to our next Connecting Lunch.

“Every time I come to this church it just feels like home.”

- JANICE

“I felt very comfortable and welcome here the very first Sunday I attended.”

- FIRST TIME ATTENDER

“Ellerslie feels like home” is the story of countless newcomers. As a church family, we endeavour to grow in this unique quality by serving and developing continued ways for people to experience being “home” at Ellerslie.





WELCOME HOME

127

first impressions team members

70

families have texted “new”

100+

newcomers at connecting lunches

200

welcome bags distributed

“I was surprised in a church this size to see six different members of the congregation identify and welcome a newcomer sitting by themself on Sunday morning.”

- ROGER

SUNDAY SERVICES

1009

average attendance since January 1, 2024

20%

increase in average attendance since 2022/23

149

volunteers needed every Sunday

30

people baptized



“It’s so great being together and worshiping as one big church family.”

- JOEL

Together as a church family, we are inspired to worship God generously and be transformed by the life-changing truth in God's word.



“We love that this church teaches through the Bible and cares so deeply for the word of God.”

- NICOLE



HIGHLIGHTS

Two new prayer elements were added to our Sunday morning worship services this year. Our pre-service prayer team intercedes for our volunteers and congregation, welcoming God’s presence. Our post-service prayer team makes themselves available for anyone desiring prayer. We are grateful for our prayer team members, who have significantly contributed to the care of our congregation.

In May, we welcomed Ji Ho An as our Interim Worship Director. He oversees the Renew worship team, is a part of planning the Sunday morning Renew service, and is a band member for the Traditions worship team.

Summerfest is always a wonderful community moment in our year! In August, the families of our the Summer Day Camp children were invited to join us the following Sunday morning for a special worship service, followed by lunch, games, and inflatables. It was a packed house with 1119 people in attendance!

“You could feel the Holy Spirit at work this morning.”

- KAT

HIGHLIGHTS

Ellerslie broke attendance records FIVE times this past year in eKids Church. Our previous record had been 182 kids in April 2023. By May 2024, we had a new record of 242 kids! Currently, we average 218 kids per Sunday, which is 50 more kids than in 2022/23.

Last summer, we launched a sensory room to better support our eKids with special needs. It has become a valuable space for children to take a break when needed.

Christmas Wonderland had over 900 attendees at this free family event! What's even more exciting is that some families started coming on Sundays after attending this event.



“My favourite thing to do is serve at church!”

- KIDLEAD | GRADE 5

“We first visited Ellerslie for Christmas Wonderland and started coming on Sundays.”

- EKIDS PARENT



Partnering with parents to help every child know God personally, love God passionately, and follow God purposefully.



ELLERSLIE KIDS

166

ekids team members

25

child + parent dedications

208

kids at summer day camp

32

students in kidlead

“When is Summer Day Camp this year? We want to plan our family holidays around it so we can be available to come.”

- EKIDS PARENT

YOUTH

100

average attendance at
friday night youth

5

students baptized

230+

packages of cookies consumed

50

youth team members



“Youth has brought me closer to God by talking about things in a way I never thought about. Whenever it comes to God, I always think that teachings should be formal and lesson like, but just ordinary talks teach me a lot. I never really get bored during service.”

- BLISS | GRADE 9 STUDENT



A community where students are cared for, mentored, and allowed to wrestle with the deep questions and realities of faith.

“Without youth I probably would not even have a relationship with God. Youth answered so many of my skeptical questions and encouraged me to walk with Christ.”

- ANONYMOUS STUDENT



HIGHLIGHTS

In November, we ran our first retreat since Covid. 38 students gathered with leaders at Gull Lake Centre for a weekend of being with friends, exploring the outdoors, and encountering God.

From September to May, we had our first internship experience. Drew Owen played a vital role in running the youth component of the Family Discipleship Night, teaching on Friday nights, assisting with the Christian Student Association at local High Schools, and more!

The Christian Student Association (CSA) has been running at Lillian Osborne High School for just over a year. The program runs after school on Tuesdays and sees as many as 80+ students in attendance at a time. A second CSA was recently launched at Dr. Anne Anderson High School - at the kickoff we saw approximately 55 students attend.

“I love the games and hangout time, but the worship service is what really inspires me. I get to feel God's presence and have people around me that are so devoted to understanding God's word.”

- BUYIN | GRADE 10 STUDENT



SMALL GROUPS

120

people in small groups

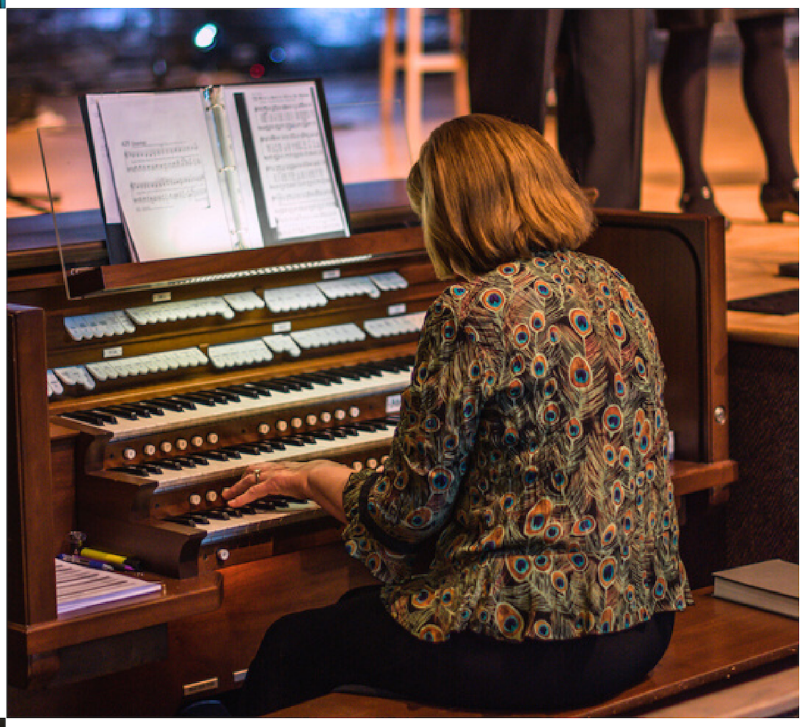
God created us to live in community. Through small groups and triads, our desire is to support people in developing meaningful friendships and growing on their faith journey.

PRIME TIME

80

average event attendance

Ellerslie's community of adults aged 55 and up knows how to have a good time together! This year, the Christmas and Spring banquets were the highlight, with 120 attendees.





YOUNG ADULTS

50

young adults in small groups

This group is filled with students, professionals, and young families! Whether it's a casual hangout around a fire or a night of worship, this is the place to find authentic friendships for those ages 18-29.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

70

average attendance of
women's events

9

graduates of
freedom session

50

average attendance of
ladies morning out

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP NIGHT

255

total number of registrants

1320

approx. number of meals served

88%

of attendees gave a 5-star review



“This really helped us get together with our church family and fellowship while digging deeper into God’s Word.”

- SCOTT

“I’ve met so many new people through this!”

- FDN ATTENDER

“This is awesome! I have been missing something like this.”

- FDN ATTENDER

The heart of Family Discipleship Night is to encourage personal growth in people’s discipleship journeys, fostering connections within the Ellerslie community, and enjoying delicious food together.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Family Discipleship Night (FDN)** launched in January.
- **Ten courses were offered,** including Wee College for young children, Bible studies for youth, and various themes from marriage to theology for adults.
- **The optional dinner** component was about more than just convenience. It provided an opportunity for individuals and families to connect with others in the church who they might not otherwise meet.



“My kids are talking about what they learned on the drive home and are being encouraged in their faith journey.”

- PARENT + FDN ATTENDER



STARLIGHT

500

people attended Alpha

30

people baptized

76

average sunday attendance

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Three Alpha courses** were held throughout the year. The summer course was focused towards senior parents visiting their adult children. The fall course was churchwide, and the third course is aimed towards new immigrants. 27 out of the 30 baptisms this year were from people who went through the Alpha program!
- **Saturday Fellowship** is a weekly churchwide gathering where groups engage in Bible reading, study, and prayer. Additionally, six Chinese classes are held on Saturday evenings, with around 150 kids participating.
- **Starlight's Morning Prayer Altar,** is a time for brothers and sisters from all over the world to share incredible stories of experiencing God's power and glory. These testimonies include miraculous healings from depression, restored church relationships, and countless lives being transformed by Jesus.





500

people attended the spring gala

“The church was filled with the glory of God in every corner!”

- CHARLIE

MISSIONS

Through your generosity and faithful giving, Ellerslie collected

$16,181

thanksgiving offering

Funds raised supported BGC Canada and Partners International for church planting, leadership development, missionary support, and sharing the message of Jesus worldwide!





$10,220

coldest night of the year

Team Ellerslie braved the cold to raise funds for Adeara Recovery Centre, a local, faith-based, long-term addiction recovery program for women.



$12,210

easter offering

Funds raised in support of BGC Alberta and Partners International were dedicated to establishing new churches in our province, as well as equipping pastors to serve in refugee communities across Europe.



9,071

shoesboxes

Every year, Operation Christmas Child brings joy and the good news of Jesus to children all around the world.

Ellerslie is a regional collection centre for the Edmonton area. Based on statistics, that's over 1500 children who potentially gave their life to Christ!



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