

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2024 - June 2025



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Letter from the Pastor



Dave Schmidt

Lead Pastor

As I reflect on this past year, my heart is full of gratitude - for what God has done, for who He is shaping us to become, and for the privilege we have of walking this journey together.

At Ellerslie, our mission is clear and deeply rooted in the call of Christ: to make disciples who love God, love people, and serve the world. This isn't just a statement - it's a way of life we are pursuing together. Every gathering, ministry, and conversation is meant to help us live out that mission with increasing clarity, unity, and passion.

Our vision is shaped by five core values that ground and guide us. We begin by ***Surrendering to God's Word***, anchoring our lives in the unchanging truth of Scripture. We are shaped by the ***Transforming Gospel***, not just saved by grace but continually renewed by it. We respond with ***Generous Worship***, offering our whole lives to God and serving others freely. We pursue ***Courageous Community***, building honest, grace-filled relationships where no one walks alone. And we live out our ***Inescapable Mission***, joining Jesus in making disciples and restoring all things to Himself - locally and globally.

This report tells the story of our church learning to embody these values in tangible ways. From small groups to outreach events, from children's ministry to missions, God is at work - and it's a joy to see lives being changed!

As we look ahead, I invite you to continue leaning in. Let's pray boldly, serve faithfully, and follow Jesus wholeheartedly. The best is yet to come - not because of our strength, but because of the One who leads us.

Welcome Home

More than a building.

At Ellerslie, we want to create an atmosphere where every person feels genuinely welcome and truly at home. Whether someone is stepping through our doors for the first time or has been part of our community for years, we want everyone to experience a sense of belonging rooted in the love of Christ.

This year, we've been intentional about shaping our spaces and our culture to reflect the heart of hospitality. From warm greetings at the door to meaningful conversations over coffee, from inclusive small groups to prayerful support in times of need - we want every interaction to say, "You matter here. Welcome home!"

Our aim is not just to create a friendly environment but to build a spiritual family. That means embracing people as they are while encouraging each other to grow in faith and purpose. We believe the church should reflect God's invitation to relationship - a place where people are known, valued, and supported.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our culture of welcome. Through thoughtful hospitality, intentional community-building, and Spirit-led relationships, we will continue working to make Ellerslie a home where everyone can encounter the love of God and the joy of belonging!

Newcomers at Connecting Lunches

150



New to Ellerslie in the Past 2 Years

41%



Times Individuals Texted "New"

198



First Impression Team Members

150



Pots of Coffee Brewed

1456



Times Individuals Texted "Connect"

75



Sunday Services

Unified in worship.

In the summer of 2024, Ellerslie moved to a single, blended style of worship. This decision addressed practical needs - balancing growing attendance between services, particularly in Children’s Ministry, and easing strain on our Technical Team. It also supported our desire to foster unity and connect with new believers and seekers more effectively.

The change quickly brought positive results, especially in Children’s Ministry, where attendance is now evenly distributed in both services, supporting our goal of growing a strong ministry for young families.

With the hiring of **Mike Barton** as the Worship Director, we’ve introduced a style that blends hymns, throwback songs, and contemporary music, helping all generations meaningfully engage in worship. Mike has also improved sound quality, with more enhancements to come both online and in person. We continue to see new families each week and trust God to deepen our community and draw more people to Himself!

Avg. Attendance since Sept 1, 2024

1060

↑

Child Dedications

7

↓

Summerfest Attendance

1226

↑

Good Friday Attendance

902

↑

Avg. Age of Congregation

43

↓

Baptisms

25

↓

Christmas Eve Attendance

1207

↑

Easter Sunday Attendance

1419

↑

Ellerslie Kids

Highlights

At Ellerslie Kids, our mission is to partner with parents to help every child know God personally, love Him passionately, and follow Him purposefully. We are committed to creating a Christ-centred environment where relationships, safety, engaging lessons, and - above all - Jesus are at the heart of everything we do.

This year has been full of exciting milestones and meaningful moments! On Sunday, May 11th, we celebrated a big achievement by surpassing our Sunday attendance goal with **257 kids** in ekids church - up from a strong spring average of 220 each week.

Summer was another highlight, with our **Scuba Summer Day Camp** becoming our largest yet, welcoming **237 kids** and supported by an incredible serve team of **120 individuals**!

We're also thrilled to see spiritual growth happening at home. Over **70 elementary students** completed Bible Reading Plans this year, with many parents sharing how these resources have helped them engage more consistently in God's Word with their children.

We are so thankful for what God is doing in and through Ellerslie Kids, and we look forward to seeing even more families grow in faith together in the year ahead!

Avg. Attendance since Sept 1, 2024

214

↑

ekids Team Members

217

↑

Salvations

17

↑

Snack Bags for Early Childhood

4160

↑

Ellerslie Youth

Highlights

This year, **2 students** made the powerful decision to be baptized at Friday Night Youth. It was incredible to witness them boldly share how God has transformed their lives and how their love for Christ has grown since that step of faith.

The Christian Student Association (CSA) continued to thrive this year at both Lillian Osborne and Dr. Anne Anderson High Schools, reaching over **100 students** each week with the life-changing message of Jesus.

In May, **50 students** took part in our Youth Retreat at Lone Prairie Camp that focused on building community and digging deep into God's Word. Centred on the theme "In It to Win It: Living My Life with Purpose," the retreat inspired students to pursue a life rooted in intentional faith. Thanks to the generosity of our church community, **over \$4,000** was raised to support student sponsorships and help keep the retreat accessible for all!

We were incredibly thankful to have **Jenine Schatz** serve as our Youth Intern this past year, alongside **Brianna Friesen** as our Youth Assistant. This dynamic duo played a vital role in leading the youth component of Family Discipleship Night and expertly managing the details of Friday nights and the Youth Retreat. Their energy, leadership, and heart for students have made a lasting impact!

Youth on Fridays | Avg. Attendance

91

Youth Team Members

50

Ministry Highlights

Young Adults | 18-29

This vibrant community is full of students, professionals, and young families connecting in small groups, Sunday lunches, and adventures like River Valley hikes and glow bowling. We're excited to see continued growth with the launch of **a new small group**, creating even more space for connection and discipleship!

15



Monthly Events | Avg. Attendance

Prime Time | 55+

Ellerslie's group of premiere adults enjoyed connecting over regular coffee hours and hymn sings. This year's monthly gatherings were extra special, featuring collaborations with our mission partners as well as Ellerslie Kids and Youth. A highlight of the year was the Christmas Banquet, which brought together an incredible **200 people!**

70



Monthly Events | Avg. Attendance

Ellerslie Women

Our Women's Ministry saw exciting growth this year, hosting seven events - more than double the previous year - centred on discipleship and community! We also embraced opportunities to serve, creating Christmas baskets for families in need and supporting our mission partner, Adeara Recovery Centre.

40



Christmas Baskets

Small Groups + Triads

We're committed to helping you grow in faith and connect in meaningful community. Our small groups - typically 6-12 people - vary in size, focus, and life stage, offering a space for connection and spiritual growth. For deeper study and authentic sharing, triads bring together 3-5 individuals of the same gender to journey closely in faith together.

28+



Small Groups + Triads

Kare Kits

This ministry, led by Ellerslie and Grace Point Church, serves individuals experiencing homelessness in downtown Edmonton. Through monthly outreach and the provision of practical supplies, our team builds meaningful relationships and shares the love of Jesus in tangible ways. Each month 80 to 200 Kare Kits are distributed!

Ladies Morning Out

This year, we introduced a new format with group teaching followed by small group discussion and prayer. Each term included a service project - packing 25 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child in the fall and preparing Kare Kits in the winter. A participant survey highlighted strong appreciation for the community and spiritual growth it fosters.

140



Cups of Coffee Served each Month

41



Average Attendance each Term

Family Discipleship Night

The heart of this ministry is to encourage personal growth in discipleship while building meaningful connections over a delicious shared meal! Throughout the fall and winter terms, we offered seven adult classes - each uniquely focused on topics like raising Christ-centred families, living out our faith in practical ways, navigating grief, and exploring faith through Alpha.

Following our **Soul Care** sermon series, a follow-up class during Family Discipleship Night invited participants to dig deeper into the “dirty laundry” of the heart - creating space for God to bring healing and transformation. These sessions led to powerful moments of pastoral counselling, where our team witnessed the Holy Spirit move through prayer - bringing freedom, restoration, and a deeper experience of God’s love!

202



Average Attendance each Term

1760



Plates of Food Served

Starlight

Highlights

Beginning in January 2025, our Mandarin-language congregation aligned its teaching with the sermon series of our English congregation. This was an intentional step toward growing together as one unified church family!

Every Saturday, Starlight host **Saturday Fellowship**, a churchwide gathering where people of all ages engage in Bible reading, study, and prayer. This year, eight classes were offered, covering topics like parenting, marriage, and a special study for seniors. At the same time, an average of **60 children** participated in Chinese language classes. We also ran three Alpha courses - one in the fall for new immigrants, a mini-session from January to April, and a current session for youth from immigrant families.

Recognizing a growing number of new immigrant families with teens, Starlight partnered with Youth Alpha to launch a bilingual Alpha course tailored for Mandarin-speaking youth. This initiative is helping to bridge the language gap and build stronger relationships between Starlight and Ellerslie Youth, creating a smoother integration for these teens.

Alpha has been a powerful tool in Starlight’s ministry, leading many to faith in Jesus. A standout moment this year was when Charlene Dong, Starlight’s Director, received a fully sponsored invitation to the **Global Chinese Alpha Conference** in Kuala Lumpur. This event equipped her with new tools and strategies for evangelism and fostered meaningful partnerships with Chinese Christian leaders from around the world!

Average Sunday Attendance

81



Spring Gala Attendance

500



Baptisms

29



People Became Members of Ellerslie

11



Missions

Ellerslie supports **fifteen** mission partners and organizations - locally, nationally, and globally. As a result of your faithful giving and heartfelt generosity during special offerings, lives are being transformed and the message of Jesus is reaching far beyond our walls. Together, we're making an eternal impact for God's glory - and this is just the beginning!

\$233,000

Overall Missions Giving (as of April 30)



Thanksgiving Offering

Funds raised supported the **House of Omeed**, a ministry in Vancouver, B.C. dedicated to offering hope and practical support to refugees and newcomers to Canada. By walking alongside families in their transition, they help meet essential needs while sharing the life-changing love of Jesus in both word and action.

\$17,021



OCC Shoeboxes

Every year, **Operation Christmas Child** (OCC) shares God's love in a tangible way by delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need around the world. As a regional collection centre for the Edmonton area, our church plays a key role in helping hundreds of boxes make their way into the hands - and hearts - of children across the globe.

8,760



Coldest Night

Team Ellerslie bundled up and hit the trails this February for **Coldest Night of the Year** in support of **Adeara Recovery Centre** - a local, faith-based, long-term addiction recovery program for women. With **78 participants** (and one enthusiastic dog), we not only braved the cold together but also surpassed last year's fundraising total!

\$10,250



Easter Offering

This special offering supported two of our mission partners who are investing in the next generation. Funds raised went to the ministry of BGC missionary, **Laura Russell**, who is developing emerging leaders in Argentina, and to **Truth Matters Ministry**, where **Sid Koop** is equipping youth workers, inspiring students, and informing parents on the cultural challenges today's youth face.

\$17,365



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