



EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

An Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada

"We strive to follow, love and share Jesus by being a community of care"

At EFC, we not only believe that God exists, but also that He has provided a way to get to know Him in a personal and intimate way through Jesus Christ and His Word. Keenly aware of our own weaknesses and shortcomings, we strive to learn and to live out what it means to be changed by God's power and grace; growing in faith, hope and love.

DEEP ROOTS:



EFC had its beginnings in the "Fellowship Movement," a spiritual awakening that spread through Central and Northern Europe. In 1952, Sister Tatjana Doclaw followed God's call to serve the many new German immigrants in Edmonton, where she started to hold Sunday evening meetings which grew into a small house church founded in 1953.

From its small Lutheran roots, it grew, and five years later, the construction of a new church building began. Many volunteers put in countless hours of labour to build the church which we continue to worship in today.

IN COMMUNITY:

EFC is situated among the elm-lined boulevards of a residential neighbourhood that provides rental housing to many of the students attending the nearby University of Alberta. The neighbourhood is close to Old Strathcona, a popular and eclectic shopping, cultural and entertainment hub that attracts visitors from across the city and is the venue for numerous summer and winter festivals. The church is an easy walk from Edmonton's river valley and its many walking trails and parks.

EFC has continued to be a part of the Queen Alexandra and Old Strathcona neighborhoods, providing assistance and help over the years to various groups, such as the Neighbour Center which serves Edmonton's homeless community.

Recently, we have been blessed to share our church building with another congregation, the Spanish Church of God of Prophecy, who were looking for a new space to gather in. We hope this will continue to be fruitful for both of our congregations.

This last year we joined the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada denomination as a full member after standing alone for many years. In the ECCC, we found fellow believers with many similarities in history and a shared dedication to an evangelical expression of faith and service. During our time as an associated church, ECCC has provided much support and fellowship, particularly for our pastors, and we are excited to be part of a larger community of believers.





FAITH IN ACTION:

The church and its members have historically been very active in both internal and external ministries, supporting various missionaries in Alaska, Taiwan and Japan, through organizations such as Liberty Corner Missions as well as supporting other local initiatives.

We encourage spiritual growth through various groups. In-church pastor-led and in-home congregant-led Bible Studies explore various topics. The Women's Ministry group has regular retreats, birthday lunches and often organizes church events, and the Worship Teams serve on Sundays with their musical talent to help us celebrate our Saviour.

EFC has long had Youth Group and Young Adult ministries focusing on both teaching the faith and fun events, building up relationships with God and each other often resulting in strong and close-knit friendships. Volunteer leaders share testimonies, encourage volunteerism and show the Christian walk in action to youth within and outside the church.

Potlucks are important! Lunches happen often, and the church anniversary is celebrated with more food. The annual church picnic at Camp is a highlight of the year, as are Advent and the Christmas Banquet. Coffee House was created as a casual intergenerational get-together over coffee, crafts and board games and has been very popular during the summer. In winter, the Young Adults New Year's retreat and the February Jasper Family Ski Trip have been great ways to spend time together.

Another large part of EFC is Camp Evansburg near the Pembina River, 100 km west of Edmonton. The wooded camp is regularly used by our church for church-run youth summer camp programs, retreats, and picnics and by local Evansburg groups. Camp Evansburg has been a place where many have accepted Jesus as their Saviour, a place of emotional and spiritual renewal and a cherished part of our church.

The pandemic has disrupted a lot of the usual ways we do ministry as a church, but we hope that we can soon start these all up again. Despite this, we've found new ways of caring for others; starting a YouTube channel to stream services to those at home, encouraging members to reach out to other with phone calls, and making care packages and postcards to help build community at a time when it can seem very distant.

A VIBRANT FUTURE:

EFC is a small congregation, but numerous lives have been changed and enriched because of the Lord's mercy and blessings, and we believe strongly that He continues to have a bright future ahead for us!

In recent years, we've renewed focus on community outreach. We've recognized that we are uniquely positioned to reach out to our diverse local community to share Christ, change lives and grow the Kingdom. There are challenges, but the opportunity is great!

We want to be a vibrant church, where people of all cultures and backgrounds feel welcome, known for addressing needs in our community and world with compassion. We want our church to be noticed for its caring and thoughtfulness, and for being a people having fun demonstrating a joyful Christ-like life! A Community of Care.

