



## EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

An Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada

“We strive to follow, love & share Jesus”

November 14, 2021

Hello EFC Church Family,

### **RE: Update on Pastor Josh’s Commissioning in Rosemary Alberta**

As you know, Pastor Josh’s last day as senior pastor of EFC was on August 31, and he and Helen are now living in the village of Rosemary and are part of the Rosemary Mennonite Church family. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness in leading Pastor Josh and Helen to their new church home!

Pastor Josh’s Commissioning Service was held on November 7<sup>th</sup> and several members of the EFC church family were in attendance. On behalf of EFC, Mike Ettrich presented greetings to the Rosemary congregation and our best wishes for Pastor Josh and Helen and for the ministry at Rosemary Mennonite Church. Mike’s address to the congregation was well received, and Pastor Josh and Helen both said they were touched by the message from EFC. The Commissioning Service was quite emotional for both of them.

At the end of the service, one of the Rosemary Church Council members shared that he found it very significant that so many people from the EFC congregation were there for the Commissioning, and this display of affection for Pastor Josh and Helen reinforced for him how blessed the church in Rosemary is to have Pastor Josh and Helen.

As many of you know, Pastor Josh loves to cook and does the majority of the cooking for his family. For those EFC family members who arrived in Rosemary on Saturday, the day before the Commissioning Service, Pastor Josh had prepared a delicious dinner at the parsonage, followed by pies for dessert. And, of course, chocolates. Pastor Josh is a big fan of chocolate!

Following the Commissioning Service, Pastor Josh and Helen took all the EFC visitors on a tour of the church, which concluded in the church basement, where a number of dining tables had been set up in the meeting/dining room outside the kitchen. At that point, Pastor Josh disappeared into the kitchen and threw himself into completing the luncheon feast for all the visitors connected to EFC, for which he had already begun prepping and cooking a day or two earlier. Was there dessert? Of course! The local

bakery and tea house, just a stone's throw from the church, provided a delectable assortment of squares.

For those who stayed until Monday, the Muellers served up a wonderful lunch at their home before the last of the visitors hit the road for the long trip back to Edmonton. Pastor Josh and Helen fed and fussed over everyone from EFC visiting them. It was really heartwarming.

While the Muellers are still adjusting to the change from living in a big city to living in a charming rural village, they are already settling in and building relationships with members of the congregation as well as the community outside the church. Pastor Josh is already part of several men's coffee groups. There are several women's Bible study groups, but none of them has coffee. Helen hopes to change that.

At 7:00 pm on Mondays, Pastor Josh plays "pickle ball," a fast-paced sport that has a lot in common with badminton, ping-pong and tennis. While daughters Sabrina and Amy stayed in Edmonton, Rebecca joined her parents in Rosemary. Rebecca's goal is to find employment in Calgary and get an apartment there.

The parsonage is quite large and comfortable and was recently renovated. It sits on a large lot immediately behind the church. Pastor Josh and Helen are setting up one of the bedrooms as a guest bedroom, and there is plenty of space for an RV or two on the property. As well, there are several nice and reasonably priced hotels in Brooks, which is just 20 minutes from Rosemary. Pastor Josh and Helen send their greetings and well wishes to the EFC Church Family and said they would really enjoy having visitors from EFC.

Meanwhile, you can connect with Pastor Josh, Helen and Rebecca in all the same ways as before through their mobile phones or Facebook. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 222, Rosemary, AB T0J 2W0.

Please keep Pastor Josh and Helen and their family in your prayers, and also pray for the ministry of the Rosemary Mennonite Church. May Pastor Josh and Helen be a blessing to the Rosemary Mennonite Church, and the Rosemary church be a blessing to Pastor Josh and Helen!

In Christian love,

*Your EFC Church Council*