



WONDER

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH *of* LETHBRIDGE

WELCOME!

Welcome to E-Free! Our purpose is Making Disciples of Christ. Join us on the journey and let's take our next step toward Christ together.

INFO CENTRE: Our Info Centre hosts are available to answer questions, give you more info about your areas of interest, or just help you find your way around.

CONNECTION CARDS & OFFERING: Please fill out the Connection Card in your bulletin and place it in the offering or bring it to the Info Centre, or visit efreelethbridge.ca/connection. Guests are welcome to give during the offering but it is primarily intended for those who make E-Free their church home.

DISCOVERING JESUS: Dig into the claims of the Bible and learn how a relationship with Jesus can transform your life. Stop by the Discovering Jesus kiosk in the lobby for a free Bible and resources.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES (WORSHIP CENTRE)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT 6:00 PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 3:00, 4:30, AND 6:00 PM

'LESSONS & CAROLS' CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES (GYM)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 3:00 AND 4:30 PM

More information at efreelethbridge.ca/christmas.

NOTE: On Sunday, December 23 all morning services will be offered as usual, including 9:15, 11:00, and Traditions, however there will be no Church at 6 or Toonie Supper.

CHRISTMAS IN THE KIDS ZONE

For ALL Christmas Eve Services: NURSERY provided for ages 0-3.

PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY age children are invited to participate in the Christmas Eve Services. Colouring sheets and crayons will be provided.

NOTE: No Elementary Sunday School December 23 or 30. Activity boxes will be provided for children joining the worship services. Elementary Sunday School will resume January 6. Nursery and Preschool Programming will continue as usual throughout the holidays.

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 21 | MEMBERSHIP CLASS | Contact Dave to sign up (dave.acree@efreelethbridge.ca).

FEBRUARY 1-3 | YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT | Register at efreelethbridge.ca/youngadults.

FEBRUARY 8-9 | IF:LETHBRIDGE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Registration open online at efreelethbridge.ca/IFLethbridge.

For January events and start up dates, visit efreelethbridge.ca/events.

SUNDAYS AT E-FREE

9:15 & 11:00 am | Worship Centre

9:15 am | Traditions (Gym)

6:00 pm | Church at 6 (Gym)

SUNDAYS IN THE KIDS ZONE

Nursery (age 0-2) & Preschool (ages 2-5) | All services

Grade 1-5 | 9:15, 11:00

Grade 1-3 | During the message at Church at 6

SERVE

FIRST SERVE

Looking to get involved but aren't sure where you fit? We have lots of places you can try out right away! Whatever your gifts, passions, and availability, we have a place for you to get connected! Swing by the Info Centre, visit efreelethbridge.ca/volunteer, or use your Connection Card to get the conversation started.

SUNDAY SNOW REMOVAL

Have you ever plodded through a snowy sidewalk only to feel that cold trickle melt down into the arch of your foot? Become a snow angel and bless every person who enters our doors on a snowy Sunday! Join as individuals, as a family, or corral your small group and commit about an hour to keep our sidewalks clear one Sunday a month over the winter (December–March). Keep your eye on the forecast, as you only get to shovel if it snows overnight Saturday or Sunday morning! For more information or to sign up, contact Audra Enns (audra.enns@efreelethbridge.ca; 329.3125).

ALPHA PROGRAM TEAM

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Each session looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. There's no pressure, no follow-up and no charge; it's just an open, informal, and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together.

We are planning to run an Alpha course starting Monday, January 28, pending commitments from people willing to serve in a variety of critical roles. These include the welcome team, food services, tech support, decor, room set-up, and prayer team. To learn more about how you can support Alpha, visit the Info Centre TODAY, contact Natalie Indenbosch (duane.nataliei@gmail.com) or visit efreelethbridge.ca/volunteer to express your interest. *This week, the Alpha leadership team will be making a final decision whether to run Alpha in the new year or wait until a later date. If you are interested in being involved, please speak with the team no later than Monday, December 10.*

GIVE

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN THE LOBBY TODAY.

As a church family, we have been challenged to redirect some of our Christmas spending to an Advent Conspiracy cause of our choice, in addition to our usual giving to our church general fund. We are excited to announce that last Sunday we did indeed meet, and in fact, exceed our budget! Thank you for stepping up to this challenge!

As our personal finances find alignment with our faith, we make significant strides in our spiritual growth. If E-Free is your church home, giving financially is one way you can play a part in the larger story of what God is doing in and through our church family. The financial health of our church is critical to ongoing ministry. The most common methods of giving we use are:

- During your worship service or at the lobby kiosk
- E-transfer to giving@efreelethbridge.ca and contact Natalie with the password (329.3125)
- On the app or online at efreelethbridge.ca/giving
- Contact the office to set up an automatic withdrawal

NOTE: *Advent Conspiracy gifts must be made directly to the cause of your choice, not to the church.* Questions? Contact Natalie vanSchothorst (329.3125; natalie@efreelethbridge.ca)

To learn more about how you can connect at E-Free every week—youth, young adults, worship arts, prayer, care ministries, and more—visit efreelethbridge.ca.



ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Join the groundswell of Christ-followers who are choosing **to make Christmas what it should be**—a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us.



WORSHIP FULLY

SPEND LESS

GIVE MORE

LOVE ALL



ADVENT CONSPIRACY 2018

This Christmas marks the eleventh year we have been a part of the Advent Conspiracy! By participating in the Advent Conspiracy, we aim to **SPEND LESS** by resisting the cultural pressure to celebrate Christmas through over-spending and over-consumption. Instead, we **GIVE MORE!** That is, we give relational, thoughtful, and meaningful gifts. We then take the money we saved and **LOVE ALL** by giving to those in true need. In all of this, we strive to **WORSHIP FULLY** by keeping our focus on Jesus and participating with Him in what He came to do, bringing hope to a desperate world.

This year, instead of choosing one project to pursue as a church family, we are inviting you to explore your passions, listen for guidance from the Holy Spirit, and invest a portion of your Christmas spending in the cause He lays on your heart. This could mean providing support for a neighbour you notice is struggling, responding directly to a need God opens your eyes to in our community, or giving to an organization that serves the poor and the marginalized.

To learn more, visit efreelethbridge.ca/adventconspiracy.

TO JOIN THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY:

- 1) **Prayerfully reconsider and re-direct some of your holiday spending** to the cause that God lays on your heart. Need help finding a cause? Visit the missions kiosk in the lobby or visit efreelethbridge.ca/adventconspiracy.
- 2) **Give directly to the cause or organization of your choosing.** The church cannot receive gifts designated Advent Conspiracy for 2018. Any gifts to the church designated "Advent Conspiracy" will be returned to you.
- 3) **Fill out a paper ornament to hang on the Advent Conspiracy tree** in the lobby, located beside the coffee bar. We want to know about the people and places you have chosen to support so that we can celebrate how our church family is making a difference this Christmas season.

'TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF
THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF
MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.'
MATTHEW 25:40

WONDER

December 9, 2018 | Dave Acree | John 7:25-29, 37-44 | The Wonder of Bethlehem

DRAW

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened ...'" (Luke 2:15)

DESTINY

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2)

DECISION

"Does not the Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants, and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived? Thus the people were divided because of Jesus." (John 7:42-43)

DANGER

"When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under" (Matthew 2:16)

Want to hear it again or share it with a friend? Visit efreelethbridge.ca/messages.