

# **OUR MISSION**

We love God, love one another, and love our neighbours so that people become passionately committed to hearing and obeying God, and teaching others to do the same.

# **OUR VISION**

We dream of being a movement of people who build bridges into our neighbourhoods and the world because God has created a bridge of love to us.

### We desire to:

Passionately follow the Father and be transformed into His likeness. Graciously enfold anyone into our warm and loving, Spirit-led family. Boldly love our community, speaking hope through Jesus and reaching out to those in need.

We long to bridge the all-encompassing love, the ever-present grace, and the deep compassion of Christ Jesus to our community.

#### WHERE HAS THIS VISION COME FROM?

As we have collectively spent time in listening prayer, God has given us this mission and vision. In the past year, we have been focused on learning to hear God's voice, spending time in His Word and in prayer, where He will often give us direction through a word, picture, verse, or thought.

Some of the places God spoke this year:

- 1. At Geoff's commissioning, where our church family was invited to pray and submit cards sharing what we heard from God.
- 2. Through volunteers as we met with leaders from each area of ministry.
- 3. Through the survey filled out by our church family in the spring.
- 4. To our board, as they processed what had been shared by the congregation and sought God's direction directly through listening prayer.

Continue to pray God will bring His Kingdom to fruition as we align our focus and ministries to this vision he has called us to.

# EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH of LETHBRIDGE

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# **DIRECTIONAL STATEMENTS**

The following are areas we feel God has directed us to focus on over the next couple of years in order to achieve our mission and vision.

# UP// SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

### SEEKING SPIRITUAL RENEWAL, WE WILL:

- Lean into prayer. We long to see renewal in the Spirit by operating with the functional Lordship of Jesus in our lives. Therefore, we will humbly seek and listen to God and be obedient to His promptings. (John 16:13)
- Become bold Kingdom people who fully understand and live the Gospel in our lives, and are able to communicate this fluently in our daily language to our neighbours. (1 Peter 3:15)
- Teach and model how to fully love God and others by living simpler and less busy lives.
  The church will help to achieve this by simplifying our ministry to its most fruitful core.
- Live confessional lives, listen in prayer, and develop deep relationships with those outside of the Kingdom. The board and staff will lead the way as role models of this kind of lifestyle. (1 Timothy 3:1–2)



## TO BECOME MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES, WE WILL:

- Create a simple, relational, and repeatable pathway of Biblical discipleship that leads followers of Jesus into alignment with God's purposes and engaging on mission with Him. (Matthew 28:18–20)
- Develop simple tools followers of Jesus can put to use as they learn to disciple the people in their circles of influence.
- Lead people to effectively engage in discipling relationships. We will organize all our gatherings with a focus on how we can connect people to God (UP), grow disciples (IN), and/or to reach out to our neighbours (OUT). (Colossians 3:12–17)
- Seek ways to improve shepherding and loving those that God has brought here, and help new people connect to our caring community quickly and effectively. (1 Peter 5:2)



#### TO BUILD BRIDGES TO OUR NEIGHBOURS. WE WILL:

- Love God passionately and reach out significantly. We will move beyond ourselves, building deep relationships with those people who are not yet following Jesus. Pray that each one would reach one. (Romans 10:14–15)
- Establish a footprint in Southbrook as a corporate example of what all people at E-Free should do in their neighbourhoods. We will make our church more user friendly to the community.
- Welcome the broken among us and reach out to our city with a corporate focus on the needy, demonstrating the love and compassion of Christ. (Matthew 25:40)
- Build our ministry to new Canadians, recognizing God has brought the mission field of the world to our door. (Acts 28:30–31)
- Step up our engagement in global missions, strengthening and clarifying our current international partnerships and establishing a new strategic plan with a goal of moving all our people to mission. (Acts 1:8)