



Photo by Evergreen CRC

# Evergreen Community Church

A Congregation of the Christian Reformed Church

***Loving, Learning, and Living in the Lord***

101 Tundra Drive  
Fort McMurray, Alberta  
T9H 5A4

Facebook: *Evergreen Community Church*

Website: [eccrc.ca](http://eccrc.ca)

### **1 Corinthians 3: 6 - 9 (NIV)**

***I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.***

### **Planting**

The Fort McMurray Christian Reformed Church (now Evergreen Community Church) began in the early 1970s with a few families of Christian Reformed background, the support of Home Missions in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the leadership of [Classis Alberta North](#) who saw potential for growth in the area. Classis AB North provided materials and labor to build a duplex at 160/162 Beacon Hill Drive. This duplex provided a home for the pastor's family on one side and office space, meeting rooms and storage on the other. Over a short period of time, with a growing congregation, Sunday services were moved to Good Shepherd School.

### **Watering & Growing**

Over time, attendance numbers and a growing vision for ministry, led the church to the north side of the Athabasca River. While the church waited for land in Timberlea, it was decided to relocate to Thickwood Heights where Sunday services were held in St. Gabriel's School and later Father Mercredi High School. The duplex was sold, a parsonage was purchased in Dickinsfield, and fundraising began for a permanent church building. The lot on the corner of Thickwood Boulevard and Tundra Drive caught the eye of some members of the congregation and negotiations began for the property at 101 Tundra Drive. God blessed the vision, the negotiating, the planning and the fundraising and in spring of 1988 construction began. In summer of 1988 a fire reduced the partially completed structure to ashes, but with God's strength the church picked up the pieces and in the winter of 1989 the building was dedicated to God for His purposes and ministry in Fort McMurray.

In the fall of 2008, the church was renamed: Evergreen Community Church in keeping with the desire to be seen in the community as a welcoming place for all to come to worship and serve God. The church has been blessed over the years, not necessarily always in robust numbers, but with God-led fellowship and learning in ministries such as Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Ladies Bible Study, Men's Study, Youth Group, Alpha, and Love Fort McMurray to name a few. Additionally over the years we have joined with other local churches for ecumenical worship services (especially around Christmas and Easter), March for Jesus, Women Alive, and gatherings for city-wide prayer services. In Classis Alberta North we have availed ourselves of meetings, fellowship, prayer, and learning opportunities including the annual Day of Encouragement.

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Change has been a constant in the church. Many people have attended Evergreen over the years for various reasons and timeframes, visiting us from other churches in the city or from widespread locations, some for just a few short weeks while a work contract had them here in the city, others for several months or years, and still others longer term, even to still calling Evergreen home to this day.

### Co-workers in God's Service

Our numbers in Evergreen are currently somewhat small, but we continue to run meaningful worship services, [Sunday School](#) and [Ladies Bible Study](#), and we minister to our community in whatever small ways we can. [Eden Community Garden](#) project was born following the 2016 wildfires and has been one of our key ministries in recent years. God remains here with the congregation, leading as the church walks again through a season of transition in His ministry here in Fort McMurray. We trust Him for the harvest.

We are searching for a full time pastor for our congregation. Our small congregation, from varied church backgrounds and experiences, is prayerfully seeking a God-called, fervent pastor to lead and guide us on an intentional Biblical journey for individual and church spiritual growth and commitment to Christ.

Our Pastor Search Committee has compiled these materials that we hope will provide a clear picture of our church. We would like you to prayerfully consider reviewing the information about our church and community and welcome any questions that may arise.

We have included a [summary](#) of a church survey that was sent to the congregation earlier this year. We hope this will serve to give some idea of our current congregation, our strengths, weaknesses and challenges, and our ministry needs and wants.

Additionally, we have attached some links about the community and region we call home. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in northern Alberta is diverse in population, vast geographically, and bountiful in natural beauty. The city of Fort McMurray is part of that region. Please visit the websites below for more information:

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo <https://www.rmwb.ca/en/index.aspx>

Fort McMurray [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_McMurray](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_McMurray)

Wood Buffalo Economic Development and Tourism <https://fmwb.ca/>

MacDonald Island Park <https://www.macdonaldisland.ca/>

Fort McMurray Public School Division <https://www.fmpsdschools.ca/>

Fort McMurray Catholic School Division <https://fmcschools.ca/>

Keyano College <https://www.keyano.ca/en/index.aspx>

Northern Lights Regional Health Center

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/nlrhc/nlrhc.aspx>

If you wish to pursue further discussions after perusing this information material and seeking God's guidance in prayer, please complete a Pastor Profile on the [CRCNA Pastor Portal](#) if you haven't already done that.

If after reviewing our information you do not feel that God is calling you to pursue this ministry with us, we thank you for your time and wish you God's blessing and guidance wherever He leads you. It is our prayer that through this search process, both you and our congregation will find a match that will honor God and further His kingdom here on earth.

In Christ's Service,

*The Evergreen Pastor Search Committee*



*Fort McMurray during the Fall (Stock Photo ID: 1334990747)*





Ladies Bible Study at Evergreen is a great experience. We have seen times where there have been more than 10 people and others when there were just 2. Either way, there is always a diverse group of people with varying ages and experiences. A common expression heard by most who attend is "It took some convincing to make myself go, but I'm sure glad I did." The group is a safe and welcoming space where all the women involved are able to be honest about triumphs and struggles. We have done different types of studies that range from very structured to very casual. Currently we are going through the three books of John where we are learning "The Essence of Christian Living" with Pete Briscoe. Ladies Bible Study at Evergreen has become a regular part of the week for those that attend, providing spiritual nourishment as well as strong bonds of friendship.



Evergreen Sunday School program's vision statement is:

Heart, Head and Hands for Jesus!

**Heart:** An attitude and feeling of love towards God and others that comes from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' *Luke 10:26-28*

**Head:** An understanding of the Bible and what it tells us about who God is, the Creation, Fall and Redemption of the world, and how we are to live as disciples of Jesus

**Hands:** "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in it various forms." *1 Peter 4 :9-11*

Evergreen's Sunday School Program is a place where the children and youth of the church gather to sing, to learn, to play games focusing on a Bible story, Biblical themes (currently the Heidelberg Catechism). Most Sundays the children are split up in to age-appropriate groups, but they love to hang out as a big group as well, doing crafts, preparing for a service project, doing a game together and celebrating birthdays.

A couple of examples of the service projects done in the past are: Fall Family Festival, where the church is open on Halloween night offering games, food and candies for the community. Others include singing in the hospital, at the children's and long-term care wards or cleaning up the sidewalks & trails after the winter. Helping sort and collecting groceries in the warehouse of the Foodbank.

A program to instill a love for God and others, learn about God and ourselves, and serving the community.



Eden Community Garden is getting ready to kick off its sixth year since its establishment in 2017. In 2016 Evergreen congregants had a vision of fruitful gardens, people coming together to share ideas and gardening advice, relationships being formed and most importantly an opportunity to serve our community with both our property and our time. The fervent prayer was that through these actions and the chance to meet and chat with neighbors, the gospel would be shared, and people would come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Samaritan's Purse, active in Fort McMurray after the 2016 wildfire that ravaged through the town, was an important partner at the beginning stages of the Eden project. They provided funding for garden soil, tools, materials, bees, water totes and everything that was needed to get the gardens established. With the help of their funding and a lot of volunteer hours from the SERVE group that visited, Church members and community members, the vision for a Community Garden came to fruition.

Since 2017 the garden plots have been used every year by a changing group of gardeners, though there are a few gardeners that have come out year after year. Plots are typically planted mid-May to early June, tended for the season, harvested, and then cleaned up and prepared for the next season. In 2023 there was a wait list of people looking to adopt a garden plot and so the decision was made to rebuild the gardens, changing the layout and allowing for more plots to be added.

Eden Community Garden is run by a volunteer board. The current board members are Veronica Flores, Colleen Dorchak, Shannon Sherk, Diane Zundel and Lisa Vroom. They meet in April to get things started and throughout the summer to organize garden opening, work bees and plot adoption, information evenings and monitor the running of the gardens throughout the year. Typically, the gardens are cleaned out and turned over by the end of September.

Evergreen members support the running of the garden by attending work bees, filling the water totes when they need it, weeding and watering some of the communal areas, chatting with the gardeners that visit the gardens and answering any questions they have about the Church and its programs. Evergreen Church membership has stepped in and helped in so many ways over the years and the gardeners utilizing the gardens have often commented on how kind and helpful all the Church members are.

Eden plots are up for adoption for the 2023 garden year and the expectation is that they will all quickly be claimed. Opening day is set for May 6!