

**High Level Evangelical Church**  
*Evangelical Free Church of Canada: Alberta Parkland District*

***Introduction***

High Level Evangelical Church is a young congregation, 85% of which are under the age of fifty. Before the pandemic we had a weekly attendance around 200, lately it's been closer to 150. Ministry to families is a high priority.

***History***

High Level Evangelical Church was planted in the late 1970's by the La Crete Bergthaler Church to minister to Mennonites who had moved to High Level. Initially they met in a home. In 1982 they built their first building. Growth caused the church to relocate several times. Today a large building seating 500 is located on five acres east of town. There are further plans for expansion of the facility in the near future.

While started by the Bergthaler Mennonite Conference in 1977, the church withdrew from the Conference in 2003 over some differences around fellowship and church membership. The departure was handled well and we left in peace. It operated for six years as an independent church, joining the Evangelical Free Church of Canada (Alberta Parkland District) in 2009. While the church still enjoys its Mennonite foundations, today the congregation represents a much broader constituency.

The last number of years has been a period of transition and the membership recently voted to move from a two-board system to a single board. We are looking forward to the next chapter that God has in store for us.

***The Community***

High Level, while fairly remote, attracts a young population. Most of the 3,000+ residents are under the age of 55, so there are many young families. Farming, the lumber industry and trades employ many residents. Surrounding the town are many First Nation Reserves. The church supports a number of persons and organizations that minister to local First Nations communities.

While heavily influenced by Mennonites, there is a large "unchurched" population. While HLEC has a well-known presence in the community, evangelism and outreach are not strengths. Finding a way to connect with First Nations and multiple ethnic groups would benefit the church in fulfilling its responsibility to the Great Commission.

## **Mission Statement**

*"We proclaim him (Jesus),  
Admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom,  
So that we may present everyone perfect in Christ". Colossians 1:28*

Because God loves us so much, it is the purpose of High Level Evangelical Church to love and worship Him, to care for one another, to bring every person to maturity in Christ, and to reach out to the world.

### **We will WORSHIP God for who He is and what He has done —**

- through exalting His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, both individually and together.
- through recognizing the priority of preaching and teaching the Word.
- through praising God in music and in prayer.
- through offering all we are and all we have to Him.

### **We will CARE for one another -**

- through sharing each other's joys and burdens.
- through sacrificially serving one another.
- through recognizing, developing and using our spiritual gifts.
- through exercising redemptive discipline.

### **We will DISCIPLE believers to become holy, Spirit-filled men and women —**

- through teaching them to obey God's Word.
- through making disciples, baptizing and bringing people to maturity in Christ's body, the Church.

### **We will REACH OUT to our community, nation, and world —**

- through declaring the gospel both in deed and in word.
- through equipping all members to serve in their sphere of life.
- through praying for, sending, giving, and going to the un-reached peoples of the world.

This we will do to the glory of God, through the grace of Jesus Christ, and by the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

## Statement of Faith

The Evangelical Free Church of Canada is an association of autonomous churches united in a common commitment to God's evangel—the gospel of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again to give us eternal life. To God's glory, the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Our essential theological convictions are vitally connected to this gospel.

*God's gospel originates in and expresses the wondrous perfections of the eternal, triune God.*

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

*God's gospel is authoritatively revealed in the Scriptures.*

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavour should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

*God's gospel alone addresses our deepest need.*

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

*God's gospel is made known supremely in the Person of Jesus Christ.*

4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

*God's gospel is accomplished through the work of Christ.*

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

*God's gospel is applied by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

*God's gospel is now embodied in the new community called the church.*

7. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two

ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

*God's gospel compels us to Christ-like living and witness to the world.*

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

*God's gospel will be brought to fulfillment by the Lord Himself at the end of this age.*

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His holy angels when He will bring His kingdom to fulfillment and exercise His role as Judge of all. This coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

*God's gospel requires a response that has eternal consequences.*

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.