



---

Lake  
Ridge  
Community  
Church

ANNUAL REPORT  
2017

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lake Ridge Community Church believes Jesus is bringing people together and doing this amazing work here and now. We are discovering how to follow Jesus in Community, learning to trust God through Worship, experimenting with a new life of Generosity towards others, and allowing our own Stories to be shaped by the gracious, always unifying, love of Jesus.

Pastor Evan .....	4
Pastor Preston .....	5
Leadership Chair Person .....	6
Pastoral Relations Team .....	7
Children's Ministry .....	9
Youth Ministry .....	11
Worship Ministry .....	13
Connections Ministry .....	14
Mighty Neighbourly .....	16
Haiti .....	17
Letter from ECCC .....	18
Balance Sheet.....	19
Profit & Loss.....	21
Proposed Budget.....	22



# STORY

*God's story unfolds in the Bible,  
and continues to unfold all around  
us. We also value your story; God  
is at work in you!*

# PASTOR EVAN'S REPORT

Each year that I sit down to write my report, I wonder if I will have anything to say about the last year. However, this is not one of those times. God has been very good to us and even though we have many things to learn about ourselves, He has demonstrated that he is leading us towards deeper things, in ourselves and in our community. I'll break down just a few of those things in this years report.

First of all, I'm very excited that our partnership with Synergy and sharing office space as a team has come to a reality. After a bit of a rough start with delayed move in dates and a building scare around some of the ground work, we celebrated a grand opening in September. Thanks to a great team of people working to make the grounds beautiful, it has been a thoroughly enjoyed public space to hold meetings, study and ultimately work on projects together. The addition to our staff has brought Tara Linsley on board and she has immediately changed the way we are able to do things in the best ways.

I think the best way to describe this year from a ministry prospective is growth. Pretty much every ministry has grown from a numbers standpoint and a personal growth standpoint. This has been both exciting, but also challenging as we try to figure out new ways to add people without losing the relational approach we believe is vital to us being the people of God in our city. Each stage of growth that we go through is valuable because it stretches us to think about what must be done differently, and to think about what we are not willing to lose.

The best image I have been able to come up for this is a bicycle. When I was a little boy I had a sweet tricycle with all the bells and whistles, however, there came a time when it just wasn't practical to ride as I got bigger. Then I had a little green bike with training wheels. After a while the training wheels came off and so on and so on. Each time my bike got too small for me things got a little awkward. When I got a bigger bike, well that was awkward too, but I got used to it. There were many crashes along the way, and I am now proud to say I ride a big bike.

Here is the trick, I still love riding my bike. The challenges we face as we grow as a church will be to come up with the right-sized system for us without losing the joy of working together to love Jesus, each other, our city, and our world.

I think this year we felt some awkward growth moments, along with some exciting moments. This next year, we plan to take a closer look at each area and how we work together and decide what we might need to try to make moving to our new bike a little smoother. I believe God wants that, but not at the expense of our growing relationship with him and each other. So it will be balance as we continue to allow our four main values of worship, community, story and generosity, to lead us and as we seek to bring a little more structure to things (in our Lake Ridge style).

This ride is about Jesus and not about religion. It's about the church being the place that teaches, cares, and comforts each other. Please pray for us as we all try our best to transition into new ways of going in the same direction.

To close I will say this, it is such a privilege to pastor at Lake Ridge. You have helped create a place where we are not only leaders of the community, but also part of the community. Let us continue to be people who seek Jesus first and who serve God by serving each other and our community. My hope would be we continue to be generous, with our love, with grace, with forgiveness and with laughter and fun.

-EVAN DEWALD



# PASTOR PRESTON'S REPORT

Following Jesus is what this is all about. In the daily business of church and community life, I always find myself being drawn back to Jesus who reminds me that this is all his - the stories, the joys, the sorrows, the growth, and the fruit of God's presence. Jesus reminds me that I am invited to work and attend to what God is doing. God has been and is very much at work at Lake Ridge!

This past year I saw God at work in our worship. We hosted a city-wide ONE night of worship at Camp Chestermere, new worship leaders have stepped into new roles, our Worship Team Campfire meetings inspire us to think well about how we worship, and people are meeting God in worship, sharing their stories of hope and renewal.

This past year I saw God at work in our maturity and learning. We had a number of meaningful sermon series, including the Short Stories of Jesus, The Lord's Prayer, Church as a Movement, Eat this Book, Good News for a Change, and Vulnerable Christmas. Together we took a run at reading the New Testament together and offered a number of small groups and experiences that led us to deeper faith. We had Soup and Study nights, a new moms group, Vantage Point 3, and book studies.

This year I saw God at work in our children's ministries. New leaders, new curriculum, and new stories of kids and families connecting together in healthy ways - all of these reflect God's love and care for our community. We even gave kids their very own Bibles, and they are learning how to read God's Word for themselves!

This past year I saw God at work in those new to our community. We have a new connections team, new communications, and good things happening in our hospitality and coffee ministries. But all of this leads to a culture where people feel and know they are welcome here. Dozens of new people and families have joined in over the past year, and we love hearing their stories of meeting Jesus and growing in faith and friendship. Lake Ridge is actively making a difference in the lives of hundreds of people in our city. Everywhere we turn it seems that God is at work doing something good, right where we live and in the lives of people we love. We have so much to celebrate!

This next year is a year of building new structures to support our growing ministry and focusing on growing in love and maturity in Christ. My own hope is that we will offer better ways to grow in our faith and to love our neighbours. We grow best when we learn, dig into big ideas, and then put those ideas into practice. I am convinced we need to become people of prayer, people of the Bible, and people who are active and alert to God's work around us. My deepest hope is that all of this leads to a culture of high trust and love that imbues everything we say and do.

To wrap up, I want to share a few personal highlights from this past year. First of all, Kelly and I had a beautiful baby girl, Ivy! She is a joy to us and we are delighted, I love being a dad of two little girls! In the broader Evangelical Covenant Church family, I have been on a four-year journey towards Ordination and this January I passed my last interview (whew!). I will be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in Minneapolis this June. Also, very exciting this year is the news that my first major book was published by Urban Loft Publishers in California. "The Bees of Rainbow Falls: Finding Faith, Imagination, and Delight in Your Neighbourhood" has been a labour of love and has been so well received. You can learn about this and other projects at my new website, [intotheneighbourhood.ca](http://intotheneighbourhood.ca). Thank you for your love, prayers, and support. Serving with you is a joy!

-PRESTON POUTEAUX

# LEADERSHIP CHAIR REPORT

As I sit here and reflect on the past year I think about all of the growth we have experienced as a church and as a Leadership Team.

We welcomed two new members to leadership this year, Pat Pease and Patrick Conway; what amazing additions to our team. We officially opened the Centre For Community Leadership and I must say what a great gift to our city and the community. I am sure that our pastors appreciate their own spaces where they can now collaborate and create all that hilarious content right next door to each other. As well as give them a safe place to provide pastoral care. We welcomed Tara Linsley as an official staff member, which has helped Preston and Evan in ways that words cannot describe she is a gift to the team.

When I think about the growth we have experienced I think about the fish farm initiative in Haiti, the second round of Financial Peace University, and the faithful stewardship and generosity Lake Ridge has experienced as a whole. Our children's ministry continues to grow as well as the number of volunteers for all of our ministries. I see God doing great things in this place and changing lives. Each year we experience growth and that growth leads to more possibilities. I encourage you to continue to pray for this place and dream big about the plans that God has for this City and us.

As my last term on leadership comes to an end I want to thank you for the growth and experience I have gained. It has been a privilege to serve this community in which God has brought together. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead with this wonderful group of people and an incredible pastoral team. My time on leadership has been a challenging yet fulfilling experience. I am excited to see where God will lead me next and what area of Lake Ridge I can continue to serve in.

-DAVE BELL,



# PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

In November of 2016 the first Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) was formed. The team off our consisting of Corinne Stoter, Del Pease, Patrick Conway and Kevin Castanheiro were tasked with providing on-going care, support and encouragement for the pastors, Evan and Preston, and their families at Lake Ridge. The committee is responsible for creating a safe place for our pastors to be themselves where we can help them to grow, be healthy, be heard and feel supported. We will advocate for them, pray for them and stand by them as well as help Lake Ridge to get to know who they are outside of our Sunday service, their desires and passions.

One of our first mandates was to administer and facilitate the annual evaluation process for our pastors which will commence in April of this year and completed by the end of May. The process will include: self-evaluation as well as evaluations from the Leadership Team and select members of our Lake Ridge Community. Once completed, it will be the responsibility of the PRC to review and distill the evaluations in order to present the final results to our pastors. Quarterly check-ins throughout the year will take place to ensure we follow up on goals and agreements.

Our next mandate was to create a process for Sabbatical Leaves for Evan and Preston including goals, both professional and personal. Understanding that our pastors are basically on call 24 hours a day wearing many hats and juggling many balls and trying not to drop any of them is no easy task. The PRC will help educate Lake Ridge regarding the importance and need for Sabbaticals for our pastors in order to keep them healthy, educated and energized.

The final mandate was to create a process for salary reviews for our pastors. The goal was to prepare a recommendation for salary increases based on a sustainable increase model to bring our pastor's salaries closer to being in line with their level of experience and education.

We will continue to pray and support Evan and Preston throughout the year as they continue to do God's work in our community.

-KEVIN CASTANHEIRO



# COMMUNITY

*We believe that following Jesus is best done together - it's why Jesus gathered people around him.*

*Community is all about connecting, meeting new people and good friends.*

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

The Children's Ministry at Lake Ridge includes four different program areas to help us love Lake Ridge kids of different ages: Nursery, L'il Church, Kids Church, and Club 56.

**Nursery (ages 0-2)** Our babies are loved every week by a great team of people led by Lisa Pollard. It is a great opportunity to welcome our youngest folks at Lake Ridge. If babies are your thing let us know! We can always use more people on this team.

**L'il Church (ages 2-5)** Our Little Church group is going so well. We have a great group of kids who are learning together about our faith and Bible and learning how to be a part of a community that loves them. One thing that I wish everyone could see each week is the great questions that the kids ask. We are working our way through the Bible over the course of 3 years and it is inspiring some great thoughts.

One of my favourite questions was, "how was there nothing before God created everything? I don't get it! How could there be nothing??" This kind of inquisitive posture is so fun and inspiring! We should all allow ourselves to question the scripture and spend time wondering how big the story of God is. We should all be so brave to know that our church community is a good place to learn and wonder and grow. I am so privileged to get to teach your kids. It is my passion that each person at Lake Ridge feel welcome and safe and wanted in our community. I come to church each week excited to hang out with these kids. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this way.

-CHRISTIN DEWALD

**Kids Church (grades 1-4)** Do you remember being in elementary school? Life for these kiddos is full of firsts and fresh starts. That's a pretty good reflection on this past year for Kids Church as well! This past year was full of cool firsts and these were some of our favourites:

- Connected 59 kids to adult prayer partners. To help 'Big Church' join us in loving all the Lake Ridge kids, in April we snapped photos of children aged 2-12, and turned them into prayer cards. These cards were taken home by adults and stuck to fridges, placed on desks, posted on family bulletin boards to encourage the adults to pray for "their child" for the year. We decided to run this program every other year, so while it won't happen in 2018, we're already thinking about 2019.

- o Prayer request - we'd love to find a volunteer who would take this idea on as a ministry. Pray that someone is inspired.

- Equipped 20 kids to begin discovering the heart of God through His stories. In May we ran our first bible gift program for the kiddos in grades 3 and 4. Our pastors wrote a note to each child and the brand-new bibles were presented as part of the service one Sunday in May. Plans are in the works to run this program again this spring, so stay tuned!

Continued on next page.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT CONT'D

-Provided our teachers with 52 weeks of lesson plans. Turning God's stories into thoughtful, meaningful, fun, age-appropriate bible lessons is definitely a gift..and a lot of hard work. To help lighten the load for our teachers in 2018, we were able to invest in terrific curriculum program filled with resources to that make teaching Kids Church way easier. The program also includes take-home sheets to help families continue the Kids Church conversations at home. For the coming year, we're planning to continue with the good things that have already begun, and we hope to continue to welcome new kids as families come to check out Lake Ridge. We currently have an average weekly attendance of 10-20 kids, but if all the kids who fall into this age group showed up at church on the same day, there would be 35!! We have a great group of almost 20 volunteers helping with Kids Church, either as Teachers or as Helpers.

o Prayer request - we'd love to find a few more people who would be willing to join the teaching side of our volunteer team. Pray that a few people feel moved.

-ANDREA CONWAY

Club 56 (grades 5,6)

In Club 56 we're spending time getting to know each other, reflecting on the week behind us and then digging into the really tough questions that the students came up with like "why do bad things happen to good people?" And "does God control everything?" And "why doesn't the bible mention unicorns on the ark?"

I really love spending time with these amazing kids each week!

-ALICIA PETERSON

# YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Teenagers are so important to us at Lake Ridge. As our community continues to grow we have done our best to listen, pray and intentionally start to create a space for our students. Our intention is to create a safe place for junior and senior high aged students in Chestermere to discover themselves and to understand they are a valued part of our community.

This year, we had the privilege of getting to know more of our students one-on-one. The relationships we have built continue to be a space where we all get to grow and hear about some of the things on our student's minds.

Building trust takes time and relationship, therefore our goal for the Lake Ridge Youth Ministry is to get together monthly for activities for students grades 7-12. This year, we raced down the skyline luge track, competed for the best laser tag aim, attempted to solve the mysteries of a locked room, played ridiculous games, and drank countless coffees. It was fun, and we'll continue to do just that - have fun and be together.

As in all our ministries at Lake Ridge, they do not just exist in the four walls of our church. We aim to love teenagers in our city and are passionate about seeing them become leaders here too.

Our prayer for our students is that they feel known and loved by Lake Ridge, our city and most of all God. To know they have people who are invested in them and to feel they have safe places to be. We also ask you continue to pray for more people who are passionate about caring for youth, we definitely have a great team, but can always use more people who are willing to jump on trampolines and race down hills.

-PASTOR EVAN



# WORSHIP

*Roots us and realigns us to  
God's work in our hearts. Each  
Sunday we gather as a  
community to worship God in  
song, reading the bible, the  
weekly message, and prayer.*

# WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORT

What a great time this past year at Lake Ridge has been for our Worship Ministry. Through the special Sunday mornings brought by Matthew, and Natasha, the ONE event from this fall, new members, personal growth, our campfires, and new music it has been an honour and privilege to serve our congregation and community. We look forward to this new year together.

We are planning to continue with our worship campfires and practices, and bringing new music in. We are also creating programs to train sound technicians, and to train and bring new musicians in. Also we're looking to do more special Sunday morning services and another community worship night together as well.

As our Worship Ministry continues to grow, we came to the congregation in the third quarter of 2017 to ask for additional funds to purchase a larger trailer. The trailer's purpose is to be able to hold all the equipment we now have, some of which is stored in the school as there is no room in the current trailer.

Thanks to you, the purchase of the trailer was approved! After a lot of searching and evaluating both new and used trailers for the specifications needed, a new 8.5' x 16' trailer was ordered.

The trailer was picked up in January and plans are underway to complete the outfitting which will include additional storage in the trailer and several new boxes.

We're excited to see what else this new year will bring as we continue to love and serve each other and our community together.

-NATE PEASE & JACK SYMES

# CONNECTIONS MINISTRY REPORT

Our Connections team launched in January to strengthen our culture of warmth, welcome, hospitality and belonging. People visit churches for a variety of reasons with a whole range of emotions. Our gift to all of us, is to acknowledge those emotions and create an environment in which Jesus can continue to speak into their stories.

Church growth leaders believe the six most important minutes of a Church service is the first three minutes before the service begins, and the three minutes after the service ends. The journey from the parking lot back to the parking lot for people caused the team to pay attention to the first 25 feet inside the front doors.

To that end we have moved what we call the "welcome table" with information, name tags, Bibles etc. to the lobby inside the front doors. The giving table remains inside the doors of the worship center.

We have many Lake Ridge people who have volunteered to create this culture mentioned above. To that end we have created teams of people each Sunday at three different stations.

1. Front door ministry: these folks open the doors of the school for all who make their journey to Lake Ridge with a "welcome to Lake Ridge." We have included a few of Lake Ridges kids on this ministry.

2. Inside the door: we have two folks to introduce themselves and welcome everyone to Lake Ridge. They can direct families where they need to be and answer questions from visitors.

3. Worship centre: where one person serves as a "connector" just inside the worship center doors. They create a sense of anticipation and take time to make sure new visitors get connected with others.

Each Connector wears an "Ask Me" button so visitors know who they can direct questions too. It's about more than a team though. It's really the task of all of us who call Lake Ridge home to be connectors and welcomers. Remember, people just want someone to hear their stories and value them. You can get involved by paying attention on Sunday mornings to:

- a) People you've not met
- b) Folks sitting alone or by themselves
- c) Connecting visitors with someone else that morning. (ie. connecting folks with things in common)
- d) Noticing who has been missing for a while and reach out to them and/ or mention it to the pastoral staff.

We already have a welcoming environment where people can come and find a place that their journey with Jesus can grow. This new effort is to encourage all of us to be more aware of the dynamics of our worship service and play a role in moving us forward.

Thanks to the wonderful Connections Team who love, pray, and serve Christ at Lake Ridge.

-DEL PEASE

# GENEROSITY

*shapes the way we live with  
what we have. Our generosity  
as God's people comes out of our  
experience that God is generous  
with us.*

# MIGHTY NEIGHBOURLY MINISTRY REPORT

Since 2014 Lake Ridge has been running Mighty Neighbourly, (MN) a movement of welcoming hospitality designed to ensure newcomers to Chestermere feel right at home. Through MN, volunteers deliver welcome crates full of goodies, gifts, coupons and information about this city we love. Through the crates, and the conversations that they open, people who are new to Chestermere experience love in simple and beautiful ways.

This year Mighty Neighbourly went through a leadership change. In November we said goodbye to Lana Gohring who led Mighty Neighbourly for close to 18 months. When Lana took over MN it needed organizing, development, and TLC..Lana delivered all that and more! With the strong foundation work Lana had done, the program was in good shape as the leadership baton passed on to the new MN Facilitator, Andrea Conway.

Work is underway to refresh the program, and since November we are pleased to have 6 new volunteers involved - three as new members of the welcome team, and three as leads: Katherine Schwanke, our Welcome Coordinator; Fran Gaddi, our Business Connector; and Melony Frei, our Inventory Manager. Leads of our different teams make a commitment for one year of service and provide the leadership, and leg work, that help make MN happen.

In January of 2018, we ran a MN Build night where a team of handy volunteers got together in a garage and produced 50 crates for us to fill over the coming year. Building the crates ourselves is something that was in the roots of Mighty Neighbourly, and we continue to believe there's something neat about creating a space where loving your neighbours and living generously can look like crazy skills with the nail gun!

Looking ahead to the coming year, Mighty Neighbourly is focused on growth: growing the number of volunteers helping us welcome newcomers and engage local businesses; growing the number of organizations who are represented in the crates; and growing the number of people we welcome to Chestermere. To make all this growth happen, we're going to focus on strengthening our promotions and helping get the word out. Spreading the word, and helping us grow, means we need help. If you're interested in joining the team, in any capacity, talk to Andrea Conway and she will find a way for you to get involved!

-ANDREA CONWAY

# HAITI MINISTRY REPORT

This past year has been a good one in terms of connecting and creating plans to move forward with our friends in Haiti. In 2016 we met Randy Bevis, a covenant aqua farming missionary. Randy has 25 years of experience in aqua farming in Thailand and the Congo.

Last Spring, Randy, Kevin Castanheiro and Pastor Evan traveled to Haiti to explore what it could look like to encourage, train and support local farmers to start up their own fish farms. Lake Ridge is working with several partner organizations and individuals in Haiti to educate and empower Haitian individuals to provide a sustainable source of revenue and food for their family and community.

At our mid-year congregational meeting, you approved an addition to the budget in order to send Kevin and Randy to Haiti in January to kick start the project with education workshops, help in digging ponds and creating strategies to care for the fish farms. During their last trip, Kevin and Randy worked on setting up 2 ponds at UCNH, the Baptist university. The University is located in the town of Haute Limbe in Northern Haiti and is excited to learn a sustainable way of feeding their current students and also teaching the importance of fish farming and adding it to their agriculture program.

KEDA is a co-op group of over 50 local farmers, who currently have a successful farm raising goats and have hopes of continuing to expand their farm with fish and other animals. Ground work is under way to start up their first ponds.

We are excited about the doorways God appears to be creating for continued relationship- building in Haiti. In 2018, we will continue to listen for ways to encourage and connect with our friends in Haiti. These opportunities would not be possible without the ongoing support from you through your prayers and generosity. Thank you! We ask you to continue to pray for and love our friends in Haiti and help our current fish farmers feel supported, while meeting new potential farmers and leaders.

-KEVIN CASTANHEIRO



# LETTER FROM THE ECCC SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT



January 2018

"...GOD is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; he won't leave you. Don't be intimidated. Don't worry." -  
Deuteronomy 31:8

In Deuteronomy chapter 31 an elderly Moses addressed the people of Israel prior to their entry into Canaan, following their forty-year sojourn in the desert. They were a great company but not a great army and the land they were about to enter had fortified cities and hostile peoples. Moses' words, words born out of decades of walking with God, must have been a real encouragement to a people facing an uncertain future and some daunting obstacles.

We too, live in uncertain times and the winds of change do not regularly seem to favor our assigned task of advancing Christ's great kingdom here on earth, but the words of Moses remind us that our Lord goes before us. As a conference of like-minded churches in Canada we have much to celebrate regarding our Lord's presence and blessing throughout 2017 and we anticipate His gracious enablement as we move forward to take possession of all He has in store for us in 2018.

As a conference of churches we recognize that some huge changes are ahead for us as a result of the resignation of Superintendent Jeff Anderson. Jeff and Darlene are settling into their new roles abroad and the ECCC Leadership Board has been engaged in the ECC's detailed and proven process to have a candidate in place for our Annual General Meeting (May 3-6, 2018) - your continued prayers are invited.

Thank you - individuals and churches in Canada - for all you have done locally and abroad to advance Christ's kingdom through the ECCC this past year. Your generosity towards our collective efforts in Christ's name has resulted in alleviation of suffering, encouragement of the weary and continued proclamation of the Good News.

In the yoke of Christ,

Ray Wall  
Interim Superintendent/President