

Dear Hillside Church Family,

As I reflect on 2024, I am overwhelmed with awe and gratitude for everything God has done through us as a church this year.

I am in awe of how God has moved powerfully among us, bringing new opportunities and growth. And I am deeply thankful for every person who partnered with us to make this year so impactful. Each of you has contributed in unique and meaningful ways, and for that, I am truly grateful.

This year has been filled with exciting milestones and new initiatives.

In July, we hosted our very first **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**, and what a success it was! Marie-Anne and her amazing team led over 40 children, supported by countless youth and adult volunteers, through an unforgettably WILD week.

August brought our **Back-to-School Giveaway**, which began as a clothing drive but quickly grew into an extraordinary event. We provided school supplies and clothing to over 150 children in our community.

In December, we were able to bless 49 families and 110 children with free Christmas gifts through our **Give Christmas** gift giveaway. Your generosity helped us raise over \$4,500 to purchase personal presents for these children.

We continued our commitment to serving those in need, including our ongoing partnership with *Mainsprings Pregnancy Care Centre*, formerly known as the Airdrie Pregnancy Care Centre. This year, we hosted a *'Welcome Home Drive'* in March and the *Baby Bottle Campaign* in May. Through our donation box, we also provided additional items to support their work.

We were able to help several people in crisis cover urgent expenses through our benevolence fund totalling over \$4000.

And supported the *R.J. Hawkey Elementary School Breakfast Program* with a \$500 donation to ensure school children in our community start their day with a nutritious meal.

Building relationships and creating opportunities for connection remained a priority this year. Our *Family Dinners* and *Summer Connects*, which included fun new activities like bingo and disc golf, strengthened our bonds as a church family.

We hosted Ross Breitkreuz for *Seven Mile Story* and welcomed Dr. Philip Payne for a thought-provoking evening on *'Women in Ministry.'* We also had the privilege of connecting with our Foursquare Missionaries, *John and Levi Kelly*.

Our Christmas celebrations were truly special, with our largest **Hillside Christmas Family Dinner** yet, a heartwarming concert featuring Hillside Kids and Youth, and three Christmas Eve services that welcomed about 250 attendees.

We launched a new ministry initiative called '**Crafts/Games for Everyone**' at the Airdrie Care Home Community Assisted Living Centre, offering a fresh way to minister to our community.

On Halloween, we hosted an outreach event where we gave away candy, hot chocolate, and provided a free hayride, bringing joy to our neighbors.

This year also saw the growth and establishment of several ministries. Small groups continued to foster deeper connections and spiritual growth. We launched the *Heart to Heart Women's Ministry*, *Men's Breakfasts*, *Uncomplicated Marriage Nights*, and *Gym Nights* provided opportunities for fellowship and encouragement.

We were also blessed to bring new staff members onto our team. Monica McMitchell joined us as our financial administrator. Additionally, Ryan and Evie Buchanan stepped into the roles of church custodians. Their contributions have been invaluable, and we are so thankful for their hard work and commitment.

Our collective efforts this year have made a profound impact:

- We celebrated **17** salvations and recommitments to Christ
- **12** water baptisms
- Welcomed **11** new members to Hillside Church
- We continued our financial support of **The Ubomi Obutsha Centre** in South Africa
- And strengthened partnerships with other churches and organizations, including *Grace Soccer*, *Al-Anon*, *The Alberta Parkinson's Association*, and *CNIB*.

As Hillside Church continues to grow, I am proud of how we've used this growth to shine brighter in our community, making Airdrie a better place. God is doing amazing and sometimes hard-to-fathom things through our church, and I am excited to see where He leads us in 2025.

Hillside Church, you are an incredible family. I am humbled, honored, and deeply thankful to be your pastor.

With love and blessings,



lead pastor