



WELCOME!

Elkhart Christian Church

Welcome...

We're Thrilled to Have You As Our Guest!

Thank you for taking the time to read through the material in this packet. We pray that you find it informative and helpful as you seek what God wants for your life. This packet has been designed to introduce you to our church. We do not wish to put any pressure on you. The information in these pages is intended to answer a few of the common questions you may have, but if, after checking it out, you have further questions, feel free to contact us:

Email: preacher@elkhartcc.org

Call: (217) 947-2726 – *office*

(317) 604 9002 – *Stacy's cell*

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Dear Friends...

It is my sincere pleasure to introduce our church family to you. We trust that you found your experience at ECC to be a meaningful and memorable one, and pray that, at our church, you found a warm and inviting environment to connect you to God's Spirit.

We are very excited about the many things taking place here at ECC. We are presently remodeling the old Elkhart Grade School with the vision of soon making that facility – the ECC Fellowship and Community Center – our main facility for ministry and worship. We faithfully believe this will help us better serve the spiritual and physical needs of those in our community.

For over 150 years, the members of ECC have stood and continue to stand as witnesses of God's faithfulness. He has seen us through wars and depressions, good times and bad. He has been faithful in touching hearts and turning lives around. He continues to show lost people that He cares and He continues to inspire and challenge all of us to grow toward a closer relationship with Jesus. Our challenge is to live in such a way that people understand who Jesus is and can see how He wants everyone to live by the way we live our lives.

I think you will find at ECC a group of people who aren't very concerned about your past, but are very interested in your relationship with God and your future with Him. All that matters is that we lift up Christ and that He receives all the glory for every changed life and every saved soul.

Elkhart Christian Church is looking to a very bright future. God is continually working through our members on a daily basis. Do we still look like the church that started 150 years ago? No, we have changed in a lot of ways and we will continue to change our methods, but never our message.

If you are interested, please come and worship with us or contact us by calling the church office (217.947.2726)

Yours in His service:

Stacy A. Popejoy, Minister

Elkhart Christian Church

Just Looking?

The first thing you will notice at Elkhart Christian Church is how friendly and welcoming the people of ECC are. It is a priority for us to create a place where you will feel safe and comfortable in your church experience... and we are continuously striving to maintain that goal. We care about people and we care about you.

You will find Elkhart Christian Church to be a “user friendly” church. We offer many ministries and growth opportunities to help meet your needs without the “strong arm” pressure to give or participate more than you feel ready or are able. We respect that people are at different places on their spiritual journey and that's OK! We believe strongly in accepting people where they are, just as Jesus does, and walking beside them on their journey. So, feel free to come as you are and be yourself.

You will notice that we are a family that likes to have fun. We believe that talking and thinking about the good news of God's unconditional love for us should be inspiring and exciting. Our worship is a celebration. You will hear great music and a relevant message to fuel your week. We make every effort to take God seriously, and yet, have an enjoyable time doing it. This really is the heart of Elkhart Christian Church.

So, whether you're a spiritual seeker who's just “sticking your toe in the water” to get a feel for God and church, or a committed Christ-follower who wants to continue to grow in your faith, you can find a home here at Elkhart Christian Church and perhaps find that thing that has been missing from your life!

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What We Offer...

ECC Connections

Upon your visit to Elkhart Christian Church for the first time, we invite you to please stop by the Guest Connection Area in the foyer. There you will find additional information about ECC that is not included here. Inside these pages, as well as the Guest Connection area and posted in various places throughout the building, you will find a map which should help you locate any areas you may need or wish to access. There are also directional signs to help guide you. ECC Ambassadors are also available to answer your questions and escort you to the various locations within the building that will be pertinent to your visit. And, as our gift to you, this special gift is yours to keep as a reminder that we are thinking of and praying for you. We also welcome you to join us for coffee and cookies, located in the Foyer, at 10:40 am each Sunday.

Worship Opportunities

Each Sunday at 9:30 am, we offer a time of God focused Praise and Worship – including a blend of familiar, traditional music, and newer, more contemporary music, led and complimented by beautiful singing and instrumentation, multimedia, drama, communion, and relevant, biblically-based messages

Adult Study Opportunities

Our Adult studies are offered at various times throughout the week (See bulletin and website).

Sunday mornings at 10:45 am is our Adult Bible Study Hour at which time we offer classes which focus upon biblical studies, books with a biblical foundation, or current topics from a biblical perspective. Our Adult Bible Study classes meet weekly, currently, upstairs in the sanctuary.

Children and Youth Opportunities

Each Sunday morning, we offer activities and classes for children and youth of all ages., JC Worship is designed for children 4 years – 4th grade, and meets during our 9:30 am worship hour, at the Fellowship Center building across the street. Our 10:45 Sunday School hour offers classes for Children and Youth ranging in age from 1 year – High School. All children and youth are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Fellowship Opportunities

We live in a time when the world around us places very little value on quality time spent together as a family. Here at ECC, strengthening the family is of highest value. We aspire to create and offer activities which bless and benefit families of all types – young, old, single, married, kids, no kids. There is no shortage of opportunities for fellowship here at ECC. Special activities are being organized continually which allow the Body to meet, eat, play, and share together. All of these are open to anyone who would like to participate. In fact, we encourage and welcome new friends to join us anytime! Our weekly bulletin and website provide an updated list of current and upcoming events.

Ministry Opportunities

Here at ECC we strive to create opportunities for our church family to use the gifts and talents with which God has inspired them to encourage, strengthen and touch the hearts and lives of the people of our church and community. Committed members of the Kingdom and the church are empowered to put these gifts into action in such areas as teaching, music, drama, building and grounds enhancement, community outreach, mission work, etc.

In all areas, at all times, ECC is committed to offering opportunities for strengthening our relationships with each other and with Christ Jesus!

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What We Teach...

A SUMMARY OF ECC'S DOCTRINE

The Bible - We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (John 17:17; Romans 15:4; II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21)

God - We believe in God, the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of people, that He hears and answers prayer, that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (John 3:16-17, 4:24, 17:5)

Jesus - We believe in Jesus Christ as God, the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth as a human being, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. (Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-11; I Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Hebrews 1:2, 3; I John 1:7)

The Holy Spirit - We believe in the Holy Spirit who comes forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding Helper, Teacher and Guide. (John 16:7-15; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13, 14; I John 14:26)

Salvation - We believe that all people are sinners by nature and choice. Therefore, all people are under judgment. We believe in every person's need to be saved from sin. Salvation is offered freely to anyone who believes in Jesus and accepts the atoning sacrifice of His death on the cross, offered only through the grace and mercy of God. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. (John 1:12, 13, 3:16-18; Acts 20:21; Ephesians 2:1-9; Titus 3:5)

Christian Conduct - We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that our conduct should be blameless before the world; that we should be faithful stewards of our possessions; and that we should seek to realize for ourselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. (II Corinthians 9:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-16, Philippians 2:14-16; Colossians 3:17-23; I Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

The Church - Elkhart Christian Church is an independent Christian church, governed by elders, served by deacons and led by our ministerial staff. We teach that the church is not a building, but a group of people throughout the world who have a genuine faith in Jesus Christ. As members of Christ's body, the people of the church are expected to regularly devote themselves to a time of teaching, study, and application of God's Word; seek the Lord in earnest prayer; experience the power of authentic, life-changing fellowship; and engage their community and the world with God's truth through acts of compassion and witness. (Acts 2:42-44, Acts 1:8, Hebrews 10:23-25)

The Ordinances - We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water into the name of the Triune God. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41, 42; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-32)

Eternity - We believe and teach that all of human history is moving toward one climactic event: the certain return and final revelation of Jesus Christ. At Christ's return all those opposed to God will be subject to His wrath, spending eternity separate from God in righteously imposed punishment. The redeemed, however, will receive eternal rewards and enter into an everlasting state of glory with Christ in a newly created home where they will experience unhindered worship of God, and enjoy everlasting fellowship with Christ and one another. (Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:18, 29; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:15)

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What Do I Need to Know?

God Created Us To Live With Him Forever

God is eternal, unchanging, and set apart from His creation as the Creator. It was He who created everything through Jesus (*John 1.3; Col. 1.16*) and therefore He has authority over our lives. In response to the blessing of life He gave us, He intended we would offer Him complete allegiance and worship (*Acts 17.24-31*). He is perfect in morality having no stain or blemish of sin. Therefore, He can neither commit sin nor approve of sin (*James 1.13*). God requires that His creatures exhibit holiness in every deed and thought (*1 Peter 1.16*).

Man Tore Apart His Relationship With God

The world is clearly not perfect. This is because we have all rejected the authority of God in favor of our own (*Rom. 1.21-26*). Independence from God is sin. It is rooted in a heart that refuses to submit to the authority of God and therefore rebels against Him. From God's perspective, rebellion is offensive because it seeks a human or self authority (*Rom.3.10-23*).

Man Was Condemned To Be Separated From God

Humanity's rebellion has brought about God's judgment; expressed now in terms of death, sickness, and inability to earn His favor, and ultimately will be fully consummated with eternal condemnation (*John 3.18 & Rev. 21.8*). Simply changing our behavior patterns cannot effect a change in our sinful standing before God nor ensure the removal of the just consequences against our sin (*Rom. 6.23*). The very core and nature of man is affected by sin turning everything we do and think into an act of self-worship, self-dependence, and self-work (*Is. 64.6; Rom.3.10-18; Matt. 5.28*).

God Made A Way To Reconcile The World To Himself

God's justice will only be satisfied by perfection (*Matt. 5.48*). God demonstrates His love for us by sending the only suitable substitute (*2 Cor. 5.21*). Jesus, Himself being God (*Col. 2.9*) put on humanity and became a man (*John 1.14*). In His life Jesus showed dependence upon God through perfect obedience to God without committing sin (*John 6.38; 1 John 3.5*). Jesus fully satisfied the just requirements of God by offering Himself as the sacrifice for rebels through His death on the cross (*Rom. 3.25*).

God Has Secured A Place For Man With Him For Eternity

On the cross, Jesus died in the sinner's place. God charged the rebel's sin to Jesus (though He never sinned), so that through the believer's full dependence upon the merit of Jesus, God would declare the rebel perfect, based upon the sacrifice of Jesus. The sinful nature has been replaced with God's Holy Spirit which now lives in us. And through this Spirit, God has guaranteed for us a place with Him forever in the coming Kingdom. (*Ephesians 1:14*)

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What Do I Need to Do?

Whether you are seeking to become a Christian, or a member of Elkhart Christian Church, the requirements are not ours, but those of Christ Himself as shared in the Bible. Those are...

Recognize That You Are A Sinner

First, you must admit your spiritual need: *"There is none righteous, no, not one"* (Romans 3:10). We can't make excuses or blame others and our circumstances for our actions. By free will we have each made our choice to break God's law. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

Believe That God Provided A Savior

Our sin has separated us from God and has earned us the eternal punishment of death and Hell. To reconcile us to God, a sacrifice must be offered. Throughout history, all of man's attempts to offer a suitable sacrifice failed. But God, in His great love, not wanting to live apart from man, offered Jesus to take our punishment and pay the price for our sin. *"For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life."* (John 3:16).

Repent of Your Sinful Life

The word "repent" means "to change your direction." The Bible tells us, *"Repent therefore and turn to God, that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the Lord"* (Acts 3:19). God commands us to repent. You must be willing to turn away from the things that displease God and take on a lifestyle that pleases and glorifies Him.

Confess Jesus As Your Savior

Taking Jesus as our Savior means more than mere lip service. We must acknowledge Him to others as the one and only Savior both with our mouths and our very lives. This type of confession is borne from a committed heart that truly believes what the mouth professes. *"If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* (Romans 10:9)

Be Raised Alive Through Baptism

By following Christ's command to put off the old life of sin through baptism (immersion), we willingly and joyfully put on Christ – a lifestyle which imitates and honors Him. *"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and... just as Christ was raised from the dead... so also we may live a new life!"* -- Romans 6:4

Submit To Jesus As Your Lord

Any attempts to make ourselves right with God through our works are futile. The Apostle Paul said, *"...for it is by grace that you have been saved through faith, not by works..."* (Ephesians 2:8). However, the life that claims Jesus free gift of salvation also agrees to surrender it's will to the will of Christ. By following Christ's command to put off the old life of sin through baptism (immersion), we willingly and joyfully put on Christ – a lifestyle which imitates and honors Him. *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."* (Galatians 2:20)

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