



Thrive 2026

Deep Roots • New Growth

Thrive is a ministry of Elmhurst CRC for those 55 and over. Blessed with deep roots of faith and experience, we endeavor to build a faith community through fellowship, education, and social activities. We seek spiritual growth that leads us to express our faith in acts of service. Throughout the year, the Thrive leadership team hosts nine unique events, each intended to create interesting and stimulating interaction that advances the ministry objectives.

Selected Thrive events are designed to appeal to members and friends of all ages, thereby fostering inter-generational awareness and appreciation. In all of our activities, Thrive strives to be an active and rewarding ministry for those who have contributed much, and who have much yet to contribute

Fall 2026 Gatherings

Thursday September 24 | 6 pm

Groups of 8 in Local Restaurants

The success of the March “Dinner with Friends” event and the positive feedback received led the team to plan a similar event to kick off the Fall season. The Thrive facilitators will identify a number of local restaurants, moderately priced, and initiate the participant sign-up and assignment effort in late August.

Facilitators: Don & Nancy, Pete & Bev Visser

Thursday, October 22

“Aging by Design – Planning, Preparing and Aging Well”

LaVon Lenaway, a professional counselor, will present a comprehensive overview of the issues that we, and our children, will face as we navigate the aging process.

Facilitators: Ken & Cheryl VanderVelde, Rob & Sally Petroelje

Thursday, November 19

“Looking Forward” Panel Discussion

This event will be structured around panelists and questions intended to provide insight into the physical, emotional, spiritual and financial realities of retirement. A special effort will be made to attract Thrive members (Ages 55 to 65) who would benefit from the experience of the generation preceding them.

Facilitators: Doug & Jeanne Smith, Mike & Laura Boot, Don & Nancy Van Beek

Tuesday, December 15

“Christmas of Joy” Concert Ft. Lori Mestas

This is a spirit-filled musical experience that occurs at White Fence Farm and includes lunch and the concert. Bert has secured 30 tickets which will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

Facilitators: Bert & Celia DeJong



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elmhursterc.org/thrive