

# Children

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

We are wrapping up a wonderful ministry year filled with Bible lessons, games, crafts, and friendships. Our children learned about the promises of God and that He is with us always—on both the good days and the hard ones. We were especially thankful for the addition of the Children's Choir, whose joyful praises blessed our church family. We are deeply grateful for the collaboration, care, and dedication of our amazing team of volunteers and leaders who make ministry possible.

### Summer Highlights

Summer ministry creates meaningful opportunities to welcome families and connect with our neighbors through fun and faith-filled events.

#### Preschool Petting Zoo Party

Our most well attended petting zoo party yet included animals, obstacle courses, crafts, popsicles, and smiles all around.

#### Farmers Market Children's Booth

Children visiting the Elmhurst Farmers Market will enjoy bubbles, books, crafts, planting activities, and fun with our middle and high school volunteers.

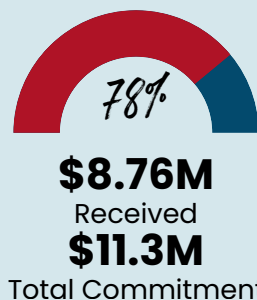
#### Yee Haw! VBS & Summer Outreach

Children from ECRC and Outreach York will come together for Bible lessons, worship, games, water activities, and a family picnic as we celebrate God's greatest gift—Jesus. Families will also connect through Little Lambs park play dates and our August Serve Weekend celebration with Outreach York.

Kara Hackert, Director Children & Family Ministries



After a successful 2025 season, the Elmhurst Farmers Market returns to our church parking lot this June for another summer of fresh produce, farm specialty products, food trucks, music, and meaningful community connection in south Elmhurst each Wednesday morning.



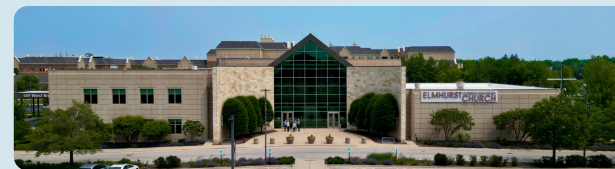
We're almost there! Generosity is a core value of our congregation and it shows. Hearts Ablaze commitments are 78% fulfilled!



Little Lambs Park Play Dates → June 10 & July 30  
 Vacation Bible School → June 22–25  
 Sunday Community Lunch → July 19  
 Elmhurst Farmers Market → Wednesdays, June–Oct  
 Serve Weekend → August 29 & 30



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## Celebrating Ministry Together

### YEAR OF IMPACT

As summer begins, it's a fitting time to look back on the past nine months of ministry with gratitude. Every good thing comes into being because of God's kindness and generosity. As you scan this report, I trust you'll be encouraged — and perhaps even happily surprised — by all the good God has done through Elmhurst CRC over the past year.

In a world that often feels increasingly unsteady and chaotic, I'm grateful that Elmhurst CRC continues to be an oasis of grace, stability, and spiritual grounding. We all need solid ground — kids and adults alike — in order to grow and thrive.

Beyond the Up (worship), In (community), and Out (service and witness) highlights you'll find throughout this report, I'm also grateful to share that our Hearts Ablaze campaign continues to inspire an unprecedented level of financial generosity within our congregation. As this extraordinary work continues, we can look forward to becoming 100% debt free by Thanksgiving!

I'm hopeful that we'll celebrate this milestone together in worship and then step into 2027 poised for one of our most fruitful years yet — with 100% of our tithes and offerings supporting the ministries God's Spirit is calling us to in Jesus' name.

Pastor Gregg, Lead Pastor



Up

## WORSHIP

We thank God for the many ways our church family has continued to grow in worship and in God's Word this past year. We have a new, thriving kids choir! Many thanks to Robyn Vitson, who followed the nudge of the Holy Spirit and stepped forward to bring it to life.

This year, we walked through the Bible together, with sermons helping us see how the whole story of Scripture fits together and points to Jesus. It was encouraging to see people opening their Bibles in worship and growing together in God's Word.

Holy Week also brought a joyful Easter celebration, along with a powerful Passover Experience on Maundy Thursday. The room was full, the food was delicious, and together we saw with fresh eyes how the Exodus story points to our freedom in Christ.

As we look ahead to next year, we are grateful for all the ways God continues to shape our worship together!

Erin Pacheco, Director of Worship



In

## COMMUNITY

I thank God for the many ways we've continued to grow together as the family of God at Elmhurst CRC this past year. From small groups and fellowship events to shared meals, service opportunities, and conversations in the hallways between Sundays, God has continued to strengthen the relationships that make our church feel like home.

We were grateful to welcome 63 new members into the life of our congregation this year and to see people of all ages finding places to belong, serve, and grow spiritually. Whether gathering for a men's Bags & BBQ event, our new young adult 20-something fellowship, Bible studies, or simply sharing life together, these "In" moments remind us that Christian community is one of God's greatest gifts.

As we look ahead, may God continue to deepen our friendships, strengthen our unity in Christ, and help Elmhurst CRC remain a place where people are known, encouraged, and loved.

Jason Turner, Director of Community Engagement



Out

## SERVICE & WITNESS

Our God is a sending God. He awakens, heals, and saves people so they can join Him in restoring the world. God delights when His Church moves out in faith to join Him in what He is already doing.

This year at Elmhurst CRC, we moved out in many ways. 5th Sunday became Serve Weekend, with teams serving through yard work, food ministry, encouragement for deployed military members, and outreach to people experiencing homelessness.

Alpha groups continued this fall, including Alpha Marriage, where lives were touched and faith conversations deepened.

Our SHE: Single Mother Ministry kept growing, helping single moms feel supported and loved.

Coffee Break Bible Study expanded as well, welcoming people searching for answers.

We remain involved with our mission partners in deeper and deeper ways. Nurmaya Missions in Kenya hosted a team from our church and together we led a Vacation Bible School reaching more than 2,000 children. Another team will travel to Honduras this July.

Most importantly, our outreach temperature is rising. We are becoming more aware, responsive, and willing to join God in His mission around us.

Jeff Klein, Pastor of Outreach

