



Welcome!

We are an open table people. That means all are welcome here. No matter your past dilemmas or present challenges, no matter your age or race, no matter your gender or political party: we want you to be creative, bold, generous, and make a difference. We hope God unleashes your passion and gifts because the world sorely needs them. We are eager for you to wonder, question, explore and grow. Most of all, we want to journey with you in the adventure of Christ's love. We are glad you're here!

Michael Swartzentruber
Senior Minister

September 10, 2017

If you are a guest with us today

- We hope you feel at home here, so relax and be yourself.
- We would love to know you are with us today. Please fill out a **Connection Card** (located in the seat pocket of the chair in front of you). You can drop it in the offering plate during service or leave it at the Welcome Center in the foyer.
- Let us know how we can share more about our church, plug you in, and pray for you.

Explore South Elkhorn

September 24 • Room 108 • 5:00 PM

Join us for our gathering of newcomers and curious souls. Meet our team, engage in conversation, and find your place in our spiritual community. For more information or to RSVP, please fill out the connection card or contact the church office: admin@southelkhorncc.org.

Children's Worship & Wonder

After the children's sermon, children age 3 to Grade 3 are invited to hear a sacred story, wonder about its meaning, & gather together for a feast (rooms 203 & 209).

Nursery

Nursery is available for children ages 6 weeks to two years during Sunday School & worship (rooms 214 & 215).

Life Together



All Church Kickoff Sunday

Today • September 10 • 5:00 PM • Back Field

A fun afternoon of fellowship with games, inflatables, Kona ice, a magician, and the music of Triage. Bring a picnic dinner, lawn chairs, outdoor games and money for Kona ice and canopies if you have one for shade.



Choir Resumes

Sunday • September 17 • 5:00 PM • Room 204

Learn new music, lift your voice, and praise together. Child care provided.



Consignment Sale

September 15-16

Little Elks Consignment sale is coming up and has many ways you can serve. There are opportunities to sell, shop, and help with the sale's online promotion. You will be amazed and feel blessed to be a part of this opportunity. Contact Debbie Parrett at kidsconsignmentsale@gmail.com.



Disciple Women's Dinner

Sunday, September 17, 5-6:30 PM, Child care provided

All women invited to dinner and a social gathering! Donations collected to support Finding Freedom through Friendship program. For more information:

southelkhorncc.org/event/disciples-womens-dinner/

Items to be collected include:

Bottles Women's Vitamins	Kitchen Towels	Pot Holders
Bottles Tylenol	Children Shoes (croc type)	Plastic Tablecloths



Moondance

Friday • September 29 • 6:00 PM • Moondance Amphitheater

Come enjoy great music! Bring a lawn chair or blanket, food and drinks. Kids and friends are welcome. Moondance Theater is located at 1152 Monarch Street (Beaumont Circle).

Sermon Series



September 17	BYOB (Bring Your Own Brain)	<i>Matthew 22:34-40, Galatians 5:1, 13-14</i>
September 24	Leaving Hurry	<i>Mark 4:35-41</i>
October 1	Altared State	<i>Luke 15:1-32</i>

Children & Youth

Tiny Tots (Age 2 - Pre K)	September 17, Regular evening programs resume
Children (Grades K - 5)	4:40 PM Children's Choir (K-Grade 5)
Youth (Grades 6 - 12)	5:00 PM Open Gym & Snack
	5:30 PM Activities

Sermon

I Love My Church: A Bigger Embrace

Luke 15:11-24

Focus Verse: "But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him."

(Luke 15:20b)

Quote: "The parable of the prodigal son is a story that speaks about a love that existed before any rejection was possible and that will still be there after all rejections have taken place."

-Henri Nouwen,
The Return of the Prodigal Son

Bid Ideas:

- Put off, put out, or put down by church
- Returning Home
- Runaway God
- Church as the embrace of God

Discussion Questions

1. Read the passage slowly and carefully. What word or phrase stands out to you?
2. Who do you identify with this parable? Why?
3. We may think that, as Christians, we are always the younger son embraced by God (needing forgiveness, grace, redemption). Henri Nouwen writes that the spiritual life invites us to "become the father." What do you think that means?
4. What does it mean that the father does wait on his son to return from the far country, but does not wait on him to enter the door and instead runs to meet him in the road?

Our Staff

Michael Swartzentruber
Senior Minister

Holly Fugua
Associate Minister

Sara Don Bailey
Ministry Intern

Kyla Burkhardt
Lead Children's Coordinator

Chris Weiss
Music Minister

Diana Vetter
Music Associate

Stephan Daming
Pianist

Nursery:
Stephanie Chavez, Jennai Mitchell, & Hannah Woggon

Kim Skidmore
Little Elks Director

Stasia Kruse
Administrator

Scott Hall
Custodian

Children's Coordinators:
Danielle Evans, Aly Partain, & Andres Caban

