



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

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 Moore
Music Associate

Stephen Daming
Pianist

Nursery:
Stephanie Chavez &
Hannah Woggon

Kim Skidmore
Little Elks Director

Alyssa Parrett
Youth Ministry Intern

Stasia Kruse
Administrator

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

December 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

Tonight • 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



Welcome Brass Quartet

Welcome to Jeff Barrington, trumpet; Taylor Gustad, trumpet; Nathan Miller, horn; and Rodney Jean, euphonium.



Compassionate Friends Candlelight Service

Tonight • Historic Sanctuary • 6:00 PM

Join us as we honor our children that have left us too soon. For more information contact Janie Fields at butterflymom@windstream.net or 859-421-6520.



Keenagers

December 15 • Ramsey's • 12:30 PM

Keenagers will be going to Ramsey's at 150 West Zandale Drive (off Nicholasville Road). There will be NO gift exchange. If anyone needs a ride or more information, contact Madonna Hurst at 333-3067 or hurstml43@gmail.com.



Sara Don Bailey, Ministry Intern

Leaving for Seminary in January 2018

You can share your love and support to her: saradon@southelkhorncc.org.

Callie Olson, Student Minister

Beginning January 2018

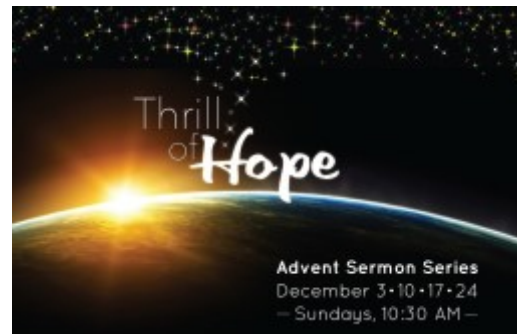
Welcome Callie by email at: callie@southelkhorncc.org.



Christmas Eve Services

10:30 AM All children invited to wear their pajamas as we open the presents on stage and discover the gifts of Advent. Praise Dancers perform before service.

7:00 PM Enjoy the warmth of scripture, song, and candlelight. Together we will welcome the light of Christ by passing the flame and singing Silent Night.



Advent Continues

December 17, Choir Cantata Sunday, Luke 1:45-56

December 24, 10:30 AM, All children invited to wear their pajamas as we open the presents of Advent, Luke 2:1-20

December 24, 7:00 PM, Candlelight Worship

Bulletin & sermon audio available at
southelkhorncc.org/sermons

Children & Youth

Tiny Tots (Age 2 - Pre K), **Children** (Grades K - 5), **Youth** (Grades 6 - 12)

Christmas Parties

Today • Following Worship

Enjoy our last Sunday gathering until January 7. Come for Christmas luncheon, crafts, games and a few holiday surprises.

Tonight

No Evening Programs

Sunday, December 24

No children & youth Sunday

Sermon

Thrill of Hope: A Way Out

Isaiah 40:1-11

Focus Verse: "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'" *Isaiah 40:3*

Quotes: "We do not repent so that we can hear God's words of comfort. God speaks words of comfort so that we might repent." - Michael Marsh

"This passage comprehends the whole Gospel in a few words."

- John Calvin

Big Ideas:

- The power of comfort
- From Exile to Exodus
- Unprecedented Love

Discussion Questions

1. Read the passage carefully and slowly. What word or phrase stands out to you?
2. What brings you comfort during this season?
3. Where in the world do you see "exile," those who are sent away or disconnected from their home? What does it mean to "bring an unprecedented love" in a world of exile?
4. This passage resonated with those who experienced the ministry and power of Jesus. Why do you think that is?

Stay Connected

Receive updates, event info and encouragements by text.

Text SECC to 40650