

**January 4, 2022**

**Happy New Year!**

I like to start each year thinking of a way God is inviting us to better "share the love of Jesus Christ by serving others." Last year we asked God to reorder our lives. This was an invitation to be transformed in heart, soul, mind, and body. This year we are asking God to shift our focus outward toward those around us. We will spend the next several weeks looking at the lessons of Jesus as told by the doctor, Luke. Specifically, we look at the first actions of the disciples beginning with Luke 9. Three words are going to come up as we focus on being neighborly, "joy", "abundance", and "relationships".

Neighboring is the term we use in the church to refer to God's work through us to embody God's "joy", "abundance", and "relationship" in the lives of people we encounter each day. In fact, we will answer the question, "Who is my neighbor?" during this time. I can't help but hear the invitation of Mr. Rogers (a Presbyterian pastor), "Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbor?" This week we look at Luke 9:10-17 and hear God inviting us to see and care for our neighbors. We will focus on God's abundance as we think of the ways God sets us up to be neighbors to those we encounter as we live, work, and play.

**I'm excited to be your neighbor! -Pastor Daniel**

**In Hope for Renewal,**

**Daniel Kipp  
he/him/his  
Pastor, Elkhorn Hills UMC  
402-807-5477**



Hello EH Family,

Every profession experiences dreams that make them wake up in a cold sweat. On December 22nd, 2021 one of these dreams became a reality for me when I tested positive for COVID-19 at 11:30 pm. We say that everyone is expendable and that we develop great leaders for moments like these, but our desire is to never have to lean on leadership in these moments. The good news for Elkhorn Hills is that our leadership was prepared and equipped to move quickly.

Our great staff of Jenny, Christina, and Regina jumped to action and quickly onboarded great leaders. Thank you to Gail Graeve, Deb Eidam, Brad & Rhonda Barrow, Bill Ritter, Scott Avery, Tom & Lena Beeson, and Brett Ritter and so many more for quickly jumping (some literally) to action. I'm incredibly thankful for our SPRC who extended an invitation to Bill to preach. I'm also grateful that Brad and Bill were true pastors who were prepared to Preach and Pray at a moment's notice.

Thank you to Gail and her crew of students who quickly developed a meaningful family service. Thank you to Santa Claus for showing up. Thank you Meri and RC Hoover for guiding worship on December 26th, it was comforting to know you had that under control. Gail, Brad and Bill, thank you also for heeding the call to lead worship on January 2nd. Thank you Executive Leadership led by Sherri Kaufmann who strongly encouraged me to take a second Sunday for recovery.

I don't want to unexpectedly miss time leading our church. It is a blessing to know that God is equipping us to "share the love for Jesus Christ" whether I am able to be here or not. This is a good time to be part of Elkhorn Hills. We are going to continue to grow!

In Hope for Renewal,  
Daniel



**Sunday, January 9th, following the 10:30 Service**



### **Elkhorn Hills Prays**

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the GRACE classroom at 9:00. Everyone is welcome to join us. Prayers are offered for our church, the staff, committees, outreach, our community, and church activities. Prayers are also given up for those on the prayer chain.



Did you know Jesus talked about money, money use and management more than any other topic? Is 2022 time for you to take a bit more control of your finances? The Bible says there is no time like the present and your church just bought you a really helpful financial present!

Elkhorn Hills appreciates you and realizes that making ends meet has been really tough lately. Getting more information, gaining more knowledge, and having a partner to aid you in your quest to become financially independent can only be helpful, right!! Even better when its FREE!! You matter to God and to this church family and we are so thankful that our paths have crossed. Click the link below and get busy learning, growing, and taking control of your finances.



Your new membership in Ramsey+ will prove to you that YOU are your biggest asset. God Bless. For more info scan the QR code.



**Save the Date: Sunday, January 16th, Dinner and a movie at EHUMC.**

**GRACE class will provide the meal and be showing the movie "Overcomer" Rated PG.**

**Sign up at church to help in planning – Free Will Offering**



Confirmation Preparatory Classes for all youth in the 7th grade or older on Sunday, January 16th! Pastor Daniel will be leading these classes on Sunday afternoons from 11:45 a.m. until 1 p.m. Want to sign-up or get more info? Contact Jenny at [jil\\_1971@yahoo.com](mailto:jil_1971@yahoo.com).



**Middle & Sr. High Youth Winter Retreat** is set for **January 28-29, 2022!** Mark your calendars and register for this amazing weekend experience!

Registration forms have been emailed to parents or you can receive one from Jenny Meyer.

Chaperones are needed for this event! Please consider helping out with our youth!



Periodically people will impersonate Pastor Daniel, a member of the staff, or even our Bishop. Please be vigilant. All fundraising and even gifts of assistance should go through the church office and our finance committee. We have a special fund available to us to offer assistance in moments of immediate need. Check the phone number or email address if you receive a message from someone pretending to be Pastor Daniel and report it to the church office ([office@elkhornhillsumc.org](mailto:office@elkhornhillsumc.org)).



## **GRACE class next study will begin January 23rd.**

We may just help you keep your New Years resolution with our 4 week study. "Unstuffed, Decluttering your home, mind & soul" by Ruth Soukup. A perfect way to begin 2022!

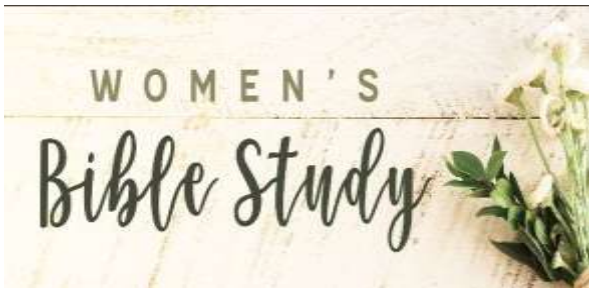
Join us at 10:30am each Sunday, in the GRACE classroom (last room on the right down the office hallway).

Contact Lena Beeson [5bees1@cox.net](mailto:5bees1@cox.net) or call/text 402-319-2071



## **You are invited!!**

Join Pastor Daniel on Tuesday Mornings at 10:00 for a low-pressure high-fun study of the Bible. We spend time looking at the history, interpretation, and application of passages that are scheduled to be used in Sunday worship. You can contact Daniel for more information at [pastor@elkhornhillsumc.org](mailto:pastor@elkhornhillsumc.org) or just drop by on a Tuesday morning!



## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm**

Wednesday Night -- January 12 -- 6:30 pm We are beginning our new year by closing out our last session of 'How Happiness Happens by Max Lucado -- Great Lesson!!

We will begin our new study on Wednesday Jan 19 -- 6:30 PM 'The Storm Inside' by Sheila Walsh. If you would like a study guide and do not have one, they are available on Amazon.com for \$10.79.

### **Ladies Lunch Bunch**

LLB meets the last Wednesday of every month. This month we will meet at Charleston's, Wednesday, January 26th at 11:30.

Please register on the sign-up sheet on the office window by Monday, January 24th. Numbers need to be called in the morning of the 25th.

All ladies are welcome.

### **Women's Fellowship**

Will meet at McDonald's the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00. Hope to see you there this coming Wednesday. All ladies are welcome.



The challenge has been issued and a deal is going to be struck. Pastor Daniel met the Youth's Challenge and said he was willing to put himself on the line because he thinks the congregation can out-give our youth. Stay tuned in the weeks to come to find out what Pastor Daniel will be risking. Could he end up with pink hair? Will he get 10 pies in the face? Will he have to preach in an outfit of the youth's choosing? It's in the youth and your hands now!

Love Your Neighbor Box Challenge for Abide Omaha! The Youth have challenged the Congregation to sponsor **TEN (10)** boxes for Abide Omaha. These boxes are handed out to people in North Omaha during Second Serve Saturdays. They provide much needed items for families who need a little extra support. The boxes cost approximately \$57.00. You can sign up to bring items on the following links:  
Congregation click here to purchase items - on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050c4aaca823a46-love>  
Youth click here to purchase items - on this link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050c4aaca823a46-love1>  
**ALL ITEMS ARE DUE BY JANUARY 23rd!**

The Youth will be putting these boxes together at their Winter Retreat and visiting Abide.

**Monetary Donations:** If you are making a monetary donation, please turn in your donation by **January 19th** so that orders are placed in time - please mark your donation Congregation or Youth you are sponsoring!

**Who will win?  
The Youth or the Congregation?  
Congregation, are you up for the challenge??**

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Back by popular demand, the Youth Enchilada Fundraiser! The Middle & Sr. High Youth will be selling pans of beef and chicken enchiladas starting December 26th. You can order from one of the Youth, online - check the website for the link or by placing an order on an order form that will be available in the Narthex. There are 6 enchiladas in each pan and the pans are \$20 per pan. This year, we will also be accepting donations of pans of enchiladas for YES and COPE. If you wish to place an order for either of those organizations, please make sure you mark that on your order form. We have samples available on January 9th in between services. These funds will

help our youth attend Retreats and go on mission trips.

*All of your support for our youth is amazing! Your support helps them grow in their faith and in their friendships with one another. Thank you!*

## **WE ARE GOING TO THE MOVIES!!**



Please join us for a fun movie outing on January 23rd at 3:00 to see "Sing 2" at Village Pointe Theatres. Tickets are \$6.50 and will be available to purchase until January 7th. All children's tickets will include a \$5 gift card for a snack purchase. Interested in this fun family outing? Please contact Christina Schroeder ([childrenministries@elkhornhillsumc.org](mailto:childrenministries@elkhornhillsumc.org)) to purchase your tickets.



**Adult Handbell Choir** - is recruiting new members. High school through adults. Rehearsals Monday evening at 6:00-7:00 pm. We play for church once a month during the 9:00 church service.

**Children's handchime choir** meets on Sunday mornings from 10:00-10:30. Preschool through Grade 5. Children have the opportunity to sing and play handchimes during this time. We will play once a month during the 9:00 church service.

Contact Deb Eidam if interested: Cell: 402-650-0911 Email: [eidamdeb@yahoo.com](mailto:eidamdeb@yahoo.com)



**Please join us for Children's Choir!** To register your children email Christina at [childrenministries@elkhornhillsumc.org](mailto:childrenministries@elkhornhillsumc.org)



**If you are missing a piece to complete your Nativity Set that was given out during Advent or would like a whole set please see me and I will be happy to get you what you need. ~ Christina**



Have you heard about our awesome youth? Do you like to laugh and have fun? Do you have life experiences to share? If so, please consider joining our Triple G Youth Group as a volunteer on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Contact Jenny Meyer for more information.



Youth Sunday School is back in person! **WE ARE IN NEED OF ADULTS TO HELP LEAD THESE CLASSES.** Middle High Youth will meet in the Mid-High Youth Room off of the Library. This class is for 6-8 graders. The Sr. High Youth will meet in the overflow area in the Sanctuary. This class is for 9-12 graders. On the last Sunday of each month, both groups will attend the 10:30 worship service together. If you feel called to lead our youth, please contact Jenny Meyer to sign up to teach! ([jjl\\_1971@yahoo.com](mailto:jjl_1971@yahoo.com))



AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. [Simply click here](#) and you will be directed to the Elkhorn Hills UMC AmazonSmile page.



Our youth are excited to continue providing the coffee shop before and after first service in the Sanctuary overflow. Thank you to all of you who have been dropping by. Many of you have been generous with tips, thank you for those!

We have another way for you to say, "thank you" and partner with us. We need cookies and bars that we can store in our freezer so that we are always prepared to add to fellowship. Please contact Jenny (jjl\_1971@yahoo.com) if you are interested in providing some baked treats.

Join us for fellowship time as the Youth serve in their Coffee Shop in the back of the Sanctuary. The Coffee Shop will be open before the 9:00 service and will close about 10 minutes prior to the service beginning. We will reopen at 10:00 and run until 10:30 a.m. On the menu: Coffee, Decaf Coffee, Hot Tea, Hot Chocolate, Hot Cider, Water, Cookies/Bars. The Coffee Shop will be open on Sundays, except for holiday weekends.

*The Youth Coffee Shop will be closed during the holidays. We appreciate all of your support, but also want to give our youth and their families time to spend together over the holidays. We'll be back up and running on January 9<sup>th</sup>*



### **Elkhorn Hills Family,**

Thank you for your generously supporting Elkhorn Hills in 2021 - we are looking forward the great things Elkhorn Hills can do in 2022 with your support.

We have a multitude of options on how you can give to the church and we will be happy to work with you to find the option that best fits your situation. One great way to multiply your gift is through the giving of appreciated stocks. You are able to make a tax deductible donation of these stocks, avoid paying capital gains, and Elkhorn Hills gets to enjoy the full benefit as a non profit organization. If you would like more information on how to do an appreciate stock gift, please contact Brett Ritter at 402-980-0637 or brett\_ritter1@yahoo.com.

If you are age 72 or older, IRS rules require you to take a required minimum distribution or RMD each year. If you have not yet satisfied you RMD requirement for this year and would like to benefit Elkhorn Hills consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD. Doing this will help satisfy your RMD and reduce your taxable income. Feel free to talk to Brett Ritter about how the QCD works.

*Elkhorn Hills Finance Committee*

## **HOW TO GIVE**

Mail in your check to the church office at 20227 Veteran's Drive | Elkhorn, NE 68022.  
Thank you for remembering the care of your church and it's ministries.

***For your Convenience and Simplicity other options include:***

- **GIVEPLUS+ A VANCO COMPANY**
- **GiftDirect ACH** (monthly contributions from your bank account to the church) No charges for this option
- **GivePlus Mobile app** (Download the "GivePlus" app in your Apple or Google Play store and select our church)
- **GivePlus Text** [855-930-1862](tel:855-930-1862)

Should you have any questions on GiftDirect or GivePlus please reach out to Brett Ritter or Regina Bergman