



Every fire starts with a simple, small spark. Through last year's Hearts Ablaze campaign, so may good, new sparks ignited in the midst of our community. Our congregation pledged more than \$11 million through the end of 2026 and we have been keeping our promises: you are giving extraordinarily, faithfully, even above and beyond those pledges.

Of special significance, our community expressed a longing to go deeper into the Bible as an act of discipleship in the coming years. Guided by our Elders, we began 2025 with the worship theme "Eat This Book," inviting us to immerse ourselves in Scripture, we've continued that journey with a nine-month Walk Through the Bible. What a great spark!

-Pastor Gregg

The God who spoke light into existence, saying, "Let light shine from the darkness," is the very One who sets our **hearts ablaze** to shed light on the knowledge of God's glory revealed in the face of Jesus, the Anointed One.

2 Corinthians 4:6

MY GENEROSITY

New Commitment Guide

\$	<input type="text"/>	What I/we normally give in a year (Regular giving, end-of-year campaign, etc.)
+ \$	<input type="text"/>	Our expanded annual generosity as part of the Hearts Ablaze initiative
+ \$	<input type="text"/>	Gifts from my/our stored resources (Stocks, real estate, etc.)
= \$	<input type="text"/>	

MY/OUR NEW COMMITMENT

(December 2025 - December 2026)

Note Hearts Ablaze pledges to Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church are not intended to be legally enforceable promises to give, but represent an intention to give, subject to God's provision.

Whether you are new to Elmhurst CRC or have called this place home for years, we invite you to feel inspired to fan the flames of faith and discipleship. Join us in making a 12-month giving commitment to Hearts Ablaze.

If you made a commitment last year, we want to encourage you as you continue the journey. Giving may have stretched your faith or been tested by life's challenges. Know that we are here to walk with you in prayer, counsel, and support. May you find strength in the God who provides.

If you've already seen your faith grow through giving, we challenge you to listen for God's prompting and take another step—deepening your trust through an increased commitment.

Videos, devotionals, and more at
HEARTSABLAZE.ELMHURSTCRC.ORG

Keep The Fire Burning



For 75 years, Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church has been a faithful witness in the western suburbs of Chicago, growing **UP** through deeper worship, **IN** with an ever-widening community, and **OUT** through community service and sharing the Good News.

Our vision for the next season at Elmhurst CRC is not about expanding our campus or a new building project, but rather about expanding our ministries in all of these directions with trust that God will set our **hearts ablaze** with new, Holy Spirit-inspired opportunities.

Let's celebrate our progress in 2025 and continue our commitment through 2026.



2025 UPDATE

Hearts Ablaze

OUR TWO-YEAR DISCIPLESHIP-BASED
GENEROSITY INITIATIVE THROUGH 2026

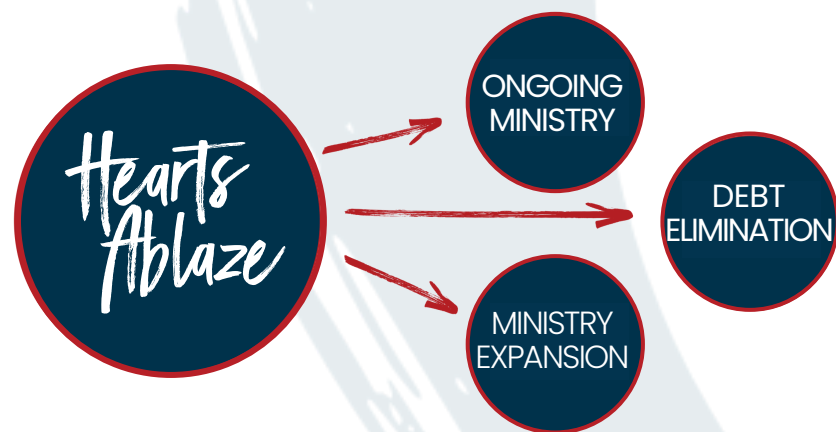
GOALS:

100% Participation and Engagement

We hope that every person who calls Elmhurst
Christian Reformed Church their spiritual home will ask
themselves prayerfully,
“What is God desiring to do in and through me?”

\$11.5 Million over Two Years

Two years of ONGOING MINISTRY expenses (\$6.5 Million)
Current DEBT ELIMINATION (\$4 Million)
New and Existing MINISTRY EXPANSION (\$1 Million)



They asked each other, “Were not our **hearts ablaze**
within us while he talked with us on the road and
opened the Scriptures to us?”

Luke 24:32



Keep The Fire Burning

Here’s what God has accomplished through the generosity of His people!

TWO YEARS OF ONGOING MINISTRY: \$6.5 MILLION

Thanks to your generosity, our ongoing ministries are
fully funded for 2025 — praise God! Your support
sustains Elmhurst CRC’s vital work spanning all ages
and stages, from weekday ministries through
weekend worship, covering our campus and
spreading out to the world.



DEBT ELIMINATION: \$4 MILLION

We’ve cut our debt by more than half —
from over \$4 million in 2024 to under
\$2 million — freeing significant resources.
These savings now strengthen our
ministries, support future growth, and build
a more secure financial foundation.

MINISTRY EXPANSION: \$1 MILLION

We have the opportunity to continue funding bold new steps as we grow **UP, IN, and OUT.**



- Hired a full-time Director of Engagement — Jason Turner — to foster community, small group engagement, and discipleship through congregational ministries
- Doubled our youth ministry programming and staff — Luke Norris & Emily Simonis — to actively invest in the next generation
- Expanded our Missions budget, deepening partnerships locally with Lawndale (Chicago) and globally with Nurmay Missions (Kenya)
- Hosted the weekly Elmhurst Farmers Market from May–October, welcoming over 25,000 visitors while deepening our community connections and outreach

IN PROGRESS

- Designating a portion of our building to create an accessible space focused on the ministry of prayer
- Setting aside additional funds for anticipated capital maintenance projects so that our congregational giving can focus on ministry and outreach directly