



Privacy Policy

Elkhart Life Church
1135 Middlebury St
Elkhart, IN 46516

Effective date: 1/1/2026

Last updated: 7/27/2026

Elkhart Life Church (“Elkhart Life,” “Life Tabernacle Church,” “the Church,” “we,” “us,” or “our”) respects the privacy of our members, attendees, visitors, volunteers, donors, ministry participants, and online users. This Privacy Policy explains how we collect, use, maintain, disclose, and protect personal information through our church database, ministries, communications, website, internet services, and other church activities.

1. Information We Collect

Depending on how you interact with the Church, we may collect:

- Contact information, including your name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number.
- Household and family information, including family relationships, birth dates, anniversaries, and information about children or dependents.
- Church participation information, including attendance, membership status, baptism or dedication records, ministry involvement, volunteer service, small-group participation, spiritual interests, and class or event registrations.
- Communication preferences, including email, text-message, telephone, and mailing preferences.
- Donation and transaction information, including donation history, payment status, and records needed for contribution statements. Payment-card and bank information may be processed directly by third-party payment providers rather than stored by the Church.
- Prayer requests, care needs, pastoral-care information, and other information you voluntarily provide.
- Safety information needed for children’s programs, emergency contacts, volunteer screening, facility security, and incident reporting.
- Photographs, audio recordings, and video recordings taken during church services, activities, events, or livestreams.
- Employment, volunteer, background-check, and ministry-leadership information where appropriate.
- Technical information generated when you use our website or online services, such as your IP address, browser type, device type, referring page, pages visited, approximate location, date and time of access, and cookie or similar identifier information.

Please do not submit highly sensitive information through a public website form, ordinary email, social media, or text message unless the Church specifically requests it through an appropriate secure method.

2. Our Church Database

We use a church-management database and related systems to support the Church's religious and charitable mission. Information in these systems may be used to:

- Maintain membership and attendance records.
- Organize households and maintain contact information.
- Administer ministries, classes, small groups, events, and volunteer assignments.
- Support pastoral care, prayer, visitation, and spiritual formation.
- Communicate church news, service information, ministry opportunities, schedule changes, emergencies, and event reminders.
- Process donations and prepare contribution statements.
- Maintain appropriate records concerning children's ministry, safety, consent, and emergency contacts.
- Conduct background checks or screening when required for a ministry or volunteer role.
- Plan church programs and understand participation trends.
- Meet accounting, tax, insurance, safety, safeguarding, and other legal obligations.

Access to the church database is limited according to role and ministry need. Staff members, ministry leaders, volunteers, and authorized service providers may receive access only to information reasonably necessary for their responsibilities. Individuals with access are expected to protect the information and not use it for personal, political, commercial, or unauthorized purposes.

3. Communications

When you provide your contact information or participate in church activities, we may communicate with you by mail, telephone, email, text message, church-management application, or similar service.

Communications may include:

- Worship-service and ministry information.
- Event registrations and reminders.
- Volunteer schedules.
- Prayer, pastoral-care, and small-group communications.
- Weather closings, schedule changes, and emergency notices.
- Giving information and contribution statements.
- Church announcements, newsletters, surveys, and ministry opportunities.

You may unsubscribe from general promotional email by using the unsubscribe link in the message or by contacting us. You may opt out of text messages by replying **STOP**, when that option is available, or by contacting the Church. Message and data rates may apply.

Opting out of general announcements may not prevent communications that are necessary to complete a transaction, respond to your request, provide a contribution statement, manage a ministry role, protect health or safety, or satisfy a legal obligation.

We will make reasonable efforts to honor communication preferences. Because separate ministries may maintain different communication lists, please tell us if unwanted messages continue.

4. Website and Internet Use

When you visit a Church website, view a livestream, use an online form, connect to Church-provided Wi-Fi, or interact with another Church online service, technical information may be collected automatically.

We may use cookies and similar technology to:

- Keep websites and online forms functioning.
- Remember preferences.
- Measure website traffic and performance.
- Improve content, navigation, and accessibility.
- Protect against fraud, abuse, and security threats.
- Support embedded video, maps, registration, giving, or social-media features.

Third-party services embedded in our website may collect information under their own privacy policies. These may include website-hosting services, analytics providers, video or livestream platforms, mapping services, social-media platforms, registration systems, church-management software, and online-giving processors.

You can control many cookies through your browser settings. Blocking cookies may cause some website features to function incorrectly.

Church internet access and Wi-Fi are provided as a convenience. Users must not use Church internet services to access, transmit, or distribute illegal, harmful, threatening, harassing, sexually explicit, infringing, or malicious material; interfere with network security; gain unauthorized access to systems; or conduct unauthorized commercial activity. The Church may use reasonable technical safeguards and network logs to maintain security, investigate misuse, and comply with law. Users should not assume that activity on Church-provided networks is private.

Our website may link to third-party websites. The Church does not control and is not responsible for the privacy, security, content, or practices of those websites.

5. Children and Minors

The Church takes special care with information concerning children and minors.

Information about children ordinarily should be submitted by a parent or legal guardian. We may collect information necessary for children's ministry, event registration, check-in and check-out, emergency response, allergies or accommodations, and child-safety procedures.

Our general-audience website is not intended to invite children under 13 to submit personal information independently. A child under 13 should not submit personal information through our website without the involvement and authorization of a parent or legal guardian.

Parents and legal guardians may contact us to review, correct, or request deletion of information submitted online by or about their child, subject to legal, safety, insurance, and church-recordkeeping requirements.

The federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act applies to online services directed to children under 13 and to general-audience services that knowingly collect information online from such children. The FTC explains these requirements in its [COPPA guidance](#).

6. Prayer Requests and Pastoral Care

Prayer requests and pastoral-care information may involve sensitive personal, family, spiritual, financial, or health-related matters. We use this information to provide requested ministry, prayer, counseling, assistance, or referrals.

Please indicate whether a prayer request may be shared with a prayer team, congregation, small group, or other audience. Unless broader sharing is requested or reasonably apparent from the circumstances, sensitive requests should be shared only with individuals who have a ministry-related need to know.

Although the Church seeks to treat pastoral communications respectfully and confidentially, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in every circumstance. Information may need to be disclosed when required by law, when necessary to report suspected abuse or neglect, when there is a serious threat to someone's safety, or when disclosure is otherwise necessary to protect a person or the Church.

7. Photographs, Video, Livestreams, and Social Media

Church services and events may be photographed, recorded, livestreamed, or shared through Church websites, social-media accounts, printed materials, or other ministry communications.

We seek specific permission when using an identifiable person's image in situations where consent is appropriate, particularly for minors or promotional features focused on an individual.

However, people attending public worship services or public church events may appear incidentally in crowd photographs, recordings, or livestreams.

If you have concerns about an image or recording, contact us. We will consider reasonable removal requests, although we may be unable to remove content already printed, shared by others, archived, or controlled by a third-party platform.

8. How We Share Information

We do not sell personal information.

We may share information:

- With Church staff, elders, pastors, ministry leaders, or volunteers who need it for an authorized Church purpose.
- With vendors that provide church-management, database, website-hosting, communications, registration, background-check, accounting, payment, security, or technology services.
- With denominational, ministry, or event partners when necessary for a program you request or join.
- At your direction or with your consent.
- To protect the safety, rights, property, or ministry of an individual or the Church.
- To report suspected abuse or neglect or respond to an emergency.
- When required by a subpoena, court order, legal process, or other applicable law.
- In connection with a Church reorganization, merger, dissolution, or transfer of ministry responsibility, subject to appropriate protections.

Service providers are expected to use information only for the services they provide and to protect it appropriately.

9. Donations and Payment Processing

Online donations and payments may be processed by a third-party provider. The provider may collect payment-card, bank-account, and identity-verification information under its own privacy and security terms.

The Church normally receives transaction details needed to record the donation, manage registrations, issue receipts, reconcile accounts, and prepare contribution statements. We do not intentionally store full payment-card security codes.

10. Data Security and Breach Response

We use reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safeguards appropriate to the nature of the information. These may include access restrictions, individual user accounts, multifactor

authentication, staff training, secure vendors, backups, software updates, and secure disposal practices.

No database, website, email system, internet transmission, or storage system can be guaranteed completely secure. If a security incident occurs, we will investigate and provide any notices required by applicable law.

Indiana's breach-notification law may require organizations, including nonprofits, to notify affected Indiana residents and the Indiana Attorney General when specified personal information is compromised. More information is available from the [Indiana Attorney General](#).

11. Data Retention

We retain information only as long as reasonably necessary for the purposes described in this policy and to meet legal, accounting, insurance, safety, historical, and ministry needs.

Retention periods may vary. For example:

- Contribution, tax, and accounting records may be retained as required by law and sound accounting practice.
- Membership, baptism, dedication, marriage, funeral, and other sacramental or historical records may be retained permanently.
- Child-safety, background-check, incident, employment, and insurance records may be retained for extended periods.
- Routine registrations, communication lists, and inactive contact records may be deleted or anonymized when no longer needed.
- Information subject to a legal hold, dispute, investigation, or safeguarding concern may be retained until the matter is resolved.

When information is no longer required, we may delete, anonymize, or securely destroy it.

12. Your Choices and Requests

You may contact the Church to:

- Review or update your contact information.
- Correct inaccurate database information.
- Change your communication preferences.
- Request removal from a ministry or communication list.
- Ask questions about how information is used.
- Request deletion of information that is no longer needed.

We may need to verify your identity before fulfilling a request. We may decline or limit a request when retaining information is reasonably necessary for Church records, safety, legal

compliance, contribution records, dispute resolution, safeguarding, or another legitimate ministry purpose.

Indiana's Consumer Data Protection Act became effective January 1, 2026, but nonprofit organizations are generally exempt from that law. The exemption does not eliminate other obligations, including applicable security-breach, communications, child-privacy, and general consumer-protection requirements. See the [Indiana Attorney General's guidance](#).

13. Changes to This Policy

We may update this Privacy Policy as our ministries, technology, vendors, or legal obligations change. The revised policy will be posted with a new "Last updated" date. Material changes may also be communicated through appropriate Church channels.

14. Contact Us

Questions, concerns, communication preferences, or privacy requests may be directed to:

Elkhart Life Church

Attn: Privacy Coordinator

1135 Middlebury St

Elkhart, IN 46516

Telephone: 574-293-9332

Email: secretary@ElkhartLife.com

Website: ElkhartLife.com