



Elder Newsletter

July - September 2026

Hello, brothers and sisters. Greetings from the elders! We are pleased to share this brief quarterly update in order to help you:

- Better understand the church's ministry and administrative affairs.
- Know how to pray for our church, pastoral staff and elders.
- Have a clearer sense of potential ministry opportunities.

ELDER COMMITMENTS

At each elder meeting, we review one of the following commitments to refresh our focus on shepherding responsibilities. Please pray that the Lord will help us to be faithful in fulfilling each of these commitments to Him and to the people of Highlands.

1. Lord, we commit, with the help of your Holy Spirit, to shepherd well every person who you bring to be part of Highlands.
2. Lord, we commit to following you and helping your people to follow you. We commit to remain diligent in the study, teaching, and application of your Holy Word.
3. Lord, with your help, we will continue in our commitment to implement measures to protect all who attend Highlands and to prevent abuse of leadership, authority, and power.
4. With your help, Lord, we commit to thoroughly investigate and respond biblically where there is evidence of misconduct at Highlands.
5. We commit to pray for your people, that every person who comes through our doors or who participates in ministry here would find a safe place to worship, and that they will grow deeply in their relationship with you through the various ministries of this church.

YOU'RE INVITED **MEMBERS NIGHT**

OCTOBER 22 | 6 PM



The Elders encourage all members to attend the Members' Meeting, which will be held on October 22, 2026 in the Family Life Center. Among other things, the meeting will feature the ministry of Deacons at Highlands and efforts to align the Deacon ministry more closely with the Scriptural guidelines.

NEW CHURCH MEMBERS

This past quarter, we rejoiced to welcome Mark & Olivia Allen as new members into the Highlands church family. Mark & Olivia have fulfilled the requirements for membership, which include giving a credible testimony of their personal faith in Jesus and confirming their agreement with and commitment to our Statement of Faith Membership Covenant. Please join us in extending a warm welcome and praying that the Allen family will be encouraged, known, and built up as part of our body, and pray that the Lord will use them to serve and build up others.

Our next 2-part membership class starts on Sunday, October 25. Lord willing, we look forward to welcoming additional men and women to join us in church membership in the days to come

EVAN AND EMILY JARMS ADOPTION UPDATE

In 2025, Evan and I started pursuing adoption after struggling with years of infertility. Because of Highlands' partnership with Lifesong, we were able to jump start our fundraising with an \$8000 matching grant. Through many generous donations, we raised over \$50,000 which helped with the cost of our agency fee, match and placement fees, and some travel expenses. On September 20th, 2026, our son Joel Howard Jarms came early at 34 weeks! Joel has been in the NICU in Longview, Texas as he continues to develop and grow strong for the trip back to Washington. We are so grateful to God for the gift of this sweet boy, and to his birth mom for choosing us to be his parents. We couldn't have done this without Lifesong, Highlands, and the incredible, generous people in our lives. We are so thankful!



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORTS

To better understand and appreciate the ongoing programs of ministry at Highlands, the Elder Council has invited one of the major ministry areas to give a short report at each of the Elder Council meetings. Hearing these reports will also provide more of an opportunity to support these ministries in prayer. This quarter, the Elder Council heard reports from the following ministry areas:

- HCC Global Ministry: Simi Bilti
- Family Ministries: Kasra Soltani

2026-2027 ELDER GOALS

The Elder Council established the following goals for the 2026-2027 administrative year:

1. Study the scriptural basis for the office of Deacon, and revise procedures accordingly
2. Establish the “Helping Women Flourish” project
3. Hold an annual social event to honor the wives of Elders and Elder Candidates
4. Hold an annual Elder/Staff fellowship event
5. Implement the revised Elder Candidate Training Program
6. Update the program to develop and disciple men
7. Establish monthly ministry reports at Elder Council meetings

During the past quarter, the Elders and Elder Candidates held a social event to honor their wives at the home of Norm and Kathy Hummel. This was also a good opportunity to get better acquainted - not to speak of enjoying Norm’s barbecued ribs and chicken!

FACILITY REPAIRS UPDATE

We are thankful that repairs of the brick wall located in the SE Educational Wing have begun! The interior work is mostly completed and the Upper Gym Classrooms and FLC Café are available for ministry activities. In addition, we have erected scaffolding and begun repairs on the exterior bricks. We anticipate completion of the project later this fall.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We thank God for your faithful generosity and continued partnership in God’s work in and through Highlands Community Church! We invite you to give thanks to the Lord for what He is doing in our church and to review our most recent financial report for the first half of the ministry year (April-September 2026): [LINK HERE.](#)

ALL ARE INVITED

The elders also want to remind everyone that they’re welcome to attend any of the elder meetings. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month (except August) in Room 270; the public portion of the agenda starts at 7:15 p.m.