

Who we are

Pastors and lay people volunteer to assist the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department in a number of ways, most noticeably when notifications must be made to family when a traffic crash or criminal incident has resulted in death.

The chaplain corps is comprised of trained professionals able to help individuals cope with stress during critical, emergency situations.

Requirements to be a chaplain are:

- Compassion for and considerate of people of all beliefs;
- Five years of ministry experience;
- Endorsement from the church; and
- Flexible schedules for on-call status.

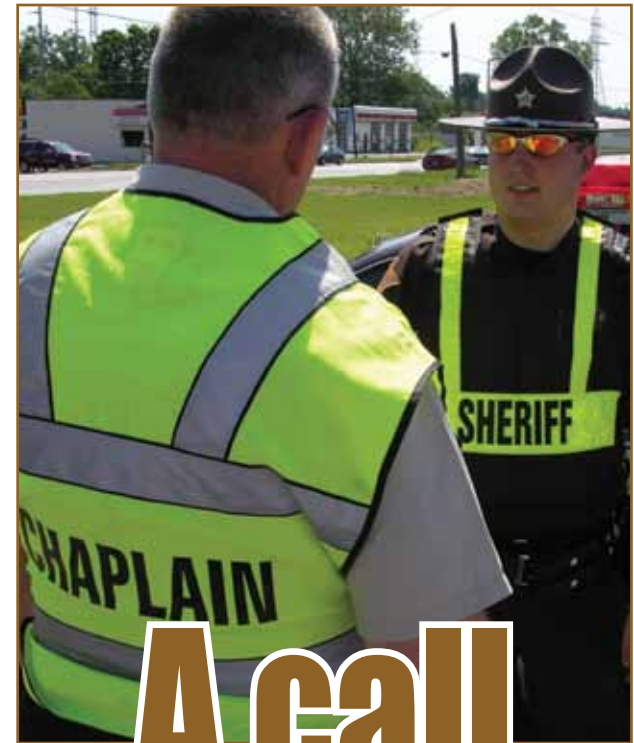


Why we do it

The chaplain corps supporting the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department is wholly dedicated to helping officers and support staff deal with the inherently high stress of the law enforcement profession, as well as minister to spiritual needs.

The goal of this group is to encourage employees in their jobs and help carry the load of traumatic incidents and crises. We offer different work than that done by fine organizations and groups endeavoring to assist county inmates and their families.

Your prayers and financial support for this ministry are welcome. The chaplain corps depends on gifts from you to sustain efforts we believe are important to both the department and the community.



A call to serve

Chaplains help officers and residents cope during difficult times

What we do

The Elkhart County Sheriff's Department supports the volunteer group by covering costs of training and membership in the International Conference of Police Chaplains.

Duties for department chaplains include, but are not limited to:

- Riding with on-duty patrol officers;
- Making death notifications;
- Assisting officers on suicide calls;
- Responding to crashes involving critical injuries or deaths;
- Responding to scenes of violent crime;
- Counseling officers and their families on personal problems;
- Leading debriefings using Critical Incident Stress Management;
- Participating in the planning and presentation of the annual memorial service for fallen officers;
- Completing annual training; and
- Providing encouragement and direction to new officers and department personnel.

ECSD Chaplains Fund
68080 Division St. • New Paris, IN 46553



**ELKHART COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**
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From the Sheriff of Elkhart County

Every day, the men and women of the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department face dangerous and stressful situations to keep our community safe. We rely on a number of individuals for support, but none probably as often or as important as our corps of volunteer chaplains.

These professionals handle critical situations with strength and compassion. They guide officers through difficult times and console families when they have to be told of a loved one's death.

But their work extends beyond the obvious. The chaplains are among the first people to welcome new employees. Their participation is important to the success each year of our law enforcement memorial service. And, they know when to just stop by, say hello and share a few words to brighten the day.

Our chaplains are an asset to the department and community. I am proud of the work they do.

— **Sheriff Mike Books**

At left, the annual law enforcement memorial service for the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department. Chaplains assist in both the planning and presentation.

Chaplains support our department and serve the entire community

“Thank you for the privilege of participating in your memorial service. It truly was a blessing for my wife and me to honor with you all of those living and gone who have sacrificed much to secure our freedoms.”

— Leonard of Mishawaka

“I am grateful for the assistance of the chaplains at the scene on October 27th when my husband considered attempting suicide. I just want you to know how we are doing. We are going to church now and our marriage has been put back together. Thank you so much for everything you do.”

— Mary of Elkhart