

Elim Lutheran Church
The Messenger

OCTOBER 2026

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Greetings, church friends –

I hope this edition of the Messenger finds you with hope and at peace.

I'm excited for a new session of Confirmation of which class will begin on Oct 4 at 10am in the Pastor's Room/Blue Room by the upstairs kitchen. We've had an informational meeting already, but I'm happy to visit with anyone who is still considering the offering. It's a pleasure to do so because I think Confirmation is really important.

In our tradition, parents/loving adults sometimes choose to have babies/children baptized. It is a choice taken on behalf of their sweet one. When a person is older and can think independently, a class called Confirmation is offered. The class takes shape in different ways depending on the participants, teacher and church in which it is offered. Some churches offer independent studies while others have a weekend retreat and still others have a two year commitment which meets every Saturday morning for four hours each class period. There is a lot of variety in the method of teaching and faith formation. The bottom line for any offering is that it helps participants decide for themselves if they want to confirm baptismal vows. Elim's tradition is a two year, in person class. Within that structure, the class has met at different times and durations.

This session's class will meet every other Sunday at 10am. Once a month we will also have dinner after worship and participate in a Learning and Serving project. (Think: "God's Work. Our Hands." once a month.) While our first morning session will be on Oct. 4, our first Learning & Serving project will be October 18.

As always with youth, I try to be engaging, honest and encouraging with intentional teaching. Please pass this information on to anyone who you think might be interested and is in Middle, Jr High or High School.

I'm excited for all that is happening and is to come as a church community, Elim! I hope you are too.

w/much joy – Pastor Amy Kay

ELIM LUTHERAN TO HOST "HERITAGE SUNDAY"

Once again, Elim's Worship and Music Committee is sponsoring a special service on **Sunday, October 25** in conjunction with Reformation Sunday. Heritage Sunday will reflect our Lutheran heritage from Martin Luther, and our own heritage as Elim.

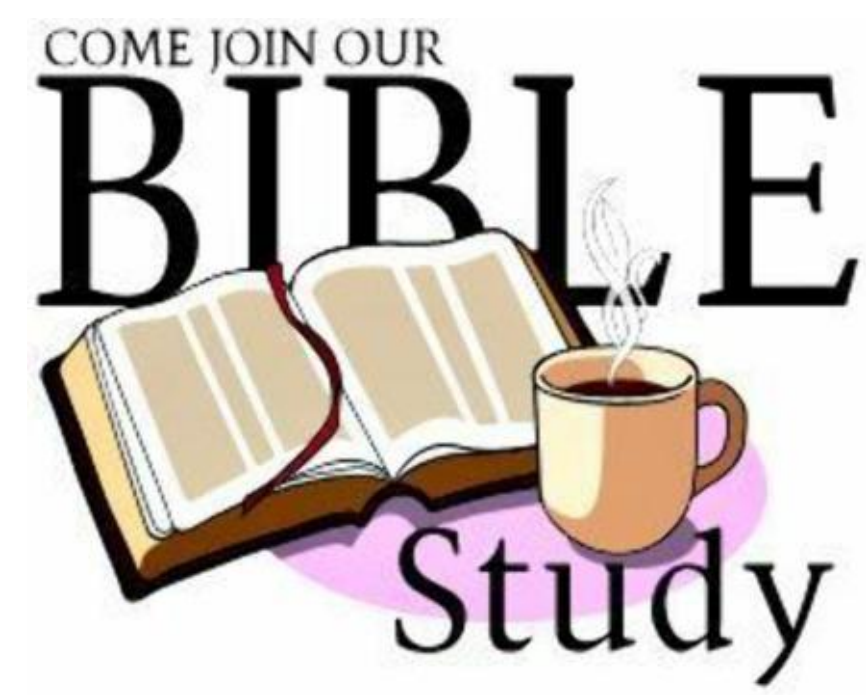
We will be using liturgy from the Lutheran Book of Worship (green hymnal). It will be the same type of service we had back in 1979 when we first started using the green hymnal. It will be fun to continue our remembrance of the past, both the service and the history of our church - our heritage. Please join us for this special service on October 25.



Please keep in prayer: Kelly Larson, MaRyan Hulvey, Anna Reed (Tiffany Moss' niece), Duane Becker, Jay Everhart, Jayleen Sellhorn, Claudine Smit (friend of Gayle Nelson), Jana Foss (Maggie Lindfors' mother), Laney Gerlach**,** Jeremy Hedberg (Melinda Rogers' brother), Darrel Naegele, Terri Lynn and Jerry Marx, Larry Schumann (Holly Toll's dad), David Ferguson, Patsy Krause, Amanda Luttig, Max Buffington, Art Mayfield, EMS, and the residents at Riverview Estates and all care facilities. Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Darris Larson.

Elim strives to extend the power of prayer to those who feel they would benefit from it. New prayer requests will be taken at any time. Contact Pastor Amy Kay at 573-808-1980, or email elimmarquette@gmail.com or elimsec@gmail.com. **[Please notify Pastor Amy Kay or the secretary if you or those you know wish to be taken off the prayer list. This is a welcome way to let us know that prayers were answered and you or they are feeling better. Thank you.]**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS OCTOBER 11



The study for this fall is titled "Believe". It is designed to encourage spiritual growth and take us on a journey toward thinking, living, and becoming more like Jesus. We will explore what we believe, why we believe it, how our faith should shape the way we live, and who God is calling each one of us to become. Pastor Randy Frazee guides us through 10 key beliefs of the Christian faith, 10 key practices of a Jesus-follower, and 10 essential virtues that characterize someone who is becoming more like Jesus.

Please plan to join us at 9:45 AM in the Parish Hall. Invite a friend! Everyone is welcome.

Julie Olson
Bible Study Facilitator

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Women's Bible Study meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Kelly Larson is the facilitator. Fourteen women attended the Bible study September 9. The next Women's Bible Study will be **Wednesday, October 14 at 9:30 AM in Elim's Parish Hall**. For those who are interested, the women will be heading to Gypsum after the Bible study for lunch at a new restaurant. On November 11, the meeting will be held at Kitchen 64, who is providing a breakfast brunch for those attending. Cost is $15 each. We continue to invite women from our community, including our sisters at Marquette United Methodist Church, to join us. Come for fellowship and a better understanding of faith in our daily lives.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

The local Food Bank is in dire need of donations. We are once again setting out baskets at the back of the sanctuary to collect non-perishable donated foods. Everything is needed! Kelly Larson or other volunteers will take the collected items to McPherson Food Bank on a weekly basis.

YOUTH GROUP MEALS

If you are willing to help provide meals for the Youth Group on Wednesday nights, please check the sign-up list on the bulletin board, or call Carly Peterson at 785-280-2039. If you sign up on the board, PLEASE contact Carly so she can put it in her schedule. THANK YOU!!

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Sunday, September 13



It was another successful work day for Elim members participating in God's Work, Our Hands. For many years, ELCA has designated this Sunday in September to bring church members together to help complete work projects for the church and the community. There were 35 total members (including children) participating this year. Work projects included 1) water-sealing the exterior of the rodeo concession stand and painting fencing; 2) cleaning up the parsonage landscape; 3) cleaning cupboards in the Parish Hall kitchen; 4) cleaning up Dixie Lundquist's yard; and 5) helping Denny and Gayla Swisher install a flagpole. THANK YOU all for helping.

Darren Able tending to Dixie's flower bed.



Priceless! Nancy Rawson really gets her hands dirty.







Jackie Larson, Beth Thomas, Cynthia Hulse, Sarah Able, and Linn Nelson all pitch in to clear Dixie's yard. Mike Hulse also helped clean up at Dixie Lundquist's.







Julie Olson trims bushes along with Matt Toll, Sandy Edwards, Lindsy Newton, and Holly Toll at the parsonage. Others helping clean up the parsonage yard were Scott Johnson, Dana Olson, Airalia Hulvey, Acea Newton, and Kaeler Newton.

THANK YOU to Jay and LeAnn Everhart, Terry and Nancy Hopp, Sandy Edwards, Bernice Peterson, Carol Jones, and Rita Brown for providing food and helping in the kitchen for the God's Work, Our Hands luncheon served after worship service Sunday, September 13. We appreciate your thoughtfulness for providing this for our hard-working members.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS (cont.)

For the kitchen clean-up project in the Parish Hall, Carylee Nelson, Carol Jones, Jean "Gigi" George, Kelly Larson, and Brooke Olson scrubbed Parish Hall tables, the outer doors of all the kitchen cabinets as well as the refrigerator/freezer doors. There is more cleaning planned for a later date, so be watching for the announcement if you're willing to help.





Lars Peterson braved the ladder to spray water sealer on the upper portions of the Trail Ride concession stand.



Mo Nelson and Matt Hedberg discuss method for adding water seal to building.







Barry Nelson, Thayne Rawson, and Kent Rawson work on the lower areas of the building. Craig Larson also helped with this project.



Gayle Nelson, Diane Hedberg, and Lou Nelson paint the recently replaced railings at the far end of the arena.

Thank you to Griff Hawkinson for coming up with the idea to spruce up the rodeo arena and for providing the water seal. Additional thanks to Mo Nelson for lining up permission from the Smoky Valley Saddle Club to do the projects, and for calculating and gathering the necessary supplies.

Pastor Amy Kay was in all places – not at the same time! – and helped where she could. Thank you too for the pictures.

Last but not least, thank you Scott Johnson, Dana Olson, and Craig Larson for helping Denny and Gayla Swisher install a flagpole.

WELCA NEWS

Even though there are no longer WELCA officers in place (except Donna Patrick as treasurer), the women of Elim will continue to serve in the following ways, and welcome any suggestions for projects or outreach.

COMMITTEES:
WELCA Treasurer: Donna Patrick (785-212-1752)
Funeral Luncheon: Carylee Nelson (785-820-1383), Nancy Hopp (620-242-9102)
Riverview Songfest: Jackie Larson (785-376-1931), Pastor Amy Kay Pavlovich (573-808-1980)
Riverview Birthday Party – May through August: Cindy Bunk (629-755-6185)
Lion's Club Meals: Linda Johnson (785-826-5544), Carol Jones (785-577-5926)
LWR Quilts: Donna Patrick (785-212-1752)
Kitchen Committee: Linda Johnson (785-826-5544)
WELCA Women's Bible Study: Kelly Larson (785-212-0323)

ALL Elim members: Riverview Sing-alongs have changed from every 3rd Sunday to Songfests every 2nd Sunday at 4:00 PM. The next one will be Sunday, September 13. Everyone is welcome to join in.

The women of Elim are responsible for the Riverview Birthday Parties May through August. The Marquette United Methodist Church hosts the Riverview Birthday Parties January through April, and the Valley Community Church hosts September through December.



WOMEN OF ELIM ATTEND PRODUCTION OF "DAVID"

Several women from Elim along with a friend drove two separate vehicles down to Branson, Missouri on August 26, 2026. The goal was to see the production of "David" at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Branson. They also enjoyed the Dolly Stampede dinner show and did some shopping.

The goal was accomplished! We shared quality time together on our drive down and back, and had many laughs along the way. The production of "David" left us all with an intense feeling of wonder and awe. What an awesome presentation. I think we would all recommend it to anyone who has a chance to go experience it!

The group returned on August 28. Those attending were: Kelly Larson, Donna Patrick, Carylee Nelson, Janet Samford, Carol Jones, Cynthia Hulse, Jackie Larson, and Malea Zeller.

[Thank you to Carol Jones for the above article and pictures.]

FOR WHAT THE BELLS STILL TOLL

The following article was written by Scott Bontz for the Lindsborg New-Record, and was shared by Allan Lindfors to include in the Messenger. Portions of the article were revised due to space.

The first Elim Lutheran Church in Marquette was built in 1879. The congregation of immigrants modeled the wooden structure after a church in Sweden. In the tower raised for their new world they hung a bell about 30 inches across at the base. It was the first church bell in the Smoky Valley, said Allan Lindfors, who is a lifelong resident and historian of Marquette.

In 1905 a tornado killed 33 people in the town, including 17 Elim congregants, and destroyed the church. The twister threw the bell, which weighed nearly 500 pounds, about 100 yards, according to Lindfors. It came to rest near the parsonage.

The bell did not break. But when congregants rebuilt their church, they voted for a new instrument. Lindfors doesn't know why, but suggested that they thought a new church deserved a new bell. "Maybe it reminded them of the tornado", he said of the original. Within a few times of being rung, however, the "pretender" cracked.

Three arched windows opened on each of the belfry's four sides. At least one of the brick pillars between the openings was knocked out so the first bell could be returned to power. Lindfors figures the new bell was even bigger, since it had to be cut up for removal – by a man named Charlie Brown!

"The old bell is still pluggin' along since 1880," Lindfors said.

To reach it, he led the way up three stories of steps, the second two steeper than 60 degrees and the middle one lacking a handrail.. Passage to the belfry required lifting - with the help of the counterweights – two large trapdoors. The belfry space is about 15 feet square. The windows open to the air but are screened to block birds and perhaps bats. At the center of this airy room stands the bell.

Most bell-founding over three millennia has used bronze, with various ratios of copper and tin. Elim's bell appears to be made of iron with a "patina" of rust to match that of the headstock, or yoke, which is an arching beam from which the bell hangs, and that of the frame, which is two fixed sides that bear the swinging stock and cup of the bell.

Elim's bell action comes by way of a natural-fiber rope around a grooved wooden wheel a few inches less than 6 feet in diameter. The edges of the spokes are chamfered. "Craftsmanship was very important in those days," Lindfors said. But if the wheel once has a finish, it is long gone. The base of 5-by-5's on which the frame stands also is an unpainted, aged gray.

The rope over the wheels passes through separate holes in the floor to the ringer one story below. "Up here it is loud," Lindfors said in the belfry. "That's' why you do it down below. You can hear it for miles." He descended and showed how: Pull left, pull right, working by feel and sound, blind to the bell.

Lindfor's mother was Elim's custodian. "We did it for years and years," he said of the job of ringing the bell to call worshipers. This took commitment, time, and climbing the step stairs through trapdoors. Now the bell is rung only on special occasions, such as for a family reunion or Heritage Sunday. The job often falls to young adults, Lindfors said.

In their stead, loudspeakers aim out the cardinally arrange windows. An automatic system broadcasts a bell sound through the speakers for the call, to mark each hour, and at 6 pm, to play music. Lindfors said the recording is not of Elim's bell but one that sounds like it.

Tolling for funerals required a more stately cadence than the call to worship. The toller would wait for each resonant tone to fade before pulling the rope again. Lindfor's great-grandfather was also a custodian at Elim. Lindfors said that many years ago, each year that had been lived by the deceased was marked by a pulse of the toll. This eventually changed to 12 tolls regardless of age.

There is more to the story. An extended article in the Lindsborg News-Record tells more about Elim's bell and other church bells in this area. We'll try to include that in next month's Messenger along with pictures.

SERVING THE LORD IN OCTOBER

ACOLYTE(S): Lilly Anderson & Haley Anderson

LECTORS

October 4	Ava Toll
October 11	Betsy Patrick
October 18	Brooke Olson
October 25	Carol Jones

GREETERS

October 4	Nancy Hopp
October 11	Barry & Carylee Nelson
October 18	_____??
October 25	Carol Jones

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

October 4 Bernice Peterson

COMMUNION SET-UP & CLEAN-UP/BREAD

Set-up: Sandy Edwards and Bernice Peterson
Bread: Sandy Edwards

USHER FOR AUGUST: **Scott Johnson**

Offerings and Attendance:

August 30	***$1512.25***	***80***
September 6	***$2058.00***	***62***
September 13	***$1794.00***	***82***
September 20	***$4170.50***	***90***
September 27	***$924.25***	***83***

Monthly Financial Report
Presented to council 09/08/26]

Beginning Balance as of 08/01/26:	$	35,326.16
Revenue:	$	12,222.98
Expenses:	$	--9,095.71
Ending Balance as of 08/31/26:	$	38,453.43

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

REMINDER: The next Red Cross Bloodmobile is scheduled for TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 from 12:00-6:00 PM at Elim Lutheran Church Parish Hall. Please come at your appointment time. THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

American Red Cross

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS
September 8, 2026

Council decided on work projects for God's Work, Our Hands September 13: 1) Rodeo concession stand and fencing; 2) parsonage yard; 3) Elim kitchen cupboards; 4) Dixie Lundquist's yard. Council voted to give proceeds from rodeo concession stand to Marquette Learning Center for their September Match Campaign. Council discussed hiring a professional pest control to rid the church of unwanted bats. Darren Able sent request to pest control company in Salina, who will come for inspection prior to October.

Worship & Music: No report.
Finance & Stewardship: No report.
Memorial Committee: No report.
Christian Ed.: Discussed Youth Group trip to ELCA Youth Conference in June.
Evangelism/Social Ministry: No report.
Property/Security Committee: No report.

If you have questions or concerns regarding church activities or property, please contact one of the council members: Darren Able, Sarah Able, Sandy Edwards, Diane Hedberg, Linn Nelson, Conway Patrick, Bernice Peterson, Carly Peterson, Beth Thomas, or Matt Toll.

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2026.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Carol Baker shared this with us when she attended Elim during the power outage at MUMW a few Sunday's ago: Marquette's Art Room is hosting a Christmas Market on Saturday, November 7 at 9:00 am – 2:00 pm in the Marquette Community Building gym, located at 310 N. Swedonia (the northwest corner of the old school building). They will be selling handmade arts, crafts, baked goods, agri-based products and food from local residents. Kids can make $1 crafts, one each hour. There will be free live performances too. If you are interested in selling your arts and crafts items, please contact Carol Baker at 785-227-5229 or email theartroommarquette@gmail.com to reserve a space. Sign-up deadline is OCTOBER 15.

"It is good for us to keep some account of our prayers, that we may not unsay them in our practice.

- Matthew Henry



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Hannah Jones
3	Cari (Nelson) Daniels
5	Kent Rawson
5	Erin Hudson
7	Frank Rock
7	Mary Kay Lindh
7	Josh McMahan
8	Roberta Jaye
9	Nancy Hopp
9	Elsie Boughfman
11	James Rix Samford
12	Evan Talbott
13	Dana Olson
13	Will Hedberg
14	Fred Peterson
14	Olivia Peterson
16	JoNell Lindh
16	Logan Windholz
20	Brooke Olson
20	Darin Amos
20	Zach Weis
23	Kayley Fleming
24	Matthew Wickstrom
25	Kasey Weis
26	Brett Edwards
26	Lars Peterson
26	Emma McBride
27	Chris Edwards
28	Kaydee McMahan



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

2	Mr. & Mrs. Morris Nelson	44 years
5	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Beagley	13 years
6	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Lohrey	19 years
18	Mr. & Mrs. Scott Feil	29 years
25	Zach & Kasey Weis	6 years
25	Mr. & Mrs. Stacy Kaufman	23 years

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR PROVIDING MUSIC IN SEPTEMBER:

September 6: Chris Johnson
September 13: Front Porch Pickers
September 20: JoAn Lindfors
September 27: Darren Able, Tammy Feil, & Tami Malm



RIVERVIEW SONGFEST

Please note: per request from the Marquette United Methodist Church, Elim will now host Riverview Songfest (a.k.a. Sing-along) on the SECOND Sunday of the month instead of the third. The next Songfest will be **October 11 at 4:00 PM.** The second Sunday of the month will be the schedule from this point forward until further notice. Thanks to all who have felt called to minister in this way at Riverview Estates once a month.

SUMMER LAWN-MOWING



Thank you to Darryl Talbott, Allan Lindfors, and Darren Able for mowing in SEPTEMBER. There was probably 1 other who helped out on the 11th or 12th but the name wasn't listed on the bulletin board… so thank you also to the un-named volunteer!

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Note: For a number of years Elim members have run the Smoky Valley Saddle Club rodeo concession stand on the west side of the arena for both nights of the rodeo in August. This year's proceeds (for the amount of $2,309.33) were given to the Marquette Learning Center during their match fundraiser in September.

Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	**3**
4 19th Sunday in Pentecost **9:45 AM – Jr. Choir Practice/Sunday School** **10:00 AM – Confirmation Class** **11:00 AM –Worship Service w/ Communion**	**5**	6 **7:00 PM – Church Council Mtg.**	**7** **6:30 PM – Youth Meal** **7:00 PM – Youth Group** **7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice**	8	9	10
11 20th Sunday in Pentecost **9:45 AM – Jr. Choir Practice/Sunday School** **9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study** **11:00 AM –Worship Service** **4:00 PM – Riverview Sing-Along**	12	13	**14** **9:30 AM – Women's Bible Study** **6:30 PM – Youth Meal** **7:00 PM – Youth Group** **7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice**	15	16	17
18 21st Sunday in Pentecost **9:45 AM – Jr. Choir Practice/Sunday School** **9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study** **10:00 AM – Confirmation Class** **11:00 AM –Worship Service**	19	20	**21** **6:30 PM – Youth Meal** **7:00 PM – Youth Group** **7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice**	22	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday **HERITAGE SUNDAY** **9:45 AM – Jr. Choir Practice/Sunday School** **9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study** **11:00 AM –Worship Service**	26	27	**28** **6:30 PM – Youth Meal** **7:00 PM – Youth Group** **7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice**	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN