

Elim Lutheran Church
The Messenger

NOVEMBER 2026

Pastor Amy Kay Pavlovich
Cell Phone: (573) 808-1980
Email: elimmarquette@gmail.com

Gayle Nelson, Church Secretary
Church Phone: (785) 546-2244
Email: elimsec@gmail.com

Elim Lutheran Church website: www.elimmarquette.org

Greetings, Elim~

What a wonderful time of year! The weather is lovely, the trees are gorgeous and we get to be church! I hope this edition of the Messenger finds you at peace and able to enjoy the outdoors a bit.

One of the things I love about serving your church is that I get to create lessons for Children's Sunday School. I teach every once and awhile myself, but most of the time I simply hand off the lesson to awesome adults who make it all come to life for the kids. This part of my call wouldn't be as much fun if it was a struggle to find teachers, but that has never happened at Elim. Even when I get a little over zealous…

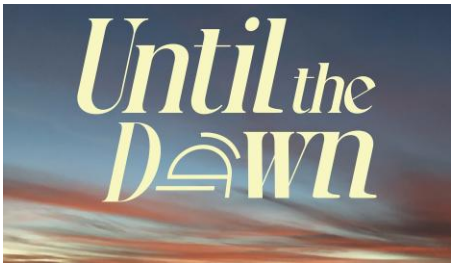
The children are learning the story of Daniel in November. Each Sunday they do different things to learn. The first Sunday they will play a gameshow called "Babylon Squares". It is loosely based off of the old Hollywood Squares show. There are THIRTEEN adults needed to pull off this lesson: a host, scripture reader, two team helpers and nine who make a human tic-tac-toe board. Friends, I'm not sure in the past seven years we've had thirteen children come to Sunday School at one time. It doesn't matter though! If we want the kids to have a good experience, learn Bible stories and feel the love of God during Sunday School, I think we should pull out all the stops for whoever shows up! Thankfully, we have fun, kind, curious, playful kids whose parents make the effort to get them to class.

I'm confident the game show will be great because of all of the adults who will make it be so. I'm confident baking apple turnovers will be awesome the next Sunday because of those adults! I know that painting in the style of the Aborigines, creating a big statue out of recycled pieces and drawing will all be fantastic because of those teachers. The kids will know the story of Daniel by the end of November and will experience God through it all.

Thank you for loving the children of the church. You love them by teaching Sunday School, greeting them warmly when they come up to the sanctuary from their lesson and interacting with them as they are comfortable doing so. The children are important and belong here, but sometimes churches don't help them feel this way. It's good to get to be church and it is especially good to get to be church all together at Elim.

w/great thanksgiving – Pastor Amy Kay

"Until the Dawn" is the theme of the Advent series starting November 29.

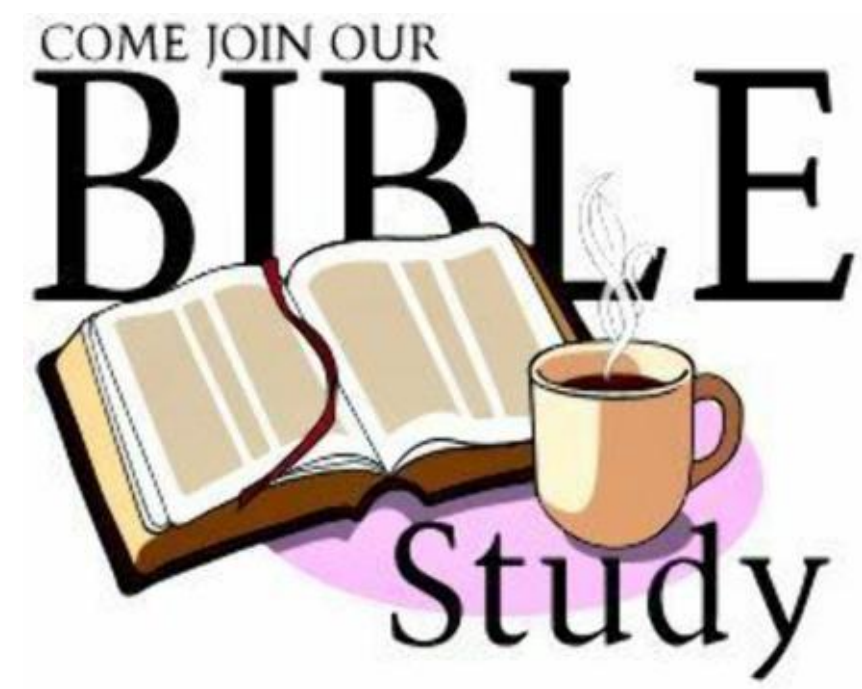




Please keep in prayer: Jared Jones, Mary Kay Lindh, Bernice Peterson, Kelly Larson, MaRyan Hulvey, Anna Reed (Tiffany Moss's niece), Jay Everhart, Jayleen Sellhorn, Claudine Smit (friend of Gayle Nelson), Jana Foss (Maggie Lindfors' mother), Laney Gerlach**,** Jeremy Hedberg (Melinda Rogers' brother), Terri Lynn and Jerry Marx, Larry Schumann (Holly Toll's dad), David Ferguson, Patsy Krause, Amanda Luttig, Art Mayfield, EMS, and the residents at Riverview Estates and all care facilities.

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



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. ***Attendance has been fantastic, with 14-17 members joining for the past 3 Sundays.***

There's room for more! Join us at 9:45 AM in the Parish Hall. Invite a friend! Everyone is welcome.

Julie Olson
Bible Study Facilitator

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WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Women's Bible Study meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Parish Hall. Kelly Larson is the facilitator. Ten women attended the Bible study October 14, with Carol Jones as the substitute facilitator. The next Women's Bible Study will meet at Kitchen 64 on **Wednesday, November 11 at 9:30 AM** for a breakfast brunch. Cost is $15 each. ***Please RSVP to Kelly Larson or Carol Jones if you plan to attend*** so that Kitchen 64 knows how many meals to prepare.

We continue to invite women from our community, including our sisters at Marquette United Methodist Church, to join us. PLEASE pass the word to your friends to come for fellowship and a better understanding of faith in our daily lives.



FOOD BANK DONATIONS

The local Food Bank continues to be in dire need of donations. There are 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 bi-weekly basis.

Thank you to Scott Johnson and the other Lion Club members for taking the most recent collected items for donation.

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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 to Linda Johnson, Sarah Able, Carly Peterson, Holly Toll, and Betsy Patrick for providing meals in September and October.

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, November 8. 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.

PASTOR JIM STRASEN CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Assaria Lutheran Church invites us to join in the celebration for Pastor Jim Strasen, who has served 50 years of ministry. There will be a dinner held at 11:30 AM at their church (124 W. 1st Street, Assaria, KS) on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP at 785-667-2031 or email alcassaria@hometelco.net. You are also welcome to attend their worship service at 10:00 AM.

Pastor Jim served Elim as an interim pastor for several years, and has been serving Assaria Lutheran Church in the same capacity for a number of years. He has served many other churches as well.

You are also welcome to send him a card of congratulations at the church address above.

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ELIM'S 150th ANNIVERSARY

Elim Lutheran Church will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in March 2028. Elim was first established in Marquette in 1878. Allan Lindfors is asking for volunteers to form a planning committee for the event, which he plans to begin in March 2027. Please consider sharing your talents and ideas for this monumental celebration.

"FOR WHAT THE BELLS STILL TOLL"

The following is the remaining abbreviated portions of the article written by Scott Bontz for the Lindsborg New-Record. Allan Lindfors shared more of Elim's history during the worship service on Sunday, October 25, which was Reformation Sunday, also known as Heritage Sunday for us at Elim. It seems appropriate to continue sharing the history of the church bells at Elim.

(continued from last month's Messenger)…

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.

Now even that has fallen out of practice, with no workable rope connecting the hammer for operation from the floor below. But a visitor to the bell can give the hammer a vigorous swing and still hear a faint ring from the bell 20 seconds later.

Lindfors said Elim plans to replace the tolling rope for the 150th anniversary of the original church and to remember the 17 congregants killed by the tornado.

The tolling hammer and the clapper strike the same note, which is determined by the bell's size and construction. The hammer is simpler. But Woollam [author of online paper about church bells] says it doesn't match the volume brought be swinging the bell around the circle. Elim's is a one-bell tower without this capability or concern, and the wheel rotates through only about two-thirds of a circle. A bell of several hundred pounds doesn't need full arc to meet its clapper with force. Elim's bell is about 29 inches across where the clapper strikes and 2-3 inches wider at the mouth's edge. A bell that size weighed 500-600 pounds and sounded with a
C-, which was exactly what Lindfors, Elim's choir director for 55 years, guessed when he listened to it. The clapper weight for a bell the size of Elim's would be about 50 pounds.

Elim is not the only tower bell occasionally rung in the Smoky Valley. Bethany College has one at Pearson Chapel. The Victory Bell isn't used for church but is sounded to celebrate notable success by a team, student, or employee. The honoree gets to pull the rope.

Freemount Lutheran Church and Salemsborg Lutheran also had big bells, but both were destroyed when lightning struck and burned them.

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SERVING THE LORD IN NOVEMBER

ACOLYTE(S): November 1 – Olivia Peterson

LECTORS

November 1	Lois Johnson
November 8	Carly Patrick
November 15	Lesa Larson
November 22	Curtis Patrick
November 29	Jackie Larson

GREETERS

November 1	Nancy Hopp
November 8	Jeremy & Emilie Snapp
November 15	The Ables
November 22	_____
November 29	_____

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

November 1 Sandy Edwards

COMMUNION SET-UP & CLEAN-UP/BREAD

Set-up: Brooke Olson and Pam Morel

USHER FOR AUGUST: Lars Peterson

Offerings and Attendance:

October 4	***$3264.00***	***82***
October 11*	***$1309.00***	***74***
October 18	***$1035.00***	***80***
October 25	***$6943.88***	***73***

**Noise offering: $88.55*

Monthly Financial Report

[As Presented to council 10/06//26]

Beginning Balance as of 09/01/26:	$	38,453.43
Revenue:	$	9,451.36
Expenses:	$	-13,640.54
Ending Balance as of 09/30/26:	$	34,354.25

PLEASE NOTE: A list of Communion Set-Up/Clean Up volunteers is currently being compiled for 2027! If you feel called to serve in this way, please contact Jackie Larson. It requires a one-Sunday commitment in 2027 and we will train you for the duties required. THANK YOU!

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 6, 2026

Council discussed bat control and the 150th anniversary of Elim Lutheran Church, coming in May 2028. Carly Peterson presented plans for the Youth Group to attend the ELCA Youth Conference in Minnesota in June 2027. Gayle Nelson suggested selling some of the roasters and skillets no longer used for Swedish Supper. An inventory will be taken and a decision made for dispursing the extra items.

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: Specifics on using a professional bat control company were presented by Darren Able.

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 Monday, November 2, 2026.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTE

A congregational vote was held Sunday, October 25 to approve the expenditure of $9250 for the removal of bats by Pest 5-0, a bat control company. Three bids had been presented to council, with council approving Pest 5-0 out of Salina, which was approx. $5,000 less than the other 2. The contract comes with a long-term protection. The company will complete the work by the end of October. Darren Able explained the procedure, and that the bats go in hibernation during the cold weather months and would probably not exit the building until that time. The equipment prevents their return into the building. Bats are a protected species so this is a lawful way to keep them out of the building. Lois Johnson moved and Brooke Olson seconded to approve the council's recommendation. The congregation voted unanimously to accept the recommendation. Dana Olson moved and Sarah Able seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Darren Able
3	Hannah McBride
5	Breckyn Bauer
6	Grayson Fleming
6	Thomas Oakleaf
7	Cayson Lindquist
7	Kara (Amos) Modrow
7	Logan Forssberg
8	Janelle Lillard
10	Airalia Hulvey
10	Sofia Hernandez
11	Emilie Snapp
13	Tim Larson
14	Charlotte Knackstedt
15	Donna Patrick
16	Adam Lindh
17	John Young
18	Abbie Hudson
18	Christine Weber
19	Tammy Feil
19	Kellen McMahan
21	Lance Hulse
22	Kinley Peterson
22	Deb Hedberg
22	Brin Edwards
25	Sadie McBride
26	Amanda McMahan
26	Aaron Lindh
29	Ethan Able
30	Kanin French



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2	Denny & Roberta Jaye	24 years
5	Mr. & Mrs. Tom French	57 years
12	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Schultz	65 years
12	Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Young	51 years
15	Mr. & Mrs. Noah Lindfors	14 years
25	Mr. & Mrs. Matt Toll	9 years

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BEST CHOICE LABELS

PLEASE continue to bring your Best Choice labels from the cartons and containers you purchase at stores offering Best Choice products throughout the year. The Christian Education Committee continues to collect them to help fund youth who are interested in attending church camp. Be sure to cut the labels with the words "Best Choice" at the top of the UPC symbol (bar code). The bar code must be included with the label. A container for collecting the labels is available in the narthex when you enter the church, or in the Parish Hall kitchen.

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.

CHURCH KEY

For Elim members who periodically need to enter the church during the week, a key is available at Marquette Farmers State Bank during bank hours. Members will need to sign for the key and for the date the key is returned.

Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 23rd Sunday in Pentecost **ALL SAINT'S DAY** **9:45 AM – Jr. Choir Practice/Sunday School** **9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study** **10:00 AM – Confirmation Class** **11:00 AM –Worship Service w/ Communion**	**2** **7:00 PM – Church Council Mtg.**	3	**4** **6:30 PM – Youth Meal** **7:00 PM – Youth Group** **7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice**	5	6	**7**
8 24th 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 – Songfest at Riverview**	9	10	**11** **9:30 AM – Women's Bible Study** **7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice**	12	13	14
15 25th 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**	16	17	**18** **7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice**	19	20	21
22 Christ the King Sunday **9:45 AM – Jr. Choir Practice/Sunday School** **9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study** **11:00 AM –Worship Service**	23	24	**25** **7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice**	**26** **THANKSGIVING**	27	28
29 1st Sunday in Advent **9:45 AM – Jr. Choir Practice/Sunday School** **9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study** **10:00 AM – Confirmation Class** **11:00 AM –Worship Service**	30					