



Elim Lutheran Church

The Messenger

January 2019

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Pastor's Ponderings . . .

Merry Christmas! It is not over yet. There are twelve days of Christmas – they come after Christmas, not before as is sometimes thought by non-liturgical persons. On January 6th we then celebrate Epiphany. The Epiphany season is when we remember the coming of the Magi. It is the season when we remember that Jesus came for all people, everywhere.

I have heard of people already taking down their Christmas trees and other decorations. Mine won't come down for a while yet. I have just begun celebrating Christmas.

I used to go shopping on December 26th. Because my family does not celebrate until after Christmas Day, I could finish my shopping after December 25th. I used to anticipate long lines of returns and many shoppers out and about. Instead, I often found the stores rather quiet. It reminded of how empty many churches will be this coming Sunday.

We flock to church on Christmas Eve or to the Julotta service on Christmas morning searching for the peace of Christmas. Or maybe we go to be with family. Sometimes it is just what we have always done. As I stood watching people return gifts in the absence of the hub-bub of the last-minute Christmas frenzy I wondered if we do not return Jesus to the shelf as though we are putting away the nativity set when Christmas Day is over.

I wondered if we do not return ourselves to the ordinary when the extraordinary gift of Christmas is given all year long. I should restate that – the gift of Christmas is for infinity – it is for all eternity, not just a few days of the year. Jesus came in order to give salvation to a fallen world. That gift is the gift that continually keeps on giving – year after year – decade after decade – century after century – until at last Christ will return and ultimate peace comes at last.

We search for the perfect gift. We order it and sometimes it doesn't arrive as anticipated. I understand that we want what we want when we want it. Christmas is about more than those undelivered gifts. Christmas is about being with family, about being with those we love. I do agree being with family is wonderful on each and every holiday. Is it possible that is why we come to church on Christmas Eve to be with other Christians – our adopted family in Christ?

Unfortunately, those sentiments don't quite get it for me either. Christmas is about remembering the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Christmas is about the gift that God gave humanity in coming to earth so that we might have salvation. Christmas is about God with us in Emmanuel. Christmas is knowing and understanding that Jesus of Nazareth, formerly of Bethlehem came so that we might know God's love for us.

I do not know how you feel about re-gifting or returning gifts. I remember the excitement of Christmas morning watching my children open presents. The worst thing was when something

didn't fit and had to be returned. Does Jesus fit into your life? As for me, I give God thanks and praise for the gift of Jesus to me and to you. That gift is all too often rejected throughout the year in all of our lives. Let us remember the response of Job, "I know that my redeemer lives." Praise be to God that we are loved unconditionally by a loving parent – who even in the middle of our rejection, return, and re-gifting – loves us.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Pastor Katherine



Prayers

Please keep in prayer: Hayes Schmid (friend of Jakob Feil), Kerry Lindh, Rhonda McEachern (sister of Rita Brown), Rita Brown, Skye Farris, Danny Morel, Debbie Brown, Mark Cook (Pastor Cross' son-in-law), Don Lundquist, Ronnie Larson, Sarah Jane Smith, Mary Olson, Vernon Olson, Diane Deckard, and Tim Thatcher (nephew of Pr. Katherine).

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 Katherine at (419) 467-5391 or the church office: leave a note on the bulletin board, call (785) 546-2244 (do not leave voice mail message), or email elimsec@gmail.com. Please note that the list will renew every three months on April 1, July 1, Oct. 1, and Jan. 1. Names will be removed unless there is notification to keep them on the list.

~ CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES ~

Church Council – Met December 3. Council members helped set-up for Swedish Supper scheduled for December 5. Discussed upcoming events in December and annual meeting scheduled for January 27, 2019.

Worship & Music: No meeting.

Finance & Stewardship: No meeting. Will need to meet for 2019 budget prior to annual meeting.

Evangelism: No meeting. No upcoming activities scheduled to date.

Social Ministry: No meeting. Super Bowl food bank drive through Feb. 3, 2019. Possible concession stand during rodeo.

Christian Education: No meeting. Sunday School Christmas Program Dec. 16 followed by soup lunch.

Property: No meeting. Discussed damp spot by acolyte station, sanctuary clock not working again.

Memorial: No meeting. Phone conference to approve \$1200 for security cameras and \$200 for puppets for Christmas program.

Elim Cookbook Committee: Cookbooks re-ordered for sale at Swedish Supper.

Security Committee: No meeting. Reported that security cameras have been installed, deciding on new doors.

Next meeting to be held on January 7 at 7:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Elim Lutheran Church annual meeting is scheduled for **January 27, 2019**. Please plan to attend. A **potluck meal** will be served at noon, followed by the meeting. There are many important items on the agenda for discussion and decisions from **ALL** members. **Your input is essential.** This is also a time to vote on new council members and to sign up for participation in the worship service throughout the year (lector, altar flowers, greeters, etc.). All committee reports are due in the church office by **JANUARY 14**. **Please put this on your calendar for 2019!** Make it a great start for a new year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Please notify the nominating committee if you or someone you recommend would be interested in serving on the church council. Contact Tammy Feil at (620) 242-4764.



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who responded to the letter sent out to our members in October. Many have increased their donations or given a one-time gift to help the church. You can see this increase in the weekly offering amount. Also, thank you to all who have volunteered to assist with fundraising. IT ALL MATTERS. Thank you for making a difference!!

30 Simple New Year's Resolutions that Will Drastically Improve Your 2019

I found this article on the internet and it included things like:

1. Make a budget and stick to it.
2. Give at least five compliments per day and make sure they are all different.
3. Stop forgetting to say "thank you."
4. Put \$20 of every paycheck into a savings accounts.
5. Write down three good things that happen to you each day to remind yourself that despite everything, the world is still a good place.

These things prompted me to think about ways that will drastically improve our gratitude and generosity as disciples of Christ. So here are some things from my list to consider:

1. Make a budget that includes giving 10% away as charitable gifts and 10% into savings. This requires looking at our income and making intentional decisions on how we are going to live within our means.
2. Spend time nurturing relationships rather than spending money to accumulate things.
3. Say thank you. Be grateful for those things and people in our lives rather than focusing on what we don't have. Gratitude leads to generosity and generosity leads to gratitude.
4. Recycle, turn off lights, turn down the heat, reduce your carbon footprint. Let's be more intentional in caring for creation, for God's creation.
5. Begin each day remembering *this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it*. And at the end of each day pray *into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth*.

We are redeemed. Each day is a day the Lord has made. We can indeed be grateful and generous people. And all of these things we can do as individuals, are equally true for us as communities of faith, as the church. So welcome year 2019. What are we called to do this year?

- Susan Candea
Director for Evangelical Mission
ELCA Central States Synod





WELCA NEWS

140th ELIM LUTHERAN ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOKS are still available for \$15.00 each. They can be purchased at City Sundries or Marquette Farmers State Bank during regular business hours. If you missed out purchasing one earlier in the year, here's your chance to receive these treasured recipes. They also make great gifts for birthdays or other occasions.

Check for new "Sign Up" sheets on bulletin board:

Riverview Sing-a-long at 4:00 (3rd Sunday of the month)

Riverview Birthday Party at 2:00 (4th Friday of the month)

Reminder: February is our month for delivering Meals on Wheels

Trinity WELCA Soup Supper

The Trinity Lutheran Women of the ELCA have invited Elim WELCA members to attend their Soup Supper Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 6:30 pm in Trinity Hall [119 N. Elm Street, McPherson, Kansas]. They will have lots of different soups, breads and desserts, followed by a short program on Lutheran Rosary Beads. If you are interested in attending, please notify JoAn Lindfors or Diane Talbott by February 1, 2019.

PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR RECORDS. We are asking each member to complete the following form to ensure we have the correct information on you and members of your family. This information will not be shared outside of the church newsletter or member correspondence. Please NA any portions that do not pertain to you. Return the form to the church office, or place it in the box at the front of the church, or send it via email to elimsec@gmail.com. THANK YOU!

First & Last Name: _____ **Birthday (Month/Day/Year):** ____/____/____

Cell Phone: _____ **Home Phone:** _____ **Email address:** _____

Home address: _____

Spouse: _____ **Birthday (Month/Day/Year):** ____/____/____

Cell Phone: _____ **Home Phone:** _____ **Email address:** _____

Anniversary (Month/Day/Year): ____/____/____

Children: (if additional names needed, please attach additional form)

First & Last Name: _____ **Birthday (Month/Day/Year):** ____/____/____

First & Last Name _____ **Birthday (Month/Day/Year):** ____/____/____

First & Last Name _____ **Birthday (Month/Day/Year):** ____/____/____

Please indicate if you are a current member at Elim, or have transferred membership to another church:

Current member(s): YES / NO

Transferred membership: YES / NO

SERVING THE LORD IN JANUARY

ALTAR FLOWERS:

6 - _____
20 - Gayle Nelson

GREETERS:

6 - Scott and Linda Johnson
13 - Matt and Diane Hedberg
20 - Gayle Nelson, Layla and Grayson Fleming
27 - _____

LECTORS:

6 - Linda Johnson
13 - Diane Hedberg
20 - Gayle Nelson
27 - _____

CHILDREN'S SERMONS:

13 - Kelly French
27 - Dorine Cunningham

COMMUNION SETUP/CLEANUP:

January 6- Setup: Andi Willems and Greg Hopp,
Bread: Jayleen Sellhorn

COMMUNION ASSISTANT:

6- Wally Bunk
13 - Kelly French (Baptism of Our Lord)
20 - Diane Hedberg

USHERS:

Craig Larson - Captain, Peter Hamma, Brandon Hulse, Wayne McBride, John Myers, Dana Olson, Dixon Olson, Curtis Patrick, Gregory Nicholson, Don Miller, Beau Boughfman

COFFEE HOSTESS:

6- _____
13 - _____
20 - _____
27 - _____

RIVERVIEW BIRTHDAY PARTY:

January 25 - _____

RIVERVIEW SING-ALONG:

January 20 - _____

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ACOLYTES: January 6, 13, 20, and 27

GREETERS: January 27

LECTOR: January 27

Coffee Hostess: January 6, 13, 20, and 27

Riverview Singalong: January 20

Riverview Birthday Party: January 25

Meals for Youth Group/Confirmation Students:
Every Wednesday at 6:30

THANK YOU!

Coffee Host/Hostesses are needed!



Please sign up in the kitchen if you are interested. Bring any treat you want - cookies, cake, donuts, snack crackers, etc.

Set them out at 9:30 a.m. for serving and brew up a pot of coffee for Coffee and Fellowship at 10:30-11:00 a.m. That's all it takes to help. Join us!

Monthly Financial Report

DECEMBER 2018

Beginning Balance as of 11/01/18:	\$3,065.95
Revenue:	\$37,838.97
Expenses:	\$-8,315.86
Ending Balance as of 11/30/18:	\$32,585.06

**DON'T FORGET THE NEXT RED CROSS
BLOODMOBILE AT ELIM FEBRUARY 5, 2019**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Kelly French
- 5 Whitney Willems
- 5 Colter Patrick
- 5 Rylee Larson
- 6 Ken Hedberg
- 6 Kamryn Lindfors
- 7 Janis Larson
- 8 Kris Hudson
- 9 Geraldine Hopp
- 10 Tom Emery
- 12 Pastor Katherine
- 17 Brian Riedel
- 19 Terry Hopp
- 19 Tracy Nelson
- 19 Terri McBride
- 20 Ione Nelson
- 20 Andy Kelsey
- 22 Anna Funk
- 23 Lisa Johnson
- 23 Jeff Miller
- 26 LeAnn Everhart
- 26 Scott Feil
- 29 Magnus Larson



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------|
| 7 | Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rock | 53 years |
| 21 | Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Lindh | 41 years |

SUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE

Once again the Social Ministry committee will be hosting a food drive for the McPherson Food Bank. Please bring canned or dry goods to the church parish hall starting December 9, 2018 through Super Bowl Sunday February 3, 2019. THANKS for contributing to a great cause.

ELIM LIFE GROUP

Meetings in January will be **Wednesday, January 9 and 23 at 7:00-8:00 PM. Come and go** as it works for you. Just come as you are, join in at any point, bring a snack if you like, and listen in or share your thoughts. It is very informal and a great way to reaffirm your faith and bolster fellowship with others. Visit Elim's website or Facebook page for more information.

ONLINE GIVING

Consider ONLINE GIVING for a New Year's

Resolution. It is an easy and convenient way to ensure your offering gets "in the plate" on a weekly or monthly basis. With everyone's busy lifestyles, church attendance is not always possible. With online giving, you don't have to worry that you missed a Sunday. Simply go to www.elimmarquette.org. Click on the GIVE ONLINE button on the homepage. The ONLINE DONATION page will come up where you can select the DONATION FREQUENCY (one time, weekly, or monthly). Create your own account by clicking "Create Profile" button. If you do a General Fund donation, click continue to select a checking or savings account and complete the required information. Don't forget to click on PROCESS to submit your authorized donation. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

To all Thrivent members, please check your Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2018. You can direct them to Elim before March 2019. Elim is thankful for all Choice Dollars. To date, Elim Lutheran Church has received \$1456.00 from Choice Dollars donated in 2018. THANK YOU!

FUNDRAISING IN 2018

Thank you to all members of the church and community who helped raise funds for needed church building improvements this past year. The Halloween Haunted Hayrack Ride chaired by Kelly Larson brought in \$605.00. The Swedish Bread Sale headed by Lana Rock brought in \$842.34. And the concessions sold at the Marquette Christmas Celebration Bingo Party, headed by Matt and Diane Hedberg, and Scott and Tammy Feil, brought in \$200.00. All food and supplies for the concessions were donated by members. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED YOUR TIME AND SUPPORTED THESE FUNDRAISERS. It all makes a difference.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 1:30 PM – Quilting Group 7:30 PM – Senior Choir Bulletin Deadline	3 Bulletin Printed	4 Pastor's Sabbath	5
6 Epiphany of Our Lord Sunday School – 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study – 9:30 AM Junior & Youth Choir – 10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship - 10:30 AM Worship w/ HC - 11:00 AM	7 7:00 PM Church Council Mtg.	8	9 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – HS Youth Group Confirmation Class 7:00 PM – ELIM LIFE GROUP 7:30 PM – Senior Choir Bulletin Deadline	10 Bulletin Printed	11 Pastor's Sabbath	12
13 Baptism of Our Lord Sunday School – 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study -9:30 AM Junior & Youth Choir – 10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship --10:30 AM Worship w/ HC & Children's Message - 11:00 AM	14 Deadline for Annual Committee Reports	15	16 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – HS Youth Group Confirmation Class 7:30 PM – Senior Choir Bulletin Deadline	17 Bulletin Printed	18 Pastor's Sabbath	19
20 Second Sunday in Epiphany Sunday School – 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study – 9:30 AM Junior & Youth Choir – 10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship - 10:30 AM Worship w/ HC- 11:00 AM Riverview Singalong – 4:00 PM	21 Messenger Deadline	22	23 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – HS Youth Group Confirmation Class 7:00 PM – ELIM LIFE GROUP 7:30 PM – Senior Choir Bulletin Deadline	24 Bulletin Printed	25 Pastor's Sabbath 2:00 PM – Riverview Birthday Party	26
27 Third Sunday in Epiphany Sunday School – 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study -9:30 AM Junior & Youth Choir – 10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship - 10:30 AM Worship w/ Children's Message - 11:00 AM Potluck Dinner - NOON ANNUAL MEETING	28	29	30 1:30 PM - Quilting 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – HS Youth Group Confirmation Class 7:30 PM – Senior Choir Bulletin Deadline	31		KEY: HC = Holy Communion HS = High School