



# Elim Lutheran Church

## The Messenger

DECEMBER 2020

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### WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PASTOR AMY KAY

#### Church Chili and Meatballs

I'm the youngest of three kids and am eight and ten years younger than my siblings. They were old enough to stay at the farm themselves by the time I arrived so my Mom usually hauled me to the church with her when she went to do all the things.

One day I remember playing where I usually parked myself when I was the only kid around: in the doorway to the kitchen under the dry erase board next to the pantry. (I'm sure I was in the least helpful spot for the women working.) I might have played in that exact space every year when this progression unfolded, but this particular day I realized what was happening. Everyone who came to the kitchen brought a container of chili and, you won't believe this, dumped it into a huge roaster! I became curious. Did everyone follow the same recipe? NO?! Everyone just made their own chili and dumped it together?! I was skeptical that it would taste normal. I'm guessing my mom had to make me even try it, but I remember when I brought that spoon to my mouth and timidly took a little taste, I couldn't believe it! It was good! WHOA.

Forty years have passed. Things have evolved. I bet there are still kids playing around that church, people collaborating to make good things happen and, through it all, there is an unfolding understanding of how to live as followers of Jesus.

I wonder if these kinds of scenes ring true to you at Elim. I've felt it. I felt it during your most exquisite Swedish Supper, for instance. I saw a little cutie at his momma's feet playing with his John Deer tractor last year. I heard the stories about who used to stand in each spot making Swedish Meatballs and felt like I could almost see the ladies at their electric skillet. I smelled the fish. These vivid sensory experiences are only from one tiny year. You might have a rich collection of memories from this long-held event or perhaps you can imagine how it would be so. Kids play, people collaborate to make good things happen and, through it all, there is an unfolding understanding of how to live as followers of Jesus.

This year is so different. While some of the disruption from traditional happenings might feel like a relief, it is all just different. We might grieve the loss of traditions like the Swedish Supper during the pandemic. It can feel so terribly sad to not get to gather with family or friends... *especially* during Advent and Christmas.

Although we are all human and there are universal patterns and characteristics in our humanness, we are each beautifully created by our God with our own uniqueness and perspectives. If I asked my mom about the chili scenario, she would remember it differently because she experienced it differently. She might not remember it at all because it wasn't a big deal to her! Siblings sometimes banter about who is "right" about something from their childhood because they experienced it through their own unique lens and remember it differently.

The same is true for how we grieve. Although there are universalities about how we grieve as humans, we are each unique and experience grief differently. Struggles can arise when we assume that the way we feel/grieve is the normal way and the normal pace. [Oh, geez, it's not that big of a deal that we don't \_\_\_ this year... I don't know why she doesn't just do it this way this year... He's known it was going to be like this and should just get over it.]

Let's try to recognize when we expect other people to react the way we do to changes this season. Let's try to give each other space and time to grieve the loss of traditions or unmet expectations in our own ways. Let's try to give ourselves grace and care during this most wonderful season that is so different this year.

God is with us. Emmanuel. Thanks be.

w/ much care – Pastor Amy Kay



**Please keep in prayer:** Greg Nicholson, Sandra Myers, Justine Farris, Mary Nolan, Doug Anderson, Leslie Shaw (friend of JoAn Lindfors), Bunnie Hultgren, Jim Hultgren (Dennis Hultgren's brother), Tim Hedberg, Wes Shultis, Kenny Brown (Rita Brown's husband), Betty Finney, Don Lundquist, Darren Ebling (Donna Ebling's grandson), Norm Yenkey (Mari Loder's father), Jill Timmons, Bethany Village, Riverview, and Kansas Healthcare workers. Heartfelt prayers to the family of Lucia Margarette Larson, infant daughter of Heath and Kristine 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 [amykay@connectedfairtrade.com](mailto:amykay@connectedfairtrade.com), or email [elimsec@gmail.com](mailto:elimsec@gmail.com).

## ~ CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES ~

*Church Council – Met November 2, 2020. Parsonage is again available for rental. Council discussed upcoming Annual Meeting, to include concerns re: finding candidates for council, discussion of members' concerns at the meeting, and changing meeting place to the sanctuary rather than Parish Hall and potluck meal.*

**Worship & Music:** Met Nov. 2. Coverage for altar duties discussed. Diane Talbott will be out of state January through March 2021. JoAn Lindfors will take care of altar flowers during her absence. Discussed Sunday School Christmas program and other church events normally held in December. No decisions made to date. Pastor Amy Kay showed members the chimes borrowed from Bethany Home, with hope our church can utilize them. Church will be decorated for Christmas November 22 following church service. [Date changed to Nov. 27]

**Finance & Stewardship:** No meeting.

**Evangelism:** No meeting.

**Social Ministry:** No meeting.

**Christian Education:** No meeting. Little River FCA breakfast cancelled.

**Property:** No meeting. Carpet tile samples for Parish Hall to be reviewed at next meeting. Discussed having laminate flooring by serving window.

**Memorial:** Committee chairperson Janis Larson confirmed the committee members would remain the same for upcoming year.

**Security Committee:** No meeting.

*Next meeting to be held on Monday, December 7.*



## WELCA NEWS

WELCA is thankful during this season that we can still assist families in need with our **Thanksgiving Blessing Boxes**. We received 9 boxes from the congregation, and thanks to Pastor Amy Kay, they were gifted locally to families in need. If you didn't have the time or items to do a Thanksgiving Blessing Box – please consider a Christmas Angel Box! The Kansas Food Bank and families within our community really need food this 2020 pandemic year. Kansas Food Bank informed WELCA that there were at least 12 times more families in need. So please consider helping in December (even if you did a November box). **It is so needed this season.**

**Christmas Angel Box(es)** will be donated to the Food Bank on **DECEMBER 23, 2020**. If you are unable to deliver yourself, bring to the church Parish Hall on **December 20 and WELCA will deliver.**

November 29 ----Box of cereal	December 11 ----Canned beans
November 30 ----Peanut butter	December 12 ----Box of crackers
December 1 --- -Stuffing mix	December 13 ----Package of Oatmeal
December 2 -- --Boxed Potatoes	December 14 ----Package of Rice
December 3 -- --Macaroni and cheese	December 15 ----Spaghetti sauce
December 4 -- --Canned fruit	December 16 ----Chicken noodle soup
December 5 - ---Canned tomatoes	December 17 ----Tomato soup
December 6 - ---Canned tuna	December 18 ----Can of corn
December 7 - ---Dessert mix	December 19 ----Can of mixed vegetables
December 8 - --Jar of applesauce	December 20 ----Can of carrots
December 9 ---Canned sweet potatoes	December 21 ----Can of green beans
December 10-- -Can of cranberry sauce	December 22 ----Cake mix and frosting

Since we are coming to the end of 2020, WELCA would welcome any person who would like to be an officer for the new year of 2021-2022. We need younger women to become involved, and to share your needed ideas and concerns for our organization of Elim. Let any officer know if you have an interest for 2021 and ask about that officer's responsibilities. Please consider it seriously.

During this health pandemic, an article in FIRST for Women, October 19, 2020 article entitled, **"Keeping the faith adds healthy years"**, says a lot. It reads, "In stressful times, regularly celebrating your faith can be a lifeline, Harvard researchers report. Analyzing 66,492 subjects, investigators found that those who gathered for religious services at least once a week had up to a 68% lower risk of death during the study period. Celebrating faith with others, even if that means attending services virtually and using the chat feature during the online coffee hour afterward, provides social support that can help people through tough times. It also strengthens one's ability to cope with a crisis by fostering a sense of peace and a positive outlook."

WELCA gives a special shout out to Pastor Amy Kay and all the positive thoughts and prayers she provides for our church and congregation during this difficult time and holiday season. We also thank Gayle Nelson for all the work she continues to do. We do appreciate it.

Please be safe and do lots of praying for our nation, community, and churches.

President: JoAn Lindfors; Vice-President: Diane Talbott; Secretary: Jackie Larson; and Treasurer: Cindy Bunk.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Elim Lutheran Church annual meeting is scheduled for **January 24, 2021**. It has not been determined if the meeting will take place in the Parish Hall along with a potluck dinner following worship service, or in the sanctuary with social distancing observed. It is important for members to attend and to vote on new council members, as well as participate in discussion of any suggestions and concerns. Committee reports will be due no later than **January 11** in order to allow time for mailing out the annual report to members if necessary. There will be further updates later this month or in January.

Please contact council members if you have any suggestions or concerns for discussion at the annual meeting. Also, please contact the nominating committee with possible candidates for the church council. At least 3 positions will need to be filled. Consider joining the council to share new ideas and expertise for the growth of your church.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Dana Olson, Allan Lindfors, Patty Kolling, Scott Feil, Lana Rock, Curtis Patrick, Barry Nelson, Andrea Willems, Steve Patrick, and Jeremy Snapp.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Scott Johnson, Brooke Olson, Matt Hedberg, Mike Hulse, and Rita Brown.  
Volunteers to assist: Lois Johnson and JoAn Lindfors



**YOUTH GROUP MEALS:** Please call or text Tammy Feil at 620-242-4764, or email her at [feilt@usd419.org](mailto:feilt@usd419.org) if you are willing to help prepare meals for the Youth Group. Meals are to be served each Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Volunteers providing food will be required to wear masks and gloves and will serve the food using paper plates and plasticware. THANK YOU for continuing this service for our youth, who are often leaving school sports practices and events and coming directly to the church for their meeting.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Youth Group meetings have been cancelled until further notice. If you were listed to provide meals for the meetings that were cancelled, please consider volunteering in future months when meetings resume. THANK YOU!

### Congratulations to the following students for their achievements this past semester

**Ryenne Cunningham** was a Homecoming Queen candidate for Central Plains High School. Ryenne was chosen for Kansas Volleyball 1A First Team. Her volleyball team at Central Plains High School took 1<sup>st</sup> place at State in their division (1A) at a tournament held in Dodge City.

**Kylie Fox** was a Homecoming Queen candidate for Little River High School. Kylie along with her family, Shayne and Marci Fox, and sister Kylie, received the McPherson County 4-H Family of the Year award.

Please check next month's Messenger for more news on the Youth Group and their accomplishments.

Members of the Youth Group are: Ethan Able, Noah Bearly, Lily Boughfman, Raven Caesar, Ryenne Cunningham, Dawson Feil, Kylie Fox Pierce Hamma, and Keira Mullen. Sponsors are Lars and Carly Peterson.



**November 8:** Given by Bob and Carol Jones in memory of loved ones.

**November 22:** Given by Mo and Gayle Nelson in loving memory of our father, Richard Warner, a faithful servant of the Lord.

**Offerings & Attendance per week in November**

<b>November 1:</b>	<b>\$2027.00</b>	<b>14 / 29*</b>
<b>November 8:</b>	<b>\$1175.00</b>	
<b>November 15:</b>	<b>\$1015.00</b>	
<b>November 22:</b>	<b>\$3826.00</b>	

*\*Attendance for 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM services (# / #)*

**Online services only November 8, 15, and 22.**

**Monthly Financial Report**

[As presented to Church Council 11/02/2020]

Beginning Balance as of 10/01/20:	\$ 30,216.15
Revenue:	\$ 10,010.01
Expenses:	\$ -7,233.51
Ending Balance as of 10/31/20:	\$ 32,992.65

Our sympathy and prayer to the Larson family. The obituary for Lucia Margarett Larson is listed below:

Lucia Margarett Larson, infant daughter of Heath and Kristine Larson, died at birth Sunday, November 22, 2020. Funeral Mass was held Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at Church of the Magdalen Catholic Church. She was survived by her parents; sister, Mary; brothers, Andrew, Emil, and Kristoff; grandparents, Vaughn and Mary Katherine Isaacson of Salina, KS, Craig and Jackie Larson of Marquette, KS; great-grandparents, Betty Isaacson of Salina, KS, Margarett Larson of Marquette, KS, Arnold "Vic" Hedberg of Marquette, KS. A memorial has been established with Agape Care Cradle, P.O. Box 704, Wichita, KS 67201. Services in care of Downing & Lahey Mortuary - East Chapel.

**ANGEL TREE**

As in past years, the Ministerial Alliance is working together to provide gifts for local families in need. The Marquette United Methodist Church will be providing paper "angels" with information on the sizes and types of clothing needed for families struggling with expenses this year. Please check on the Elim website or in next week's bulletin online for further information. We'll let you know when and where to pick up the "angels", as well as the date and place to deliver your gifts. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS OF LOVE.**



**CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT ELIM**

Until further notice, worship services will not be held in the sanctuary. You can view the live service online on the Elim Facebook page, or on our website [elimmarquette.org](http://elimmarquette.org). Bulletins for each week's services are posted on the website and included with the live service.

At this point, the following Christmas events have been cancelled at Elim due to Covid concerns:

- Swedish Supper
- Sunday School Christmas Program
- Christmas Caroling
- Christmas Cantata/Lessons and Carols

It has not been determined if the Christmas Eve service and Julotta will be held online only. Please check online or in the Tribune for further information. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE IN THIS DIFFICULT AND EVER-CHANGING TIME.**

**SWEDISH SUPPER FUND:** Although the Swedish Supper has been cancelled for this year, donations are always welcome and appreciated. The Swedish Supper is Elim's main fundraiser for the year, and proceeds help with church improvements and expenses as well as community organizations. Donations may be given online at [elimmarquette.org](http://elimmarquette.org), left at Marquette Farmers State Bank, or mailed to Elim Lutheran Church, c/o Swedish Supper Fund, 403 N. Lincoln, PO Box 236, Marquette, KS 67464.



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Carly Kolling
- 1 Diesel Sellhorn
- 2 Peter Hamma
- 4 Marti Bauer
- 4 Steve Coney
- 6 Gail Lindstedt
- 6 Frankie Brown
- 7 Rusty Young
- 7 Susan Hamma
- 8 Matthew Larson
- 9 Conway Patrick
- 10 Randy Jirak
- 10 Vernon Olson
- 11 Jake Coney
- 14 Steve Patrick
- 14 Makaela Hedberg
- 16 Sandy Larson
- 20 Monte Loder
- 22 Kendall Hopp
- 24 Erik Weber
- 25 Tom Spohn
- 30 Beth Thomas
- 31 Carol Jones
- 31 Alan Gasper
- 31 Melissa Wheeler
- 31 Megan Loder

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 28 Mr. and Mrs. Russell Malm 17 years
- 28 Mr. and Mrs. Linn Nelson 30 years
- 31 Mr. and Mrs. Monte Loder 35 years
- 31 Mr. and Mrs. Jay Everhart 31 years
- 31 Mr. and Mrs. Kurtis Sjogren 11 years

**BAPTISM**



Elim welcomed Kinley Jean Peterson into the family of Christ through baptism on November 22, 2020. Her parents are Lars and Carly Peterson. Sponsors are Zachary and Kasey Weis, Anders and Emily Peterson, and Nils Peterson. Grandparents are Patty Kolling and Scott Kolling, and Mark and Joyce Peterson. Great grandparents are the late Kenneth and Helen Olson, Larry and Deanna Kolling, Russ and Sam Grant, Clarice Grant Bolger, and Walden and Ruth Peterson.

Kinley was born July 13, 2020. Although the sanctuary is currently closed to open worship services, the minimum number of family were allowed to attend the baptism during the regular worship service. The services are taped and live on Facebook, so members were able to join in the liturgy and enjoy the babbles of a sweet baby during the service. Nils Peterson sang and his grandmother Ruth Peterson accompanied him on the piano. Fred Peterson also provided the prelude. Pastor Amy Kay Pavlovich officiated the baptism.

Congratulations and welcome to the family of God!



*Advent*

# Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for DECEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
<b>6 Second Sunday in Advent</b>  Worship Service Online* w/ Holy Communion	<b>7</b>  <b>7:00 PM –</b> <b>COUNCIL MTG.</b>	8	9	10	11	12
<b>13 Third Sunday in Advent</b>  Worship Service Online*	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>20 Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>  Worship Service Online*  <b>Deadline for Christmas Angel Boxes</b>	21  <i>Messenger Deadline</i>	22	23	<b>24</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>EVE SERVICE</b> <b>4:00 PM*</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS</b>  <b>JULOTTA</b> <b>6:00 AM*</b>	26
<b>27 First Sunday of Christmas</b>  Worship Service Online*	28	29	30	<b>31</b>  <b>NEW YEAR'S</b> <b>EVE</b>	<i>*Services online until further notice. Please check Elim website or Facebook for update on return to worship in the sanctuary.</i>	