



# Elim Lutheran Church

## The Messenger

DECEMBER 2021

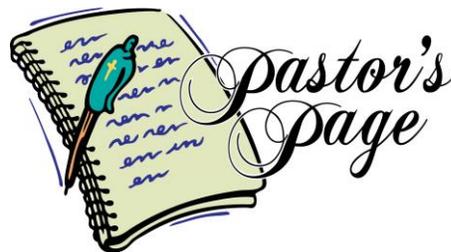
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Greetings, Elim –

It is always good to get to be church together and it feels especially wonderful in this season! We have just entered “Advent” which is when we prepare ourselves for the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is a time of great expectation for what is coming. We delight in these weeks in hope, joy, peace and love.



Advent always feels wonderful to me. My personality is naturally drawn to the optimism and promise of this season. Perhaps this rings true to you as well. This year it feels especially fantastic because we are able to be together in person. The kids are able to share the Good News with us through their program on December 12. The choir is able to sing of our hope and joy on December 19. After not being able to do these things through the pandemic, it feels like a huge gift to be able to do so now. There is excitement in the air and it feels good.

Come to your church in this season of Advent. Hear the stories of enunciation. Soak in the festive ambiance of the sanctuary. Open yourself to the holy alongside your new and old friends. Let’s eagerly await the coming days in this season together. It will be good.

The God of hope  
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

w/gratitude – Pastor Amy Kay





**Please keep in prayer:** Danny Morel, David Holt (Lou Nelson's brother), Linda Johnson, Lori Beth James, Aaron Klassen, Bishop Susan Candea, Steve Coney, Greg Nicholson, Billie Jo LaMar, Sandi Collman, Mary Nolan, Anna Caesar, Helen Weber, Twila Lindfors, Vernon Olson, Eva (Lindfors) Allen, Kris Jantz, Tom French, Flora Malm, Trent Schwantes, Ron Wilson, Debbie Brown, Betty Finney, Bethany Village, Riverview, and all healthcare workers

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](mailto:elimmarquette@gmail.com) or [elimsec@gmail.com](mailto:elimsec@gmail.com).



### **SENIOR CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

**Sunday, December 19 at 11:00 AM**

Performed by the Senior Choir, directed by Allan Lindfors

The Senior Choir of Elim will present a Christmas Cantata during the worship service on Sunday, December 19. In honor of John W. Peterson's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, the choir will present his musical called "It Took a Miracle". There are fresh songs as well as many beloved hymns in this musical work. Be sure to attend and hear the choir spread the joy of Christmas through song.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**Friday, December 24 at 4:00 PM**

Worship service will include communion.

### **JULOTTA**

**Saturday, December 25 at 6:00 AM**

Julotta means Christmas morn in Swedish. This special service features the Senior Choir singing the Swedish Anthem "Ara" in Swedish, and the lighting of individual candles as the congregation sings "Silent Night". The congregation arrives in the dark and leaves the church to witness sunrise. Julotta reminds us that the light overcame darkness when our Savior was born. Bring family and friends and take time to remember the real reason for the season.



## SWEDISH SUPPER CANCELLED FOR DECEMBER 2021

Several members have asked for more information on the Swedish Supper cancellation. Linda Johnson provided the following reasons for postponing the supper at the present time.

### **SWEDISH SUPPER NOTES AND CONCERNS**

In light of recent changes worldwide post pandemic, there is a need to re-think how we can safely hold fundraiser now and in the future. While the Covid crisis was a catalyst for this discussion, the concerns have been mounting for several years.

Several congregation members met to discuss and explore options. None of us want to see the Swedish Supper fade away but we also can see that “the way we’ve always done it” is not sustainable. This is a difficult decision and we want to be thoughtful and thorough in our discussions. Many parts go into this decision and open discussions are needed. Please respectfully voice your opinion and thoughts to council members and committee members.

Our Swedish Supper is a wonderful tradition that has always been an even filled with good food, entertainment and fellowship. While it is heartbreaking to think of it no longer existing, maybe it is time.

#### **Concerns:**

Aging work force- less people each year are available to help during the day and a great deal of hard work and long hours are required of many people.

Safety of food prepared off-site and brought in. This has been a concern for some time. Also, over time we have less and less members that are able/willing to make the traditional Swedish foods – ostkaka, cookies, rye and sweet breads – creating a burden for the few that are skilled at this and have the time.

Safety of mass-preparing food on site. It is difficult to maintain sanitary processes and procedures when so many people are involved.

Buffet-style serving – not feasible to have all of the guests serve themselves both from a contact standpoint and coughing/sneezing in food area.

Crowds of people in the church both waiting their turn and eating. Not possible to maintain social distancing.

#### **Positives:**

Maintaining our heritage and tradition

Fellowship among our congregation and with our visitors

Funding for community and church projects

#### **Conclusion:**

The survey results showed that the congregation also had concerns with a slight majority agreeing with the cancellation of the Swedish Supper for 2021. However, there are many congregation members that are willing to serve on a committee to revise/renovate the event for the future, and hopefully this will lead to a sustainable event in the future.



## WELCA NEWS

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING**, and Elim is starting the season by going to BETHLEHEM REVISITED in Keats, Kansas. A total of 22 signed up to experience the outdoor event. Grace Baptist Church of Manhattan sponsor this, and on their website, [gracebchurch.org](http://gracebchurch.org) states:

**“And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’ – Luke 2:10-11**

Each year 2000 people walk the hills and trails of the local farm, stepping back in time to “Bethlehem Revisited”. A living nativity experience that seeks to bring to life the “good news of a great joy”. It is an outreach event that invites surrounding communities to join a guided walking tour in which the group interacts with prophets proclaiming the coming One, watches as a girl named Mary learns she will with child, navigates their way through the crowded town of Bethlehem, observes shepherds out in a field as they become part of an amazing visitation, and stops a moment at the manger where Mary and Joseph wonder at the miracle of the Christ child. The tour continues with scenes from the life of Christ and the overwhelming truth and hope of the resurrection.

This event includes a cast of nearly 100 costumed people live animals and narration played out on a farm in the Flint Hills of Kansas. It begins for the guests at the welcome center in Keats Park, Keats, Kansas. There they are met by hosts who direct them into a heated building where they are welcomed with hot chocolate, homemade cookies, and live music. From the welcome center, guests take a short bus ride to the farm where their guide and his assistant lead them on their approximately forty-minute walk through the Flint Hills of Kansas.

Come listen to Moses, David, Isaiah, and others foretell the coming of the King. Walk through the crowded street of Bethlehem where vendors are oblivious to the momentous occasion of your visit. Come see the busy innkeeper and the young pregnant couple who were denied residence by him. Watch the shepherds tell good news to other shepherds. Come visit the empty cross and open tomb and hear the next chapter of the story.”

**STAR OF THE MONTH FOR WELCA:** Donna Patrick sewed twelve new baptism napkins for Elim. What a big help. Thank you, Donna.

Elim starting to gradually get back to some normalcy, but we aren’t completely there yet. Be patient; be safe and stay healthy. Tis the season to be with family and friends.

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

**AN ADDED NOTE:** Although “Bethlehem Revisited” is free of charge, they rely on donations to continue their work. WELCA President JoAn Lindfors announced that Elim is donating \$220 to the organization.



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX:

The Youth Group and Confirmands, along with Pastor Amy Kay, Lars and Carly Peterson, Carylee Nelson, Lindsay Newton, and Gayle Nelson joined together at the Freemount Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 10 to pack Shoeboxes for children around the world. Marilyn Spohn and Alice Hammack presented a brief overview of the Shoebox project before the packing began. It takes a lot of volunteers to make it work, but it is worth it to spread joy and the word of God to so many families around the world. **A total of 200 Christmas Shoeboxes were packed!** Marilyn and other members of Freemount Church were grateful for the help, and very impressed with how many boxes our young people assembled in a very short period of time. **THANK YOU!**

**REMINDER:** Youth Group will not be meeting **Wednesday, December 29** due to the Christmas break.

### YOUTH GROUP MEALS

Please call or text **Carly Peterson** at **785-280-2039** if you are willing to help prepare meals for the Youth Group and Confirmation Class. **Meals are to be served each Wednesday at 6:30 PM.** Volunteers (pair up if you can) who provide the food will be asked to wear gloves while serving the food and can use paper plates and plastic ware provided by the Youth Group. Prepare to serve 25-30 meals. This number may change with differing schedules. **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 or class.

Thank you to the following for providing meals these past few months: Tammy Feil and Cindy Bunk, Darren Able and Trish Reed, the Boughfman family, Carylee Nelson and Patty Kolling, Linda Johnson, Pastor Amy Kay, and Carol Jones.

#### **Confirmation Schedule**

December 2021

Wed, Dec 1 – 6:30-8pm (supper from 6:30-7pm)

Sunday, Dec 5 – 10am-worship

Sometime during the last week of December, we will have a Learning & Serving opportunity. We will work out the details closer to this time when we know any travel plans and schedules.



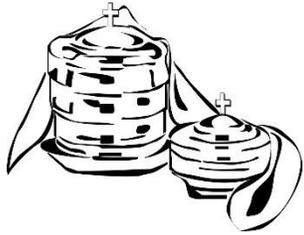
### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**Sunday, December 12 at 11:00 AM**

We are back! Please join us for the annual Sunday School Christmas Program to be held during the worship service. The Sunday School department – ages 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade - will present “Twas the Night Before Christmas”. They are working very hard, and we know that you will enjoy seeing the children spread the news of Jesus’ birth! We hope to see you there!!

Children will be rehearsing during Sunday School for the next 2 Sunday’s (December 5 and of course, December 12). We hope you have been helping your children learn their lines and practice their songs.

**REMINDER:** Sunday School is cancelled for **Sunday, December 26**



## 2022 Communion Set-up/Clean-up and Bread Volunteers

Please note that there are not bread bakers listed for every month. The recipe is large and the extra bread is stored in the freezer for future use. When no bread baker is listed, bread will be used from the freezer. Thanks so much to all who have agreed to serve in this way.

### January 2

Set-up: Andi Willems & Whitney Weaver  
Bread: Jayleen Sellhorn

### June 5

Set-up: Allan & JoAn Lindfors  
Bread: Cindy Bunk

### February 6

Set-up: Charlotte Knackstedt & Jackie Larson

### July 3

Set-up: Cynthia & Mike Hulse

### March 2 - (Ash Wednesday)

Set-up: Jackie & Craig Larson  
Bread: Jackie Larson

### August 7

Set-up: Darryl & Diane Talbott  
Bread: Diane Talbott



### March 6

Set-up: Beth Thomas & Carol Jones  
Bread: Carol Jones

### September 4

Set-up: Kayley Fleming & Gayle Nelson

### April 10 – (Palm Sunday)

Set-Up: Sandra Myers & LeAnn Everhart  
Bread: LeAnn Everhart

### October 2

Set-up: Sandy Edwards  
Bread: Sandy Edwards

### April 14 – (Maundy Thursday)

Set-up: Allan & JoAn Lindfors

### November 6

Set-up: Brooke Olson & Pam Morel

### April 17 – (Easter)

Set-Up: Jackie & Craig Larson  
Bread: Jackie Larson

### December 4

Set-up: Betsy & Curtis Patrick  
Bread: Sharon Chandler

### May 1

Set-up: Dana & Julie Olson  
Bread: Julie Olson

### December 24

Set-up: Darryl & Diane Talbott



## SERVING THE LORD IN DECEMBER

### ACOLYTES

December 5: Lily Boughfman, Elsie Boughfman  
 December 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
 December 19: \_\_\_\_\_  
 December 24: \_\_\_\_\_  
 December 25: \_\_\_\_\_  
 December 26: \_\_\_\_\_

### LECTORS

December 5: Jackie Larson  
 December 12: Curtis Patrick  
 December 19: Peter Hamma  
 December 24: \_\_\_\_\_ (Christmas Eve)  
 December 25: Mike Hulse (Julotta)  
 December 26: \_\_\_\_\_

### GREETERS

December 5: \_\_\_\_\_  
 December 12: \_\_\_\_\_  
 December 19: \_\_\_\_\_  
 December 24: \_\_\_\_\_  
 December 25: \_\_\_\_\_  
 December 26: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

*November 1, 2021*

Council discussed the annual meeting scheduled for January 31, 2022. The nominating committee will need to search for candidate(s) to fill the position coming open in January. Three council members have agreed to run for a second term. One other member has completed two terms and will be going off in January.

**Worship & Music:** No meeting. Allan Lindfors reported that Sunday School Christmas program will be Dec. 12, and the Christmas Cantata will be Dec. 19.

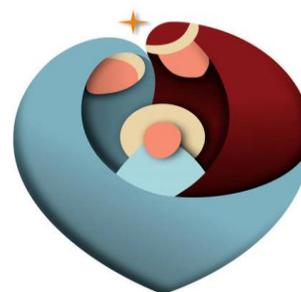
**Finance & Stewardship:** No meeting.

**Memorial Committee:** No meeting.

**Christian Ed:** Diane Hedberg reported that the Sunday School has begun God's Global Barnyard project sponsored by ELCA. The children are enjoying it and learning about giving to others.

**Property/Security Committee:** Curtis Patrick reported on repair of sidewalks/walkways. Barry Nelson reported on chimney damage. It was agreed to have Mo Nelson work on this when weather is suitable.

*Next meeting to be held on Monday, December 6, 2021.*



### Offerings and Attendance per week in 2021

<b>Oct. 31:</b>	<b>\$1822.00</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Nov. 7:</b>	<b>\$2842.00</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Nov. 14:</b>	<b>\$1252.00</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Nov. 21:</b>	<b>\$1564.00</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Nov. 28:</b>	<b>\$ 627.00</b>	<b>56</b>

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### **Monthly Financial Report**

[As presented to council 11/01/2021]

Beginning Balance as of 10/01/21:	\$	54,725.24
Revenue:	\$	7,610.93
Expenses:	\$	- 7,036.52
Ending Balance as of 10/31/21:	\$	55,299.65

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### ANNUAL MEETING

The Elim Lutheran Church annual meeting is scheduled for **January 30, 2022**. Committee reports will be due no later than **January 12** to allow time for mailing the completed annual report to members prior to the meeting.

Please consider joining the council to share new ideas and expertise for the growth of our church. If you feel called to serve on the council or know someone you feel would be willing to serve the church in this role, please contact a member of the nominating committee: Scott Johnson, Julie Olson, Brooke Olson, Mike Hulse, and Rita Brown. If you have any suggestions or concerns for discussion at the annual meeting, please contact a council member.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Curtis Patrick (President), Barry Nelson (V. President), Allan Lindfors, Sandy Edwards, Beth Thomas, Andrea Willems, Vicki Young, Carly Peterson, Jeremy Snapp, and Janis Larson.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

28	Mr. and Mrs. Russell Malm	18 years
28	Mr. and Mrs. Linn Nelson	31 years
31	Mr. and Mrs. Monte Loder	36 years
31	Mr. and Mrs. Jay Everhart	32 years
31	Mr. and Mrs. Kurtis Sjogren	12 years

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:** If you're like me, the weeks leading up to Christmas are all too often filled with lists and to-dos. Instead of living in wild expectation of Jesus's birth, I find myself standing in lines at grocery stores, boutiques, and big box stores. Yet, Advent beckons us to prepare for the arrival of a tiny infant whose frame was so small you could cradle him in the palm of your hand. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming." The Latin derived the word from the Greek word *parousia*, which is used when describing the Second Coming of Christ. The purpose of Advent is two-fold. The first is a celebration of the first arrival of Christ; the second is an anticipation of Christ's return. Advent gently reminds us of the "now" and "not yet" that comes with being people of faith. Advent reminds us of the importance of waiting. Advent whispers our need for a Savior. Advent teaches us God's timing is always better than ours. Whether you're new to celebrating Advent or you've observed Advent for many years, I want to encourage you to begin nurturing a sense of awe and anticipation in your life for Christ.

Join the Adult Sunday School Class for **Unwrapping Advent, Celebrating the Wonder of Jesus' Arrival Then and Now** by *Margaret Feinberg* on December 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am as we advent-ure and unwrap the wonder of Christ's birth.

Julie Olson



# Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
				1  6:30 – Meal for Youth 7:00 – Youth Group 7:00 – Confirmation Class 7:00 – Senior Choir	2	3	4
<b>5 Second Sunday in Advent</b>  9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – Sunday School* 10:00 AM – Confirmation Class 10:10 AM – Jr. Choir* 11:00 AM - Worship Service w/Communion	6  <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>Council Mtg.</b>	7	8  <b>6:30 – Meal for Youth</b> <b>7:00 – Youth Group</b> <b>7:00 – Senior Choir</b>	9	10	11	
<b>12 Third Sunday in Advent</b> <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS</b> <b>PROGRAM</b> 9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – Sunday School* 10:10 AM – Jr. Choir* 11:00 AM – Sunday School Program	13	14	15  <b>6:30 – Meal for Youth</b> <b>7:00 – Youth Group</b> <b>7:00 – Senior Choir</b>	16	17	18	
<b>19 Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>  9:45 AM – Sunday School 10:20 AM – Jr. Choir 11:00 AM - Worship Service	20	21	22  <b>1:30 – Quilt Group</b>  <b>6:30 – Meal for Youth</b> <b>7:00 – Youth Group</b> <b>7:00 – Senior Choir</b>	23	24  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>SERVICE</b> <b>4:00 PM</b>	25  <b>JULOTTA</b> <b>6:00 AM</b>	
<b>26 First Sunday of Christmas</b>  11:00 AM - Worship Service	27	28	29  No Youth Group Mtg.	30	31  <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>	*Practice for Sunday School Christmas Program	