



Elim Lutheran Church

The Messenger

DECEMBER 2022

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Happy Christian New Year, Elim –

It is wonderful to begin this year in a season of Advent when we hope for and expect the most brilliant gift from God!

This year we are embracing the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons with the theme “From Generation to Generation...” which comes to us from a group of intelligent and purposeful clergy and artisans at “A Sanctified Art”. They share this about the origin of our theme:

As we read through and studied the scriptures, a line from Mary’s song of protest and praise gave us pause:

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.*

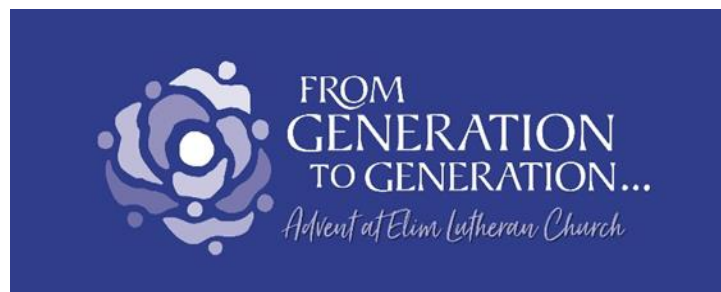
*His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.*

(Luke 1: 48b-50)

Despite the challenges and vulnerability she faced, Mary could glimpse the scale and scope of the good news she was part of bringing forth. This good news transcends time and space—it was and is bigger than just her. Christ is coming for collective liberation: God’s redemption is at work for years to come. Therefore, the promise is meant to be lived out and passed on from generation to generation.

We are invited to look at the characters in our scriptures and wonder: What did each character pass on or contribute? How did each character participate in God’s liberation and love? Which characters try to thwart God’s justice and what can we learn from them? What is our role now? What is our generation’s task? What will we carry forth, and what should we leave behind?

The root word of “generation” is “gen” meaning “origin” or “birth.” Our theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in your community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are you planting for the future?



(continued from previous page)

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. In the midst of narratives, policies, and rhetoric designed to divide us, what does it look like to practice belonging to one another? The work of God is always unfolding— in and through us. This Advent season, how will we carry it forth? May we feel excitement and hopefulness as the work of God flows through us individually and as church together this month.

~Pastor Amy Kay

*There is an Advent Devotional and an Advent Calendar available in the back of the sanctuary. If you worship from afar, I'd love to email the resources to you. (We can't publish it all here because we post the Newsletter online and there are important copyright rules.) Please reach out to me at elimmarquette@gmail.com or 573-808-1980 and I'll happily share!



Please keep in prayer: Allan Lindfors, Tom French, Charlotte Knackstedt, Steve Coney, Kerry Kelsie, Brandi Brady and baby, James Write, Craig Anderson, Bonnie Holopirek (Tammy Feil's friend), Pat and Rhonda Hull, Danny Morel, Brad Sjöholm (Terry and Nancy Hopp's nephew), Doug Anderson, Mary Nolan, Amy Jones, Ava Jones, Eva Allen, Ron Carlson, Tammy Hopp, Brian Miner, Rusty Young, Howard Richards (resident at Riverview), Dennis and Bunnie Hultgren and family, Lynda Krahl, Vernon Olson, Ruth Feil, 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 or elimsec@gmail.com. [Please notify Pastor Amy Kay or the secretary if you wish to have your name removed following recovery or for other reasons. Thank you.]

YOUTH NEWS

Congratulations to Rylee Cunningham on her graduation from Ft. Hays on December 16, 2022. She will receive her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She also received a certificate in Leadership Studies in December 2021. We're proud of all your accomplishments, Rylee! Good luck in your teaching career.

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, starting September 7, 2022.** Volunteers (pair up if you can) 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 IN DECEMBER: Lisa Boughfman

YOUTH GROUP WILL NOT MEET DECEMBER 7 (due to Swedish Supper), Dec. 21, and Dec. 28, 2022. Youth Group will meet December 14, 2022 and resume meetings on January 4, 2023.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AT ELIM

74th SWEDISH SUPPER

Wednesday, December 7 – 5:00 PM

The Elim Lutheran Church is once again holding its traditional Swedish smorgasbord on Wednesday, December 7. This is Elim's main fundraiser and requires each and every member to contribute food and time to prepare and serve the traditional Swedish foods: Swedish meatballs, Lutfisk, potato sausage, Ostkaka, rye bread, traditional Christmas cookies, Ostbond cheese, and pickled herring, to name a few. Thank you for all your help in making this a success each and every year. A special thanks to Linda Johnson for all her hard work bringing it all together. PLEASE NOTE: Orders for food remaining after the Swedish Supper will be available for pick up the following Sunday, December 11, following worship service.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 11 - 11:00 AM

Please join us for the annual Sunday School Christmas Program to be held during the worship service. Musical director Allan Lindfors is bringing back the "Bethlehemian Rhapsody" this year, with students of all ages performing the story of Jesus' birth. The younger children in the Sunday School department will also present their parts and sing Christmas songs. Come celebrate the birth of Jesus with our children and youth!!



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 18 – 11:00 AM

Performed by the Senior Choir, directed by Allan Lindfors. The Christmas Cantata will be presented on Sunday morning during worship service. Please join us for a beautiful celebration of Jesus' birth through song.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 18 – 5:00 PM

A delightful tradition of Christmas Caroling around Marquette in conjunction with our United Methodist neighbors continues this year! **Sunday, December 18**, we are invited to gather at our church at 5pm. Song books and bells will be ready for us. We just need to show up in very warm clothing and be ready to sing! After we have concluded sharing our joyful noises, we are invited to a soup supper at the Methodist church around 6:30pm. Hope you can come!

PLEASE NOTE: Riverview Sing-along at 4:00 PM on December 18 is cancelled due to the Christmas Caroling at 5:00 PM.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Monday, December 24 at 4:00 PM

JULOTTA

Tuesday, 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.





WELCA NEWS

GREAT NEWS for 2023-2025 WELCA!! We have officers! With new minds, hands and hearts, WELCA's future looks bright. A big thank you to new officers Carol Jones, President; Diane Talbott, Vice-President,; Donna Patrick, Treasurer; and Bernice Peterson, Secretary. The exchange of duties and responsibilities will begin FEBRUARY 1, 2023 after Elim's Annual Meeting, and time for the old and new officers to meet and exchange concerns and advice. AND thank the past officers for their last four years of dedication (8 years for Jackie Larson), especially during the challenging years of Covid.

November ended with JoAn and Allan Lindfors taking 15 Thanksgiving Blessing Boxes to the McPherson Food Bank. There was an extreme need this year, and IF you didn't participate for Thanksgiving, PLEASE do so for Christmas. Or do both! Because it's been very bleak for many. The listed groceries are just "suggestions". Anything non-perishable is welcome.

December 1	Box of cereal	December 14	Box of crackers
December 2	Peanut butter	December 15	Package of oatmeal
December 3	Stuffing mix	December 16	Package of rice
December 4	Boxed potatoes	December 17	Spaghetti sauce
December 5	Macaroni and cheese	December 18	Chicken noodle soup
December 6	Canned fruit	December 19	Tomato soup
December 7	Canned tomatoes	December 20	Can of corn
December 8	Canned tuna	December 21	Can of mixed vegetables*
December 9	Dessert mix	December 22	Can of carrots*
December 10	Jar of applesauce	December 23	Can of green beans*
December 11	Canned sweet potatoes	December 24	Cake mix & frosting*
December 12	Can of cranberry sauce		*purchase before December 21
December 13	Canned beans..... ..		

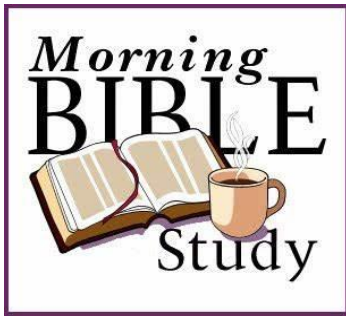
PLEASE put boxes together and bring to parish hall (under East coat rack) by Wednesday, December 21, or earlier, so they can be delivered to those in need before Christmas.

WELCA also gave signed Thanksgiving cards and a beautifully decorated Thanksgiving cookie to the Riverview Estates residents. They are always so grateful to be remembered, especially during holidays and other times when family is so important. In many ways, we are part of their family. Adding back Sing-alongs and birthday parties has been so welcomed. Volunteers for the November 18 birthday party were Cindy Bunk and Lindsay Newton. The Sing-along on November 20 brought out many residents and 9 Elim members. The residents told many of that they LOVE their larger-print songbooks.

We still need VOLUNTEERS. We pray that each congregation member will allocate ONE HOUR a month to visit these residents in 2023. MAKE IT A RESOLUTION!

JoAn Lindfors, President

WELCA officers: Diane Talbott, Vice-President; Jackie Larson, Secretary; Cindy Bunk, Treasurer



Adult Bible Study continues at 9:30 AM with **The Chosen, Part 2**. Julie Olson is the facilitator. There will be a special Christmas episode of The Chosen on December 11. Grab a cup of coffee or water and join us as we explore the life and times of Jesus. The series brings an insight into the words of the Bible, and the life of Jesus and his followers, as we follow their journey, their interactions, their struggles, and their customs. PLEASE NOTE: Bible Study **will not meet** December 18 and 25, 2022, or January 1, 2023. The sessions will resume Sunday, January 8, 2023.

ALL ARE WELCOME! Any or every Sunday.

“DUST OF THE RABBI”

The next Adult Bible Study series written and narrated by Ray Vander Laan will begin in mid-January. The title of this series is “Dust of the Rabbi”. Here is a summary of the material this series will present.

Go! And Make Disciples

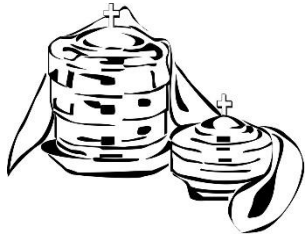
The mission of God’s people has always been to live so that the world would know *that their God was the true God*. This was true when the Hebrews left Egypt and possessed the Promised Land. This was true during the years of the exile in Babylon. It was true during the time Jesus lived on earth after the Jews had returned to Israel. And it was true for the disciples of Jesus who followed him as their Rabbi and, after his death and resurrection, obeyed his command to go out in to the world and make disciples.

When Jesus came to earth to bring the good news of the kingdom of God and to offer himself as the perfect sacrifice to redeem the whole human race, he also chose disciples who would continue proclaiming his message and making disciples long after he returned to heaven. Jesus selected his disciples from a unique people in a unique place - a four-by-six-mile area on the northwestern shores of the Sea of Galilee. The Jew living in this part of Israel were the most obedient, faithful followers of God to be found. These people knew the Scriptures, they knew how to apply the teaching of Scripture, and they were committed to obeying God in everything every day of their lives. From among them, Jesus chose a handful to carry the new of his kingdom to the world.

To some, Jesus’ disciples would seem like an unlikely group. To their world, they weren’t the brightest and the best Bible scholars; most of them were fishermen. They didn’t know their way around the hug, sophisticated cities of the Roman Empire; they came from small, rural villages. But they had just what Jesus needed the commitment, the passion, the desire to be his *talmudin*. For three and a half years, the disciples walked with Jesus. They followed him everywhere. They did everything they could to learn to be like Jesus – to know and interpret the Scriptures as he did, to pray as he did, to obey God’s laws as he did, to love as he did, to proclaim the news of God’s kingdom as he did, and to make disciples as he did.

Before he ascended to heaven, Jesus commanded them to go out into the world and make disciples. And they did. One of the places they went was Asia Minor – the sophisticated, prosperous, immoral, perverted, educated, and religious (but pagan) region in the whole Roman Empire! And when the disciples lived out the message of the kingdom of God and made disciples in Asia Minor, it impacted that region like an earthquake. In little more than a century, that region had become predominantly Christian.

In this study, we will investigate the world they went into and how the disciples made such a great impact. This is important to us because our world is much like the world of Asia Minor. If we expect to make the impact the disciples did, then we must learn to be like the – that is, like Jesus.... Our mission as Christians today is the same one God gave to the Israelites when they possessed the Promised Land, the same one Jesus gave to his disciples. We are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our might, and to love our neighbors as ourselves so that through us *the world may know that our God is the one true God*.



2023 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 1

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

February 5

Set-up: Matt and Holly Toll

February 22 - (Ash Wednesday)

Set-up: Allan & JoAn Lindfors
Bread: Jackie Larson

March 5

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

April 2 - (Palm Sunday)

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

April 6- (Maundy Thursday)

Set-up: Craig and Jackie Larson

April 9 - (Easter)

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

May 7

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

June 4

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

July 2

Set-up: Cynthia & Mike Hulse

August 6

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

September 3

Set-up: Kayley Fleming & Gayle Nelson

October 1

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

November 5

Set-up: Brooke Olson & Pam Morel

December 3

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

December 24

Set-up: Darryl & Diane Talbott



SERVING THE LORD IN DECEMBER

ACOLYTES

December Colter Patrick & Conway Patrick

LECTORS

December 4 Curtis Patrick
December 11 Holly Toll
December 18 Curtis Patrick
December 24
December 25

GREETERS

December 4 Nancy Hopp
December 11 Matt and Holly Toll
December 18 Barry and Carylee Nelson
December 24
December 25

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Curtis Patrick

COMMUNION SET-UP/CLEAN-UP:

December 4: Set-up: Betsy & Curtis Patrick
Bread: Betsy Patrick
December 24: Set-up: Darryl & Diane Talbott

USHER FOR DECEMBER: Barry Nelson

Offerings and Attendance per week in 2022

<i>October 30</i>	<i>\$1883.00</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>November 6</i>	<i>\$2398.00</i>	<i>83</i>
<i>November 13</i>	<i>\$1048.00</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>November 20</i>	<i>\$1478.00</i>	<i>71</i>
<i>November 27</i>	<i>\$2128.00</i>	<i>67</i>

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Community Thanksgiving Inc. (CTI) in McPherson, KS is hosting its annual FREE Christmas dinner for the public on **Sunday, December 25 from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM.** Everyone is welcome. The dinner will be served at the McPherson Community Building, 122 E. Marlin, McPherson. No reservations are required. **Volunteers are always needed for setup or serving and cleanup on Christmas Day. Please call or text at 620-755-0752 if you are willing to help.** Donations can be mailed to CTI, PO Box 14, McPherson, KS 67460. Email address is McPhersonCommunityDinners@gmail.com or for more information, go to www.facebook.com/McPhersonCommunityDinners

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

November 7, 2022

Council discussed the parsonage lease, upcoming Christmas events, and dates for the Annual Meeting and reports. Council voted on three recipients for the Swedish Supper proceeds: Elim, Learning Center, and Riverview. There will be a congregational vote on December 4 to approve these recommendations.

Worship & Music: Christmas Sunday School program is Dec, 11, and the Christmas Cantata is Dec. 18.

Finance & Stewardship: No meeting.

Memorial Committee: No meeting.

Christian Ed: Sunday School is returning to individual classrooms. Cayla Bunk and Lindsay Newton have offered to help teach. Allan Lindfors will direct the SS Christmas program.

Evangelism/Social Ministry: No meeting.

Property/Security Committee: Discussed adding a garbage disposal in the basement kitchen sink. Not feasible at this time.

Next meeting to be held on December 5, 2022

Monthly Financial Report

[As presented to council 11/07/2022]

Beginning Balance as of 10/01/22:	\$	43,011.86
Revenue:	\$	11,689.38
Expenses:	\$	- 7,859.04
Ending Balance as of 10/31/22:	\$	46,842.20

BEST CHOICE LABELS

Don't forget to save Best Choice labels from the cartons and containers you purchase at Piper's or other stores offering Best Choice products. **PLEASE turn them in before the end of December so they can be sent in for 2022.** The Christian Education Committee continues to collect them to help fund youth projects. \$60.00 was collected in 2021. Be sure to cut the labels with the words "Best Choice" at the top of the UPC symbol. A container for collecting the labels is available in the narthex when you enter the church. Thank you to Dorine Cunningham for continuing to manage this project each year.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carly Peterson
- 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 Matt Toll
- 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 Holly Toll
- 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 | 19 years |
| 28 | Mr. and Mrs. Linn Nelson | 32 years |
| 31 | Mr. and Mrs. Monte Loder | 37 years |
| 31 | Mr. and Mrs. Jay Everhart | 33 years |
| 31 | Mr. and Mrs. Kurtis Sjogren | 30 years |

ANGEL TREE



Isn't it a wonderful feeling when we know how we can best help another person and we can even do it anonymously? The Angel Tree is a community wide effort to quietly connect children who could use a little extra loving during the holidays with donors who would love to be able to give.

If you are willing and able to be a quiet angel for a child in the community, please look at the descriptions of needs on the Angel Tree in the back of the sanctuary. You're welcome to take the angel ornament with the description of the child that fits you best. If you and some of your friends would like to join up to adopt, please do so! If you would like to give for more than one child and would like them to be in the same family, the wings of the angels are color coded to indicate households. Also, each family we have adopted has one \$50 Marquette Chamber Bucks angel on the tree. If you would like to give, but don't want to go shopping, perhaps this type of adoption is a fit.

Please bring your gifts to the church on or before Sunday, December 18. You are most welcome to have the gifts wrapped, but please make sure your angel ornament is attached. If possible, please also attach the receipt(s) for your gift in an envelope outside the box.

It is nice when children in the same household receive gifts that are similar in amount. Gifts typically total \$50-\$60ish. Thank you for your consideration!

NOISE OFFERING



The "noise offering" has returned on the 2nd Sunday of each month when the Junior Choir sings in church. The children of Elim carry tin buckets around to every pew for church members to add their "noisy" coins. The monies will go to a worthy cause, to be determined in the coming months. PLEASE BRING YOUR COINS on the 2nd Sunday of the month! It's a joyful noise.

Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
						1	2	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:20 AM – Jr. Choir Practice 11:00 AM - Worship Service w/ Communion	5 7:00 – Council Mtg.	6	7 SWEDISH SUPPER	8	9	10		
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:20 AM – Jr. Choir Practice 11:00 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM	12	13	14 6:30 PM – Meal for Youth 7:00 PM - Youth Group & Confirmation Class 7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	15	16 2:00 – Riverview Birthday Party	17		
18 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:20 AM – Jr. Choir Practice 11:00 AM – CHRISTMAS CANTATA 4:00 – Riverview Sing-along	19	20	21 NO YOUTH GROUP or CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30 PM – Sr. Choir Practice at Lindfor's home	22	23	24 4:00 PM - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE		
25 CHRISTMAS 6:00 AM - JULOTTA	26	27	28 1:30 – Quilt Group NO YOUTH GROUP or CONFIRMATION CLASS NO SENIOR CHOIR PRACTICE	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE		