



Elim Lutheran Church

The Messenger

JANUARY 2023

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May the Light of Christ be with you in this season of Epiphany, Elim!

Indeed, this is the season of Epiphany. It begins on January 6 (the twelfth day of Christmas when we think of the Wise Men meeting Jesus) and is celebrated in the church on the first Sunday after January 1. The season lasts until Ash Wednesday which is on February 22 this year.

After wonderful seasons of Advent, Christmas and Christmastide filled with beautiful music, an adorned sanctuary and beloved traditions each Sunday, Epiphany has sometimes felt like a letdown. Maybe 'holding period' is a more accurate description because it has felt like a regrouping period to ready for Lent and Easter.

Last year was the first year I recognized that I had been Epiphany anemic. One might say I had an epiphany about Epiphany! It is a most wonderful Sunday and season for celebrating the Light that Jesus brought into the world! It is a light and joy-filled season! Seeping into many cultures around the world, this is a season of gathering together, eating fun cakes, dancing and giving gifts. This is my kind of season!

This year, however, maybe it feels like we shouldn't celebrate the Light quite as much... There is much grieving... there is worry... there is anxious anticipation for medical procedures to come... there are cancer treatments. There are many tears and much heaviness.

Did you ever sit in a dark room as a kid and create colorful patterns on a Lite-Brite? Have you ever been out to chore so early that dawn hasn't broken and the only light is from your tractor's headlights? Have you ever padded out to the kitchen in the middle of the night to start the turkey baking and the only light comes when you open the oven door? It is in the complete darkness that we recognize the strength of light.

If this is a time when it feels like darkness is surrounding you, it is exactly the right time to celebrate the Light. Indeed, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Perhaps the celebrating involves lighting a candle and thanking God for being with you as you cry. It doesn't have to involve a bunch of people and party food... but it can if that is what feels right as you give thanks to God for the Light you feel with you.

May we notice the small things that are gifts from God in this season. May we notice the big things as well. It is certainly a gift to know God through the Light that Jesus brought into the world. May we celebrate the Light in whatever ways are right for us individually this season. We certainly will as a church as well; I hope you will come to worship on Sundays at 11am.

w/gratitude for the privilege of being with you at Elim – Pastor Amy Kay

**If it feels right for you, please come to my home on Saturday, January 14 anytime between 6:30-8:30pm for an Epiphany Party. Bring only yourselves. All are welcome.

129 N. Main Street in Lindsborg



Please keep in prayer: Sawyer Lysell-Alkire, Tanner Luttig, Delores Wallace, Luke Brown, Terry Hopp, James Write, Lesley, Craig Anderson, Kenny Brown, Allan Lindfors, Tom French, Charlotte Knackstedt, Bonnie Holopirek (Tammy Feil’s friend), Pat and Rhonda Hull, Danny Morel, 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 Bonnie Hultgren and family, Lynda Krahl, Steve Coney, Vernon Olson, Ruth Feil and all of the residents at Riverview Estates. Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Grant Lysell-Alkire.

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.]

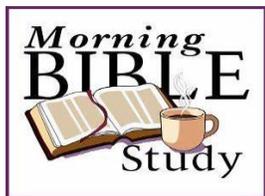
CONGREGATIONAL VOTE FOR SWEDISH SUPPER PROCEEDS

A brief congregational vote was held Sunday, December 4, 2022 following worship service to determine the recipients of the Swedish Supper proceeds. Council suggested the proceeds be split between Elim, the Learning Center, and Riverview Estates. President Curtis Patrick called the meeting to order and stated that the purpose of the vote was “taking care of young and old and everything in between”. JoAn Lindfors moved and Jeremy Snapp seconded to approve splitting the proceeds between the three (3) entities. The motion passed.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Elim Lutheran Church annual meeting is scheduled for **January 29, 2022**. Once again the meeting will take place in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service. Please note that there will be a discussion and vote on returning to the Parish Hall and the potluck meal at this year’s annual meeting. Just as a reminder, **committee reports are due January 11**. The annual report will be mailed out to members the week of January 16 to allow everyone a chance to read the agenda, proposed budget, and committee reports prior to the meeting.

Sign-up sheets for 2023 are posted on the bulletin board. We will pass around the sign-up sheets for lector, greeter, Riverview birthday parties, and Youth Meals at the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2022 as well. Please sign up for whatever date(s) you are willing to help. THANK YOU!



Adult Bible Study continues at **9:30 AM** every Sunday with The Chosen, Part 2, followed by the next series written and narrated by Ray Vander Lann, entitled “Dust of the Rabbi”. Julie Olson is the facilitator. Grab a cup of coffee or beverage of your choice, and join us as we explore the life and times of Jesus. Both 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.

ALL ARE WELCOME! Any or every Sunday.



Betty Amos Nelson and Leland Nelson helped serve in full Swedish attire.



Look out Matt Toll... Pastor Amy Kay is right behind you! We are grateful to our new members helping out for their first time.



JoAn Lindfors lifting her voice in song at the Swedish Supper.

WELCA NEWS



It's hard to believe that we have ended another year for WELCA, and our responsibilities to the church and our community. We have tried to carry through with the purpose of WELCA all year through. The purpose of WELCA: ***"As a community of women created in the image of God, called to the discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and actions, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world!"***

We know the new officers of 2023 will carry the roles on successfully. Our new officers, Carol Jones, President; Diane Talbott, Vice President; Donna Patrick, Treasurer; and Bernice Peterson, Secretary, will begin their duties as of February 1, 2023.

December was a really busy month for Elim, and each WELCA member chipped in when asked. It started with the long-awaited Swedish Supper, which had changes that were embraced by almost everyone. The committee was phenomenal. Remember to thank them for all their work.

WELCA didn't have as many boxes for the CHRISTMAS ANGEL BOXES as we had for the THANKSGIVING BLESSING BOXES, but there were enough. Instead of just delivering them to the McPherson Food Bank, the boxes were delivered to families in need within our community. They were given along with the Angel Tree gifts for the children. WELCA thanks Pastor Amy Kay for handling their delivery to the families.

WELCA delivered signed Christmas cards with a small box of chocolates to the Riverview Estates residents on December 19. The residents are always so grateful to be remembered. LeAnn Everhart and Sandra Myers brought them special treats for the December 16 birthday party. WELCA didn't have a December Sing-along on December 18 because Elim had a caroling party with the Methodists, and Riverview was one of the stops for the evening. The carolers even went inside to serenade the residents! The residents loved it.

2023 is almost here and we need to have a **TO DO LIST**:

- 1) Count our blessings
- 2) Let go of what we can't control
- 3) Practice kindness
- 4) Listen to your heart
- 5) Just breathe and have a Happy New Year!!!

May God be within us to refresh us, around us to protect us, before us to guide us, above us to bless us, beneath us to uphold us, and may the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost be with us all. AMEN

JoAn Lindfors, President

2022 WELCA officers: Diane Talbott, Vice President; Cindy Bunk, Treasurer; Jackie Larson, Secretary

74th ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH SWEDISH SUPPER

After a 2-year hiatus, the Elim Lutheran Church Swedish Supper returned on December 7, 2022. Swedish Supper Committee meetings started in October and were held successive Wednesday's through the end of November. The committee whittled down the menu to simplify and to ensure food safety. Many of the foods prepared off-site by members were eliminated. It was also decided to have servers plate the food for the patrons rather than the traditional buffet. In addition, Swedish Supper t-shirts were designed for the youth and adults helping out.

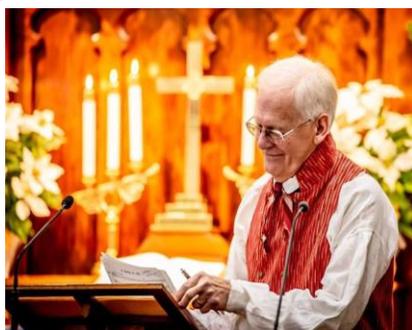
It is an incredible amount of work to put on the Swedish Supper! Not just the day of the supper, but for months beforehand. From ordering food and supplies, to managing work schedules, food donations, and assigning food preparation, to publicity and sending out reminders to members on their assignments. All the behind-the-scenes details we take for granted. Speaking personally, I have an even deeper appreciation for all the hard work that goes into the Swedish Supper after serving on the committee. WOW! Lots of work. Thank you to all our Elim members and youth for helping out. And thank you to the committee, AND most of all, Linda Johnson for heading it all up.

Proceeds from the Swedish Supper came to \$4,818.10. One-third each went to Elim Lutheran Church Money Market Fund, Riverview Estates, and Marquette Learning Center.

Members of the 2022 Swedish Supper Committee were: Linda Johnson, Chairperson; Beth Thomas, Sandy Edwards, Lois Johnson, Carol Jones, Gayle Nelson, Carylee Nelson, Bernice Peterson, Brooke Olson, and Amy Kay Pavlovich.



Julie Olson, Brooke Olson, and Sandy Edwards singing in the sanctuary. Jackie Larson on piano.



Allan Lindfors directing music, with Swedish favorites to entertain visitors.



Miah Rogers and Diane Talbott almost matching in their their Swedish costumes.



Andi Willems and Holly Toll still smiling after slaving over the hot stove making gravy for hours on end.



Lisa Boughfman still cracking jokes while she washes dishes... and more dishes.



Patty Kolling has done this a few times in her life as a member of Elim. Still smiling!



Left: Gayle Nelson making white sauce. Nancy Hopp in the background assisting wherever needed (she's a pro at this)... and she keeps our spirits bright!

SERVING THE LORD IN JANUARY

ACOLYTES

January 1	Dawson Feil & Noah Bearly
January 8	Dawson Feil & Josh Bocox
January 15	Dawson Feil & Bo Bacon
January 22	Dawson Feil
January 29	Dawson Feil & Noah Bearly

LECTORS

January 1	NA
January 8	Gayle Nelson
January 15	-----
January 22	-----
January 29	Curtis Patrick

GREETERS

January 1	-----
January 8	Bob and Carol Jones
January 15	-----
January 22	-----
January 29	-----

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Allan Lindfors

COMMUNION SET-UP/CLEAN-UP:

January 1: Set-up: Andi Willems & Whitney Weaver
Bread: Jayleen Sellhorn

USHER FOR JANUARY: Craig Larson

Sign-up sheets for 2023 are posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up for lector or greeter.

Offerings and Attendance per week in 2022

December 4	\$2148.00	87
December 11	\$1473.00	124
December 18	\$1817.00	29
December 24		34
December 25	\$3304.00	77

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Don't forget the Red Cross Bloodmobile will be held in the Elim Parish Hall on **Tuesday, January 31** from 12:00-6:00 PM. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Johnson at 785-826-5544.



THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

December 5, 2022

A new refrigerator was purchased for the basement, with funds from the Memorial Committee. Curtis Patrick and Vicki Young agreed to continue on the council for a 2nd term. The vote will take place at the Annual Meeting, where nominations from the floor will also be allowed. Pastor Amy Kay confirmed caroling will take place Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 PM. Terry Hopp will supply the trailer and hay bales for Elim carolers. The Methodist Church has invited Elim to join them for a soup supper following caroling.

Worship & Music: No meeting.

Finance & Stewardship: No meeting.

Memorial Committee: No meeting.

Christian Ed: No soup luncheon will follow the Sunday School Christmas program on December 11.

Evangelism/Social Ministry: No meeting.

Property/Security Committee: Barry Nelson reported the outer protective glass on some of the stained glass windows has been replaced. The same company that completed the repairs also supplies colored, stamped aluminum doors with windows that could replace the current front doors to the sanctuary.

Next meeting to be held on January 2, 2023

Monthly Financial Report

[As presented to council 12/05/2022]

Beginning Balance as of 11/01/22:	\$ 46,842.20
Revenue:	\$ 8,495.14
Expenses:	\$ - 7,382.27
Ending Balance as of 11/30/22:	\$ 47,955.07



Swedish Supper servers from left to right: Cindy Bunk (refilling serving pans), Beth Thomas, Diane Talbott, and Donna Patrick.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Huck Toll
- 5 Kelly French
- 5 Whitney Weaver
- 5 Colter Patrick
- 5 Rylee Larson
- 6 Ken Hedberg
- 6 Kamryn Lindfors
- 7 Janis Larson
- 8 Kris Hudson
- 10 Tom Emery
- 12 Pastor Katherine
- 19 Terry Hopp
- 20 Terri McBride
- 26 Lisa Johnson

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rock 56 years
- 21 Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Lindh 44 years



Barry Nelson and Terry Hopp helped with everything from setup to meatballs to clean up to... well you get the idea.

A BIG THANK YOU TO TATON TUBBS FOR TAKING THESE PICTURES AND SHARING THEM WITH US!!

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Jake and Brandi Brady on the birth of their baby daughter, Jaycie Jo. She was born December 14, 2022 and weighed 5 lb. 14 oz. Jaycie was welcomed home by her siblings Gracie, Kenzie, and Liam. Jaycie's grandmother Andi Willems is also quite proud.



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) 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.



Kody Barry with the Youth Group helped serve coffee and water during the Swedish Supper. Many of the Youth Group, Confirmation class, and 5th-7th graders helped bus tables and serve beverages throughout the evening. Young and old alike help with the Swedish Supper.



Beth Thomas and her son Darren Able both helped with the Swedish Supper. Many families have helped serve the Swedish Supper through many generations.

Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 1st Sunday of Christmas NEW YEAR'S DAY</p> <p>11:00 AM - Worship Service w/ Communion</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 – Council Mtg.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 PM – Meal for Youth 7:00 PM - Youth Group & Confirmation Class 7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>EPIPHANY</p> </div>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD</p> <p>9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:20 AM – Jr. Choir Practice 11:00 AM – Worship Service</p> <p>TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 PM – Meal for Youth 7:00 PM - Youth Group & Confirmation Class 7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 2nd Sunday of Epiphany</p> <p>9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:20 AM – Jr. Choir Practice 11:00 AM – Worship Service</p> <p>4:00 – Riverview Sing-along</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 PM – Meal for Youth 7:00 PM - Youth Group & Confirmation Class 7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Practice</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>22 3rd Sunday of Epiphany</p> <p>9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:20 AM – Jr. Choir Practice 11:00 AM – Worship Service</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1:30 – Quilt Group</p> <p>6:30 PM – Meal for Youth 7:00 PM - Youth Group & Confirmation Class 7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Practice</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>2:00 – Riverview Birthday Party</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>29 4th Sunday of Epiphany</p> <p>9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:20 AM – Jr. Choir Practice 11:00 AM – Worship Service</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				