



Elim Lutheran Church

The Messenger

DECEMBER 2023

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Peace and Joy be with you, Elim –

It always feels good to get to be church together and this season it feels G-O-O-D! There are many traditions and worship services to help us ready ourselves for the coming Christ child during this Advent season, thanks be to God.

Starting this Sunday, we will follow a series called “The Weary World Rejoices” which was created by Presbyterian and ELCA ministers in a company called A Sanctified Art; the same company that created the series we followed last Advent. This year we will explore stories found in Luke 1-3 and will think together about how a weary world rejoices with responses from the scripture. What I like most about this series is it is very real. We people experience weariness along with all kinds of emotions that aren’t sparkling happy. Even in the midst of difficult circumstances, we can still find reasons to rejoice and can certainly give thanks for our closeness with God.

From the ministers who created our series, “This Advent, we will hold space for our weariness *and* our joy. We will seek a ‘thrill of hope’ in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even and especially if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.”

It will be a wonderful season together, Elim! Here are some additional details:

December 3: Come to worship for our first Sunday in Advent! You are most welcome to take an Advent Calendar that fits with our theme, is simple (actually doable!) and meaningful. There will also be devotional booklets available that focus on Luke 1-3.

December 10: We will focus on the joy of connection through Luke 1:24-45 and Isaiah 40:1-11. This is one of my favorite Sundays of the series; I hope you can come connect!

December 17: Many children and youth of the church will bring us the Good News through word and song in a Christmas Pageant. There will be a soup supper following worship provided by our Adult Bible Study class and Christian Education teachers. Don’t bring a thing! Just come and enjoy. At 4:30pm, you are invited back to the church to jump on Terry and Nancy’s flatbed trailer and carol around town! After singing our hearts out, we’ll meet up with our United Methodist friends at our church for hot drinks and a simple supper. Two meals provided for us in one day plus worship and caroling... we have many reasons to rejoice, indeed!

December 24: The Sr. Choir will lead us through the beautiful Festival of Lessons and Carols at our 11am worship service. There will not be an evening service this year.

December 25: We will celebrate the birth of the Christ Child at a Julotta, a traditional Swedish 6am worship service. What a joy it will be to emerge from worship with the twinkling of the sunrise. It is a most perfect way to celebrate Christmas!

December 31: This Sunday we will focus on how we root ourselves in ritual through Luke 2:21-38. Appropriate on this New Year’s Eve, we will focus on the rhythm of our seasons.

I hope your Advent season includes much of what is happening at Elim, friends.

w/a thrill of hope – Pastor Amy Kay





Please keep in prayer: Bob Jones, Marguerite Larson, Aaron Klassen, Bill Ferguson, Helen Weber, Anna Caesar and family, Freda Talbott, Joann Reedy (Mindy Nicholson’s mother), Linda Everhart (Jay & LeAnn’s sister-in-law), Nevin Surface, Ron Hazelwood, Mary Ellwood, James Wright and family, Bonnie Holopirek, Merle Walker, Connie Rawson, Bev Alstatt, Allan Lindfors, JoAn Lindfors, Lesley, Laurie, Eva Allen, Ron Carlson, Tammy Hopp, Dennis and Bunnie Hultgren and family, Lynda Krahl, Vernon Olson, Ruth Feil and all of the residents at Riverview Estates and all care facilities. Our deepest sympathy to the family of Jane Peterson.

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.]

JOIN US FOR JINGLE & MINGLE

WELCA is sponsoring an evening of fun for the women of Elim. You are invited to Nancy Hopp’s house at 2412 7th Ave. on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 at 7:00 PM**. Please bring your favorite toy to donate to needy families.

Sandy Edwards demonstrated how to make Swedish Kringler at the November 7 WELCA meeting. Approximately 31 women from the community and beyond came for the demonstration. Sandy shared the recipe with each woman in attendance, as well as a sample from her previously baked Kringlers. She then drew names of those in attendance and presented the winners with half a Kringler from the ones baked during the demonstration. Winners were Lois Johnson, Beth Thomas, Amy Kay Pavlovich, Julie Olson, and Vicki Young.



Thirteen WELCA members and guests will be attending “Away in the Basement”, a theatre production to be held at McPherson Opera House on Friday, December 22 at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$45 for those who signed up to attend. Please forward payment to Carol Jones. This is a comedy about church ladies in 1959 who prepare for a Sunday School Christmas Program. “Amidst rehearsals and treat bag preparations, unexpected surprises await”.



Elim’s WELCA hosts the Riverview Birthday Parties on the last Friday of the month at 2:00 PM. ALL Elim members: don’t forget Riverview Sing-alongs every 3rd Sunday at 4:00 PM. The next one will be December 17. Anyone is welcome to join in.

The next WELCA meeting is Sunday, December 10 at 9:00 AM. ALL women of Elim are invited to attend.

The Quilting Group has lost members throughout the years. If you like to sew, please contact one of the members. They could use help sewing the quilts. They meet in the Parish Hall on the last Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM to tie the quilts. It has been suggested that WELCA hold a Quilt Night during one of the evening meetings so that everyone can help stitch!



ANGEL TREE INVITATION

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.

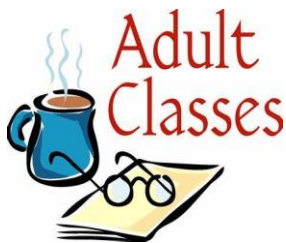
If you are willing and able to be a quiet angel for a child in the community, please look at the descriptions of needs on the Angel Tree in the back of the sanctuary. You're welcome to take the angel ornament with the description of the child that fits you best. **There is a sign-up sheet at the tree; simply write your name by the angel number.**

If you and some of your friends would like to join up to adopt, please do so together! 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. If you would like to give, but not shop, each family we have adopted has one \$50 angel on the tree.

Please bring your gifts to the church on or before Sunday, December 17 so they can be distributed before Christmas. Please do not wrap your gifts and, if possible, please also share the receipts for the gift(s).

It is nice when children in the same household receive gifts that are similar in amount. Gifts typically total \$50-\$60.

Thank you for your consideration!



Adult Classes

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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 and having an attitude of a faithful disciple. During this session we will learn about an attitude of hopeful waiting, an attitude of repentance and thankfulness for God's for giving grace an expectant heart and having a bold and trusting faith.

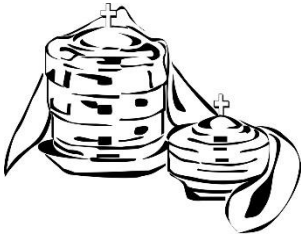
Join the Adult Sunday School Class for a 4-week study on "An Attitude of Discipleship" Sunday morning at 9:30 am as we advent-ure and unwrap the wonder of Christ's birth.

PLEASE NOTE: Adult Bible Study will not meet December 17, 24, and 31. The class will provide soup for the lunch following the Sunday School Christmas program on December 17. On January 7, Meg Dauer will come at the 9:30 AM timeslot to train Elim members and guests on the AED device that was recently presented to Elim.

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 the Gathering Table, a Lutheran ministry to help underprivileged families in Kansas City. The noise offering on November 12, 2023 brought in \$99.16. THANK YOU!





2024 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 7

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

February 4

Set-up: Matt and Holly Toll

February 14 - (Ash Wednesday)

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

March 3

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

March 24 - (Palm Sunday)

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

March 28 – (Maundy Thursday)

Set-up: Craig and Jackie Larson

March 31 – (Easter)

Set-Up: Gayle Nelson and Kayley Fleming
Bread: Gayle Nelson

April 7

Set-Up: Kent and Nancy Rawson

May 5

Set-Up: Dana and Julie Olson
Bread: Julie Olson

June 2

Set-up: Cynthia and Mike Hulse
Bread: Cindy Bunk

July 7

Set-up: Darryl and Diane Talbott

August 4

Set-up: Kent and Nancy Rawson

September 1

Set-up: Diane and Darryl Talbott

October 6

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

November 3

Set-up: Brooke Olson & Pam Morel

December 1

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

December 24

Set-Up: Craig and Jackie Larson

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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. You can also sign up on the bulletin board. **Meals are to be served each Wednesday at 6:30 PM.** Volunteers (pair up if you can) who provide the food can use paper plates and plastic ware provided by the Youth Group. Prepare to serve 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 November: Betsy Patrick, Jeremy Snapp, Beth Thomas, Gayle Nelson, and Pastor Amy Kay Pavlovich.

YOUTH GROUP WILL NOT MEET DECEMBER 6 (due to Swedish Supper), Dec.13, and Dec. 27, 2023. Youth Group will meet December 20, 2023, and resume meetings on January 3, 2024.

SERVING THE LORD IN DECEMBER

ACOLYTES

DECEMBER: Kanin French and Kylan Lindquist

LECTORS

December 3 Curtis Patrick
 December 10 Linda Johnson
 December 17 Curtis Patrick
 December 24 Darren Able
 December 25 Mike Hulse
 December 31 _____

GREETERS

December 3 Nancy Hopp
 December 10 Scott and Tammy Feil
 December 17 Nancy Hopp
 December 24 Matt and Holly Toll
 December 25 Matt and Diane Hedberg
 December 31 _____

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

December 3: Andi Willems

COMMUNION SET-UP/CLEAN-UP/BREAD

Curtis and Betsy Patrick

USHER FOR DECEMBER: Barry Nelson

Monthly Financial Report [As presented to council 11/0/2023]

Beginning Balance as of 10/01/23:	\$	32,337.26
Revenue:	\$	8,464.01
Expenses:	\$	-- 8,633.57
Ending Balance as of 10/31/23:	\$	32, 167.70

Offerings and Attendance per week in 2023

<i>November 5</i>	<i>\$2869.00</i>	<i>77</i>
<i>November 12</i>	<i>\$1216.00</i>	<i>83</i>
<i>November 19</i>	<i>\$1676.00</i>	<i>89</i>
<i>November 26</i>	<i>\$3061.10</i>	<i>67</i>

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

REMINDER: The next Red Cross Bloodmobile is scheduled for **TUESDAY, January 30** from 12:00-6:00

PM at Elim Lutheran Church Parish Hall. Please come at your appointment time. **THANK YOU FOR GIVING**



NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

November 6, 2023

Council voted to split Swedish Supper Proceeds between Learning Center, Riverview, and Elim Improvement Fund. Training for the new AED unit will be available for members in January, possibly during the Adult Bible Study time (9:30 AM). The date for the Annual Meeting will be January 28, 2024. Approved purchase of new cordless vacuum cleaner for church janitor.

Worship & Music: No meeting. Allan Lindfors announced the church will decorate for Christmas following worship service on Nov. 26, and that Lessons and Carols will be on Dec. 24.

Finance & Stewardship: No meeting.

Memorial Committee: Met Oct. 10. Discussed items approved at the August meeting, to include candle protectors (for Julotta), storage unit for women's restroom, 100 -cup electric coffee pot for kitchen, and beverage dispensers.

Christian Ed: No meeting. The Sunday School Christmas program is scheduled for Dec. 17 during the morning worship.

Evangelism/Social Ministry: No meeting.

Property/Security Committee: Met Nov. 6. Received service agreement from Pestinger's for AC & heating units in church and parsonage. Foundation repairs discussed.

WELCA: Next meeting is Nov. 7 at 6:30 PM. Sandy Edwards will demonstrate how to make Kringle.

Swedish Supper Committee: Linda Johnson is chairman. Next meeting is Nov. 8 at 6:30 PM.

Next meeting to be held on Monday, December 4, 2023

AED DEVICE

The AED device has been mounted in the Parish Hall by the water fountain. Meg Dauer with EMS will be conducting a brief training session on **Sunday, January 7 at 9:30 AM** to explain the use of the AED device. The training session is open to all Elim members and guests.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX PROJECT

Thank you to the Youth Group for helping pack and ship the Shoeboxes. Thank you to WELCA for supporting the project with a donation of \$200. And thank you to those of you who put money in the blue-labeled can in the back of the sanctuary to help with shipping costs. That amounted to \$68.00.

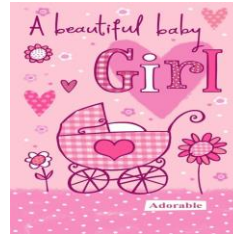


DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 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 Nancy Rawson
- 14 Steve Patrick
- 14 Makaela Hedberg
- 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. & Mrs. Russell Malm 20 years
- 28 Mr. & Mrs. Linn Nelson 33 years
- 31 Mr. & Mrs. Monte Loder 38 years
- 31 Mr. & Mrs. Jay Everhart 34 years
- 31 Mr. & Mrs. Kurtis Sjogren 14 years



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Joe and Megan (Malm) Thomas on the birth of their daughter, Norah Grace. Norah was born November 13, 2023, weighing 7 lb., 8 oz., and 22" long. Proud maternal grandparents are Larry and Tami Malm, as well as great uncle Darren Able and great-grandparents Beth Thomas and the late Jim Thomas. Paternal grandparents are James and Bonnie Thomas, and Vernon Thomas.

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 2023.** The Christian Education Committee continues to collect them to help fund youth projects. 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.

ST. LUCIA PANCAKE FEED

You are invited to the annual St. Lucia Pancake Feed at the Lindsborg Covenant Church (102 S. Washington) on **Saturday, December 9 at 8:30-10:30 AM.** Joyce Peterson shared the following:

This meal will not only satisfy you taste buds with a delicious breakfast but will also contribute to helping our local high school students. This even aims to raise funds to help support our Getting Ahead program. This program was started last year by USD400 staff in collaboration with STEPNC in order to go beyond traditional academics. Our hope is to equip students with life skills, resilience, and resources to overcome potential obstacles life might throw at them. This program also gives students continue support and guidance as they navigate the challenges of high school and beyond. Through weekly discussions, mentorship, and community engagement, students will develop an understanding of the tools needed to overcome barriers and build a foundation for success.

We invite the entire community and surrounding communities to join us at the St. Lucia Pancake Feed for a morning of delicious food, community (and Christmas) spirit, and a shared commitment to the education and empowerment of our youth. Your support will directly impact the lives of high school students, fostering a community where every individual has the opportunity to thrive!

Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – Sunday School – Program Rehearsal 10:00 AM – Confirmation Class 11:00 AM –Worship Service w/ Communion	4 6:00 PM – Council Mtg. / Set-up for Swedish Supper	5	6 SWEDISH SUPPER	7	8	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM – WELCA Meeting 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – Sunday School – Program Rehearsal 11:00 AM – Worship Service	11	12	13 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	14	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:45 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM – Confirmation Class 11:00 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 4:30 – CHRISTMAS CAROLING	18	19	20 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	21	22 2:00 PM - RIVERVIEW BIRTHDAY PARTY	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent CHRISTMAS EVE 9:45 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM –LESSONS & CAROLS	25 CHRISTMAS 6:00 AM - JULOTTA	26	27 NO MEETINGS/PRACTICE	28	29	30
31 1st Sunday of Christmas NEW YEAR'S EVE 9:45 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM – Confirmation Class 11:00 AM –Worship Service						