



# Elim Lutheran Church

## The Messenger

JANUARY 2024

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Greetings, Elim –

I hope the new year has started with much peace and joy for you.

The new year feels good around the church as together we are finishing out a helpful series from A Sanctified Art called “A Weary World Rejoices”. The last Sunday of the series was from Luke 2:21-38 when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to be circumcised. This was a ritual of their Jewish faith that had been handed on to them from their ancestors. (Some still perform this ritual at their temples.) This seems like the exact right time of the year for us to think more about rituals.

David Brooks, an author and speaker of politics, our society and faith, has shared about the importance of rituals for us individually and collectively. He (and others) suggest ritual acts are a kind of language; they are a way of expressing things that are too deep for words. Sometimes we might not even know how rituals are helping us until time passes and they have been woven into who we are and who we are becoming.

Some rituals are helpful when we are transitioning from one stage in life to another. They mark the change and this acknowledgment is important (baptism, confirmation, communion, graduation, retirement, etc). Others are helpful during our daily lives as we root ourselves into our God. The closer connection we have with God the better, it seems to me! Here are some rituals that are helpful for some in case one or more is helpful for you.

**Communal worship.** It’s true. Worshiping God together each week can be important in the moment and over the years of our life in ways that are too deep for words. **Giving.** Actually giving the money that we have in our possession to join with other people’s giving is a ritual that works in mysterious ways. It makes us more grateful and joy-filled over our lifetime. There are studies that show this to be true, but I wonder if our experience of seeing those who give generously and perhaps feeling it ourselves is more persuasive than a study. It roots us to God to offer our money to go out in God’s name and with God’s love.

**Prayer.** All types of prayer are helpful no matter how eloquent or awkward our words are said or thought. We can praise, lament, petition and just be quiet in prayer. The ritual of prayer can feel difficult to start. Some find it helpful to say memorized prayers like the Lord’s Prayer, a morning prayer like “Dear God, everywhere I walk, let it be on your path...” or a meal prayer like “Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest...”. Some find it helpful to start prayers with the same words and then end it extemporaneously like “Now I lay me down to sleep...”. Still others find meditative prayers helpful like simply breathing in slowly with words like, “be still and know” and exhaling slowly with “that I am God”. Any mantra with which we can connect to God is great. Connecting it to something we do each day like taking a medicine or feeding the dog is helpful.

(Pastor's Message cont.)

Prayer types can go on and on, but one last type I find helpful is a form prayer. Dan Harris, a retired journalist and current promoter of living life happier, affirms a meditative prayer that has been around for centuries. It has this repetitive form:

- May you be happy.
- May you be safe.
- May you be healthy.
- May you live with ease in the face of whatever arises for you.

First we are to think of *someone who we love* as we pray each prayer. Then we are to pray them for *ourselves*. ("May I be happy.") Next we are to think of a *mentor*; somebody who's helped us in our life like a parent, teacher or someone we admire. Then we are to think of a *neutral person*; someone who we live life around, but to whom we don't often pay attention like a mail man, barista or neighbor. Next we are to think of a *difficult person*; maybe not the most difficult under the sun, but perhaps mildly annoying. Finally, we are to think of *everyone*. (May we all be happy.)

I really like this form prayer. I sometimes change the words and I sometimes forget one of the types of people, but it doesn't really matter. What matters is we connect with God through it. Somehow it is helpful, thanks be.

I'm interested in what rituals are helpful to you! Please let me know! Also, if I can ever be of assistance as you try different spiritual rituals, please reach out to me. I am fascinated, amazed and thankful for all of them and am always willing to learn more along with you.

w/much gratitude and hope – Pastor Amy Kay




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**Please keep in prayer:** Rose Erickson and TACOL, Nancy Rawson, Kasey Weis, Tanner Luttig, Bob Jones, Connie Conforti (Carylee Nelson and Patty Kolling's cousin), Aaron Klassen, Marguerite Larson, Helen Weber, Anna Caesar and family, 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, 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 heartfelt sympathy to the family of Freda Talbott, and to the families of Jane Peterson and Ardis Claypool.

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). **[Please notify Pastor Amy Kay or the secretary if you wish to have your name removed following recovery or for other reasons. Thank you.]**

**NOISY OFFERING**

The "noisy offering" is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



## HERE WE GO A-CAROLING...



25-30 members of Elim Lutheran Church jumped on the flatbed trailer provided by Terry and Nancy Hopp to sing Christmas carols to Riverview residents and homes throughout Marquette. We were joined by the members of the Marquette United Methodist Church for a delicious meal provided by Pastor Amy Kay, complete with cookies leftover from the Swedish Supper. Thank you to Terry and Nancy for carrying the carolers throughout town, and all those who came to spread Christmas joy.

## SHEPHERDS WATCH THEIR FLOCKS AT NIGHT...

The Sunday School Christmas program was held Sunday morning, December 17. Members of the Confirmation Class joined in to present Christmas story of Christ's birth. On the left is Angel Gabriel (Magnus Larson), Joseph (Leif Larson), and Mary (Gemma Carter). Gabriel announces to the shepherds (who are asleep in the field) that Jesus Christ is born and laying in the manger. Shepherds (I think – GN) are Kanin French, Huck Toll, Acea Newton, Baylor Hopp, and Liam Brady. Approximately 145 were in attendance for the program. Thank you to Pastor Amy Kay, Jackie Larson, Brooke Olson, Diane Hedberg, Tammy Feil, and the SS teachers for all your work preparing the children for the program.



Linda Johnson (chairperson of the Swedish Supper) and Beth Thomas present Audrey Seeley (director of Marquette Learning Center) with a check from Elim Lutheran Church.



Linda Johnson, Beth Thomas, and Brooke Olson present Katt Grit with Riverview Estates with a check from Elim.

Proceeds from the 2023 Swedish Supper were split between Elim Money Market account, Riverview and Learning Center. Each received \$1,423.14.



# WELCA

Nancy Hopp hosted Jingle & Mingle at her house on December 12 for the women of Elim. It was an evening of delicious food and fun, complete with musical entertainment from Nancy and Terry Hopp’s grandchildren, Garrett, Kaydee, and Kellen McMahan. Everyone was encouraged to bring a toy for children of families in need. The table in the Parish Hall was filled with all the toys! Members from the Marquette United Methodist Church and Pastor Brenda Hogan’s knitting group also

joined in the fun. There were approximately 34 women in attendance. THANK YOU, Nancy for a delightful evening of fellowship.

**Twelve WELCA members and guests attended “Away in the Basement”, a theatre production held at McPherson Opera House on Friday, December 22 at 7:30 PM. It was a comedy about church ladies in 1959 who prepare for a Sunday School Christmas Program. Funny how we could all identify with the characters, who complained about the stench of lutfisk from a previous Swedish dinner held at the church, or panicked over misplaced props, or hurried around buying more treats for the gift bags to be handed out to the Sunday School children after the program. It was a very enjoyable evening.**

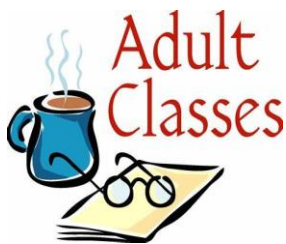
WELCA also served the Lion’s Club dinner at Elim on November 13. Thank you to all who provided food and served.

**Carol Jones, president of WELCA, presented Christmas tea lights to the residents of Riverview.**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 4:00 PM. The next one will be January 21. Everyone is welcome to join in.

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!



## Adult Classes

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Adult classes resume Sunday, January 14 at 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall. We will be watching the **Chosen Christmas Special 2023**, which will conclude Sunday, January 21. Julie Olson is the facilitator. The next session, beginning January 28, will be a study of the New Testament. Julie shares this about the new material: “have you been wanting to read the Bible consistently but aren’t sure where to start? Or do you struggle to find the time to dig into God’s Word? Elim’s

newest Adult Bible Study will be a Study of the New Testament. We will take you on a journey through the entire New Testament. Each week we will complete an overview of one book from the New Testament with a video from the Bible Project, which includes a brief summary and explanation of that book from Chuck Swindoll. This study is intended to help you understand the text, and help you grasp the major themes in each book of the New Testament. This study is designed to assist you in understanding the context of each book and hopefully give you a fresh perspective on familiar passages by showing you how they point to Christ. I hope to see you all there.”

# SERVING THE LORD IN JANUARY

## ACOLYTES

JANUARY: Raven Caesar and Alyssa Holt

## LECTORS

January 7      Curtis Patrick  
 January 14  
 January 21  
 January 28

## GREETERS

January 7      Nancy Hopp  
 January 14  
 January 21      Nancy Hopp  
 January 28

## COMMUNION ASSISTANT

January 7:      Beth Thomas

## COMMUNION SET-UP/CLEAN-UP/BREAD

Andi Willems and Whitney Weaver  
 Bread: Jayleen Sellhorn

## USHER FOR JANUARY: Craig Larson

Sign-up sheets for 2024 are posted on the bulletin board for Greeters and Lectors, as well as Riverview Birthday Parties.

### Monthly Financial Report

[As presented to council 12/04/2023]

Beginning Balance as of 11/01/23:	\$	32,167.70
Revenue:	\$	9,924.49
Expenses:	\$	-- 9,385.54
Ending Balance as of 11/30/23:	\$	32,706.65

### Offerings and Attendance per week in 2023

<b>December 3</b>	<b>\$2399.99</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>December 10</b>	<b>\$3398.00</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>December 17</b>	<b>\$1739.00</b>	<b>148*</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>\$5374.12</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>December 25</b>	<b>\$413.25</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>December 31</b>		<b>68</b>

\*Sunday School Christmas program

## NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

December 4, 2023

Council met at 6:00 PM to help setup for Swedish Supper. The meeting followed with approval of a bid to strip and wax the floor tile in th Parish Hall. Council members ending their first term on council agreed to run a second term: Sandy Edwards, Beth Thomas, Janis Larson, and Carly Peterson.

**Worship & Music:** No meeting. Allan Lindfors announced that Senior Choir will perform for Lessons and Carols on Dec. 24, and for Julotta on Dec. 25.

**Finance & Stewardship:** No meeting.

**Memorial Committee:** Approved purchase of cordless vacuum cleaner for Dana Olson, church janitor.

**Christian Ed:** No meeting. Diane Hedberg reported that the Sunday School children will be rehearsing for the Christmas program December 10.

**Evangelism/Social Ministry:** No meeting.

**Property/Security Committee:** Barry Nelson presented the bid for stripping and waxing the Parish Hall floor.

Next meeting to be held on Monday, January 2, 2024

## 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.

## 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**



## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please notify Beth Thomas if you would like offering envelopes to use throughout the year. There are plenty of offering booklets available.



### 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
- 10 Thayne Rawson
- 12 Pastor Katherine
- 19 Terry Hopp
- 20 Terri McBride
- 26 Lisa Johnson
- 26 LeAnn Everhart
- 29 Scott Feil
- 29 Magnus Larson
- 31 Carolyn "KK" Larson

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rock 58 years
- 21 Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Lindh 46 years



### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Lars and Carly Peterson on the birth of your baby boy, Grant William Peterson. Grant was born December 5, 2023, weighing 8 lb., 8 oz., and 20" long. His sisters are Kinley and Bren. Proud grandparents are Patty Kolling and Scott Kolling, and Mark and Joyce Peterson. Great-grandparents are the late Kenny and Helen Olson; Larry and Deanna Kolling; Clarice Bolger, Sam and Russ Grant, and Ruth Pete.

### 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.



# Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	<b>2</b> <b>7:00 PM – Council Mtg</b>	<b>3</b> <b>6:30 PM – Youth Meal</b> <b>7:00 PM – Youth Group</b> <b>7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice</b>			<b>6</b> <b>EPIPHANY</b>	
<b>7 Baptism of Our Lord</b>  <b>9:30 AM – AED Training</b> <b>9:45 AM – Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 AM –Worship Service w/ Communion</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>6:30 PM – Youth Meal</b> <b>7:00 PM – Youth Group</b> <b>7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>14 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Epiphany</b>  <b>9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study</b> <b>9:45 AM – Sunday School</b> <b>10:00 AM – Confirmation Class</b> <b>11:00 AM – Worship Service</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>6:30 PM – Youth Meal</b> <b>7:00 PM – Youth Group</b> <b>7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>21 2nd Sunday in Epiphany</b>  <b>9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study</b> <b>9:45 AM – Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 AM – Worship Service</b>  <b>4:00 – Riverview Sing-along</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>6:30 PM – Youth Meal</b> <b>7:00 PM – Youth Group</b> <b>7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>2:00 PM - RIVERVIEW BIRTHDAY PARTY</b>	<b>27</b>	
<b>28 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Epiphany</b>  <b>9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study</b> <b>9:45 AM – Sunday School</b> <b>10:00 AM – Confirmation Class</b> <b>11:00 AM –Worship Service</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>1:30 – Quilting Group</b>  <b>6:30 PM – Youth Meal</b> <b>7:00 PM – Youth Group</b> <b>7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice</b>				