



Elim Lutheran Church The Messenger

MARCH 2024

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Greetings, Elim –

I hope this Messenger finds you well in many ways.

Each year I have loved our joint worship services on Wednesday evenings during Lent. It is different and fun to think about a theme and to worship God together as a broader community. This year's theme has been particularly lovely for me personally, and I hope this is true for many. We are focusing on experiences and disciplines of Christians from other areas of the world so that we can grow in our own faith. I'm so grateful Pastor Brenda from the United Methodist congregation thought of this theme for us!



On Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) when we centered on Christians in Brazil, these words from Maren C. Tirabassi, an author and retired minister, were meditated upon briefly:

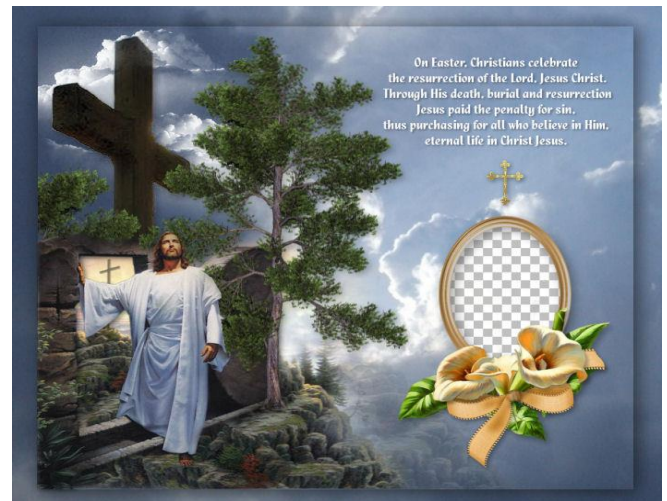
Lent comes.
We draw a holy comma
in rushed and busy lives.

There is more to the poem, but these particular words have continued to work in me as the weeks have progressed. A holy comma... we can have a pause with our God to just be. To breathe. To imagine God enveloping us with caring arms. To be held in stillness with God. Perhaps to cry with God. To empty ourselves with God. To be cared for by God.

It seems to me a holy comma could be different for each of us, but whatever it is, I hope we draw to it during this time. I hope we allow ourselves this space and time. I hope we pray quietly with or without words in this season. I hope we do so while we are sitting in our favorite chair, taking walks, or planting seeds.

May the peace of God be with you during your holy comma.

w/much care – Pastor Amy Kay





Please keep in prayer: Donna Nelson, Kate Emery, Jeff Smit, Adaline Arbuckle, Cari (Nelson) Daniels, Allan Lindfors, JoAn Lindfors, Tom French, Rita Brown, Rose Erickson and TACOL, Nancy Rawson, Kasey Weis, Tanner Luttig, Bob Jones, Connie Conforti (Carylee Nelson and Patty Kolling’s cousin), Aaron Klassen, Helen Weber, Anna Caesar and family, Joann Reedy (Mindy Nicholson’s mother), Linda Everhart (Jay & LeAnn’s sister-in-law), Mary Ellwood, James Wright and family, Bonnie Holopirek, Merle Walker, 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.

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.]**



SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES AND RITUALS OF CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD

All Lenten services will begin at 6:30 PM. Listed below are the dates, with the church, pastor preaching, and weekly focus on Christians of other countries:

- March 6 Elim, Pastor Amy Kay, Christians in Guatemala
- March 13 Marquette UMC, Pastor Brenda, Christians in India
- March 20 Elim, Pastor Brenda, Christians in Nigeria
- March 28 Maundy Thursday @ Elim, Pastor Amy Kay
- March 29 Good Friday @ Marquette UMC, Pastor Brenda

ALTAR PAINTINGS OF THE SMOKY VALLEY

You are invited to a power point presentation by Tom Holmquist and Bill Gusenius on the Altar Paintings of the Smoky Valley on Monday, March 25 at 7:30 PM in the Bud Pearson Swedish Chapel on the Bethany College Campus. There will also be a self-guided tour available to view the altar paintings on Saturday, March 30 from 1:00-5:00 PM. **Elim Lutheran Church is included in this presentation and tour.** Other local churches include Messiah Lutheran Church, Bethany Lutheran Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, Freemount Lutheran Church, Falun Lutheran Church, Salemsborg Lutheran Church, and Assaria Lutheran Church. See the information on the bulletin board.

HANDBASTING

Pastor Amy Kay recently spoke about handfasting during her sermon. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the wedding tradition, here’s a brief summary:

A wedding handfasting ceremony is a symbolic unity ritual signifying that the couple is joining together as one. The tradition involves temporarily wrapping or tying the couple's hands together using ribbons, ropes or cloth. The definition of handfasting comes from its Middle English roots as a quick marriage ceremony. Centuries ago, the couple's hands would be joined—either by being wrapped in a cloth or simply with fingers intertwined—and after a few words were spoken (this is where the 'fast' part comes in), they would be betrothed. The handfasting ceremony symbolizes the couple's love and commitment to each other, as well as their two lives merging into one. Handfasting was performed as a placeholder for the legal wedding ceremony, because it was often more difficult to find a priest in rural villages or travel several days to reach a house of worship. So what's the difference between wedding vows and handfasting? They're two important—but different—ceremony traditions. Handfasting is an optional ritual that can be performed with or without an officiant. Reciting your vows and exchanging wedding rings is usually considered to be the "official" moment that you become married, witnessed by someone who's legally ordained.

WELCA



Jennifer Larson from Salina presented a program on “Hope” on Thursday, February 22. Those who attended agreed that it was very inspirational. Jennifer shared stories of her life and faith, accompanied by scripture. She also sang a song, accompanied by her sister-in-law Jackie Larson. WELCA hopes to continue programs throughout the year that are informative and inspirational for Elim members and the community.

WELCA presented heart “pop—its” on keychains to Riverview residents for Valentine’s Day.

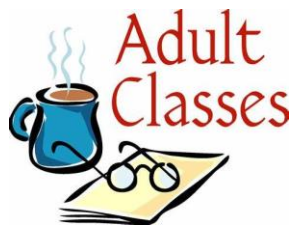
WELCA will be serving Lion’s Club dinner at Elim again on Monday, March 25. Thank you to all who volunteer to provide food and to serve the dinner.

Elim’s WELCA hosts the Riverview Birthday Parties on the last Friday of the month at 2:00 PM. The next one will be Friday, March 22 (due to Good Friday on March 29). Thank you to Carol Jones and Beth Thomas for hosting the birthday party in January, and to Lois Johnson and Donna Patrick for hosting in February. **Elim only serves the Riverview Birthday parties January through April.**

ALL Elim members: don’t forget Riverview Sing-alongs every 3rd Sunday at 4:00 PM. The next one will be Sunday, March 17. Everyone is welcome to join in.

WELCA officers and other members met at 8:30 AM Sunday, February 18 to discuss ongoing projects and future programs. It was decided to host WELCA Sunday on September 29. WELCA will be gathering small items for Pastor Amy Kay to take to Guatemala in May to help those in need (such as eyeglasses, embroidery thread, etc.). WELCA is working with Pastor Amy Kay on an informational guideline for funeral luncheons to help families understand what is available.

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

Classes are held every Sunday at 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall. Come join us for an in-depth study of the New Testament. Julie Olson, facilitator, 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.”

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



ORDER FORM FOR WHITE LILIES for Easter Sunday!



All orders must be submitted by **MARCH 17**
Cost: \$10.00 per lily

Payment must be submitted at the time of your order. Please make checks payable to Piper's Fine Foods. Place your order form and payment in an envelope and mail to Elim Lutheran Church, 403 N. Lincoln, Marquette, KS 67464, or leave in the box designated when you enter the church. You can also leave your order in the locked drop box just outside the Parish Hall doors. If you have any questions, you can email Gayle Nelson at elimsec@gmail.com, or call or text me at 785-201-7675.

THANK YOU!

Please specify how you would like your dedication worded. Select one or more of the options below:

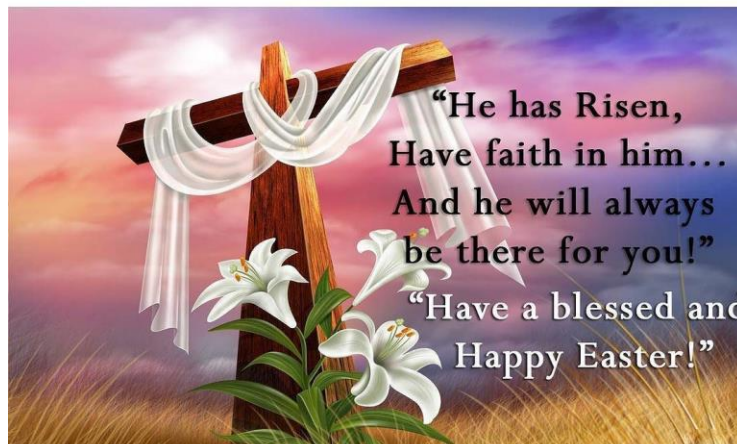
- In Loving Memory of _____
- To the Glory of God for _____
- Other _____

Given by _____

(Include all names you want on the dedication; if more space is needed, use lines below)

Total # of lilies ordered: _____ Name _____ Phone #: _____

Total Due: _____ Paid: _____ (X)



SERVING THE LORD IN MARCH

ACOLYTES

MARCH: Elsie Boughfman and Auley Boughfman

LECTORS

March 3 Darren Able
 March 10 Betsy Patrick
 March 17 Linda Johnson
 March 24 Curtis Patrick
 March 28 Brooke Olson (Maundy Thursday)
 March 31 Curtis Patrick

GREETERS

March 3 Barry and Carylee Nelson
 March 10 Gayle Nelson
 March 17 Janis Larson and Vicki Young
 March 24 Nancy Hopp and Chris Edwards
 March 28 _____ (Maundy Thursday)
 March 31 _____ (Easter)

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

March 3: Vinita Harms
 March 24: _____ (Palm Sunday)
 March 28: Vicki Young (Maundy Thursday)
 March 31: _____ (Easter)

COMMUNION SET-UP/CLEAN-UP/BREAD

March 3: Beth Thomas and Carol Jones
 March 24: Sandra Myers and LeAnn Everhart
 March 28: Craig and Jackie Larson
 March 31: Gayle Nelson and Kayley Fleming

USHER FOR MARCH: Lars Peterson

Monthly Financial Report

[As presented to council 02/05/2024]

Beginning Balance as of 01/01/24:	\$	34,394.11
Revenue:	\$	11,707.40
Expenses:	\$	-- 9,002.74
Ending Balance as of 01/31/24:	\$	37,098.77

Offerings and Attendance per week in 2024

February 4	\$2484.00	61
February 11	\$6690.00	109
February 18	\$1146.50	74
February 25	\$1371.00	75

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

February 5, 2024

Council officers will remain the same as previous year: Curtis Patrick, President; Barry Nelson, Vice President; Diane Hedberg, Treasurer; Beth Thomas, Financial Secretary, and Gayle Nelson, Secretary. Council voted to discontinue mailing the annual report to members, for the purpose of saving time and cost of mailing. Pastor Amy Kay requested a week's vacation March 10-17 (spring break). Lenten services will be hosted by Elim and Marquette United Methodist Church, with Pastors Amy Kay and Brenda Hogan officiating. Smoky Valley Saddle Club asked Elim if they were interested in running both concessions for the rodeo

Worship & Music: No meeting. Gospel Sunday February 11.

Finance & Stewardship: No meeting. Diane Hedberg and Beth Thomas opened a CD account for portion of Improvement Money Market Account.

Memorial Committee: No meeting.

Christian Ed.: Pastor Amy Kay met with Diane Hedberg and Christian Ed. Committee February 1 to discuss alternative Sunday School lessons and schedule.

Evangelism/Social Ministry: No meeting.

Property/Security Committee: Barry Nelson reported that foundation repair is needed. Pending professional repairman to complete. Gutter needs repair, and Mo Nelson will tuckpoint loose bricks on outer walls of parsonage.

Next meeting to be held on Monday, March 4, 2024

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

REMINDER: The next Red Cross Bloodmobile is scheduled for **TUESDAY, April 2** from 12:00-6:00 PM at Elim Lutheran Church Parish Hall. Please come at your appointment time. **THANK YOU FOR GIVING**



BEST CHOICE LABELS

PLEASE continue to bring your Best Choice labels from the cartons and containers you purchase at Piper's or other stores offering Best Choice products throughout the year. The Christian Education Committee continues to collect them to help fund youth who are interested in attending church camp. Be sure to cut the labels with the words "Best Choice" at the top of the UPC symbol (bar code). The bar code must be included with the label. A container for collecting the labels is available in the narthex when you enter the church, or in the Parish Hall kitchen.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Lisa Christensen
- 2 Pierce Hamma
- 2 Blakely Niegsch
- 3 Acea Newton
- 6 Carri Thies
- 6 Neal Morel
- 6 Ernie Sommerfeld
- 7 Nic Morel
- 7 Taylor Russell
- 8 Lois Johnson
- 9 Justin Myers
- 10 Catalina Hernandez
- 12 Noah Lindfors
- 13 Dean Johnson
- 14 Jeri Hintz
- 14 Brian Patrick
- 15 Andrea Willems
- 15 Jeremy Snapp
- 16 Charlotte Edwards
- 16 Janet Nelson
- 19 Phil Hamilton
- 20 Gayle Phillips
- 20 Wm. Neal Nickel
- 21 Cindy Bunk
- 23 Kenzi Kaufman
- 26 Susan Buffington
- 28 Ann Hernandez

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Emery 41 years

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 Tammy Feil, Betsy Patrick, Janis Larson, KK Larson, and Vicki Young for providing meals in February.

NOISY OFFERING

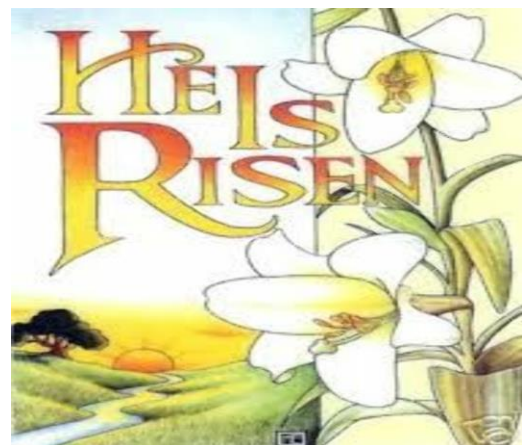
The “noisy offering” is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month when the Junior Choir sings in church. The children of Elim carry tin buckets around to every pew for church members to add their “noisy” coins.



The monies will go to the Gathering Table, a Lutheran ministry to help underprivileged families in Kansas City.

THRIVENT

Elim received \$1,186 in Thrivent Choice Dollars grant funding in 2023. If you are a Thrivent member, please direct your remaining 2023 Choice Dollars by March 31, 2024. Your dollars have helped support the Youth Group, Rodeo Concessions, and Swedish Supper throughout the year. THANK YOU!



Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1					1	2
3 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM –Worship Service w/ Communion	4	5	6 6:30 PM – Lenten Service @ Elim 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	7	8	9
10 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM – Confirmation Class 11:00 AM – Worship Service	11	12	13 6:30 PM – Lenten Service @ UMC 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	14	15	16
17 5th Sunday of Lent 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Worship Service 4:00 – Riverview Sing-along	18	19	20 6:30 PM – Lenten Service @ Elim 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	21	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM – Confirmation Class 11:00 AM –Worship Service w/ Communion	25	26	27 1:30 PM – Quilting Group 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	28	29	30
31 EASTER DAY 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM – Confirmation Class 11:00 AM –Worship Service w/ Communion	