



Elim Lutheran Church

The Messenger

DECEMBER 2025

Pastor Amy Kay Pavlovich
Cell Phone: (573) 808-1980
Email: elimmarquette@gmail.com

Gayle Nelson, Church Secretary
Church Phone: (785) 546-2244
Email: elimsec@gmail.com

Elim Lutheran Church website: www.elimmarquette.org



Friends, we are indeed insisting on hope this Advent season and beyond! Thankfully we have guidance through a series created by the talented team of clergy and artists at "A Sanctified Art". Here are a few words about the curriculum from the authors:

Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers, however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, the whispers of angels deliver a surprising message: "Do not fear." In our own time, we might ask: is it even possible to be fearless in a fearful world? When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord."

When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope? This Advent series that takes seriously the angels' message and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. It looks closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and invites us to consider the fears we hold now. This series gently invites us to identify where fear is present—both in the Advent story and in our lives—while also finding our way toward hope, with the angels' voices in our ears.

Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that's the promise of the season. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It's gritty, resilient, and can endure—no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

I hope you can come to worship during this season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Sunday to engage in this helpful, beautifully constructed series.

May we hold on to hope and if we find it difficult, may we hold on to one another to continue on.

w/love ~ Pastor Amy Kay

=====



Please keep in prayer:

Beth Thomas, Ronnie Larson, Ashton Day and baby (Lance Hulse's fiancée), Darrel Loder, Tim Killingsworth, Dee Linaweaver (friend of Gayle Nelson), Katy England (Mari Loder's sister), Barry Nelson, Janis Larson, Duane Becker, Sophia Allen, Bunny Hultgren, Glenda Julian, Deb Rush, Greg Hopp, Piper Schultze, John Hudson (nephew of Raymond and Janet Rock), Ewald Bunk, Mary Kay Lindh, Max Buffington, Ike Bauer (Dawson Feil's friend), Pastor Tim Leaf, David Ferguson, Ava Jones, Doug Schneider, Art Mayfield, Deb McGinty, Tom French, Rose Erickson, and the residents at Riverview Estates and all care

facilities. Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Deena (Fry) Winslow and Russell Rummel.

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.]**

WELCA NEWS

You are welcome to join us for a brief WELCA meeting on Sunday, December 14 at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. There will be a discussion about the balance in the WELCA account that could be used for year-end donations. Suggestions are welcome.

Even though there are no longer WELCA officers in place (except Donna Patrick as treasurer), the women of Elim will continue to serve in the following ways and welcome any suggestions for projects or outreach.

COMMITTEES:

WELCA Treasurer: Donna Patrick (785-212-1752)

Funeral Luncheon: Carylee Nelson (785-820-1838), Nancy Hopp (620-242-9102)

Riverview Songfest: Jackie Larson (785-376-1931), Pastor Amy Kay Pavlovich (573-808-1980)

Riverview Birthday Party – January through April: Cindy Bunk (629-755-6185)

Lion's Club Meals: Linda Johnson (785-826-5544), Carol Jones (785-577-5926)

LWR Quilts: Donna Patrick (785-212-1752)

Kitchen Committee: Linda Johnson (785-826-5544)

WELCA Women's Bible Study: Kelly Larson (785-212-0323)



ALL Elim members: don't forget Riverview Sing-alongs every 3rd Sunday at 4:00 PM. The next one will be **Sunday, DECEMBER 21**. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Starting in January 2026, Elim's women will be responsible for the Riverview Birthday Parties through April. Please watch for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and consider teaming up with one or more women to provide treats and conversation with the residents. They truly enjoy this, and it's great that the other two churches in town participate in this as well.

=====

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The next Women's Bible Study will be Wednesday, **December 10** at 9:30 AM in Elim's Parish Hall. We continue to invite women from our community, including our sisters at Marquette United Methodist Church, to join us. **PLEASE BRING HALF A DOZEN COOKIES TO SHARE FOR OUR CHRISTMAS GATHERING ON DECEMBER 10!**



ANNUAL MEETING

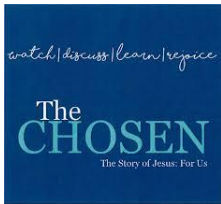
Elim's annual meeting will be held January 26, 2025. Reports from committees will be due January 15, 2025. Annual reports will not be mailed out to members this year.

VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON COUNCIL NEEDED

Elim's Nominating Committee is asking for volunteers to serve on the church council. There will be two (2) positions open in January 2026. All members are welcome to apply for a 3-year term, or a 6-year term if accepted for an additional 3 years. Contact Scott Johnson if you are interested.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Chosen Season 5



The Adult Bible Study is currently studying Season 5 of The Chosen. **Please join us Sundays at 9:45 AM in the Parish Hall.** Jerry Jenkins, author and director of The Chosen invites you into the tumultuous final days of Jesus' earthly ministry – what's become known as Holy Week. Beginning with His triumphant entry into Jerusalem astride a donkey's colt, the story covers a side of Jesus we haven't seen before: His righteous rage at the money changers in the temple.

The story delves deeply into the minds of the disciples and other close followers of Jesus, including the fear and scheming of both High Priest Caiaphas and Governor Pontius Pilate and his dream-tormented wife.

Judas's haunting betrayal looms while Jesus faces His darkest night of the soul in Gethsemane, where His surrender to His Father and then to the Romans comes at an unspeakable cost. In vivid detail and with emotional depth, this captures the heartbreak, hope, and humanity of the most pivotal week in the history of the world.

We will cover 30 minutes of each episode via a DVD each Sunday. The 3rd Sunday we will listen to a Round Table Discussion, in which a Messianic Jewish Rabbi, a Catholic Priest, and a Dr. of Protestant Theology discuss the episode and discuss the different perspectives of their faith, and the biblical and historical context.

PLEASE JOIN US! [Trust me, it's intense, enthralling, emotional, and is always meaningful. A very valuable tool for learning more about the Bible, the prophecies, the life of Jesus and his disciples, the culture of the time, and so much more. GN]

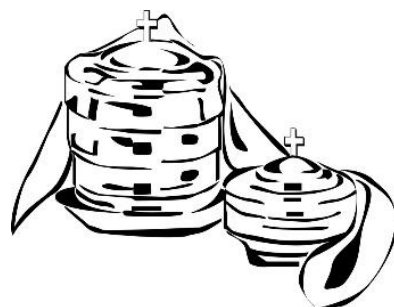
From Julie Olson, our faithful facilitator for Adult Bible Study



2026 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

01/04/26: Andi Willems & Whitney Weaver/Bread: Jayleen Sellhorn
 02/01/26: Matt & Holly Toll
 02/18/26: Craig & Jackie Larson/Bread: Jackie Larson (Ash Wednesday)
 03/01/26: Beth Thomas & Carol Jones/Bread: Carol Jones
 03/29/26: Gayle Nelson & Kayley Fleming/Bread: Gayle Nelson (Palm Sunday)
 04/02/26: LeAnn Everhart & Sandra Myers/Bread: LeAnn Everhart (Maundy Thursday)
 04/05/26: Kent & Nancy Rawson (Easter)
 05/03/26: Dana & Julie Olson/Bread: Julie Olson
 06/07/26: Mike & Cynthia Hulse/Bread: Cindy Bunk
 07/05/26: Darryl & Diane Talbott
 08/02/26: Kent & Nancy Rawson
 09/06/26: Darryl & Diane Talbott
 10/04/26: Sandy Edwards & Bernice Peterson/Bread: Sandy Edwards
 11/01/26: Brooke Olson & Pam Morel
 12/06/26: Curtis & Betsy Patrick/Bread: Betsy Patrick
 12/24/26: Craig & Jackie Larson



WHAT'S GOING ON IN SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Bible story theme in November was Noah and the Ark. On Sunday, November 2, Carol Jones played Mrs. Noah. She shared cookies and helped the children create rainbows with craft kits using yarn. Attendance in Sunday School has been great! There have been 10-12 children ages 3 to 11 joining in on the fun-filled learning. Thank you to parents and grandparents who have brought the children each week.



SERVING THE LORD IN DECEMBER

ACOLYTES

December 7 & 14: Lilly Anderson, Ty Heitschmidt
December 21, 25, 28: Haley Anderson, Ty Heitschmidt

LECTORS

December 7 Mike Hulse
December 14 Curtis Patrick
December 21 Carly Patrick
December 24 Curtis Patrick
December 25 Darren Able
December 28 Jackie Larson

GREETERS

December 7 Nancy Hopp
December 14 Barry and Carylee Nelson
December 21 Scott and Linda Johnson
December 24 ??
December 25 Matt and Diane Hedberg
December 28 Mo and Gayle Nelson

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

December 7 Curtis Patrick

COMMUNION SET-UP & CLEAN-UP/BREAD

December 7- Set-up: Curtis & Betsy Patrick
Bread: Betsy Patrick

USHER FOR DECEMBER: Barry Nelson

Offerings and Attendance last month:

November 2	\$2338.00	78
November 9*	\$1801.00	70
November 16	\$1318.00	77
November 23	\$1509.50	85
November 30	\$978.00	70

*Noisy offering: \$110.44

Monthly Financial Report

Presented to council 11/10/25

Beginning Balance as of 10/01/25:	\$	38,691.83
Revenue:	\$	9,158.07
Expenses:	\$	--8,333.91
Ending Balance as of 10/31/25:	\$	39,515.99

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

November 10, 2025

Council approved the bid from Pestinger's to replace the HVAC in the Parish Hall. There will be a congregational vote on Dec. 7 for approval from the congregation. It has been suggested to reassign the men's restroom for both genders to lessen the wait for the women's restroom. Further discussion is planned.

Worship & Music: No meeting/report.

Finance & Stewardship: No meeting.

Memorial Committee: No meeting.

Christian Ed.: Pastor Amy Kay reported 10-12 children have been attending Sunday School and that the teachers are doing a fantastic job.

Evangelism/Social Ministry: No meeting.

Property/Security Committee: Matt Toll presented the bid for the HVAC to council. The old dishwasher will be removed. No longer in use.

Next meeting to be held on Monday, December 1, 2025.

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 2025. 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.

=====

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

McPherson Community Dinners is hosting its annual FREE Christmas dinner for the public on **Wednesday, 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. Donations can be mailed to CTI, PO Box 14, McPherson, KS 67460, or go to www.facebook.com/McPhersonCommunityDinners. Use the donate button or drop the donation in the donation box at the dinner.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Carly Peterson
1	Diesel Sellhorn
2	Peter Hamma
4	Marti Bauer
5	Grant Peterson
6	Gail Lindstedt
6	Frankie Brown
7	Rusty Young
7	Susan Hamma
8	Matt Toll
8	Matthew Larson
9	Conway Patrick
10	Randy Jirak
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	22 years
28	Mr. & Mrs. Linn Nelson	35 years
31	Mr. & Mrs. Monte Loder	40 years
31	Mr. & Mrs. Jay Everhart	36 years
31	Mr. & Mrs. Kurtis Sjogren	16 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 in the Parish Hall, but please notify Carly with the date you plan to serve. **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 15-20 meals. This number may change with differing schedules.

Thank you to Carol Jones, Gayle Nelson, Roberta and Denny Jaye, Beau Boughfman, and Jeremy Snapp for providing meals in November.

Thank you to Youth Group members Kasyn French, Ilie DeBaera, Lilly Anderson and Ty Heitschmidt for acolyting in November! Bless you.

=====

CONGREGATIONAL VOTE


A congregational vote followed worship service on Sunday, December 7 to approve replacement of 2 HVAC units in the Parish Hall. Council president Curtis Patrick explained that Elim has an existing contract agreement with Pestinger's. Due to freon changes coming in 2026, it is favorable to accept the bid of \$22,066.00 before end of year. Lois Johnson moved and Carylee Nelson seconded to approve the bid for replacement of HVAC units. The motion passed.

=====



Sunday School students hard at work on their rainbow crafts. All the crafts and other projects the children work on each month relate to the theme for that month. Rainbows remind the children of God's promise after the flood.

Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7:00 PM – Church Council Mtg.	2	3 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	4	5	6
7 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:45 AM – Sunday School/Jr. Choir Practice 9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study 11:00 AM – Worship Service w/ Communion	8	9	10 9:30 AM –Women’s Bible Study 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	11	12	13
14 3rd Sunday in Advent CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 9:45 AM – Sunday School/Jr. Choir Practice 9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study 11:00 AM –Worship Service	15	16	17 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 4th Sunday in Advent CHRISTMAS CANTATA 9:45 AM – Sunday School/Jr. Choir Practice 9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study 11:00 AM –Worship Service 4:00 PM – Riverview Sing-Along	22	23	24 4:00 PM – CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE	25 CHRISTMAS 6:00 AM - Julotta	26	27
28 1st Sunday of Christmas 11:00 AM –Worship Service	29	30	31 NEW YEAR’S DAY	