



Elim Lutheran Church

The Messenger

JANUARY 2026

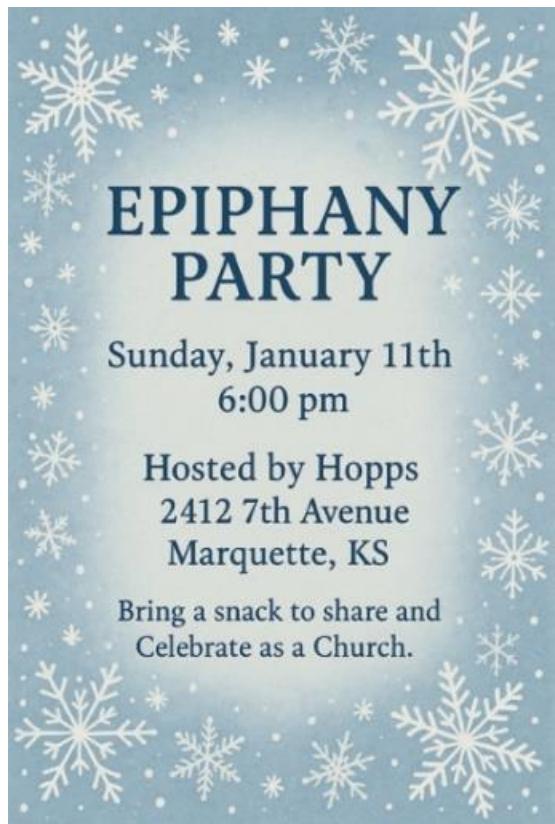
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Eureka! It's Epiphany!

What a wonderful season of Light we have before us, friends! Epiphany is the time in the church year when we celebrate the light that has come to us in the baby Jesus. It's one of my favorites because we get to focus on all the positive wonderfulness together! We will have Star Words on Epiphany Sunday (Jan 4) and many great Biblical stories throughout the entire season (Feb 15).



Culturally this is the season of getting together, eating a King's Cake and generally being merry because of the gift we've been given in Jesus.

You are most invited to come to Elim's fourth annual Epiphany Party! Nancy and Terry Hopp are kindly hosting us this year on January 11 beginning at 6pm. If possible, bring a snack to share. The King's Cake will be provided and following the long tradition of the French, a baby of sorts will be tucked into the cake. The symbol of the baby has been many things over the years including a bean, popcorn kernel, plastic baby Jesus and Polly Pocket Jesus. Whomever has the baby in his or her slice of King's Cake is the King for the day and gets to host the next Epiphany Party. Don't worry! If you are the one who finds Jesus in your slice of the King's Cake, you can choose to host it at my home. This is simply a happy evening together – no stress at all. We hope you can come!

Also on Sunday, January 11, any time between 10:30a and worship at 11a, come to the Parish Hall for a bit of mingling over warm drinks and snacks. We will celebrate new church members during worship and this is an intentional time when we can greet one another. Let's think of this as an "Introduce Yourself" mingling! Perhaps we've seen each other in worship for three years and just haven't met yet. This is the morning!

Come and introduce yourself to new friends, people you recognize and "should" know but don't and everyone else. If we are all introducing ourselves, it won't feel awkward. Special thanks to Nancy Hopp for also hosting this event for the church!

w/love ~ Pastor Amy Kay



Please keep in prayer:

Max Buffington, Beth Thomas, Art Mayfield, Mary Kay Lindh, Darrel Loder, Katy England (Mari Loder's sister), Duane Becker, Sophia Allen, Bunny Hultgren, Glenda Julian, Deb Rush, Greg Hopp, Piper Schultze, John Hudson (nephew of Raymond and Janet Rock), Pastor Tim Leaf, David Ferguson, Ava Jones, Deb McGinty, Tom French and 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.]

WELCA NEWS

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, JANUARY 18**. 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, JANUARY 14** 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.



ANNUAL MEETING

The next annual meeting for Elim Lutheran Church is Sunday, January 25, 2026 following worship service. **All members of the church are encouraged to attend.** Please turn in your committee and financial reports by January 14. We will no longer be mailing the annual reports due to mailing costs. Annual meeting reports will be available at the church starting January 18 through January 25.



COOKIE PLATES

The Women's Bible Study group met December 12 to make up plates of cookies for members of our community who are home-bound, elderly, dealing with health concerns, or in need of support and compassion. A dozen or more women meet at 9:30 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. All women of the community are welcome. The women made up 20 cookie "plates of joy" (per Kelly Larson), which included a Christmas puzzle and greeting from Women's Bible Study members. Kelly Larson facilitates the Bible study and wishes to thank all who helped bring joy to others.

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.



ELIM'S FLOAT IN CHRISTMAS PARADE

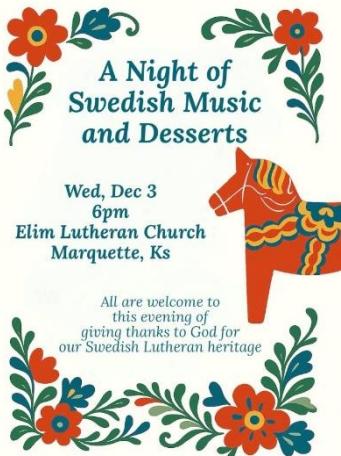
Thank you to Kelly Larson, Lars Peterson, Scott Johnson, and Tom and Cathy French for creating and assembling the float for the Marquette Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6. Dixon Johnson provided the trailer, and Patty Kolling watched the kids while Lars helped put the float together. The theme for the parade was gingerbread. The backdrop showed a gingerbread house, and the sign on the side of the float showed a gingerbread man "running" to Elim, with the words "All Are Welcome".

THE ANIMALS' CHRISTMAS

The Sunday School children presented their Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 14. All the children who participated were dressed in various animal costumes, and recited the story of Jesus' birth from the animals' point of view. It was delightful! Brook Olson, Jr. Choir director, and Jackie Larson, our star pianist/accompanist, led the children in songs. The children were allowed to choose what animal they wanted to represent. There was a varied and colorful array of animals, with 3-year-old Jacie Brady held aloft by sister Kenzie as the star over Bethlehem. Perhaps you could say she was the "star" of the show. Baby Jesus was actually a real baby! Kora Peterson slept peacefully in Mary's arms, played by Gracie Brady.



Huck Toll played Joseph. Here is the cast of animal characters: Donkey – Airalia Hulvey; Cow – Carly Patrick; Sheep 1-4 – Brin Edwards, Brett Edwards, Liam Brady, and Kinley Peterson; Leopard – Kaeler Newton; Kangaroo – Bren Peterson; Horse – Acea Newton; Buffalo – Baylor Hopp. Special thanks to Allan Lindfors for costuming, Thayne and Kent Rawson for the set, and "animal herding" by Sarah Able, Holly Toll, Kendra Hopp, and Diane Hedberg. And of course, thanks to Pastor Amy Kay for her dedication to the Sunday School children each and every Sunday.



A NIGHT OF SWEDISH MUSIC AND DESSERTS

As most of you are aware, Elim Lutheran Church is discontinuing the long-held tradition of the Swedish Supper. It is no longer feasible to continue it. So in its stead, for this year only, church members agreed to hold a night of Swedish music and desserts as a tribute to our Swedish Lutheran heritage. It was held on the first Wednesday of December at 6:00 PM. It began with a program of Swedish and Christmas songs in the church sanctuary, presented by Music Director Allan Lindfors, Sandy Edwards, Julie and Dana Olson, Brooke Olson, JoAn Lindfors, and Carly Patrick. Following the program, guests were directed to the Parish Hall for Swedish desserts and conversation. Swedish tea rings, Kringler, Ostkaka, Spritz, Ginger snaps (Pepakaka), almond, and other Swedish cookies, Swedish "trees" (which consist of baked rings of dough covered with icing), rice pudding, and rye bread were served. Thank you to the following for offering to make

Swedish treats and to help set up and serve: Nancy Hopp, Sandy Edwards, Lindsy Newton, Linda Johnson, Gayle Nelson, Carol Jones, Jackie Larson, Roberta Jaye, Diane Hedberg, JoAn Lindfors, Betty Amos Nelson, Carylee Nelson, Diane Hedberg, Susan Hamma, Vicki Young, Nancy Rawson, LeAnn Everhart, and Saundra Spohn. Approximately 90 people attended the event.

Nancy Hopp shared a comment on FB from Elly Ahlstedt Ostlind, who is a member of Bethany Lutheran Church in Lindsborg:

"The program at Elim was so great, and then we went downstairs and were simply amazed at several tables of desserts – so many we were obligated, of course, to take one of each until the plate became so full!!!! Wow, such a beautiful site, also to see all the pretty decorations. Wow, Elim, you knocked this event out of the park!!! I went home feeling so pleasantly full of these goodies! Although I missed the 80-year-old Swedish Supper, this was purely a delight – a keeper!!! Thanks to all of those at Elim Lutheran Church in Marquette, Kansas!!!!!"



Front row: Baylor Hopp, Bren Peterson, Kinley Peterson, Kaehler Newton.
 Second row: Liam Brady, Acea Newton, Brett Edwards, Airalia Hulvey, Carly Patrick (kneeling).
 Back row (in stable): Gracie Brady, baby Kora Peterson, and Huck Toll.

Some of the costumes proved a little cumbersome during the scenes that required speaking or singing. Hence, the poor buffalo had to remove his headpiece for some of it.



Pictured on the right at the back of the stable, Kenzie Brady holding Jacie Brady as the star.

SERVING THE LORD IN JANUARY

ACOLYTES

January: Lily Anderson, Olivia Peterson

LECTORS

January 4	Gayle Nelson
January 11	??
January 18	Brooke Olson
January 25	??

GREETERS

January 4	Griff Hawkinson
January 11	Zach & Sarah Able
January 18	Nancy Hopp
January 25	??

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

January 4 Darren Able

COMMUNION SET-UP & CLEAN-UP/BREAD

January 4 Set-up: Andi Willems, Whitney Weaver
Bread: Jayleen Sellhorn

USHER FOR JANUARY: Craig Larson

Offerings and Attendance last month:

December 7	\$9332.00	71
December 14*	\$1717.00	106
December 21**	\$3823.00	78
December 24***		19
December 25****	\$522.00	77
December 28	\$2,143.00	87

*Sunday School Christmas Pageant

**Christmas Cantata

***Christmas Eve (offering combined with Julotta)

****Julotta

Monthly Financial Report

Presented to council 012/01/25

Beginning Balance as of 11/01/25:	\$ 39,515.99
Revenue:	\$ 9,264.10
Expenses:	\$ -10,590.46
Ending Balance as of 11/30/25:	\$ 38,189.63

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

December 1, 2025

Council discussed the date of the annual meeting and the number of vacancies to be filled for next year's council. Two candidates will be needed. Questions were raised about the church landline (currently not working), and the feasibility of changing men's and women's bathrooms to "family". Council voted to change the bathroom designations.

Worship & Music: Christmas Cantata Dec. 21

Finance & Stewardship: No meeting.

Memorial Committee: Memorial account will pay for new electric piano selected by Jackie Larson & Allan Lindfors.

Christian Ed.: SS Christmas Pageant Dec. 14

Evangelism/Social Ministry: Kelly Larson is organizing a float to represent Elim in the Marquette Christmas parade.

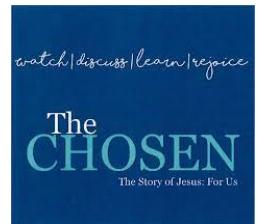
Property/Security Committee: No meeting.

Next meeting to be held on Monday, January 5, 2026.

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.



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 prophesies, the life of Jesus and his disciples, the culture of the time, and so much more. GN]

Julie Olson is our faithful facilitator for Adult Bible Study.



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
12	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. and Mrs. Frank Rock	60 years
21	Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Lindh	48 years

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

REMINDER: The next Red Cross Bloodmobile is scheduled for TUESDAY, JANUARY 27 from 12:00-6:00 PM at Elim Lutheran Church Parish Hall. Please come at your appointment time. **THANK YOU FOR GIVING!**



Additional dates scheduled for 2026: March 31, June 9, and Aug. 4.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Lance Hulse and Ashton Day on the birth of their daughter Nataleigh Katherine Hulse. Natalie was born December 22, 2025, weighing 6 lb. 13 oz. Her siblings are brother Maverick and sister Myleigh. Proud grandparents are Mike and Cynthia Hulse, and David Brewer and Lisa Brewer. Her great-grandmother is Annie Sams.

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 Tyler and Kelly French, Lou Nelson, and Vicki Young for providing meals in December.

Thank you to Youth Group members Lilly Anderson, Haley Anderson, and Ty Heitschmidt for acolyting in December! Bless you.



Elim is very fortunate to have so many members and guests providing music for our worship services. Tiffany Moss (left) sang 2 beautiful songs with Jesse Crawford accompanying her on the guitar on Sunday, December 28, 2025.

Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3
4 2 nd Sunday of Christmas EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD 9:45 AM – Sunday School/Jr. Choir Practice 9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study 11:00 AM – Worship Service w/ Communion	5 7:00 PM – Church Council Mtg.	6 Epiphany of Our Lord	7 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	8	9	10
11 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:45 AM – Sunday School/Jr. Choir Practice 9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM – Welcome to New Members 11:00 AM –Worship Service 6:00 PM – Epiphany Party	12	13	14 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 9:30 AM –Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	15	16	17
18 2 nd Sunday in Epiphany 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	19	20	21 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	22	23	24
25 3rd Sunday in Epiphany 9:45 AM – Sunday School/Jr. Choir Practice 9:45 AM – Adult Bible Study 11:00 AM –Worship Service 12:00 PM – ANNUAL MEETING	26	27	28 1:30 PM – Quilt Group 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – Youth Group 7:00 PM – Sr. Choir Practice	29	30	31