

- **Game Night August 24 6:00pm**
- **WELCA news**
- **Council news**

- **Will Our Adults Have Faith?**
- **Youth & Family**
- **Benefit for Angie Mahle Sat. Oct. 1st**

The Messenger

The Newsletter of
Elim Lutheran
Church



HERE WE GO AGAIN

It's Time To Get Going, Get Doing and Get Involved

RALLY DAY September 11

Elim's Sunday School program comes back from summer vacation on Sunday, Sept. 11 beginning at 9:00AM. Registration forms are available in the church office for any child age 3 through the 7th grade.

There are a few changes to Elim's education program this fall. First, there will now be The Loft for youth in the 8th through 12th grades. This class will be taught by Deb Westerberg and will be held in the choir loft at 9AM. Please contact Deb at debw@elimlc.com for more information.

Second, Elim is planning an Adult Bible Study on Wednesday evening as a part of Wednesday Night Live. Giff Trethewey will be leading this study.

Third, there will be a renewed

push to invite interested adults to come to the Sunday morning bible study that is held in the Fireside Room also at 9AM. This study is led by Aaron Burwell.

Finally, there has been a request to hold a weekly, mid-morning, bible study. This study would possibly be held on Tuesday mornings at 10AM starting sometime in September or October. If you would be interested in participating please contact Pastor Hagen at pastorhagen@elimlc.com.

As you can see Elim will be emphasizing "Discipleship" this fall. Discipleship involves growing the faith and knowledge of the Lord among God's faithful people. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join you at Elim starting Sept. 11 where together we can learn about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

CONFIRMATION September 21

Elim provides an opportunity for students in the 8th and 9th grades to dig deep into scripture and faith and learn what it means to confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior. These classes are voluntary.

An orientation session will be held on Wed. Sept. 21 at 6PM in the church sanctuary. At this meeting Pastor Hagen will go over what Elim's confirmation expectations are for the students. All interested parents and students are asked to attend this meeting. Classes will begin Wed. Sept. 28; 9th grade class will begin at 5PM and the 8th grade class will begin at 5:45PM.

For returning students, please make sure all your 8th grade assignments are completed prior to the start of classes on Sept. 28.



From My Perspective

Will Our Adults Have Faith

A few year ago I read an article in The Lutheran, the official publication of the ELCA, titled; "Will Our Children Have Faith?" The author was examining whether we are losing the battle of reaching out to young adults and children with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Maybe because Elim has emphasized reaching out to young adults and children I don't see this as really our question. The question that I have is whether our adults will have faith.

I have come to accept that there are always going to be Easter and Christmas Christians, you know those who come to worship on the holidays but not often else. But I am struggling to accept the idea of winter Christians. These are the many faithful members who actively participate in the church during the school year but who take the summers off or who after their last child is confirmed (graduated) become the Easter and Christmas Christians I was talking about.

This is not a criticism. It is a reflection of our reality. If we cannot see where our ministry needs to grow we cannot enter that mission field.

So the question I keep asking myself is; "What can we do about it?" There are Christian churches that are doing a much better job at building up the faith of their members than the Lutheran Church as been. Many of these churches encourage their members to participate in Small Group Ministries. In these

congregations as soon as a person becomes connected with the congregation they are invited to join a small group of four or five other families who meet weekly or monthly for prayer, bible study and fellowship. These small groups create a feeling of belonging and provide an opportunity for Christian growth and discipleship. One local church has multiple small groups meeting each day of the week. Groups with names like: Arrowhead Group, West Duluth Group, Lincoln Group, Women's Group, Mom's Group, Men's Group, Sr. High Group, Sr. High Guys, Sr. High Gals, Day Women's Group, etc. Each are lay led and meet at a time and place where it is convenient for the group. Maybe Elim should do this. What do you think? Please let me know.

Many congregations offer multiple opportunities for bible study and worship. Getting into God's Word is central to their ministry since they see God's Word providing a foundation upon which their members can raise up their families and face the chaos of their lives. Maybe Elim should do this. What do you think? Please let me know.

Discipleship means growth. Digging deeper into the faith that we profess. Elim has been blessed in our outreach efforts and these efforts will continue. But I believe it is time for us to grow-grow in our faith, grow in our knowledge of God's Word, grow in our service to the world. I believe the time has come to make disciples of all people. What do you think? Are you ready for the next step in your Christian walk?

Remember, Live Victoriously,

Pastor Jim Hagen

General Information

Sunday Worship:
10:15 a.m. Labor day - Memorial Day
9:30 a.m. Summer

Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Fall - Spring

Adult Christian Education
9:00 a.m. Fireside Room

Sunday Morning Coffee
Coffee is shared each Sunday following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer Chain
If you have a prayer need, you may call the church office and the prayer chain will be notified.

Communion Information
Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month. All who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord are welcome to come to the Lord's table to share in this meal. First communion instruction is given to those in the 5th grade.

Change of Address
Please inform the church office of a change of address as soon as possible. Thanks

directory

pastor	jim hagen
dir of youth/family	deb westerberg
office manager	tracy peterson
treasurer	karen anderson
financial manager	lorraine doherty
organist	sharon nylander
custodian	matt morgan
cong. president	giff trethewey
sr. choir director	pam jacobson
jr. choir director	jennifer osborne
dir of christian ed	sandy monson

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Web site: www.elimlc.com

Stewardship Moment

Stewardship, it's not just about the money anymore. Webster's Dictionary traces the origin of the word "steward" to the ancient Anglo Saxon mash-up of the words 'sty' and 'ward'. (Not, "it's-that-time-again", as many believe!) The "Sty Warden" eventually became the "Steward", or keeper of the estate, entrusted by the nobleman or Lord ... (see where I'm going with this?) ... to take care of all that was his. We in turn, are God's stewards. It is about tending to God's household. Using the resources at our disposal to care for the earth, it's animals, peoples, and, to some extent, this church and it's mission.

Now let's mention money, since everyone is probably waiting for that! Of course we all need to give! We operate a business, and that requires salaries, supplies, building maintenance, lights, etc, etc. That's simple . . . if we worship here, we should pay our part ... end of money discussion!

What I would really like to emphasize here, is that we as church need your time, your efforts, and your talents. In the past we have done time and talent survey's with mixed results, so let's try something different. Elim has many needs right now. Are you good at painting, cleaning, singing, reading, teaching, quilting, cooking, serving, or greeting? These are only a few of the multitude talents the church is in need of at this time. With the onset of the fall schedule and resumption of Sunday School, we need planners and committee chairs and members. We need the whole of the congregation to embrace the mission of Elim to help move it in a positive direction. So join with me and use your gifts to be God's steward! Let's use our resources for the Lord! Let's make Stewardship about "Faith Raising" not "Fund Raising"!

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 New International Version (NIV)

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

Yours In Christ,

Giff Trethewey

Special Benefit Angie

Angie's Angels of Elim Lutheran Church, a group of family and friends of Angie Mahle, will be hosting a pork loin dinner on Saturday, October 1 to benefit Angie and her family. The dinner will be held at Elim Lutheran Church from 4-7pm. Tickets are available in the church office: \$12/ adult and \$6/children (5-12 years old). Children 4 and under are free.

Angie and Jason Mahle, along with their children Brendan (3rd grade) and Emily (6th grade) are members at Elim. Angie has been battling metastatic breast cancer for quite some time, and has recently undergone surgery at the Mayo Clinic to remove a brain tumor. The goal of the dinner is to help the Mahle family in their time of need, easing the burden of their medical expenses, and also to lift them up spiritually, to know that their church family is there supporting them. Along with the dinner, there will be a silent auction, bake sale, and craft sale. That's the plus ... that everyone can become involved by purchasing a ticket, donating to the auction items, making a baked good, sharing a craft creation, or all the above! Along with this, supplemental funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans have been applied for so each dollar donated will go further.

If you have any questions or would like to be involved, please talk to Deb Westerberg, and she will direct you to the proper person.

Between the Bookends

Over the summer the Elim Library has received lots of donations. The donations will be processed when the library gets a bit cooler. The Library Committee is planning to staff the library during Sunday School time again this year, and also plans to award books to children and young adult readers four times during the year. The library is available for use whenever the church is open. Elim's Library has books for all ages and all interests. That includes cookbooks, fiction, devotionals, bible studies, and lots more. The Library also has CD's, DVD's, VHS and audio tapes. It is your library, so stop in and check something out.

WELCA News:

WELCA would like to thank everyone who worked on the Men and Children dinner and the Everyone's a Daughter luncheon. WELCA gave a gift of money to the fellowship hall chair fund in honor of Giff and Keith, our two wonderful cooks!

Upcoming WELCA Events:

Sept. 14th at 10 a.m. WELCA Board Meeting- Planning session, budget and business. All women are welcome.

Sept. 29th - 6:30 p.m. WELCA meeting - everyone invited. Rachel Circle serving refreshments. Entertainment will be pianist Sharon Gill.

Elim's Annual Fall Breakfast Bazaar

Each fall Elim hosts a Fall Breakfast Bazaar where you can find real deals on craft items, homemade jellies and jams, canned goods, quilts and household items. Unlike Elim's Rummage Sale, the Fall Bazaar does not sell clothing (including shoes) or electronics (TVs, Computers, microwaves, DVD/VCR players, etc.) This year the Fall Breakfast Bazaar will be held on Saturday, October 29 from 8AM - 1PM.

Marking and sorting for the White Elephant Room and Country Store will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 27 from 9AM until noon and continue every Tuesday until the week of the Bazaar. You are invited to come and help mark all the items that are donated.

Talking about donations- as you prepare your jellies and jams why not make a jar or two extra and donate them to the Bazaar? Or, how about starting the craft project you have been putting off and when finished donate it to the Bazaar.

If you want more information or would like to help out please contact Maureen Lundberg or Jean Graves.

WELCA Convention Report

The 24th Annual 2011 Convention Retreat was held at UMD and celebrated 24 years of Women of the ELCA. In kind response to world need:

11	Million quilts have been made and donated
4,444	Quilts to LWR
96	Sewing Kits
192	AIDS Hospice Kits
3,098	Health Kits
364	Pounds of Soap
326	Newborn Kits
310	Pounds of rolled bandages
225	Gifts to Seafarers Ministry
73	Snacks for Outreach
31	Recycled cell phones
58	Used eye glasses
6,584	miscellaneous other items
1,328	layettes
\$4,045.00	Project Comfort (LWR shipping)
\$582.15	Global Health Ministry (shipping)
155	Health Kits made at Conference

Pennies from Circles

Lake Superior Conference Penny Report	\$1,398.40 for LSS
Laurentian	\$1,537.93 for Range Women Advocate
Living Water	\$732.72 for Family Safety
Heartland	\$485.68 for Circle of Hope-Kettle River
Kettle River	\$1400.00 for Kid's Against Hunger

Convention offering

\$4,035.00 half to churchwide and half to Lutheran Campus Ministry

Convention Fund

\$2,375.00 to Augment Payment of Convention Expenses

Love Offering \$2,035.00 for Leadership team building

Sincerely,
Bernice Bullyan

Bible Study

Starting late September or early October Elim will be starting a new Bible study. It will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, after our Wednesday Night Live dinner, but before choir practice. Right now I am still trying to select which program to use. I am hoping to use a video based study on Romans, or another New Testament book. At this point, I am just trying to gauge interest so I can be sure to have enough supplies available. If you are interested, please contact Giff Trethewey either at church or via email at papagiff@charter.net.

Thanks.
Giff Trethewey

Thank you

Thank you for all the cards, gifts, hugs and good wishes extended to us as we celebrated our 50th anniversary. All of you Elim friends are special to us.

Carol and Gordy Groseth

Thank you for your gift of 1,377 pounds of food received during the past months. During 2010 we provided food to 14,000 people because of donations such as yours. Please keep those we serve in your thoughts and prayers.

Mary Schmitz
CHUM Development Director

A Reminder...

The Church Council reminds you that keeping current with your financial contributions to Elim is easy with Simply Giving. Simply Giving allows you to commit to a recurring giving schedule with an automatic deduction from your checking account. Contact Tracy in the church office for more details.

Pastoral Acts: May - July

Baptisms: Crosby Kain Onnen
Nikolai Alexei Zhukov
Ryder John Eaton

Deaths: Lorraine Bertlin
Rudy Monson
Olive Puglisi
Jack Puglisi

Welcome

Elim was blessed over the summer to welcome into membership the following people. Please be sure to extend a warm greeting to them.

Jerry Salveson
Alexei & Jodi; Nikolai Zhukov
Jennifer Fox; Cailey, Keira

But there's more...

The Membership Committee is planning a special welcome dinner for those who have inquired about becoming members of Elim. This dinner will be held sometime in September. At this dinner Elim will welcome into membership:

Rudy Monson III
Ian & Dawn Keane
Thomas & Danna Skull
Cynthia Albiston

If you or someone you know would like more information about Elim and its ministry or would like to become a member please call Pastor Hagen.

Wednesday Night Live Returns

WNL, Elim's mid-week education and inter-generational fellowship time, will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 5:30pm. The evening begins with a home cooked meal (\$3 per person/ \$7 per family) followed by activities for the children and new this year, a bible study for adults. As anyone who has come to WNL will attest, it is a lot of fun and it is open to everyone.

Choir Practice Begins Sept. 7

Elim's Choir will begin weekly practices starting Wed., Sept. 7 at 7PM. The Choir is always looking for new voices and everyone high school age and up are invited to sing in the Choir. Contact Pam Jacobson for more information.

Sunday School News!

WELCOME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY!

Our Sunday School will be "up and running" on September 11, the Sunday following Labor Day. Registration will begin at 8:45 in the Fellowship Hall, with Sunday School starting at 9:00 am. An informational letter and registration forms will be mailed to families who are currently enrolled. Forms will also be available on September 11 for new or "forgetful" members. Each child MUST have an individual registration form. All children between ages 3 (by September 1) and Grade 7 are welcome. There will also be a new Sunday morning class for kids Grade 8 and older that will be run by Deb Westerberg. We look forward to seeing everyone on Rally Day!

HELP WANTED - FUN GUARANTEED!

Additional teachers and teaching assistants are always needed to help in Elim's Sunday School program. Please contact Sandy Monson if you would care to help.

Elim's Website

Don't forget to checkout Elim's Website; www.elimlc.com, frequently. New information is posted there on a regular basis and many of the forms and schedules are available for you to download. If you have anything you would like posted on the website contact Deb in the church office and she will assist you.

Altar Guild Serves Elim's Worship Needs

Every week Elim's Altar Guild works behind the scene to make sure Elim's worship space is kept clean and ready for Sunday. They clean and arrange the altar cloths, change the paraments, check altar candles, clean and straighten the pews, set up for baptisms, etc. The Altar Guild's success is seen when worshipers don't focus on what is out of place but on the worship experience itself. Elim's Altar Guild is looking to expand and would like to invite you to join them in this important service. If you would like to be a part of this ministry please call the church office. An Altar Guild person will gladly be in touch with you.

Line Dancing Begins Sept. 7

Elim's Line Dancers will once again be kicking up their heels to the sound of "Achy, Breaky, Heart" starting Wed., Sept. 7 at 2PM in Elim's Fellowship Hall. Those participating have a lot of fun and get in a bit of exercise as well. So put on your dancing shoes and join the line.

The Salvation Army Needs Your Help

The Salvation Army is looking for donations of yarn. This last Christmas they provided 3,011 children with hats, gloves and scarves and the ladies that knit these, have run out of yarn and are in need of more so that they can start preparing for this next Christmas season. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Nancy Leslie Program Supervisor for Emergency Services at 722-7934 or if you have any donations of yarn, they can be dropped off at the Salvation Army office at 215 So. 27th Ave. W. Between the hours of 8:30am-4:30pm Monday-Friday or at the Thrift Store at 2101 W. Superior St. Between the hours of 9:00am-4:00pm Monday-Saturday.

Do You Want The Messenger E-mailed To You?

Elim is gathering a list of people who would like to receive their Messenger electronically rather than through the mail. Currently there are two ways to read the Messenger; through the mail and by going on Elim's website: www.elimlc.com. But it is possible to also get your copy by email as a PDF. If this is something you would prefer please let the office know by including your name and the email address you would like it sent to. By receiving it this way you will be opting out of having one sent to you through the mail.

Third Graders to Receive Bibles

Each year Elim provides an opportunity for the parents of third graders to fulfill one of the promises they made at their child's baptism by presenting them with the bible. If you have a child in the third grade you are invited to stop by the church office to personalize your child's bible by writing something to your child in the bible. A special service where you will be able to present the bible to your third grader is being planned for Sunday, Sept. 25 during worship.

Roof Loan Paid Off

To help cover the cost of insulating and reshingling the church roof the congregation agreed to take out a loan from the Rask Estate with the understanding that the money would be paid back when possible. Over the past couple of years a portion of the loan had been repaid but \$17,040.00 remained. In August Elim's commitment to paying off its Roof Loan was satisfied through a generous gift. Elim would like to thank everyone who contributed toward retiring this loan.

New Fellowship Hall Chairs Could Be Here Soon

For that past few months efforts have been made to replace the old blue chairs in the Fellowship Hall with new ones. The new chairs will cost about \$14,000, half of which needs to be raised through fund raising and the other half will come from the Rask Estate 50/50 fund. The chairs are close to being a reality. Elim has only to

raise another \$2000 before the chairs can be ordered. If you would like to help please designate your gift toward Elim's Chair Fund. Thank you.

Pastor Hagen's Miracle Challenge

In June Pastor Hagen challenged the congregation to participate in a miracle. He had a vision where those who could afford it would join him in raising \$25,000 over and above their regular offerings to the ministry of Elim. This money would be used to soften the challenging times of the year when the church's giving is at its lowest and its expenses are at their highest. Pastor Hagen recognized the impossibility of the challenge; with the uncertain economy and with so many people out of work, but therein lies the miracle.

Each summer Pastor Hagen has had to write a letter to the membership of Elim asking for their generosity in helping meet its financial commitments. Instead of this recurring pattern, Pastor Hagen envisioned Elim having an undesignated line item in its savings account that could, with Council approval, be used to pay back the \$6,815 Elim borrowed from the Emergency Fund and the remainder used to offset the shortfalls that naturally happen in the summer and mid-winter months. As people return from summer vacations and offerings increase this fund would be replenished. So far \$5,590 has been raised. This money has been used to keep Elim up to date on its bills through the waning weeks of summer. The challenge is working!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this miracle already. If you have not yet caught the vision please pray about it. Pastor Hagen realizes that not everyone is able to give any extra right now but others are able. If that is you and if you would like to join him in this effort, then please consider contributing to "Pastor Hagen's Miracle Challenge." Thank you.

REMEMBER!

Elim switches back to its winter worship hours on Sunday Sept. 11. Sunday School starts at 9AM with worship following at 10:15.

Elim Lutheran Church
6101 Cody Street
Duluth, MN 55807

Office Hours 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 12:00 noon on Friday

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“...a caring family that reaches out with God’s love for all.”