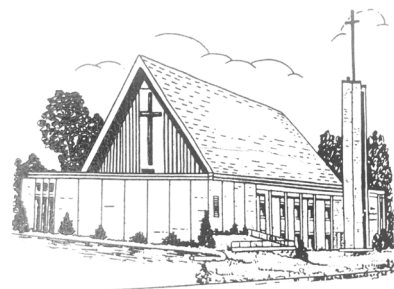


SUMMER 2022

THE MESSENGER

Summary of What's Happening At Elim Lutheran Church



MISSION AND MINISTRY ON A SHOESTRING

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

(Jeremiah 29:11)

Elim has been blessed for many years with high quality staff. I have heard over and over what high regard you have for the staff, especially for Deb and Sam. Both are talented and highly skilled in their areas of expertise. However, the reality of this pandemic is that we simply no longer have a church size which can support multiple staff members. Frankly, we are struggling to support even a just a full-time pastor, much less also support a full-time Children, Youth, and Family director. We have some very hard choices to make, choices no one wants to make. That's the difficult place we find ourselves. I had hoped that we would have longer before we had to face this dire fiscal situation, but we simply cannot avoid it any longer.

So, what do we do? While I can't answer that question for you, I can give you some principles, based on our faith, to guide us.

No one is to blame I know that I can feel very satisfying to place blame for trouble on someone else. It helps us feel righteous and that we are not responsible for the mess. But it does not help, and actually hurts our chances of finding good solutions. So, please, don't play the blame game. *"Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up."* (1 Corinthians 8:1) Let's build up.

Grace We all have tried for a year to bring Elim back by fully funding staff. We all tried our best –

members with offerings, and staff with quality worship, services, and programing, but the reality is there is not enough reliable funds to make the current staffing sustainable over time.

Numbers God does not judge us on our numbers, and we shouldn't either. Never should have. Not in worship, not in Sunday School, not in membership, not in Youth Group. God asks us to be faithful not successful. Vital, mission-minded churches come in all sizes. What we are asked to measure our success by is our compassion for others. *"Love one another, as I have loved you."* (John 15:12)

Good Courage We have hard decisions to make, none of them are what any of us wants. They are all bad, but we have to have the courage to see where Elim is now, and make those hard choices, knowing God never abandons us.

All good things come to an end. In many ways, we are living through Good Friday. This feels like death, which is always sad and painful. Everything has a life-span. Everything lives, and everything dies.

"We have a God who knows the way out of the grave." (G. K. Chesterton) Easter will always come. We may, or may not, live to see it. Nonetheless, God's will for us is always new life.

The Church is the People While we draw breath, we are called upon to love God and neighbor. It is never about a building or a staff member or a program, but about living out our baptismal promise. We may grieve change, but we are nonetheless called to be "little Christs" in the world. *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to*

you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

As we move into these uncertain times, we remember that God has promised never to abandon us. Change is a reality of life. On May 26th we celebrate the Ascension, the day Jesus returned to the right hand of God. Jesus' promise to his disciples, then and now is –

"Lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

And so, we pray -

***O Lord God,
who has called us your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see
the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
and through perils unknown:
Give us faith to go out
with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand
is leading us
and your love supporting us.
AMEN***



***In Christ,
Pastor Judy***

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE UPDATES & NEWS

The Elim Lutheran Church Council
is calling for a

special CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

following worship (approximately 10:30)
to make decisions regarding finances and staffing

Handouts from the May 15 meeting
are available in the church office

*All Elim members are encouraged
to attend this very important meeting*

MANY THANKS

Thank you to **Rob Culpepper** for his years as service as
Elim's financial secretary. Well done, good and faithful
servant!

We welcome **Giff Trethewey** as new financial secretary.
Thank you for your willingness to serve!

We also thank **TJ Jones** for his 7 years of being Elim's
custodian. TJ shared his resignation with the church and
his last work day was May 20.

Thank you to **Dray Morrow** for volunteering to help with
cleaning the church.

HELP NEEDED

As the summer season approaches, volunteers will be
need to help care for the lawn (mowing and trimming) as
we are without a custodian. If you would like to assist for
caring for the church in this way, please contact Rick
Jacobson or Craig Ploetz.

*Thank you To Elim's Cub Scouts for helping to clean
up ladybugs in the sanctuary*



BETWEEN THE BOOK ENDS

Thank you to all who have donated
books to the church library during
these last 2 COVID years. We have
now sorted through them and have
processed 142 new books that are
now on the shelves!! Because of

our limited shelf space and some duplicates we have not
been able to use all of the donated books. We have
placed these "extras" on the tables in the narthex for
you to take. They are free. Take as many as you like. (If
you wish to make a donation to the Elim Library for us to
purchase new, current books, that would be good.) The
books that are left upstairs will be given to the Duluth
Public Library for their annual book sale.

TRANSITION TEAM

Thank you to all who have participated in our "Dreaming
the Future" event on May 1. The Transition Team hopes
to have a report ready for the Church Council by early
June, which will be shared with the congregation soon
thereafter.

Members of the Transition Team are – Jen Osborne, Pam
Jacobson, Giff Trethewey, Hannah Gottschald, and
Pastor Judy.

ZION LUTHERAN'S NEW WINE MINISTRY



PRESENTS...



New Wine is a Christian youth
musical/drama ministry of Zion Lutheran
Church in Cloquet, Minnesota

BRIGHT STAR
JUNE 2ND 7:00PM
ELIM LUTHERAN
CHURCH
6101 CODY ST, DULUTH
PLEASE JOIN US!
FREE WILL OFFERING

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH TEAM

The first meeting of this team was on April 10, 2022. There were four people in attendance in addition to Pastor Judy.

We would love to have more people come and be involved in this team. The May meeting will be Sunday, May 22nd following worship. The June meeting is planned for June 19th.

At this time, the committee will be focusing on three projects:

- **Safe Haven women's shelter.** Ruth called and got a list of needed items. The greatest need is general toiletries and bras and underwear. They do need new items if possible.
- **Seafarers Mission.**
- **Food Shelf.** The need for food in our community is still a large reality. Beginning in May, the 2nd Sunday of the month will be food shelf Sunday- any donations of cash or food will be welcomed.

SEAFARERS DONATIONS

Evangelism and Outreach Committee will be collecting items for Ditty Bags for Seafarers Center in the month of June.

Items needed:

- Knit hat
- Knit scarf or neck warmer
- Full size bottle of shampoo and/or body wash
- Full size can of shaving cream
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Disposable razor or two
- Deodorant
- Deck of cards
- Notepad and pen/pencil
- Something fun, like candy or other special item

There will be a box in the narthex for you to place any items you want to donate. **(All items must be new.)**

The Seafarers Center is an ecumenical ministry of hospitality for seafarers visiting the Twin Ports of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin. The Seafarers Center has served seafarers for more than 50 years. We exist because of the support of church bodies and congregations along with individuals and port businesses who are concerned about the wellbeing of those who have chosen the seas as their livelihood.



SOCK DONATIONS

Elim Youth as a part of the Synod Journey this summer will be collecting SOCKS to donate to the organizations they will be working with. Many of these organizations provide services to individuals who are homeless or in need of basic supplies. Looking for new cotton or

thermal socks in adult sizes. Please bring the socks to Elim before July 17—there is a box in the narthex where they can be placed

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE HENDRICKSONS

The Hendrickson Family was displaced from their home in January 2022 after it flooded. After all these long months, I they will move back into their home in June!

As previously shared, they will need to replace some items that were destroyed. Might you be able to help with any of these needs?

Dressers (4)
Recliner type chair
Desk for kids to do homework
Bookshelves (2)
Lamps
End Tables
TV Stand

If you have any of these items, please call the church office and you'll be connected with Lisa.

A note from Lisa: I want to thank everyone from everything everyone has done. We have been humbled with the outpouring of love and support from my Elim Church family.
- Lisa Hendrickson

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

How might we live out our call to love and serve others in our community? Here is one way! The Proctor and Hermantown Elementary schools are currently looking for Reading Pals. Reading pals meet with students for one hour once a week to read together. What would it look like if a small group from Elim would volunteer to help our community's schools? If you're interested, talk to a couple of friends and sign up together! They will be meeting this summer so don't let the looming end of the school year stop you.

Reading Pal Requirements – must be 18 and older and clear a background check. To volunteer for Reading Pals, contact the program coordinators: Josalyn Olson at Bay View Elementary, 218-628-6293 or jolson2@proctor.k12.mn.us, or Drew Jensen at Hermantown Elementary, 218-626-6029 or djensen@isd700.org.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

TRUCE IN WORSHIP WARS

For years, Elim had used a more traditional worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and a more praise-type worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. I have heard, however, that those who liked traditional did not come on praise Sundays. And I have heard that people who liked praise did not come on traditional Sundays.

Truthfully, this is harmful to the Body of Christ, and to the well-being of Elim. The congregation is really not large enough anymore to support two separate congregations. So, between Sam and myself, we have been attempting a “blended” worship. That means, on a typical Sunday, we will sing at least one more traditional hymn (an “oldie”) and at least one more contemporary song, a praise

song. And then one other, of either type. Which means one of two things – either a) there will be something in each service everyone likes; or b) there will be something in each service everyone hates. It all depends on whether you are a glass half full, or glass half empty kind of person. I would encourage you, in the Spirit of Christ, to try to enjoy both types of music. Sam is a gifted musician and can play all types of music well. However, he would always welcome other instrumentalists to join him.

We also both believe that “God is making all things new.” In that Spirit, we will often be introducing new hymns, many from other parts of the world, and written in the past 10-15 years. Remember, that all hymns were once “new.” We ask only that

you keep an open mind, and give them a try. Sam does a wonderful job of teaching new music, and helping the congregation learn to sing it.

Also, during the summer months, if you come for the prelude (about 9:20 am), we will be asking members to pick their favorite hymns prior to the start of worship. So, if you have really been hankering to sing “Amazing Grace” or any other hymn, come early and shout it out. Sam will use two verses of 3-4 songs each week.

Please be kind about music. We try very hard to make the worship service a unified whole of Scripture, sermon, music, and prayer. We come to be in the presence of God and one another, building each other up in our faith.

WORSHIP VIA ZOOM IS STILL AVAILABLE!

Zoom Worship will be available through at least June, based on staffing availability. Due to anticipated staffing changes, volunteers will be needed to be trained in order to continue offering Zoom. If you are interested in continuing this ministry, please contact Deb Westerberg for training.

Would you prefer to worship from home? Are you away from home for the weekend? Would you like to invite friends and family outside the area to join Elim’s worship? Worship will continue to be held on Zoom on Sunday Mornings! The live service will be shared via Zoom so you will be able to worship alongside those who are in-person. This link works for all services at Elim.

To login: Use the Zoom app on your phone/tablet or go to www.zoom.us on your computer.
Enter Meeting ID: 301 074 408

Or call in (312) 626-6799 (audio only; long distance rates apply) Enter Meeting ID: 301 074 408

ELIM CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Trevor Esson has resigned from Church Council.

Thank you, Trevor, for your years of service to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ at Elim Lutheran Church.

Craig Ploetz – President

Darla Pappas – Vice President

Lisa Haglin – Secretary

John Strongitharm – Treasurer (appointed)

Maureen Lundberg

Tom Nikkola

Amy Richard

Mariah Johnson

Clint Johnson

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Memorial Day Weekend—Labor Day Weekend

9:30AM

UPDATE CONTACT INFO

Have you moved? Not receiving emails? Please make sure the church office has your current contact information. Call the church office or email deb@elimlc.com.

ELIM NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Fall, 2022 – All submissions due by Aug. 14th
Winter, 2022 – All submissions due by Nov. 13th

elim youth & family

CONGRATULATIONS TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

We wish the follow Elim students congratulations as they complete their high school education. Continued prayers and blessings surrounding them !

Syrena Richard
Jessica Martinelli
Becca Hendrickson
Annabelle Soderberg
Brooke Thompson
Aliyah Bartling
Sydney Haedrich
Shane Redenbaugh

PRAYERS FOR SYNOD JOURNEY

Please hold in prayer those that are attending the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Journey July 21-24:

Bella D, Xander, H, Jaydon H, Eddie P, and adult leaders Darla P and Deb.

They have spent this past school year meeting monthly for bible studies and getting ready. During the time of the Synod Journey they will have the opportunity to gather with other high school students from Northeastern Minnesota for a time of growing in faith, serving the Duluth-Superior area, learning from ministry partners, play, reconnecting, worshipping, and having a great time!



SUMMER CAMP

Registration has opened for Camp Vermilion and Camp Hiawatha if you're looking to head to camp this summer! There are opportunities for all ages

from K-12th grade, plus special things like Hockey Camp and Family Camp. Be sure to visit www.vlmcamps.org for more information. (P.S. Elim is a member congregation)

SUMMER JOB

Are you a young adult (2022 graduate and older) looking for a summer job? Camp is hiring! Counselor positions, kitchen, maintenance... lots of options! Working at camp is an amazing experience—you learn a ton about yourself, you live in community with other young adults, you make a difference in the lives of the campers, you experience God in new ways, and you get to live at camp! If you'd like to explore what it means to work at camp, contact Joel at VLM: 218-780-2069.



CAMP!



A group from Elim helped get Camp Vermilion for the Summer season. they got the whole outside of the cabin Elim sponsors painted, spruced up a directional sign with some fresh paint, and swept/ vacuumed the inside of the cabin in 3 hours!! So proud of their eager helpfulness, their encouragement of one another, and the work they did!

Did you know that Voyageurs Lutheran Ministries (VLM) are owned by more than 80 congregations and that Elim is one of those congregations? The camps offer time and space where kids (and adults!) can explore faith in the outdoors and where all people are welcomed as a neighbor. This is one way Elim reaches beyond our walls to share the love of Christ!

ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

6101 CODY STREET
DULUTH, MN 55807

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Duluth, MN



OFFICE HOURS

During the summer, office hours will vary based on schedules, vacations, and tending to ministry elsewhere.

(Office will be closed the week of June 13)

The office is closed on Mondays for the staff's regular day off

Contact Us

Elim Lutheran Church

6101 Cody Street
Duluth, MN 55807
(218) 624-2690

PASTOR JUDY ANDERSON-BAUER:
j.andersonbauer@gmail.com

DEB WESTERBERG, YOUTH & FAMILY:
debw@elimlc.com

SAM BLACK, MUSIC DIRECTOR:
Cooltune7@gmail.com



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