

FEBRUARY 2022

# THE MESSENGER

Summary of What's Happening At Elim Lutheran Church



## SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FOR LENT . . . AND BEYOND

I hate exercising. I really, really do. I would much rather read a book or knit than take a walk. But, I know it's good for me. And I know I feel better when I do. So, I push myself away from my latest book, put down my latest knitting project and get my butt out the door. And I'm almost always glad I did. Exercising my physical body is important to maintaining my physical health.

In order for us to maintain our spiritual health, we also do the work. My muscle strength and heart health don't get stronger just because I wish they would. It takes work. Our spiritual health also takes work, to stretch and engage our faith, so we continue to grow into maturity in Christ.

At our annual meeting, I challenged the members of our church to commit themselves, between now and Easter, to three spiritual disciplines –

1. **Daily prayer** - I am asking you to commit yourselves to praying every day, for family and friends, of course, but also for Elim Lutheran Church. Remember that the Church is not the building but the people. Pray for the Church – the people - of Elim. (I have prayed for Elim every night before I go to sleep since I started here.) Set a time and place that are best for you. And then do it every day.

2. **Daily Bible Reading** – Get out your Bible and read a little every day. It doesn't have to be a lot; just a few verses. Maybe start with one of the Gospels, like Luke since that's

what we're reading for worship this year. Get into the habit of reading God's Word each day.

3. **Weekly worship** - I know we all have busy lives, but I am calling you to prioritize being in worship, either in person or via Zoom, every week, understanding that there will be times you have to miss.

Now, maybe you already do all three of these things. If so, well done, good and faithful servant. Keep it up. If not, this is an important time to get started. Elim needs you to be in good spiritual health as we move through this transition.

During the 40 days of Lent, we are asked to re-commit ourselves to our faith. If Christ means anything to us, then strengthening our faith through these simple disciplines is a way of remembering whose we are. We belong to God.

Let me know how you're doing with these. As your pastor, I want to help you engage your spiritual muscles. Let me know how I can help you grow and mature in your faith.

Peace,

**Pastor Judy**



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# WORSHIP & MUSIC



## MUSIC NOTES FROM SAM

As most of you are learning, music in the history of the

Christian Church is hugely important over the past 65 years of my life. So it goes. Hymnbooks are just slightly less important than the Bible. That's because the Bible was created by thousands of different people between 1700 B.C.E. and 350 C.E. The Jewish and Christian writers of the past 1800 years have built on the structures of the past, and continue to create new approaches to praising our GOD, YHVH, and praising the work that Jesus asks us to fulfill.

I am fascinated by the poets and musicians that have affected my life

for many decades now. I hope I can get you excited, too. Our sense of faithfulness is multicultural, and it has been a treat for me to watch the constant inclusion of poetry and music from cultures around the world who celebrate the sense of justice and righteousness that is the center of our religious understanding.

I will continue to share a wide variety of music in teamwork with Pastor Judy, and all who want to sing special music are encouraged to talk with me, so we can add to the variety of music at Elim. As I've written before, we celebrate the GOD who creates all things new. At this point, our current choir rehearses each Wednesday evening between 7 and 8:15 pm. You are most welcome to come share music with us.

At the same time, explore our new Evangelical Lutheran Worship

hymnal, jot down the songs you want to sing, jot down songs that have captivating poetry to you, and let's get to know this hymnal as quickly as we can. The variety is huge, and a more recent hymnbook, *All Creation Sings*, is the newest Lutheran anthology that Pastor Judy and I are dipping into as well.

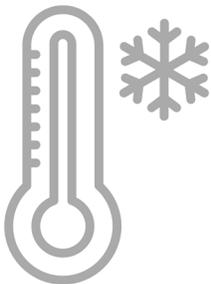
Ask questions, make suggestions. Let me know what music moves you the most and we'll include it in Sunday and other services. I am happy to be making music with the Elim congregation, and your input is always welcome on slips of paper, email, or phone or text messages. Let's keep music in transition at Elim for the next couple of years at least. Thanks for singing with me.

**Sam Black, Elim Music Director**

## WORSHIP VIA ZOOM IS STILL AVAILABLE!

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 login works for all services at Elim (Sunday, Lenten Services, and Holy Week)

Please contact the church office if you would like the codes. (We don't publish them on the website in order to protect ourselves from "Zoom Bombers".)



## FOUL WEATHER POLICY

In-person worship will be cancelled, and be only available on Zoom if air temperature is colder than -30F and/or MNDOT is advising NO TRAVEL

If you are unsure if there will be in-person worship, you can call: (218) 461-8207 or visit Elim's Facebook Page.

## ELIM NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Summer, 2022 – All submissions due by May 15th

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

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

Please submit items by the deadline to [debw@elimlc.com](mailto:debw@elimlc.com)

## 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](mailto:deb@elimlc.com).

## ELIM CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Craig Ploetz – President

Darla Pappas – Vice President

Lisa Haglin – Secretary

John Strongitharm – Treasurer (appointed)

Maureen Lundberg

Tom Nikkola

Amy Richard

Trevor Esson

Mariah Johnson

Clint Johnson

# LENT & HOLY WEEK

## Blessing the Dust

(for Ash Wednesday)

By Jan Richardson from "Circle of Grace"



All those days  
you felt like dust,  
like dirt,  
as if all you had to do  
was turn your face  
toward the wind  
and be scattered  
to the four corners

or swept away  
by the smallest breath  
as insubstantial –

did you not know  
what the Holy One  
can do with dust?

This is the day  
we freely say  
we are scorched.

This is the hour  
we are marked  
by what has made it  
through the burning.

This is the moment  
we ask for the blessing  
that lives within  
the ancient ashes,  
that makes its home  
inside the soil of  
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked  
not for sorrow.  
And let us be marked  
not for shame.  
Let us be marked  
not for false humility  
or for thinking  
we are less  
than we are

but for claiming  
what God can do  
within the dust,  
within the dirt,  
within the stuff  
of which the world  
is made  
and the stars that blaze  
in our bones  
and the galaxies that spiral  
inside the smudge  
we bear.

## LENT

**"The Prophet Jonah"** How is this unlikely prophet also a story for Lent? Come to our weekly Lenten services and find out. You could also read Jonah in your daily Bible reading, since it's only four chapters long. ("Psst – it's really not about the whale!")

**March 2, Ash Wednesday** – short ½ hour service at Noon. Imposition of ashes, a short service of repentance, and the first installment of our reading from Jonah – "God is Calling". (In sanctuary and via Zoom)

**ALSO** - Imposition of Ashes only at 6:15-6:45 pm– in parking lot (drive-by) and in sanctuary. (Both available. No Zoom.)

## WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Services are at 6:15 pm both in sanctuary and via Zoom.

We will use Holden Evening Prayer, and our scripture will focus on the book of Jonah.

**March 9** – "Saved in the Storm"

**March 16** – "Praying in the Belly of the Great, Big Fish"

**March 23** – "God of Second Chances"

**March 30** – "Turn Around"

**April 6** – "God is God of All"

## HOLY WEEK

**Palm /Passion Sunday, April 10** - Join us for this entry into Holy Week, with palms, hymns, and lots of special music. 10:15 both in the sanctuary and by Zoom.

**Maundy Thursday, April 14** – 6:15 pm in the sanctuary and by Zoom. Service of Holy Communion – "With Jesus."

**Good Friday, April 15** – 6:15 pm in the sanctuary and Zoom. "Tenebrae" – a Service of Darkness, as we remember Jesus' crucifixion and death.

**Easter Sunday, April 17** – 10:15 am in the sanctuary and via Zoom. Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, with brass, choir, communion, prayer, and Scripture.

**Reservations required!** Call (218) 461-8207 and leave a message with your name and number in your party.

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (CONFIRMATION)

Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday after Easter, 10:15 am, we will confirm three of our young people in their faith. Please come and support them as they make their promises before God and the Church.

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE UPDATES & NEWS

## FIXING UP ELIM

There are a number of plans underway to improve the Elim Building -



1. Toilets - We have a matching fund to replace the toilets on the upper level. \$600 has been donated, and we are looking for another \$600 to complete the project.



2. LED lights - We have another donation of materials to replace the fluorescent lights in the lower level classrooms with energy efficient LED's.

If you want to help in fixing some of the church property, you can join the property committee. Contact Pastor Judy for more information

## TRANSITION TEAM

The Transition Team has started meeting, and will soon be looking for your thoughts about the future of the mission and ministry of Elim. By examining the past and present, we will begin to think about what kind of future Elim might have.

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



## LIBRARY

During the last year, the church library has been "gifted" with MANY boxes of books. Help is needed to sort through them to see which ones would be appropriate for our library, get them entered into our system, and put on the shelves. If you are willing to come for a few mornings to help, please give Carol Groseth a call at 624-1365.

## DEEPLY ROOTED DISCUSSION GROUP

Join others in a small group for a time of discussion and exploring God's Word. The group will meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 6:30pm. If you would like to be on the contact list for this group, please let Deb know. The group will decide whether to meet on Zoom or in-person.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to my Elim Family!

I would like to extend and offer many thanks for all of Elim's prayers, support and love. From all the prayers you sent for my recovery from Covid to sending food and gift cards to my house while I was in the hospital; it is very appreciated. Also getting phone calls from Pastor Judy and being able to be praying with her on the phone. And Deb being my parent proxy for Syrena's Senior Night for her DHS soccer game. Including Christmas blessings from the Rachel Circle and the Love Tree, we would really express our many, many thanks!

**Amy Richard and Family**

## THANK YOU

*May the LORD now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this. 2 Samuel 2:6*

My family and I would like to thank everyone who has helped us out over the past month.

On Jan 19th, there was a small kitchen fire in the kitchen above my apartment. The fire itself was small, however, it was large enough that it set off the sprinkler system. At approximately 4:30am our family was woken up by the fire alarm. As we were putting on our shoes, I noticed water pouring through the ceilings. The kids and I and our cat went out to the car (it was extremely cold) and waited.

Deb noticed my Facebook post and told me to come to Elim where it was warm and wait there until we were notified about what they would do.

Becca and I ran in our apartment before we went to the church to grab a few things such as our medication, etc. My apartment was a mess. There was about 4 inches of standing water in my kitchen and everything was very wet.

The kids and I and our cat have been staying at a hotel since then.

There was a tremendous amount of damage to my apartment. All the walls, electrical, ceilings, and floors have been damaged.

I was there on Friday, Feb 11, and they are still drying it out. Until everything is dry, they cannot start the rebuild. This leaves us staying at the hotel much longer than what I had hoped. Although, I am grateful they are taking the time to fix everything correctly.

I have been humbled by all the support my Elim family has given to our family. To say "Thank you" just doesn't seem like enough. I cannot even begin to express how grateful we are to everyone. From everyone praying for us, people who have offered to bring us meals or donate money to buy meals, to just so many things. I feel connected to everyone and not so alone. We are all very grateful for each and every one of you.

Love and prayers,

**Lisa, Becca, Sophia, and Jaydon Hendrickson**

*\*The Hendrickson Family will need help replacing numerous items that were lost due to the flooding. Maybe you have something that it is in new to slightly used condition to give them?*

*Items they will need include: couch, recliner, desk, full-size mattress, 2-twin size mattresses, twin size bedframe, dressers, kitchen chairs, bedding: bed sheets, quilts, and blankets for twin and full size*

*They are not in a position to accept items quite yet but if you have something they might be able to use, contact Deb Westerberg (debw@elimc.com; church: 624-2690; cell: 218-213-5170) and arrangements will be made when they are able to move back into their apartment.*

# elim youth & family



## FAMILY OVERNIGHT

Spend some time at Camp Vermilion May 13-14! Is a great opportunity to introduce to checkout the camp if it's your first time, or to go back to a special place if you've been at camp before! Join us Friday night at Camp Vermilion for dinner at 6:30 with games, campfire,

and fellowship in the evening. After breakfast on Saturday, explore the camps on your own or join in on Work Day as we get our camps ready for the summer.

This event is free if you help with Work Day. \$50 per family if you are unable to stay for Work Day. Please let Deb know by May 1 if you would like to attend!

## TELL ME A STORY



On these cold, wintry Sunday mornings, curl up with a blanket and stay in your jammies for Tell Me A Story! Each Sunday from 9:15-9:40, join other families on Zoom to hear a story read by a friend from Elim, maybe do a fun activity, pray for one another, and share a blessing!

Meeting ID: 88076265219

(This will be our Sunday School option for these wintry months - can't wait to see you on Zoom!)

Would you like to be a guest to read a story? Contact Deb. No worries if you don't know what to read - we've got options for you!

## SYNOD JOURNEY-HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Due to COVID, the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering is cancelled this summer.

HOWEVER, the Northeastern Minnesota Synod's Synod Journey will still be happening! Due to these changes, the registration period has opened up again. If you had concerned going on the Synod Journey and Youth Gathering but couldn't for whatever reason, there's time to consider it again! July 21-24. Stay at University of Wisconsin Superior. It will be a time of connecting with other youth from around Northeastern Minnesota, serving in our community, and youth-led worships. It will be meaningful. It will be fun.

If you are interested, please talk to Deb to sign up. Registration deadline is March 1.

The Synod Journey Group meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.



## 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](http://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.

## CARDIA DEO: HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

Cardia Deo on March 5, 2022 at Camp Onomia in Onamia, MN for those in Grades: 9-12. Elim 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to this one-day Cardia Deo retreat! It's an opportunity to bring together senior high youth and adults from Elim and we get to join with others from across our synod to grow in faith and build new friendships. The highlight of this event is the small groups led by the LYO Leadership Initiative and college interns where we talk about life and faith in real ways. We are Called, Gathered, Equipped, and Sent to share the Heart of God (Cardia Deo) in the world. This year we focus on what it means to be Called into the boundless love of God.

If you would like to attend, please register with Deb ASAP! Contact Deb at [debw@elimlc.org](mailto:debw@elimlc.org) or 218.213.5170 for info on how to register.

**7th-12th Grade YOUTH GROUP-  
2nd Wednesday of the month at  
6:30pm at Elim**

**ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

6101 CODY STREET  
DULUTH, MN 55807

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**OFFICE HOURS**

Both Pastor Judy and Deb are usually in the church office  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings,  
from 9:30-noon, (and by appointment)  
unless they are tending to Elim's ministry elsewhere.

**Contact Us**

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On the web at  
[www.elimlc.com](http://www.elimlc.com)



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