



The

# Grapevine

February, 2023



## **Elim's Mission Statement**

*"With faith in the Triune God, the family of Elim Lutheran Church proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments. In our life together as a Christian congregation, we provide a center for members and community to worship and pray; to meet and learn; to be welcomed, nourished, and strengthened; to rest and be comforted; to serve; and to go forth and witness to the world through the prayerful stewardship of our resources."*



Blessings Elim Family,

As I write today, it is before our Annual Meeting. It is impossible to tell what will happen on January 29. Please remember, whatever happens, God will be with us as we move forward with any decision that we make.

Lent is on our doorstep. This year, our theme for Lent is "Peace and Prayer." We will be looking at and praying for the many places and people in our world that are in the midst of situations requiring peace. Once again, we are incorporating our Midweek Lenten services with our Sunday worship at 10:00 in the morning. **There will be no midweek services.**

Below is the schedule for Lenten worship:

Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 with Communion and the Imposition of Ashes  
Sunday, February 26 – Sunday Lenten Service  
Sunday, March 5 – Sunday Lenten Service  
Sunday, March 12 - Sunday Lenten Service  
Sunday, March 19 - Sunday Lenten Service  
Sunday, March 26 - Sunday Lenten Service  
Sunday, April 2 – Palm/Passion Sunday  
Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30  
Friday, April 7 – Good Friday Worship at 6:30  
Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday celebration and Worship at 10:00

During Lent, we will be doing outreach by donating to the Emergency Food Pantry, focusing on personal care items. If you have not thought of it before, you can go to the Dollar Store on 13th and purchase all items for \$1.25 each. You can spend very little and come out with bags of personal items for those in need.

It is my hope that we can learn something regarding the power of prayer, through our personal conversations with God. And through our prayers for peace, may peace be restored in this hurting world - as God wishes.

Always in Christ,  
*Pastor Caroline*



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**January Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

Meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

**Present:** Pastor Caroline, Curt Meyer, John Lindstrom, Abby d'Eustachio, Jennifer Rheault, Kerri Spiering, Karen Lind

**Absent:**

**Call to Order:** Open Prayer and Devotions at 6:05 p.m.  
Karen provided a prayer.

**Minutes:**

Pastor Caroline moves to accept the minutes from December. Curt seconds. Motion carries.

**Committee Reports:**

Treasurer's Report

Abby moves to approve Treasurer's Report, Jennifer seconds. Motion carries.

Learning Committee: No report

Worship & Music Committee

Choir will resume in February, Will sing February 19 in church, with practice before.

Robyn will have 2 pianos tuned – the one in the Sanctuary and one in the Small Fellowship Hall.

Will be using Setting 8 until Lent.

Will continue to use prepackaged Communion cups for Communion.

Wednesday evening services will be combined with Sunday Services during Lent.

Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Barb will organize Christmas decorations to be taken down on January 12.

Property Committee

Council discussed and John suggested not to pay for elevator maintenance this upcoming quarter. If they haven't come during the last quarter, then wait to pay. Council suggested to document to the times Curt/Connie have tried to call them, and to visit with other churches with elevators, like First Lutheran or Olivet, to see who services their elevators.

Curt will talk to insurance about obligation to contract, or if we can just call as needed.

Electrical panel was updated and paid for from undesignated funds.

Stewardship Committee: No report

Service & Outreach / Mission Support Committees: No report

Karen moves to approve the Committee reports. Abby seconds. Motion carries.

**Pastor's Report**

There were no visits in December. Pastor will resume visits in January.

Devotions for 2023 will be determined with the start of new Council formation in February.

President Kerri will give devotions for next meeting.

Holy Closure ballots: Pastor asked John Lindstrom if he would count the ballots, along with a Council member and a congregational member. Council agreed.

Abby moves to approve the Pastor's report. Jennifer seconds. Motion carries.

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**Prior Business**

Pastor Caroline moves to continue to allow a port-a-potty on our parking lot property, unless issues arise, at which point we can call and cancel. Curt seconds, motion carries.

Pastor Caroline and Scott will pick up pizza for the annual meeting with a free-will offering to offset the costs.

Our last Open Forum will be held this coming Sunday, January 15. Council president asked Council members to be present for small group discussions.

**New Business**

Provisions to provide Holy Closure ballots to those unable to come to Worship (those in assisted living, nursing homes, or shut-ins). Elim has about 20 people in that situation. Pastor shared that definition from Elim's constitution, page 14, C10.4-C10.6, does not allow this.

Nominating Committee will turn in names for Council and Foundation by January 17.

Gasper's Dance Studio asked to borrow our old choir robes for an upcoming performance of Sister Act. Pastor moves to donate/allow use of old choir robes to/by Gaspers. Jennifer seconds, motion carries.

2023 Office Report: Jennifer moves to accept the office report, with the changes to confirmed membership. Curt seconds, motion carries.

2023 proposed budget was shared by John. After discussion and sharing how he tried to go from last year's with adjustments, he will turn into office for annual meeting.

Abby moves to adjourn, Curt seconds. Motion carries and meeting adjourns at 7:45 p.m. Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.  
Devotions-Kerri Spiering

Respectfully submitted by Karen Lind

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**Treasurer's Report**  
December, 2022

John Lindstrom

**Balance Sheet**

⇒ The checking acct balance is \$9,372.02. The balance at the beginning of the year was \$20,780.34.  
General Acct Fund balance at the end of December is -\$27,659.59.

**Income and Expense (12/12 or 100% through the year)**

⇒ Monthly pledge income was over budget (budget \$6,500.00 vs. \$7,737.00).  
⇒ Monthly total income was over budget (budget \$8,733.00 vs. \$12,141.00).  
⇒ YTD pledge income is 108.16% of the budget \$78,000 (actual \$84,361.00).  
⇒ YTD total income is 112.67% of the budget \$104,800.00 (actual \$118,079.02).  
⇒ Monthly expenses were under budget (budget \$12,513.00 vs. \$12,495.48).  
⇒ YTD expenses are 97.08% of the budget \$150,153.00 (actual \$145,762.61).  
⇒ The utility bill was \$1,996.06. Paid \$1,900 from Undesignated memorials to pay for a new electrical panel. Received \$5,500 in Prepaid pledges for 2023.

## *February Services Volunteers*

**USHERS/GREETERS**

February 5  
February 12  
February 19  
February 26

**FLOWERS**

February 5  
February 12  
February 19  
February 26

**LAYREADERS**

February 5  
February 12 Barb Rising  
February 19  
February 26

**MISSIONARY SUPPORT**

February 5  
February 12  
February 19  
February 26

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

None needed until further notice

**FUNERAL ASSISTANT FOR FEBRUARY**

If you would like your readings sent hard copy, please contact Jennifer or Connie.

Please call **Jennifer Rheault, 701-566-3949** if you would like to sign up to be an Usher, Lay Reader, or Communion Assistant.

*Every Sunday is open for **Missionary Support**, which is \$25.00 and can be given in honor of or in memory of a loved one. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact the Elim office. Thank you.*

### Birthdays this month

|       |                  |
|-------|------------------|
| 02/06 | Robert Scheer    |
| 02/08 | Abby d'Eustachio |
| 02/12 | John Lindstrom   |
| 02/20 | James Voytovich  |
| 02/22 | Katie Merkel     |

If your birthday should be on this list and isn't, please contact the Elim office. I apologize for the oversight.

*Would you like to provide **Altar Flowers** in honor or memory of a loved one? If anyone wishes to give flowers on any given Sunday, simply contact the church office with your request and Connie will place your order or you may place your own order and let the office know which Sunday they will be on the Altar.. Dalbol Flowers and Gifts allows Elim to choose the bouquet colors and purchase both Altar bouquets for around \$26.00. If you would like, Elim office will order the flower color(s) you request. If you wish to take the flowers home with you following worship, please let Connie know that when you call to order them. Thank you.*



None in January

### Donate Winter Outerwear

Elim is again collecting new or clean, gently used winter outerwear, including jackets, coats, snowpants, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and boots, sizes infant through adult. All winter outerwear brought to the church for this project will be donated to Open Doors.

Open Doors is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) faith-based ministry and is located at 307 Main Ave. in Fargo. They reach out to the F-M metro area by providing a free thrift store (clothing, shoes, household items, linens, etc.) to those in need. If you are interested in donating other items to Open Doors, please call Dave at 701-799-7550 to set up an appointment. If you have any questions, please contact Kerri Spiering at 701-298-9098.

**Forecast:  
Warmth**

A woman was driving in a snowstorm, but she didn't panic because she remembered her dad had once said, "If you ever get stuck in a storm, wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it." Sure enough, a plow soon came by, and she started to follow it. After 45 minutes, the truck driver got out and asked her what she was doing, so she explained. The driver said, "I'm done with the Walmart parking lot. You want to follow me to Best Buy?"



### *January Baptisms, Funerals, Membership Transfers In, and Transfers Out*



**UPDATE**



**Baptisms:** None

● **Funerals:** None

● **Membership Transfers Out of Elim:** Jack & Karen Lind

● **Membership Transfers In to Elim:** None

● **Deaths:** None





The choir will take the month of January off and will sing on February 19 with rehearsal that morning at 9:15.



## February Serving Groups

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| February 5  | Group 1 |
| February 12 | Group 2 |
| February 19 | Group 1 |
| February 26 | Group 2 |



Will be held Tuesday,  
February 14, at 6:00 p.m.  
in the Small Fellowship Hall.  
Any and all are  
invited to attend.

**Did you know**.....that Bethany Retirement Living is one of the 30 largest employers in the region, according to the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce? More than 800 professionals serve residents in roles as nurses, nursing assistants, dietary and housekeeping staff, Chaplaincy, engineers, social services, administrative, activities, therapy, and others. If you know of someone who would like to join the Bethany team, contact Human Resources at Bethany at 701-239-3000, or visit our website at [www.bethanynd.org/careers](http://www.bethanynd.org/careers).



### Lines of Communication

If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding church operations, please contact the appropriate person below for correct information. Thank you.

**Pastor Caroline** - Services / Worship  
Prayers  
Personal concerns  
Visitation Schedule

**Curt Meyer** - Church building / property cleaning  
Event set-up

**Jennifer Rheault, Robyn Vinje, or Scott Strand** -  
Services / Worship  
Music

**Barb Rising** - Kitchen / Altar

### *Elim Church Council Members*

Pastor Caroline Strand, Pastor  
cstrand@elim-lutheran.org  
701.232.2574 - - 507.398.3166 (after office hours cell)

Kerri Spiering, President  
To be named Vice President/Sec. (Mission Support)  
Jennifer Rheault (Learning)  
John Lindstrom, Treasurer  
Curt Meyer (Property)  
Jennifer Rheault (Worship/Music)  
Abby d'Eustachio (Service/Outreach)  
To be named (Stewardship)

### **Elim Office Hours**

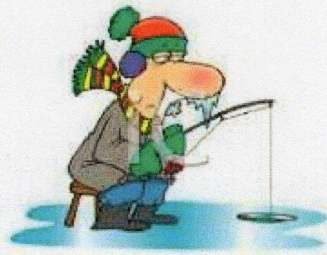
|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Monday    | All Church offices are closed |
| Tuesday   | 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.        |
| Wednesday | 8:00 a.m. to Noon             |
| Thursday: | 8:00 a.m. to Noon             |
| Friday:   | All Church offices are closed |

As Council Committee heads, you are asked to submit your written Committee Report to the office 1 week prior to the month's Council meeting. This report will then be included in the individual Council packets for each meeting. If you do not have a written report for that month, please let the office know that, as well. Thank you.





# Fish Fry



## ST WILLIAMS CHURCH MENS CLUB

**Argusville Community Hall**

**Friday - February 24, 2023**

**4:30-7:00pm**

**Free will offering**

**(Suggested \$15 donation)**

**(Senior Citizen \$10 )**



**(Children 6 and under are free)**





# Elim Lutheran Church

## February, 2023

| Sun                                                       | Mon                                                                                       | Tue                                             | Wed                                                                                                                                          | Thu                                               | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                                                           |                                                                                           |                                                 | 1<br><u>Bible Study-10:00</u>                                                                                                                | 2                                                 | 3   | 4   |
| 5<br><u>Worship w/ Communion-10:00</u>                    | 6                                                                                         | 7<br><u>Evergreen-10 to 11</u><br>AA mtg.-noon  | 8<br><u>Bible Study-10:00</u>                                                                                                                | 9                                                 | 10  | 11  |
| 12<br><u>Worship w/ Communion-10:00</u>                   | 13                                                                                        | 14<br>AA mtg.-noon<br><u>Council mtg-6:00</u>   | 15<br><u>Bible Study-10:00</u>                                                                                                               | 16<br><u>Elim Women mtg-10:00, Sons of Norway</u> | 17  | 18  |
| 19<br><u>Choir rehearsal-9:15</u><br><u>Worship-10:00</u> | 20<br> | 21<br><u>Evergreen-10 to 11</u><br>AA mtg.-noon | 22<br><u>Bible Study-10:00</u><br><br><u>Service-6:30</u> | 23                                                | 24  | 25  |
| 26<br><u>Worship-10:00</u>                                | 27                                                                                        | 28<br>AA mtg.-noon                              |                                                                                                                                              |                                                   |     |     |
|                                                           |                                                                                           |                                                 |                                                                                                                                              |                                                   |     |     |



Elim Lutheran Church  
321 9th Street North  
Fargo, ND 58102

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*The Grapevine*

321 Ninth Street North  
Fargo, ND 58102  
(701) 232-2574

[www.elim-lutheran.org](http://www.elim-lutheran.org)

*"Built on a Triangle with Faith in the Triune"*

|                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Pastor:</b>               | Caroline Strand      |
| <b>Office Administrator:</b> | Connie Rawls         |
| <b>Maintenance:</b>          | Curt Meyer           |
| <b>Music Staff:</b>          | Robyn Vinje          |
| <b>Organist</b>              | Scott Strand         |
| <b>Choir Director</b>        | Katie Narum Miyamoto |
| <b>Missionary</b>            |                      |

**Monthly Newsletter**  
**February, 2023**