



The

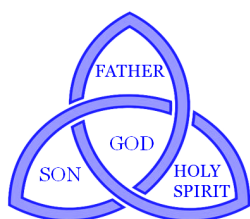
Grapevine

April, 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."



Dearest Members of Elim,

It is my joy and my pleasure to be writing this month's newsletter. Spring is just around the corner – I hope. We have had more than enough winter, but snow is still piled up against fences and on our street sides as I write. Although we do need moisture in our soil this spring, we must be diligent in our prayer to ask God for only minimal flooding, or better yet, none at all.

A few notes for you this month; Holy Week will soon be upon us. This is a blessed time to ponder our sins and all the Lord has done for us, saving us from our trespasses, as we pray in the Lord's Prayer – "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The latter half of this declaration is likely just as important, if not more so, than asking for our own forgiveness. When we do not forgive others, the pain of being hurt remains within us. When we forgive, as God forgives us, it frees us to love others, just as we have been loved.

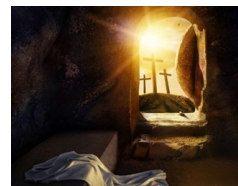


On Maundy Thursday, April 6, our service will be at 6:30 in the evening. We will welcome Janae Stangeland to the Lord's Table for her first holy communion, and then we all receive the blessed sacrament together. Although this is a somber day, we can rejoice as Janae comes to the table for the first time. There will be a celebration for her following worship the Sunday after Easter (April 16).



The Good Friday service will be held in dimness and quiet as we remember Christ's death and suffering – for us. Worship will take place on Friday, March 7, at 6:30.

And finally, the Celebration of Easter, Jesus' resurrection from the grave, will be held on Sunday, April 9 at 10:00. Let us



rejoice and be glad in this day. This day is the day we can truly raise our voices with the words "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!"

There is one more thing to take note of. We have need for many to step up to serve on the teams that will do work on the closing versus remaining open options. There are several things that can be done without having to go out and do any running around. When there is much to accomplish, the workload becomes lighter when all who are able pitch in. Please, please, please add your name to the list of volunteers willing to do this work. It is my prayer that many will help serve God by serving our church family.

May God continue to bless each of us on our journeys we call life. May the peace of God fill your hearts with joy and contentment. May the generous blessings God gives move us to be thankful. And may the sacrifice of Jesus give all hope in the life of the world to come.

May the meditations of Holy Week and the jubilation of the Risen Christ be with you today and always.

In Christ's most holy Name, *Pastor Caroline*

**March Council Meeting
Sunday, March 19, 11:00 a.m.**

Meeting began at 11:00 a.m.

Present: Pastor Caroline, Barb Rising, John Lindstrom, Curt Meyer, LouAnn Dutt, Jennifer Rheault. Cindy Wolslegel joined the meeting at about 12:30.

Absent: Steve Scheer

Call to Order: Open Prayer and Devotions. Barb provided a prayer.

Minutes:

LouAnn moves to accept the minutes from February, 2023. Curt seconds. Motion carries.

LaVonne Black spoke at Council meeting about welcoming visitors and participating more in the services. Suggested asking congregation to help with ideas for more participation.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

\$660 was raised for Disaster Relief and sent to the Synod.
\$1,000, a disbursement from the Foundation, was sent to the Synod for Missionary Support.
Borrowed \$5,000 from the Memorial Fund to cover General Fund expenses.
Jennifer moves to approve Treasurer's Report, Barb seconds. Motion carries.

Learning Committee:

Pastor reported Wednesday Bible Study has been well attended.

Worship & Music Committee:

Pastor reported there will be First Communion during Maundy Thursday service.
Will start using Setting 3 on Easter Sunday.
Curt will pay for altar candles next time they are needed.

Property Committee:

Continued usual cleaning work and snow blowing in and around church and church grounds
Due to excessive snowfall, have been coming in on days off and weekends to clean snow. If cleaned snow during work time, cleaned church on days off.
Contacted TK Elevator Corporation and, after several attempts, spoke to the contact person.
She will notify branch manager of quarterly contract cancellation.
Curt made contact with Otis Elevator Service. There will be no contract and company will give estimate for any work needed or maintenance.
Port-a-potty will be kept on Elim property. Has helped keep parking lot clean.

Stewardship Committee:

Committee will meet April 11 to discuss Stewardship Drive.

Service & Outreach and Mission Support Committees:

Donations will be accepted on Palm Sunday for the Food Pantry.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Caroline will call to make appointments with shut-ins for in-person or phone visits.
Pastor Caroline will give devotion for August Council meeting.

Pastor Caroline moves to approve Committee Reports and Pastor's report. Barb seconds. Motion carries.

Prior Business

Have approached 2 congregation members to set up teams for open/closing process.
Council decided not to fill the empty position on Council and keep at 7 members for the term.
Barb moves to approve, Curt seconds. Motion carries.

Cindy joined meeting.

New Business

Bible Baptist Church is interested in purchasing our building.
Pastor will make list of shut-ins for Council members.
John report the parking lot/property taxes have increased.

Jennifer moves to adjourn, Curt seconds. Motion carries and meeting adjourns at 1:00.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.
Devotions-LouAnn

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Rheault

~~~~~

**Treasurer's Report**

February, 2023

John Lindstrom

- ◇ The checking acct balance is \$-581.61. The balance at the beginning of the year was \$9,372.02. General Acct Fund balance after January is -\$9,453.63.

Income and Expense (2/12 or 16.6% through the year)

- ◇ Monthly pledge income was under budget (budget \$5,140.00 vs. \$10,402.00).
- ◇ Monthly total income was under budget (budget \$8,970.00 vs. \$7,381.99).
- ◇ YTD pledge income is 19.43% of the budget \$80,000 (actual \$15,542.00).
- ◇ YTD total income is 17.37% of the budget \$107,600.00 (actual \$18,691.99).
- ◇ Monthly expenses were over budget (budget \$12,511.00 vs. \$13,155.70).
- ◇ YTD expenses are 18.76% of the budget \$150,004.00 (actual \$28,145.62)
- ◇ The utility bill was \$3,075.90. Sent \$660 for Disaster Relief and \$1,000 for Missionary Support to the Synod. The \$1,000 was a disbursement from the Foundation. Borrowed \$5,000 from the memorial fund to cover General Fund expenses

## *April Services Volunteers*

### **USHERS/GREETERS**

April 2  
April 9  
April 16  
April 23  
April 30

### **FLOWERS**

April 2  
April 9  
April 16  
April 23  
April 30

### **LAYREADERS**

April 2  
April 9  
April 16  
April 23  
April 30

### **MISSIONARY SUPPORT**

April 2  
April 9  
April 16  
April 23  
April 30

### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

None needed until further notice

### **FUNERAL ASSISTANT FOR APRIL**

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

|       |                   |
|-------|-------------------|
| 04/07 | Delphine Neubauer |
| 04/12 | Jennifer Rheault  |
| 04/15 | Mark Mathison     |
| 04/17 | Scott Johnson     |
| 04/19 | Betty Lindstrom   |
| 04/20 | Grace Strand      |
| 04/21 | Marshel Putz      |
| 04/30 | Kacie Putz        |



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.*



In memory of Dorothy Heieie

Undesignated  
Undesignated

Robyn Vinje  
Dan & Barb Rising



### **Elim Lutheran Church Inclement Weather Policy**

In case of inclement weather, a timely decision will be made by 8:00 a.m. for Sunday Worship by the Pastor and/or Council President.

Tune into the following TV station for cancellation notifications:

WDAY TV and Elim's Facebook page

For those of you who do not have computer access call in regard to Church cancellations, please call your name.

and wish to receive a  
the Church and leave

If Fargo schools are closed, all Church events/meetings for that day will be cancelled. If a meeting is scheduled and has to be cancelled, it is up to the Chairperson of the Committee to re-schedule the meeting within the next 10 days. The church will remain locked during the closings.

In the event of inclement weather during a work day, the Church office will follow the guidelines of the Fargo/West Fargo school system – if the schools are closed, the office will be closed. However, in case of emergency, you may contact Pastor Caroline or Connie on their cell phones.

Pastor Caroline 507-398-3166 — Connie Rawls 701-520-7073

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



**UPDATE**



**Baptisms:** None

● **Funerals:** None

● **Membership Transfers Out of Elim:** None

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

● **Deaths:** None



### 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 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.



Janae Stangeland will be receiving her First Communion during Worship on Maundy Thursday. May Janae always know the peace of Jesus, the light of his love, and the joy of his life within her.

A reception and celebration for Janae's First Communion will be held on Sunday, April 16, following Worship. All are invited to attend.

**Sunday, March 12/19 Bulletin:** Some of you probably noticed the handwritten date change in the bulletin for March 19. The reason for that is because the bulletin was printed for March 12, but with church being cancelled, the bulletin for the 12th was used on the 19th. Rather than print copies with the correct date, I just changed the date by hand. Thank you for your understanding.



**People are needed** to form teams to discuss the various options for keeping Elim open or closing Elim. Teams will be working with community professionals, i.e., real estate agents, lawyers, as well as working on tasks that need to be accomplished within our church and congregation. Pastor Caroline will be taking the names of all interested persons, so please contact her. **EVE-RYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. ALL IDEAS ARE NEEDED!!!!**



### EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The Outreach Committee of our Council invites all our congregation to share in donations of personal care items to the Emergency Food Pantry on Sunday, April 2. Personal care items may include shampoo, conditioner, body wash, razors, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, along with other items you may wish to donate. Donations may be placed in the designated tote in the Narthex on April 2. Egg cartons and plastic grocery bags are always welcome, as well. Thank you for sharing in this worthwhile project. Barb Rising



### Lutheran Disaster Response

**Lutheran Disaster Relief** is looking for donations to support the people of Turkey and Syria after their disastrous earthquake. Please make your checks payable to Elim and mark your donation as "Disaster Relief."



Choir will sing on Easter Sunday,  
April 9 with rehearsal at 9:15.



## Serving Groups

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| April 2  | Group 1 |
| April 9  | Group 2 |
| April 16 | Group 1 |
| April 23 | Group 2 |
| April 30 | Staff   |

## Church Council Meeting

Will be held Sunday, April 16,  
following Worship in the Small  
Fellowship Hall. ANY AND ALL  
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

**Did you know**.....that Bethany Retirement Living offers a support and educational program called “*Endings & Beginnings*” for family members who have a loved one with a dementing illness living in a nursing home? This multi-session program is offered twice a year and there is no cost to attend. Participants need not have a resident at Bethany. Topics such as change, loss, the stages of Alzheimer's, behavior, end-of-life and emotional issues are discussed. For additional information, contact Casey at 701.239.3529 or [cjon-son@bethanynd.org](mailto:son@bethanynd.org).



### 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](mailto:cstrand@elim-lutheran.org)  
701.232.2574 - - 507.398.3166 (after office hours cell)

Cindy Wolslegel, President  
Barb Rising, Vice President  
(Mission Support-temporary, Service/Outreach)  
Jennifer Rheault, Secretary  
(Learning, Worship/Music)  
John Lindstrom, Treasurer  
Curt Meyer (Property)  
LouAnn Dutt, (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.

---

**Swedish Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Messiah Lutheran**

As part of the Roots in Sweden Project, the Swedish Cultural Heritage Society will host an afternoon of Swedish exhibits and food demonstrations at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2010 Elm St N, Fargo, from 1:30pm to 4:00pm on Saturday, April 22.

Artifacts from Sweden, various crafts, displays, and food demonstrations of Swedish pancakes, krumkake, and rosettes will be featured.

During the Roots in Sweden Project, attendees will be invited to “Put Your Family on the Map” with their families origins on a map of Sweden.

The event is free and open to the public.

Terri Garske  
Publicity, Swedish Society  
701.306-6554  
[valleyinc@msn.com](mailto:valleyinc@msn.com)





## 2023 GERANIUM FUNDRAISER

Flowers feed your soul and lift your spirits!

**Here is your chance to brighten up a flower garden, deck or patio!**

The Bethany Auxiliary is selling geranium plants in 4½" pots for just **\$6.00** each. These beautiful plants are grown from cuttings at *Bloomfield Garden Center* in Sabin, MN. Geraniums are available in four colors: Red, Pink, Salmon and White.

The Auxiliary Geranium Sale helps raise money to provide items for Bethany residents – such things as *Portals of Prayer* devotional booklets, subscriptions to *The Forum*, blanket warmers, Netflix services, heat lamps, and support for the Chaplaincy program, just to name a few. These purchases enrich the lives of all residents at both Bethany campuses.

For every plant purchased, \$2.65 will be used to benefit the residents.

Orders must be placed by **Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 by 5:00 PM**

Plants may be picked up Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at Bethany on University  
or Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, at Bethany on 42<sup>nd</sup>.



Questions?  
Call Carol Johnson  
Auxiliary President at 701.238.5419  
or email at  
carol.johnson.623.cj@gmail.com



### Geranium Fundraiser Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants/Color

\_\_\_\_\_ Red

\_\_\_\_\_ Pink

# of plants/Color

\_\_\_\_\_ Salmon

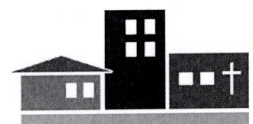
\_\_\_\_\_ White

Total # of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$6.00 ea = \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up at: ☐ Bethany on University ☐ Bethany on 42nd

Please make checks payable to **Bethany Auxiliary**.

☐ I would like to make an additional donation to Bethany: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Bethany**  
retirement *living*



# Elim Lutheran Church

## April, 2023

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                           | Mon | Tue                                                                     | Wed                            | Thu                                                                                                            | Fri                                         | Sat                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |     |                                                                         |                                |                                                                                                                |                                             | 1     |
| 2 <br><u>Worship w/ Communion-10:00</u>                                                                      | 3   | 4<br>AA-Noon                                                            | 5<br><u>Bible Study-10:00</u>  | 6 <u>Maundy Thursday</u><br><u>Worship w/ Comm.-6:30</u><br><u>First Communion-</u><br><u>Janae Stangeland</u> | 7 <u>Good Friday</u><br><u>Worship-6:30</u> | 8                                                                                        |
| 9 <br><u>Choir rehearsal-9:15</u><br><u>Easter Sunday</u><br><u>Worship w/ Communion &amp; Choir-10:00</u> | 10  | 11<br>AA-Noon<br><u>Stewardship Chairperson meeting w/ Pastor-10:30</u> | 12<br><u>Bible Study-10:00</u> | 13                                                                                                             | 14                                          | 15                                                                                       |
| 16<br><u>Stewardship Drive</u><br><u>Worship-10:00</u><br><u>Council mtg. following</u><br><u>Worship</u>                                                                                     | 17  | 18<br>AA-Noon                                                           | 19<br><u>Bible Study-10:00</u> | 20<br><u>Elim Women-10:00, Sons of Norway</u>                                                                  | 21                                          | 22  |
| 23<br><u>Worship-10:00</u>                                                                                                                                                                    | 24  | 25<br><u>Evergreen-10</u><br>AA-Noon                                    | 26<br><u>Bible Study-10:00</u> | 27                                                                                                             | 28                                          | 29                                                                                       |
| 30<br><u>Worship &amp; Music mtg.-9:15</u><br><u>Worship-10:00</u>                                                                                                                            |     |                                                                         |                                |                                                                                                                |                                             |                                                                                          |

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**  
**April, 2023**