



The

Grapevine

June, 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."



Happy Almost Summer Elim Family and Friends!

After rereading a beautiful book, "An Altar in The World," by Barbara Brown Taylor, I have been more focused on where I find God in our world. We know God is everywhere, but where specifically do you find God? For me, God is found in water – in crashing waves, in water so calm and smooth that reflections look as if whatever is being reflected is real. I see God in tiny babies. It is in these blessed children I see God's creative essence. There are so many places where God is clearly present for me. And my challenge for you in this beautiful time of year is to pay attention and see where you find God. You'll likely be amazed.



Our building is in the process of being appraised. It is part of the process we are going through (closing or remaining part of God's church). A most generous donor has paid for the appraisal (over \$3000), and for that, Elim members are most grateful. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

We have another church, Bible Baptist Church, interested in purchasing our building. However, they are waiting for our appraisal numbers and visiting the building before they make any final decisions. If we are to remain a church, it is in our best interest to sell our church home. It is way too big for our needs. And wouldn't it be great if another church family could use this blessed space? That's much better than having Elim torn down for a parking ramp.

Enjoy this beautiful time of year. Listen to the different songs each species of bird sings. Dig in the dirt and plant some seeds. Watch for the butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds which all pollinate plants for growth. These are some of the beautiful miracles God has created for the beauty of the earth and for us to enjoy. Oh ya, and remember to give thanks for all the blessings you see before you. There are millions.

In God's peace,

Pastor Caroline

May Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting began at 5:34 p.m.

Present: LouAnn Dutt, Barb Rising, John Lindstrom, Pastor Caroline, Cindy Wolslegel, Jennifer Rheault, Curt Meyer

Absent: Steve Scheer

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

Minutes:

Corrections from April meeting:

Worship & Music – "...Altar Guild and readers through Lent."

"Jennifer moves to approve Committee reports...."

Pastor's report – "Pastor made 10 visits in March..."

Barb moves to accept the minutes from April, 2023. LouAnn seconds. Motion carries.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report (combined with Committee reports)

Learning Committee

Pastor reported Bible Study will end the last Wednesday of May and begin again in September.

Barb reported the *Gather* magazine Bible Study will possibly meet in June and July.

Worship & Music Committee

Pastor reported the Sloth series will be used for most of the summer Sunday services.

A patriotic theme will be used for the Memorial Day and 4th of July Sunday services.

A lay reading service will be held the first Sunday of June, as Pastor will be attending the Synod Assembly.

Property Committee

Otis Elevator was here for yearly maintenance on elevator.

Curt will contact Pierce Lee about charge for roof services.

Flower pots will be placed at the front (south side) of the Church.

Stewardship Committee

Will meet the month of June.

Service & Outreach and Mission Support Committees

No report

Mission Support Committee

No report

Pastor moves to approve the Consent Agenda. Barb seconds. Motion carries.

Pastor's Report

Bible Baptist Church continues to be interested in purchase of Elim Church.

Waiting for appraisal to continue

Motion carries to not have Open Doors for All Nations Church rent space from Elim.

Pastor Caroline made 4 visits in April

Barb moves to approve Pastor's report. LouAnn seconds. Motion carries.

Prior Business

Cindy moved to accept the "Future of Us" update from Scott. Jennifer seconds. Motion carries.

New Business

Pastor Caroline received letter from Bethany Covenant and will sign for our continued support to Bethany.

Barb moves to adjourn, Cindy seconds. Motion carries. Closed with Lord's Prayer at 6:49 p.m.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday, June 11, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.
Devotions-Steve Scheer

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Rheault

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**Treasurer's Report**

April, 2023

John Lindstrom

**Balance Sheet**

- ⇒ The checking acct balance is \$3,874.16. The balance at the beginning of the year was \$9,372.02.  
General Acct Fund balance after January is -\$14,997.86.

**Income and Expense (4/12 or 33.3% through the year)**

- ⇒ Monthly pledge income was over budget (budget \$6,667.00 vs. \$11,647.00). Received an annual pledge from a church member.  
⇒ Monthly total income was over budget (budget \$8,970.00 vs. \$13,980.71).  
⇒ YTD pledge income is 40.01% of the budget \$80,000 (actual \$32,009.00).  
⇒ YTD total income is 37.52% of the budget \$107,600.00 (actual \$40,376.49).  
⇒ Monthly expenses were over budget (budget \$12,511.00 vs. \$13,100.18).  
⇒ YTD expenses are 36.92% of the budget \$150,004.00 (actual \$55,374.35)  
⇒ The utility bill was \$2,009.34. Paid Otis Elevator \$500 for maintenance. Borrowed \$5,000 from the memorial fund to cover General Fund expenses.

## *June Services Volunteers*

### **USHERS/GREETERS**

June 4  
June 11  
June 18  
June 25

### **FLOWERS**

June 4  
June 11  
June 18  
June 25

### **LAYREADERS**

June 4  
June 11  
June 18  
June 25

### **MISSIONARY SUPPORT**

June 4  
June 11  
June 18  
June 25

### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

None needed until further notice

### **FUNERAL ASSISTANT FOR JUNE**

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 of the Month*

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| 06/04 | Ron Anderson       |
| 06/05 | Janet Monson       |
| 06/06 | Cam Merkel         |
| 06/14 | Eston Calixte      |
| 06/18 | John Gast          |
| 06/21 | Robert Littlefield |
|       | Derek Miller       |
| 06/22 | Allison Rheault    |
| 06/27 | Lou Foley          |
| 06/30 | Sharon Gast        |

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.*



The first step in moving forward has been initiated. We have engaged Appraisal Services, Inc. to perform an appraisal of our property. I expect to have this information before the end of May. Once we have this in hand, we will be able to pursue the sale of our building.

In addition, there are several tasks that will be kicking off soon. I will be in touch with people who have volunteered to help to get them in motion.

Some of these are listed below.

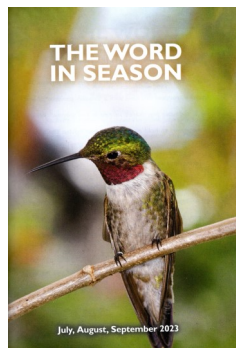
- ◇ Engage Attorney
- ◇ Determine how to handle physical property
- ◇ Determine how to handle proceeds of sale
- ◇ Determine how to handle parking lot
- ◇ Explore renting worship/office space
  - Find different property
  - Rent Elim building
  - Explore sharing worship/office space with NDSU

All these tasks are to provide information in support of making the decision to remain open or to close. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Scott Strand

The July, August, and September, 2023, issue of *The Word in Season* is now available either in the Narthex or in the office. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the office at 701-232-2574. Thank you.



The Elim office will be closed the week of July 3. Thank you.



**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. **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. ALL IDEAS ARE NEEDED!!!!**



If you normally pick your monthly newsletter up in the basket in the Narthex, the June issue is now available. If you would like to receive it in an alternate format, either by e-mail or hard copy, or if you would rather not receive it at all, please contact the office at 701-232-2574. Thank you.





In memory of Zona Mathison

Undesignated

Lou Foley  
 Betty Lindstrom  
 Orville & Shirley Slusher  
 Les & Jennifer Rheault  
 John & Marie Lindstrom  
 Don & Laurine Kounovsky  
 Dan & Barb Rising  
 Bonnie Henningson  
 Ron Anderson  
 Allen & Kathy Larson  
 Pastor Caroline & Scott Strand  
 Scott & Betsy Murrah  
 Steve & Natalie Thompson  
 Duane & Becky Slusher  
 Royce & LaVonne Black  
 Elaine Fiske  
 Barb Green  
 Dianne Clark  
 Bonnie Duggan

Music Fund

Choir Fund

*May Baptisms, Funerals, Membership Transfers In, and Transfers Out*



**UPDATE**



**Baptisms:** None

● **Funerals:** Zona Mathison

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

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

● **Deaths:** Zona Mathison



No choir news for June.

# JUNE

## Serving Groups

**June 4 Group 1**  
**June 11 Group 2**  
**June 18 Group 1**  
**June 25 Group 2**

## Church Council Meeting

Will be held Sunday, June 11, following Worship in the Small Fellowship Hall. ANY AND ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

**Did you know.....**that nearly 350 volunteers assist the paid staff at Bethany Retirement Living? Volunteers, representing our sponsor churches through the Auxiliary, as well as individuals from schools, colleges, businesses and the community at large, serve the residents by helping out in the business office, helping with activities, caring for plants, serving as companions to residents, delivering mail, conducting events and countless other rewarding tasks. If you want to volunteer, contact Bethany at 701.239.3246 or visit Bethany's web site at [www.bethanynd.org/volunteer](http://www.bethanynd.org/volunteer).



### 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.



## FRAUD ALERTS:

### SCAMMERS STEAL MONEY FROM THE PUBLIC THROUGH FAKE HHS WEBSITES, SOCIAL MEDIA SCHEMES, AND IRS SCAMS

**The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Inspector General (OIG) is alerting the public to a fraud scheme that uses social media and fake websites to steal money from individuals by offering fake HHS grants.**

The scheme involves scammers pretending to offer you grants from HHS and asking for payment or personal information to receive the fake grants. Scammers may use various social media platforms and chat applications to contact you and direct you to fake websites, online chats, chat boxes, or live customer support in order to lure you into providing your personal or financial information. These scammers may pretend to be a “friend” or someone from HHS. Although the precise message may vary, the scammer provides fake HHS employee information or a link to a fake HHS website, tells you that you will receive free Government grant money, and then asks you for money or personal information.

**Do not pay scammers.** HHS will never ask you to pay money to receive a grant. Scammers may ask you to send gift cards or money to cover processing and/or delivery fees. Do not respond to, pay, or share any financial information with anyone contacting you via social media, email, or otherwise offering free HHS grants or money.

**Do not share your personal information.** HHS will not message you through social media to begin a grant application. Scammers may offer fake HHS grant money in exchange for personal or financial information, such as your Social Security number, date of birth, address, bank account number, login information, or copies of your personal identification.

**Do not be fooled by spoof websites.** HHS websites always use a .gov domain. HHS does not use .org, .com, or .us domains.

**Report grant scams.** Never respond to any schemes that try to get you to pay money or give your personal information for an HHS grant. If you receive such a call or message, submit a hotline complaint at <https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud/> or call 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477; TTY 1-800-377-4950). Tax time is over for the year, but the scammers are still out there working to get your money. It's good to be aware of these tax scams all year long.

#### **IRS SCAMS**

According to the Federal Trade Commission, one of the longest running impostor scams involves the IRS, so tax time is a good time to draw attention to it.

Most IRS impostor scams begin as a robocall, with the message either directing you to press a number on

your keypad to talk with a live agent, or to call back using the number provided. The messages can be negative, you owe back taxes, or positive, you're receiving a refund. Either way there is an urgent request to call a number or click a link right away.

The IRS does NOT initiate contact via text or email. If you get a call claiming to be from the IRS, hang up! If you think you may owe taxes, call the IRS at 800-829-1040, or visit [irs.gov/balancedue](https://irs.gov/balancedue).

#### **WHEN TO SAVE, WHEN TO SHRED**

During tax season, a great deal of personally identifying information is shared and can make you vulnerable to a scam. Know what to save and what to shred.

**Old tax returns:** Unless you plan to run for president, you need only to hold on to your old tax returns and supporting documents for three years. If you're self-employed or have a complicated return, double that to six years.

**Do you own your home?** Keep financial records related to real estate for seven years after you sell. By using home-improvement receipts, you can potentially reduce any taxes you might owe on the sale.

**Banking/Investments:** If you or your spouse might apply for Medicaid for nursing home coverage, you'll need to produce

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## FRAUD ALERTS

(continued)

five years of financial records. Otherwise, keep banking and financial statements for a year.

**Own stocks or bonds?** Keep records of any purchase for six years after you file the return reporting the sale of that security.

**Medical:** Retain all medical-test results (such as blood-test results, X-rays, surgical reports, etc) indefinitely. Keep immunization and vaccination records permanently, too. Hold on to proof of payments to medical providers for six years.

**Final tip:** Dump that shoebox of old canceled checks. Electronic versions are retained by your bank or credit union.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at  
[www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call the AARP Fraud Watch  
Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

(Information provided by [www.oig.hhs.gov](http://www.oig.hhs.gov) and AARP North Dakota)

Taken from May, 2023, issue of Valley Senior Services *Silver Quill* newsletter



The Evangelical Lutheran Church, Babbitt, Minnesota,  
church bulletin asked members:

“Bring a red geranium plant to church next  
Sunday. It will make the chancel festive for  
Pentecost... Also, you might consider wearing  
something next Sunday in celebration of  
Pentecost.”




Corrine Olsen  
Babbitt, MN

Taken from *Laughing with Lutherans*, edited by Julie Sevig, 2008



# Elim Lutheran Church

## June, 2023

| Sun                                                                                                                                                     | Mon | Tue                                                        | Wed                                                                                           | Thu | Fri | Sat                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                         |     |                                                            |                                                                                               | 1   | 2   | 3<br>Synod<br>Assembly |
| 4<br>Synod<br>Assembly<br><br><u>Worship-</u><br><u>10:00</u>                                                                                           | 5   | 6<br>AA-noon                                               | 7                                                                                             | 8   | 9   | 10                     |
| 11<br><u>Worship w/</u><br><u>Communion-</u><br><u>10:00</u><br><br><u>Council mtg.-</u><br><u>11:00, follow-</u><br><u>ing Worship</u>                 | 12  | 13<br><u>Evergreen -</u><br><u>10 to 11</u><br><br>AA-noon | 14<br><br> | 15  | 16  | 17                     |
| 18<br><u>Worship w/</u><br><u>Communion-</u><br><u>10:00</u><br><br> | 19  | 20<br>AA-noon                                              | 21<br><br> | 22  | 23  | 24                     |
| 25<br><u>Worship-</u><br><u>10:00</u>                                                                                                                   | 26  | 27<br><u>Evergreen -</u><br><u>10 to 11</u><br><br>AA-noon | 28                                                                                            | 29  | 30  |                        |
|                                                                                                                                                         |     |                                                            |                                                                                               |     |     |                        |

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**JUNE**



*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**  
**June, 2023**