



The

Grapevine

August, 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."



Greetings Elim Family and Friends,

Can you believe it? It's August, and that makes me sad. You all know I love water, and as summer fades into a memory, so does my opportunity to enjoy what I love call "summer water"... lakes, pools, oceans. With that being said, I want to let you all know that Scott and I will be spending 10 days on Maui, Hawaii in November. We are both saving vacation days to visit our favorite place.

There is much going on at Elim these days. In addition to our summer worship series, *Sloths*, there is some news which needs to be shared regarding our remaining open vs. the holy closure process. In the middle of July, we had another church, Bible Baptist Church, tour our building, with the possibility of purchase. They have much to discuss and said they need to have major discussions and make even bigger decisions and hope to let us know soon. There will be more in the *Future of Us* report in this newsletter.

Another important piece of information for you - you should soon receive the information gathering survey for finding out your intent for staying at Elim if we vote to remain open or whether we move to a new location or not. If you have not already done so, please submit your survey as soon as possible. This is vital for obtaining valuable information. If you do not receive a survey, please call the church office at 232-2574, and ask Connie to send out a survey for you. I wish to thank all of you for taking the time to reply. Your effort is appreciated.

I never dreamed when I took this call at Elim that I would be going through this process with all of you. It has certainly been a learning experience for me, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for bearing with me as well go through this challenging time.

God has blessed us with many good years together, and we must be thankful for the gifts we've been given. Right now, it is for us to determine what is in store for Elim's family and God's intent for us. I ask God to guide us in our decision-making process.

From 1st Corinthians, chapter 2, we read these words: *Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.* And may we each use the gifts we've been given to do what it is best for the world, our neighbors, and God's church.

Ever yours in Christ. Peace be with you,

Pastor Caroline

July Council Meeting
Sunday, July 9, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

Meeting was called to order by President Cindy at 10:58 a.m.

Present: Barb Rising, John Lindstrom, Pastor Caroline, Cindy Wolslegel, Curt Meyer, Steve Scheer, LouAnn Dutt

Absent: Jennifer Rheault

Call to Order

Minutes:

Barb moves to accept the minutes from June, 2023. Curt seconds. Motion carries.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report:

Wrong Balance Sheet

Will include June and July in August Council packet

Learning Committee

Has readers for July

Worship & Music Committee

Will meet in August

Property Committee

Continued usual cleaning work in and around church and church grounds, and watering flowers

Assisted at Marlys Simenson's funeral

Vandalism and breakage done to flower pot at Narthex entrance

Repaired flower pot and will try to save flowers

Will replace flowers if needed

Organized and sorted materials in the 2 large partitioned rooms at the south end of the hallway in the upper level (First Sudanese office, Confirmation room, 2 Sunday School rooms)

After contacting TK Elevator to cancel quarterly contract effective 1/1/23, we contracted with Otis Elevator for maintenance when needed.

Spoke to Dustin, local TK elevator rep on June 20 or 21, and told him we were unable to get any satisfaction when contacting Georgia office, but we cancelled their contract effective 1/1/23.

Pastor Caroline let local TK rep in to service elevator on June 22, after the company was told we cancelled contract.

Sent e-mail to local TK elevator telling them they shouldn't have serviced elevator and we wouldn't be paying the bill.

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Drive begins September 17.

LouAnn and Pastor will meet on a Tuesday or Thursday in August

Service & Outreach and Mission Support Committees

No report

Mission Support Committee

No report

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

Pastor's Report

Pastoral – 2 visits in June
1 service at Evergreen
2 funerals (Marlys Simenson, Keith Fiske at Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home)
Attended Synod Assembly

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

Prior Business

Future of Us
Appraisal of the church and parking lot - \$1.54M
Members will be sent an informational gathering ballot to determine what members will remain if Elim moves to a different location
Bible Baptist Church will be touring the church on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

New Business

Council gave permission for Bible Baptist Church to tour Elim building
Curt and Connie are to look at other sites for church
How many Elim members will stay at Elim

Barb moves to adjourn at 12:31. Curt seconds. Motion carries.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday, August 13, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.
Devotions-Pastor Caroline

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Caroline

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**Treasurer's Report**

June, 2023

John Lindstrom

**Balance Sheet**

- ♦ The checking acct balance is \$986.12. The balance at the beginning of the year was \$9,372.02. General Acct Fund balance after June is -\$22,624.95.

**Income and Expense (6/12 or 50% through the year)**

- ♦ Monthly pledge income was under budget (budget \$6,667.00 vs. \$5,210.00).
- ♦ Monthly total income was under budget (budget \$8,970.00 vs. \$7,446.90).
- ♦ YTD pledge income is 53.16% of the budget \$80,000 (actual \$42,524.00).
- ♦ YTD total income is 51.44% of the budget \$107,600.00 (actual \$55,347.31).
- ♦ Monthly expenses were under budget (budget \$12,500.00 vs. \$10,742.42).
- ♦ YTD expenses are 51.98% of the budget \$150,004.00 (actual \$77,972.26)
- ♦ The utility bill was \$585.65. Borrowed \$5,000 from the memorial fund to cover General Fund expenses.

## *August Services Volunteers*

### **USHERS/GREETERS**

August 6  
August 13  
August 20  
August 27

### **LAYREADERS**

August 6  
August 13  
August 20  
August 27

### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

None needed until further notice

### **FLOWERS**

August 6  
August 13  
August 20  
August 27

### **MISSIONARY SUPPORT**

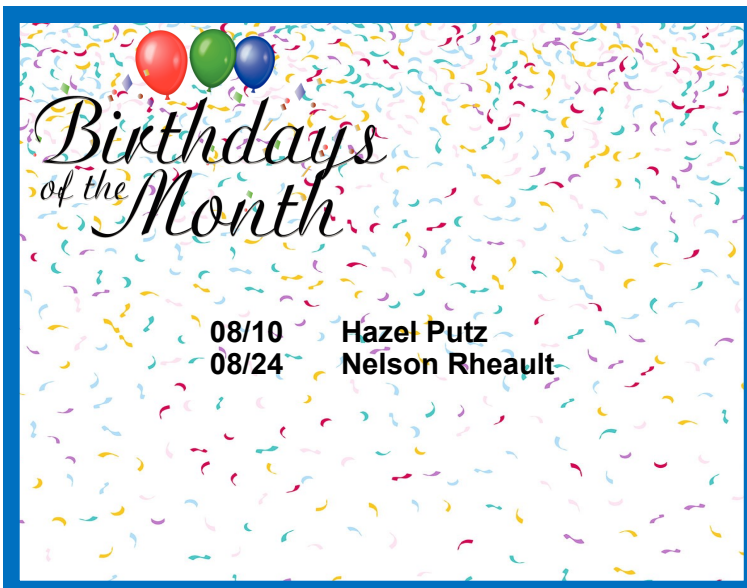
August 6  
August 13  
August 20  
August 27

### **FUNERAL ASSISTANT FOR AUGUST**

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.*



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.*

Copies of "Toward Vital and Vibrant Ministry – A Guide for Congregations Discerning a Vital and Faithful Future" will be placed on the table in the narthex for members to pick up.

Bible Baptist Church came to tour the church and offices and were very interested in our space.

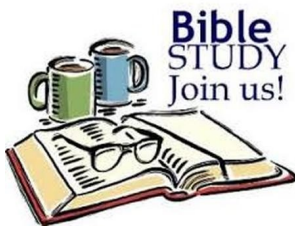
A workgroup will be formed to go through Elim's property to create an inventory and decide what should be done with the property.

Stay tuned for more information and don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,  
Scott Strand



### **2023 - 2024 WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**



This school year, I'd like to try something different for our Bible study. There will be three different shorter studies, taking a week or two break between each of the studies. The first will be on Girzone's book on the Holy Trinity. This book may not be able to fully explain to us who the Holy Trinity is and how three can be one. But hopefully, it will help us to better understand what the Trinity is.

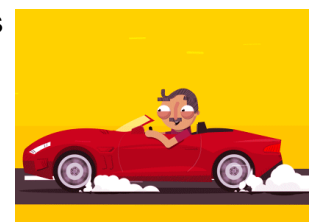
The second study is *The Importance of Why*. When we ask why, we learn. That is a given. And this study will give us a deeper understanding of why and how why is such an important concept. For example, why Jesus? This is one example of some of the whys we will be looking at.

The third Bible study has not been 100% decided upon yet but will likely be the connection between the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed.

I am certainly looking forward to this fall and learning with all of you. Please contact either the office or me with your intent to participate.

*Pastor Caroline*

A police officer pulls over a car pattering along on the highway at 22 miles an hour. He tells the driver, "Ma'am, driving significantly slower than the speed limit is a danger." "But I was doing the speed limit: 22 miles an hour!" she says. So he explains that 22 is the road number, not the speed limit, then adds, "Is everyone okay? Your passengers seem shaken." She replies, "Oh, they'll be fine. They just need a minute. We just got off Route 119!"





In memory of Keith Fiske  
Undesignated

Helen Armstrong  
Robyn Vinje  
Lou Foley  
Don & Laurine Kounovsky  
Dan & Barb Rising

In memory of Marlys Simenson  
Undesignated

Helen Armstrong



Dear Elim family, I felt so comforted to know you were praying for me. Your prayers gave me strength and peace to get through the tough part of my illness. I feel loved and cared for with the get well cards sent, the one who gave me a ride to church, Pastor Caroline, hospital visits, and again, the prayers. I appreciate your kindness! I had heart surgery and I'm working on recovery. God's blessings to my Elim family, LouAnn Dutt

### *July 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





Choir will resume on September 17 with a rehearsal at 9:15 and singing at the worship service at 10:00. We will plan to sing once a month as we have in the past.  
Thanks, Scott Strand



## Serving Groups

**August 6 Group 1**  
**August 13 Group 2**  
**August 20 Group 1**  
**August 27 Group 2**

## Church Council Meeting

Will be held Sunday, August 13, following Worship in the Small Fellowship Hall. ANY AND ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

**Did you know.....**that representatives of Bethany's sponsoring congregations formed the Bethany Auxiliary in 1964. Since then, these dedicated volunteers have provided countless hours of time and energy to conduct a variety of special fundraising events, assist at resident activities and help out around Bethany. Their efforts have generated thousands of dollars that have purchased items to enrich the quality of life for residents at Bethany Retirement Living. To find out how you can be a part of the Bethany Auxiliary, contact Brianne at [bannerson@bethanynd.org](mailto:bannerson@bethanynd.org) or 701.239.3246.



### 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.



# Elim Lutheran Church

## August, 2023

| Sun                                                                                                                               | Mon | Tue                                               | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                                                                                                                                   |     | 1<br>AA mtg.-noon                                 | 2   | 3   | 3   | 5   |
| 6<br><u>Worship w/<br/>Communion-</u><br><u>10:00</u>                                                                             | 7   | 8<br>Evergreen -<br>10 to 11<br><br>AA mtg.-noon  | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13<br><u>Worship w/<br/>Communion-</u><br><u>10:00</u><br><br><u>Council mtg.-</u><br><u>11:00, follow-</u><br><u>ing Worship</u> | 14  | 15<br><br>AA mtg.-noon                            | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 20<br><u>Worship-</u><br><u>10:00</u>                                                                                             | 21  | 22<br>Evergreen -<br>10 to 11<br><br>AA mtg.-noon | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 27<br><u>Worship-</u><br><u>10:00</u>                                                                                             | 28  | 29<br><br>AA mtg.-noon                            | 30  | 31  |     |     |
|                                                                                                                                   |     |                                                   |     |     |     |     |



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**  
**August, 2023**