



The

Grapevine

January, 2024



Happy New Year, Elim Family,

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."

The new year is nearly here. It seems we just turned the calendar page to January, 2023, and here we are moving into 2024. It is my wish for each of you that you may be blessed by the love of God in this new year. May you know the light of Christ which shines brightly for all to see. And may the Holy Spirit lead you down the path of righteousness.

I have recently adopted a new mantra for 2024. I hope to practice this while remembering God has blessed me with relationships with one another which need tender care. I hope to live by these words and also, continue to follow, as best as humanly possible, the Ten Commandments. If you'd like to stop by and see these words posted in my office, please do so. And perhaps we can have a conversation about my mantra and how it affects each of you, my family and friends.

Listen deeply.
Think critically.
Speak respectfully.

In these recent days, it becomes dark so early in the afternoon. Perhaps this is a reminder for us; in the dark days of winter, we are assured the dark will never rule – this darkness of sin. And we are reminded of Christ's light, given to us out of love. This light never fails and it will never fade away. As the days become longer and the season of spring approaches, we can be certain Christ is here with us, now and always.

This reading from the 5th chapter of Matthew is a magnificent reminder of Christ's light which we are called to share.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16 NRSV)

We are the lights of Jesus Christ, and we are not to be hidden in the dark recesses of sin. We are to shine just as a city, when built on a hill for all to see, cannot be hidden. We are to reflect the love of God, so all may see the good works for the benefit of our neighbor and for the praise of God.

It is my prayer we can all remember this light that shines so brightly for all the year of 2024 and beyond. Shine with light of Christ so all may see.

Always in God's love,

Pastor Caroline



December Council Meeting
Sunday, December 10, 2023, 11:15 a.m.

Meeting was called to order by President Cindy Wolslegel at 11:15 a.m.

Present: Cindy Wolslegel, Steve Scheer, LouAnn Dutt, John Lindstrom, Barb Rising, Curt Meyer, Jennifer Rheault, Pastor Caroline (joined by phone)

Guest: Robyn Vinje

Absent:

Call to Order: Open Prayer and Devotion provided by LouAnn Dutt.

Minutes:

Barb Rising moves to approve the minutes from November meeting. LouAnn Dutt seconds. Motion carries.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report

- John reported that the monthly total income was under budget. Funds were taken from unsigned memorials to balance the budget.
- New annual premium for Elim's property insurance is \$8,400, with Church Mutual Insurance.

Learning Committee

- No report
- No additions

Worship & Music Committee

- No report
- No additions

Property Committee

- Curt reported he has not seen any signs of mice.
- Cindy suggested getting peppermint rodent deterrent for mice problem in Church.
Mice do not like the smell and the product is safe around food.
- Curt will look for some.

Stewardship Committee

- Thank you to those who have sent in their pledges.
- Fifteen members returned Time and Talent sheets.
Connie put together spreadsheet from pledges returned.
\$64,000 in pledges from members. A total of \$88,000 including \$24,000 from parking rental.)
- LouAnn said pledges are still being received by mail or bringing to church office.

Service & Outreach and Mission Support Committees

- No report
- No additions

Mission Support Committee

- No report
- No additions

Barb Rising moves to approve the Consent Agenda. Jennifer Rheault seconds. Motion carries.

Pastor's Report

- 0 visits in November
 - 1 service at Evergreen
- Curt has opened church doors at 9:15 Sunday mornings when we have had pulpit supply.

Cindy Wolslegel moves to approve Pastor's report. Curt Meyer seconds. Motion carries.

Prior Business

- Robyn Vinje attended Council meeting to voice a concern. At the November Council meeting, the Council decided not to replace the phone in the elevator because of the cost to have that done. Robyn proposed to have a phone put in the elevator because of safety reasons. Robyn also suggested a separate fund raiser for this important service. Curt will contact Otis Elevator Company to see if there could be a monthly charge for the phone service, instead of a yearly charge.

New Business

- Will contact commercial real estate agent for selling church.
Cindy will visit with Brian Kounovsky about helping with the sale of our church.
- 2023 Annual meeting will be after the church service on Sunday, January 28, 2024.
- Additional member on the Nominating Committee will not be needed. Curt Meyer and LouAnn Dutt are the members on this committee.
- Connie will check on Council members' years of service.
- Decision was made not to accept the proposal from the CPR Certification LLC, for use of our building for CPR classes.
Barb Rising moves not to accept proposal, Jennifer Rheault seconds. Motion carries.
- Barb Rising moves to let Linda Olschlager take the Nativity wall hanging from the church, which she donated. Curt Meyer seconds. Motion carries.
- Devotions for 2024: January-Jennifer Rheault April-LouAnn Dutt
February-Pastor Caroline May-Cindy Wolslegel
March-Barb Rising

Barb Rising moves to adjourn at 12:35. Curt Meyer seconds. Motion carries.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.
Devotions-Jennifer Rheault

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Rheault

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**Treasurer's Report
November, 2023**

John Lindstrom

Balance Sheet

- ⇒ The checking acct balance is \$408.01. The balance at the beginning of the year was \$9,372.02. General Acct Fund balance after November is -\$38,203.06.

Income and Expense (11/12 or 91.6% through the year)

- ⇒ Monthly pledge income was under budget (budget \$6,667.00 vs. \$4,904.00).
- ⇒ Monthly total income was under budget (budget \$8,964.00 vs. \$7,136.81).
- ⇒ YTD pledge income is 81.27% of the budget \$80,000 (actual \$65,012.00).
- ⇒ YTD total income is 82.56% of the budget \$107,600.00 (actual \$88,835.77).
- ⇒ Monthly expenses were under budget (budget \$12,500.00 vs. \$7,819.86).
- ⇒ YTD expenses are at 84.69% of the budget \$150,004.00 (actual \$127,038.83)
- ⇒ The utility bill was \$754.04. Paid \$200 for pest control. Paid semi-annual building insurance premium of \$4,247. This was paid from undesignated memorials.



January Services Volunteers



USHERS/GREETERS

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

FLOWERS

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

LAYREADERS

January 7 Jennifer Rheault
January 14 Cindy Wolslegel
January 21
January 28 Barb Rising

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

None needed until further notice

FUNERAL ASSISTANT

No one needed until further notice.

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.

Dalbol Flowers has had a change in their procedure for ordering Altar flowers. In the past, the Church could order for the individual, with the person being invoiced; but in the future, the individual needs to call and order flowers themselves, with directions that the flowers be delivered the Saturday prior to the Service. With this, be sure you call Connie in the office at 232-2574, to let her know which Sunday you would like them for, so it may be noted in that Sunday's bulletin. The usual cost for Altar flowers is around \$26.00 for 2 vases, plus tax and delivery charges. If you wish to take the flowers home with you following worship, please let Connie know.

Thank you.



In memory of Keith Fiske

Library

Elaine Fiske
Duane & Becky Slusher

A deeply spiritual man from China in the sixth century lived a simple life and was in poor health. He created a collection of 81 Wisdom Statements he had written over the years. He summed them up in the following three statements:

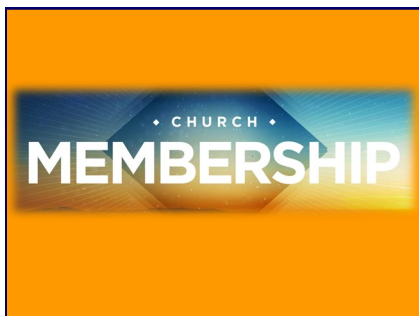
When people care, they are unafraid.

When they are fair, they leave enough for others.

When they are humble, they can grow.

Let us reflect on these statements frequently throughout 2024!

December Baptisms, Funerals, Membership Transfers In, and Transfers Out



Baptisms: None

Funerals: None

Membership Transfers Out of Elim: Jean Berg

Membership Transfers In to Elim: None

Deaths: Carol Jensen



Choir rehearsal at 9:15 on Sunday, January 21, with singing during Worship.



Serving Groups

January 7	Group 1
January 14	Group 2
January 21	Group 1
January 28	Group 2

Church Council Meeting

Will be held Sunday, January 14, following Worship in the Small Fellowship Hall.
ANY AND ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

Did you know.....that Bethany Retirement Living is sponsored by 36 congregations of the ELCA, including this one!? Delegates from sponsoring churches elect the Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting in April. The Board is charged with overseeing the policies and operations of Bethany Retirement Living. AND, members of this church are donors, advocates for Bethany and active in the Auxiliary that helps enrich the quality of life for the residents. To learn more, visit Bethany's web site at www.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
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)
Steve Scheer

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

January, 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 AA-noon	3 <u>Bible Study-10:00</u>	4	5	6
7 <u>Worship w/ Communion-10:00</u>	8	9 <u>Evergreen-10 to 11</u> AA-noon	10 <u>Bible Study-10:00</u>	11	12	13
14 <u>Worship w/ Communion-10:00</u> <u>Council meeting following Worship</u>	15 	16 AA-noon	17 <u>Bible Study-10:00</u>	18 <u>Elim Women-10:00, Sons of Norway</u>	19	20
21 <u>Choir rehearsal-9:15</u> <u>Worship w/ choir-10:00</u> <u>Information Forum</u>	22	23 <u>Evergreen-10 to 11</u> AA-noon	24 <u>Bible Study-10:00</u>	25	26	27
28 <u>Worship-10:00</u> <u>Annual Meeting following Worship</u>	29	30 AA-noon	31 <u>Bible Study-10:00</u>			

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January



The Grapevine

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

www.elim-lutheran.org

"Built on a Triangle with Faith in the Triune"

Pastor:	Caroline Strand
Office Administrator:	Connie Rawls
Maintenance:	Curt Meyer
Music Staff:	Robyn Vinje
Organist	Scott Strand
Choir Director	Katie Narum Miyamoto
Missionary	

Monthly Newsletter
January, 2024