



Elim Lutheran Church

The Messenger

February 2019

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Pastor's Ponderings . . .

I'm sure that I have written about the seasons during my time at Elim. I see the world in liturgical form much of the time. But during this last article I wish to expound on the types of seasons one last time. We separate a year into the seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter. We also separate the church year into seasons of Ordinary Time (season after Pentecost), Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Time after Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. But there are also seasons in every life from birth to death. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Another way to talk about the times of our lives is to call them seasons.

Each person has different seasons in their lives. Oh, most of us have similar seasons of infancy, toddler, childhood, adolescence, etc. But within those seasons there may be illnesses that are recorded, or events that stick out in our minds. Those events may scar us when they are difficult occurrences or they may leave a joyful remembrance for us to embrace as we continue our lives. Personally, I had two events that affected my childhood and those were the deaths of my nephew and my sister. But I also had happy events such as the return of my brother from the Navy. Another enormous event for me was my Confirmation. This was a huge event for me because my mother believed that a person became an "adult" when they were confirmed. But that also left me with responsibility for actions in my life. Each of our seasons are unique to each individual.

As we grow older there are other seasons which may or may not occur depending on life's circumstances. We may attend college or not. Or, like in my case, I didn't attend college until my own children were growing older. Seasons may be after or before getting married. They may be after a divorce or death. Seasons may be part of the empty nest time of life. Seasons may be filled with life without any children at all. With each season comes a time of adjustment. As we all know change and adjustment are rarely easy. It is helpful when we can accept the changes that life brings to us.

Seasons may be before or after an event. Following my open-heart surgery, I knew my season here at Elim was coming to its closure. You were the perfect church to assist me in getting through this season of my life. I truly believe that the Holy Spirit led me here to Elim because God knew I would be in need of your love, grace, and care. While I was serving you, you served me as well. You helped me to grow and change, recognizing that just as you needed a pastor, I needed your offerings of care, and chances to grow in love and peace in a congregation.

I pray that all your seasons ahead are filled with Christ's holy presence. With Christ in our hearts we can and do move through the seasons of life. Thank you for my time here at Elim.

With Christian love,

Pr. Katherine

Prayers



Please keep in prayer: Kenny Talbott, Raymond Rock, Ike Bauer (friend of Dawson Feil), Hayes Schmid (friend of Jakob Feil), Josh Nelson, Rhonda McEachern (sister of Rita Brown), Rita Brown, Skye Farris, Danny Morel, Debbie Brown, Mark Cook (Pastor Cross' son-in-law), Don Lundquist, Sarah Jane Smith, Mary Olson, Vernon Olson, Diane Deckard.

Special prayers to the family of Tim Thatcher, nephew of Pastor Katherine.

Elim strives to extend the power of prayer to those who feel they would benefit from it. New prayer requests will be taken at any time. Contact the church office: leave a note on the bulletin board, or email elimsec@gmail.com. Please note that the list will renew every three months on April 1, July 1, Oct. 1, and Jan. 1. Names will be removed unless there is notification to keep them on the list. Thank you.

~ CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES ~

Church Council – Met January 7. Council members met with Rev. Keith Hohly from ELCA to discuss interim/transitional process after Pastor Katherine moves to her new church assignment.

Worship & Music: No meeting.

Finance & Stewardship: Met January 3. Prepared 2019 budget proposal. Council approved.

Evangelism: No meeting.

Social Ministry: No meeting. Super Bowl food bank drive through Feb. 3, 2019.

Christian Education: No meeting. Soup lunch following Sunday School Christmas Program Dec. 16 brought in \$300 in freewill donations.

Property: No meeting. Randy Jirak met with Council to discuss options presented by architect to meet ADA requirements for restroom renovations.

Memorial: No meeting.

Security Committee: No meeting. Jeremy Snapp will be attending active shooter training in McPherson.

Next meeting to be held on February 3 at 7:00 p.m.

CARD SHOWER FOR MARK and SIGNE (CROSS) COOK

One of our former Elim members, Signe (Cross) Cook was recently honored as one of the eight finalists for the 2019 Kansas Teacher of the Year award. This honor will allow her to travel this full year with the team of finalists and the named Kansas Teacher of the Year Whitney Morgan, who teaches at Wyandotte High School in Kansas City (USD 500), Kansas. Mrs. Cook teaches at Park Elementary School in Great Bend (USD 428), Kansas. The Kansas Teacher of the Year program, sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education, identifies, recognizes, and utilizes representatives of excellent teaching in the state's elementary and secondary classrooms. The Kansas Teacher of the Year team of exemplary teachers are committed to improving schools, student performance and the teaching profession in Kansas. As most of you know, Signe's husband Mark Cook, who is an administrator in the Great Bend schools, has been facing heart problems. If you'd like to send the Cooks a card to congratulate Signe and let Mark know we are praying for him, their address is Mark and Signe Cook, 211 Craig, Ellinwood, KS 67526. [Editor's note: Signe is the daughter of our former Pastor Larry Cross and his wife Janice.]



ELCA COVENANT FOR DEPARTING PASTOR

Dear Elim Lutheran Church congregation members,

Pastor Katherine Kolodziejczyk and the Elim Congregation Council have signed a covenant, which helps us understand our relationship with one another as we move forward without her. We signed this covenant at the January 7, 2019 Elim Church Council meeting in preparation for Pastor Katherine completing her time with us January 31, 2019. The following information comes directly (with minimal changes that apply to our church) from the ELCA "Letter to Congregation Concerning Covenant for Departing Pastor" provided by Pastor Keith Hohly at this meeting.

When a pastor leaves a congregation, the ELCA synod has determined that it is not appropriate for her to continue to function in the pastoral role. This is difficult and sometimes painful for us to understand. However, if we remember that part of our calling as the people of God is to care for the body of Christ and not injure different members of it, we might find it easier to accept. For instance, if a pastor does a funeral for Jane because she was so special, why won't the pastor perform a baptism for Joe's family? It's easy to see how hurt feelings would not only affect Joe's feelings toward the former pastor but perhaps also feelings within the body of Christ between Jane's and Joe's family.

It is important for us to understand that as of February 1, 2019, Pastor Katherine is no longer our pastor but she will pray for our continued and future mission and ministry and for a strong and fruitful partnership with our future pastoral leaders. Therefore Pastor Katherine **cannot**:

- Come back to perform weddings, funerals, or baptisms;
- Visit the sick and the homebound;
- Continue in any counseling relationships with a parishioner;
- Be involved in any way in the call process;
- Support or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement; and/or
- Return to lead worship services (unless down the road she is invited back as a "former pastor" to participate in a special event, such as a church anniversary).

We give thanks to God for the time Pastor Katherine was with us and we pray for her as she now goes forth to serve God and the church in a new church in Indiana. We are working with the synod office to develop interim plans and eventually enter in the call process for a new pastor. We trust that God will send us a new leader who will be called to serve God and the ministry of this congregation for the next stage of our ministry. We are fortunate that our PMA Wally Bunk will cover these ministerial duties throughout February, while our Elim Church Council determines future plans for Elim.

Blessings,

Betty Amos, Council President

WELCA NEWS



NEW WELCA OFFICERS START THE YEAR FOR ELIM!

The new officers want to focus on getting Elim women involved in our projects and mission, and assisting the church/members with starting a new year without a pastor. Please give us your concerns, suggestions, and issues.

President: JoAn Lindfors; Vice-President: Diane Talbott; Secretary: Jackie Larson; Treasurer: Cindy Bunk.

WELCA women hosted a goodbye Fellowship time for Pastor Katherine on her last Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. Thank you to the members that helped bring food and decorate for the reception and Annual Meeting on that date.

FOR FEBRUARY:

1) Thank you to Beth Thomas for lining up members to deliver **Meals on Wheels** for February. Beth is chairman of the Meals on Wheels committee.

2) **Riverview Birthday parties for 2019:** Please sign up for this special monthly event for Riverview Estates residents. Beth Thomas once again stepped up to do it in January, because it was scheduled before our Annual Meeting. It only entails bringing a snack for residents at 2:00 p.m. on the last Friday of each month. You can do it alone or get someone to assist you. However, Cindy Bunk and Dori Weber are both at Riverview to assist you. (NOTE: A new rule is that you must wear gloves or use thongs to serve the residents. Riverview will have the gloves.) Also ---- NO balloons allowed.

3) **Riverview Sing-Alongs for 2019:** Usually the Pastor leads these Sing-alongs that Elim does on the 3rd Sunday of each month (January – May; September – December), so we really need Elim members to sign-up for these Sundays and assist whoever is leading. Jackie Larson and Brooke Olson chair this committee.

On **February 17, 2019**, WELCA Executive Officers will be giving each resident a VALENTINE gift, so join in showing the Riverview residents our love. If you want to assist stuffing the Valentines and/or give a donation, please notify one of the officers. We will be stuffing them at **8:30 a.m., Sunday, February 3, 2019**.

JoAn Lindfors, President

140th ELIM LUTHERAN ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOKS are still available for \$15.00 each. They can be purchased at City Sundries or Marquette Farmers State Bank during regular business hours. If you missed out purchasing one earlier in the year, here's your chance to receive these treasured recipes. They also make great gifts for birthdays or other occasions.

Trinity WELCA Soup Supper

The Trinity Lutheran Women of the ELCA have invited Elim WELCA members to attend their Soup Supper Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 6:30 pm in Trinity Hall [119 N. Elm Street, McPherson, Kansas]. They will have lots of different soups, breads and desserts, followed by a short program on Lutheran Rosary Beads. If you are interested in attending, please notify JoAn Lindfors or Diane Talbott by February 1, 2019.



PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR RECORDS

We are asking **each member** to complete the following form to ensure we have the correct information on you and members of your family. This information will not be shared outside of the church newsletter or member correspondence. If you haven't completed the form yet, please do so as soon as possible. We will be notifying all members who have not responded by end of March 2019. THANK YOU!

Please NA any portions that do not pertain to you. Return the form to Elim Lutheran Church, 403 N. Lincoln, Marquette, KS 67464. There is also a collection box at the front of the church, or you can send it via email to elimsec@gmail.com.

First & Last Name: _____ Birthday (Month/Day/Year): ____/____/____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Home address: _____

Spouse: _____ Birthday (Month/Day/Year): ____/____/____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Anniversary (Month/Day/Year): ____/____/____

Children: (if additional names needed, please attach additional form)

First & Last Name: _____ Birthday (Month/Day/Year): ____/____/____

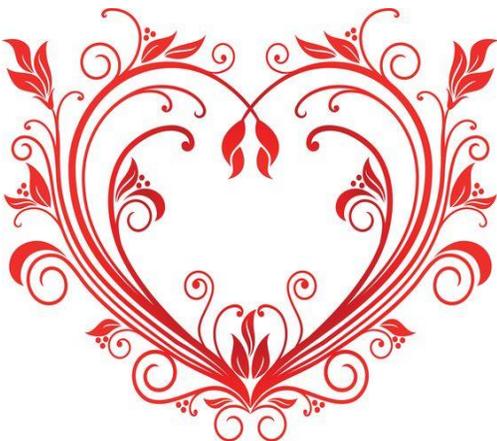
First & Last Name _____ Birthday (Month/Day/Year): ____/____/____

First & Last Name _____ Birthday (Month/Day/Year): ____/____/____

Please indicate if you are a current member at Elim, or have transferred membership to another church:

Current member(s): YES / NO

Transferred membership: YES / NO



VALENTINE'S DINNER

Elim Youth Group is once again preparing and serving a Valentine's dinner on **FEBRUARY 16** at **6:00-8:00 PM** at Elim Lutheran Church Parish Hall. The meal includes spaghetti, breadsticks, salad and dessert. Cost is \$5.00 per meal and take-out is available. Reservations can be made for specific times, and tickets are sold in advance and available through any Youth Group member or by calling Hannah Jones at (620) 245-7352. **Please purchase your tickets no later than February 10.** It's a fun and delicious way to celebrate Valentine's Day and support our youth. Proceeds from the ticket sales go to future mission work and events.

FUN FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS ENJOYABLE EVENING WITH THE YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH GROUP



YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN December 28, 2019

Back row: Ryenne Cunningham, Grace Witte, Abbie Hudson, Emma McBride, Lily Boughfman, Pierce Hamma.

Front row: Jakob Feil, Madison Loder, Rylee Cunningham (holding Gus Jones), Michelle Loder, and Jake Loder.

The youth group enjoyed games, snacks, slept some and enjoyed some breakfast the next day. They all wore their newly-gifted pajama pants with the lettering “LL” – in honor of their nickname “Likeable (or Loveable) Lutherans”, or perhaps a throw-back to Luther League! Youth Group resumed Wednesday night meetings January 9 and will continue until Spring Break.

FALL/WINTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Junior Abbie Hudson and Freshman Lily Boughfman were selected for League 1st team in Volleyball at Little River.
- Seniors Madison and Michelle Loder, and Juniors Emma McBride and Jake Loder completed the inaugural season of cross country at Little River.
- Junior Jakob Feil was selected to the State Defensive team for Football at McPherson and selected Special Teams MVP.
- Seniors Madison and Michelle Loder were selected as Kansas Honor Scholars.
- Rylee Cunningham and Michelle Loder were also chosen as Homecoming Candidates at their respective schools.
- Pierce Hamma has been busy this past semester: mid-level state choir for third and final year; primary role in school musical; first alternate clarinet player for district band; performed in marching band that took 2nd in Baker Marching Band Festival; participated in math relays at Fort Hays; part of student council; part of Choir Leadership Team, Eagle project was approved and started; and on the A honor roll.

We're proud of our Youth Group and all their many accomplishments.

Also, a HUGE shout out and THANKS to all those that have provided meals for us so far. A full belly with fellowship is always best!

SERVING THE LORD IN FEBRUARY

ACOLYTES:

Madison Loder, Michelle Loder

ALTAR FLOWERS:

3 – Matt and Diane Hedberg

17 – Fred Peterson

GREETERS:

3 – Scott and Tammy Feil and family

10 – _____

17 – Darren Able and family

24 – Barry and Carylee Nelson

LECTORS:

3 – Brooke Olson

10 – _____

17 – Darren Able

24 – Bob Jones

CHILDREN'S SERMONS:

10 – Julie Olson

COMMUNION SETUP/CLEANUP:

February 3 - Setup: Charlotte Knackstedt
Jayleen Sellhorn

COMMUNION ASSISTANT:

3 – Wally Bunk

USHERS:

Scott Johnson – Captain, Randy Jirak, Layne Patrick, Scott Feil, Dixon Johnson, Bob Jones, Monte Loder, Joel Nelson, Linn Nelson, Steve Patrick, Kenny Talbott, Tyler French

COFFEE HOSTESS:

3– _____

10 – Debbie McGinty

17 – _____

24 – _____

RIVERVIEW BIRTHDAY PARTY:

February 17 – WELCA Officers

RIVERVIEW SING-ALONG:

February 17 – Brooke Olson, WELCA

Coffee Host/Hostesses are needed!



Please sign up in the kitchen if you are interested. Bring any treat you want - cookies, cake, donuts, snack crackers, etc.

Set them out at 9:30 a.m. for serving and brew up a pot of coffee for Coffee and Fellowship at 10:30-11:00 a.m. That's all it takes to help. Join us!

Monthly Financial Report

JANUARY 2019

Beginning Balance as of 12/01/19:	\$32,584.06
Revenue:	\$20,521.23
Expenses:	\$-13,405.20
Ending Balance as of 12/31/19:	\$39,700.09

**You are invited to attend the performance of
"Kära Lindsborg: Our Legacy in Story and Song"
Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 7:00 PM**

A.J. Steinberg Auditorium

Children from Soderstrom Grade School and Smoky Valley Middle School will perform a special song written by Lindsborg residents, Mike and Rose Marie Wallen, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the naming of the community. The song is the story of the immigrants who arrived in the Smoky Valley and created the community of Lindsborg.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group is in need of large floor or sofa pillows, afghans or sofa blankets, end tables, lamps, etc. to make the youth room more cozy. Call Hannah Jones at (620) 245-7352 if you have items you would like to share, or bring them to the church basement on Sunday mornings. THANKS!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Skye Farris
- 4 Joel Nelson
- 6 Eric Edwards
- 7 Justin Rock
- 7 Sandra Myers
- 8 Dori Staggs
- 10 Korbin Niegsch
- 11 Bob Jones
- 16 Katrina Sickmon
- 18 Karen Teague
- 18 Brynne Weber
- 19 Gracie Brady
- 20 McKenzie Brady
- 23 Sarah Jane Smith
- 24 Kendal Brueggen
- 25 Jody Lindh
- 26 Jamie Nelson
- 27 Jake Loder
- 28 Wyatt Reid
- 28 Maggie Lindfors

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Mr. and Mrs. Roger Hudson 16 years

SUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE

The Social Ministry committee is hosting a food drive for the McPherson Food Bank. Please bring canned or dry goods to the wire basket located at the back of the church sanctuary. Let's fill up the basket! **Deadline for donations is next Sunday (Super Bowl) February 3, 2019.** THANKS for contributing to a great cause.

ELIM LIFE GROUP

Meetings in February will be **Wednesday, February 13 and 27 at 7:00-8:00 PM.** **Come and go** as it works for you. Just come as you are, join in at any point, bring a snack if you like, and listen in or share your thoughts. It is very informal and a great way to reaffirm your faith and bolster fellowship with others. Visit Elim's website or Facebook page for more information.

ONLINE GIVING

Consider ONLINE GIVING. It is an easy and convenient way to ensure your offering gets "in the plate" on a weekly or monthly basis. With everyone's busy lifestyles, church attendance is not always possible. With online giving, you don't have to worry that you missed a Sunday. Simply go to www.elimmarquette.org. Click on the GIVE ONLINE button on the homepage. The ONLINE DONATION page will come up where you can select the DONATION FREQUENCY (one time, weekly, or monthly). Create your own account by clicking "Create Profile" button. If you do a General Fund donation, click continue to select a checking or savings account and complete the required information. Don't forget to click on PROCESS to submit your authorized donation. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT.**

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

To all Thrivent members, please check your Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2018. You can direct them to Elim before March 2019. Elim is thankful for all Choice Dollars. To date, Elim Lutheran Church has received \$1456.00 from Choice Dollars donated in 2018. **THANK YOU!**

DON'T FORGET THE NEXT RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE AT ELIM FEBRUARY 5, 2019

All bloodmobiles held at Elim Lutheran Church Parish Hall are from 1:00-7:00 PM and require an appointment. The Red Cross coordinator is implementing a program to allow you to schedule a year in advance. For more information, contact Linda Johnson at (785) 826-5544.

Elim Lutheran Church Calendar for FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Fourth Sunday in Epiphany WELCA Officer Meeting – 8:30 AM Sunday School – 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study – 9:30 AM Junior & Youth Choir – 10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship - 10:30 AM Worship w/ HC - 11:00 AM	4 7:00 PM Church Council Mtg.	5	6 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – HS Youth Group Confirmation Class 7:30 PM – Senior Choir Bulletin Deadline	7 Bulletin Printed	8	9
10 Fifth Sunday in Epiphany Sunday School – 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study -9:30 AM Junior & Youth Choir – 10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship --10:30 AM Worship w/ Children’s Message - 11:00 AM	11	12	13 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – HS Youth Group Confirmation Class 7:00 PM – Elim Life Group 7:30 PM – Senior Choir Bulletin Deadline	14 Bulletin Printed	15	16 YOUTH GROUP VALENTINE’S DINNER 6:00-8:00 PM
17 Sixth Sunday in Epiphany Sunday School – 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study – 9:30 AM Junior & Youth Choir – 10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship - 10:30 AM Worship w/ HC- 11:00 AM Riverview Singalong – 4:00 PM	18 Messenger Deadline	19	20 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – HS Youth Group Confirmation Class 7:30 PM – Senior Choir Bulletin Deadline	21 Bulletin Printed	22 2:00 PM – Riverview Birthday Party	23
24 Seventh Sunday in Epiphany Sunday School – 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study -9:30 AM Junior & Youth Choir – 10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship - 10:30 AM Worship w/ Children’s Message - 11:00 AM	25	26	27 1:30 PM - Quilting 6:30 PM – Youth Meal 7:00 PM – HS Youth Group Confirmation Class 7:00 PM – Elim Life Group 7:30 PM – Senior Choir Bulletin Deadline	28		KEY: HC = Holy Communion HS = High School