

**Men of Elim Pancake Breakfast**

Sunday, January 18 8:30—11 am



**Women's Choir Sunday | January 18**

Are you interested in trying out the choir? Join us on January 18! All the girls and women interested in singing will provide the anthem that day. It will be fun to have a large group of women singing for our worship.

*How to join:* Please come to church that morning, January 18, at 8:45 am for rehearsal. We'll sing something fairly easy, so you don't have to worry about the song being too difficult. If it fits your schedule, you're also welcome to attend rehearsal on Wednesday, January 15 at 7:15 when the choir women will rehearse the number.

*For more info:* If you have any questions, call Dick Balkus at 763-502-6974.

**GOD SIGHTINGS**

**Homebound Ministry**

by Mary Mitchell

Our team strives to keep homebound members connected to their Elim family by visiting regularly, offering communion, and providing devotionals and prayer shawls. Our card ministry sends handmade "thinking of you" and sympathy cards throughout the year as well.

Each summer, we host a worship service and luncheon and transport our homebound members here so they can attend. It's very special for them to be in their church, see their friends, and sing their favorite hymns. More than 100 meals are served to homebound members, families, friends, and volunteers.

On November 22, we made cookies and Christmas cards to be delivered to homebound members. This gift of Christmas cheer is very meaningful. One recipient wrote, "These tray cards are beautiful! Thank you so much. We appreciate receiving them." Another wrote, "I deeply appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness in sending this lovely box of special cookies."

God uses the activities of the homebound ministry to touch each person with His love and keep them surrounded by His care and connected to His church.



# PASTOR'S CORNER



It's a new year and my gym is once again full (I've heard) as yet another set of resolutions have been made by us to our clothes, our loved ones and ourselves!

The flipping of the calendar is an obvious time for us to pause and reflect on the year just past and to resolve to make changes as we continue on our life's journey into the year ahead.

The church calendar flipped back on November 30, 2014 as we began a new church year with Advent and then celebrated Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. We remember that blessed event every year because it marks the time when God intervened within time and history to heal the breach between creation and creator once and for all.

On the Christian calendar, January 6 marks another very important day. 12 days after Christmas, the Church celebrates Epiphany. We mark the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi who followed the Star to find Jesus swaddled and lying in a manger. The expansion of God's covenant from Israel to the rest of the world began with this visit from

strangers from the East. That covenant has since grown and expanded to include you and me. The Epiphany season continues until the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, known as Transfiguration Sunday.

In earlier times the Church used the occasion of Epiphany to announce the date of Easter on people's calendars, since that date moves every year according to the cycle of the moon! Before digital watches, and Paul Douglas' meteorological blog, it was the Church that announced Easter to the people!

So what does all of this church calendar talk have to do with you and with me? Brothers and sisters, our lives are directed by so much that it is often hard for us to keep our lives straight. In my household we have three calendars: one for me, one for Carrie, and one for all four of us! I tend to call the season we are in now the season of "hurry" as we run from one obligation to the next... and I'm told that life gets even faster from here on out!

The liturgical calendar is a chance for us to conform our busy lives to God's calendar...

the rhythm of church life is not meant to be despotic, but it is an attempt to help us, as God's children, to set our lives and our rhythms to the beat of a different drum.

By pausing to give thanks for Jesus' message to the Gentiles, we remember that God's kingdom is not exclusionary, but expansionist! Likewise, when we gathered around the manger in church, and in our hearts, we remembered that God comes to us as in the form of a little, infant boy. It's not the model we would necessarily choose for the savior of the world, but thankfully, salvation has not been left up to us... God has taken care of all of that.

And now, having set our spiritual watches to "God Standard Time," let us go forth this day, and this year, to share that Good News with the whole world! God is with us, all of us, for each of us.

See you at church,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Chris Easted".

## Everyone is invited on Wednesday nights!

5pm Dinner and open gym  
6pm Kids' ROCK: grades K-6  
Confirmation: grades 7-8  
Adult Bible Study  
6:15pm Ringtones rehearsal  
Stamping and Card  
Making (Jan 7 & 21)  
7:15pm Elim Choir rehearsal

## "Cabin Fever Cleaning Day"

Saturday, January 17 at 10am

Our Director of Facilities Brandon Chenevert is organizing a day of decluttering and tackling some of the larger projects around church (such as the storage room by the Parlor). It's a great chance for all ages to give back to their church home. Confirmation students can earn service hours by participating. We'll begin at 10:00 am. Lunch will be provided!

*How to join:* Contact Brandon at [bchenevert@elim-robbinsdale.org](mailto:bchenevert@elim-robbinsdale.org) or (763) 537-8481 to let him know you'll be participating.

# a message from THE ELIM FOUNDATION



PLANT YOUR  
SEEDS NOW



AND TRUST IN  
THE LORD



THAT THESE SEEDS  
WILL BEAR FRUIT



EVEN WHEN  
YOU ARE GONE

## **Elim Foundation Board**

*Terry Carlson, Chairman*  
*Maureen Engelstad*  
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*Scott Hagen, Treasurer*  
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*Pastor Chris Enstad, ex officio*  
*Rick Arntson, ex officio*

## **Happy New Year!**

New Year, when we all seem to make those resolutions to change some behavior or another to make ourselves or our lives better: spend more time with the family, volunteer more, lose those extra pounds. It's a time to change those old habits for new ones that will move us forward. Your Elim Foundation has something we would like you to consider as a new resolution or habit – making regular gifts to the Foundation or adding a gift to the Foundation to your estate plan.

These gifts that you so generously entrust to the Foundation have been used to do many things over the years: provide additional education to our pastors, help a son or daughter of the congregation with the costs of attending seminary, assist with the renovation of our cabin at Luther Park, help cover the cost of a much needed improvement within the building itself, purchase study materials for member Bible study.

Tax time is just around the corner. As you meet with your tax professional or tax preparer, consider asking them how you could benefit tax-wise by directing a gift to the Elim Lutheran Church of Robbinsdale MN Foundation, Inc. Perhaps you have appreciated stock, Required Minimum Distributions from an IRA, or some other source that you would like to see go to work for the mission of Elim for many years to come. Talk to any of the Foundation Board members for information on the great things the Elim Lutheran Church of Robbinsdale MN Foundation, Inc does for Elim Lutheran Church and the community and how your gifts make these things possible. And of course, talk to a tax professional, financial planner or attorney for personal tax advice.

## **Elim Book Club**

Tues, Jan 13 at 4:00pm

This month's book is *The Aviator's Wife*, about Charles Lindberg's wife, by Melanie Benjamin.

*How to join:* Anyone who has read the book is welcome to attend. No RSVP needed.

## **Women's Movie Night**

Fri, Jan 16 at 6:30pm

Join us in the Theater Room!  
*How to join:* All Elim women and friends are welcome! No RSVP needed.

## **Elim Veterans | Monday, Jan 12 at 11:00 am**

Elim's veterans are invited to gather in the Parlor for fellowship and companionship. Spouses and guests always welcome. Lunch follows the speaker and costs \$4 per person.

This month's program will be two-fold. Retired Superintendent of Chisago Lakes Schools Donald Bungum will show a DVD of interviews he has conducted with veterans. A veteran himself, he has been working to record the stories of veterans and has talked to over 150 men and women who served.

Retired Lutheran pastor Michas Ohnstad will relate his experiences working with American and Japanese doctors and nurses in a joint commission in Hiroshima to determine the effects of radiation from the atomic bomb on the population. Ohnstad, a Pvt., and a S/Sgt. were the only enlisted personnel selected to work on the commission, which was led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

*How to join:* Reservations requested; please call (763) 537-8481 to let us know you will be attending.

# January

Sun

Mon

Tue

**Wednesday Night Live:**  
 5:00-6:00 p.m. Dinner and open gym  
 6:00-7:00 Kids' Rock grades K-6  
 6:00-7:00 Confirmation grades 7-8  
 6:00-7:00 Adult education hour  
 6:15 p.m. Elim Ringtones rehearsal  
 6:15 p.m. Card making (Jan 7 & 21)  
 7:15 p.m. Elim Choir rehearsal

**4**  
**9:30am Family Worship with Communion**  
 Coffee and donuts —Parlor  
 11am Philosophers' Book Club—Fireside Room  
 11am Lao ELC —Gym  
 11am Greater All Nations—Reception Room  
 11am Spiritual Church of God —Chapel  
 1pm Inspired Living Fire Church—Chapel

**5**  
 7:30am Monday Sanctuary Team  
 9am Women of Elim Meeting—Recep Room  
 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) —Golden Valley  
 12:30pm Ruth Circle-Fireside Room  
 4:30pm Baton Twirlers—Gym  
 7pm Cub Scouts—Parlor  
 7pm Boy Scouts—Gym

**6**  
 7am BNI—Parlor  
 9:45am E Team—Recep Rm  
 12-4pm Genesis Church-Conf Rm  
 4pm KidPack—The Food Group in New Hope  
 4:30pm Baton Twirlers—Gym  
 5:30 Women's AA—Fireside Room  
 6pm Girl Scouts—classrooms  
 7:30 AA —Fireside Room

**11**  
**9:30am Worship and Sunday School**  
 Coffee and donuts —Parlor  
 11am Philosophers' Book Club—Conference Room  
 11am 7-12 Youth and Parents Planning Meeting—Fireside Room  
 11am Lao ELC —Gym  
 11am Greater All Nations—Reception Room  
 11am Spiritual Church of God —Chapel  
 1pm Inspired Living Fire Church—Chapel

**12**  
 7:30am Monday Sanctuary Team  
 11am Veterans Lunch'—Parlor  
 4:30pm Baton Twirlers—Gym  
 7pm Cub Scouts—Classrooms  
 7pm Boy Scouts—Gym  
 7pm E Team—Reception Room

**13**  
 9:45am E Team—Reception Room  
 12-4pm Genesis Church-Conf Rm  
 4pm Book Club—Conf Room  
 4:30pm Baton Twirlers—Gym  
 5:30 Women's AA—Parlor  
 6:30pm Executive Committee  
 6:30pm Baptism Class—Chapel  
 Board Meetings  
 7:30 AA —Parlor

**18**  
 8:30-11am Men of Elim Pancake Breakfast—Gym  
**9:30am Worship with Communion and Sunday School**  
 Coffee and donuts —Parlor  
 11am Philosophers' Book Club—Fireside Room  
 11am Lao ELC —Gym  
 11am Greater All Nations—Reception Room  
 11am Spiritual Church of God —Chapel  
 1pm Inspired Living Fire Church—Chapel

**19**  
 7:30am Monday Sanctuary Team  
 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) —Golden Valley  
 4:30pm Baton Twirlers—Gym  
 7pm Cub Scouts—Classrooms  
 7pm Boy Scouts—Gym

**20**  
 12-4pm Genesis Church-Conf Rm  
 4:30pm Baton Twirlers—Gym  
 5:30pm Women's AA-Fireside Rm  
 7pm Church Council—Recep Room  
 7:30pm AA—Fireside Room

**25**  
**9:30am Worship and Sunday School**  
 Coffee and donuts —Parlor  
 11am Philosophers' Book Club—Fireside Room  
 11am Lao ELC —Gym  
 11am Greater All Nations—Reception Room  
 11am Spiritual Church of God —Chapel  
 1pm Inspired Living Fire Church—Chapel

**26**  
 7:30am Monday Sanctuary Team  
 1pm Messenger Processing  
 4:30pm Baton Twirlers—Gym  
 7pm Boy Scouts—Gym

**27**  
 12-4pm Genesis Church-Conf Rm  
 4pm KidPack—Food Group in New Hope  
 4:30pm Baton Twirlers—Gym  
 5:30pm Women's AA-Fireside Rm  
 7:30pm AA—Fireside Room

# y 2014

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><b>1</b> New Year's Day <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p><b>2</b> 10:00-5:30 Blood Drive—Gym</p>	<p><b>3</b> 9am Adonai—Chapel 11am Holy Yoga— Reception Room</p>
<p><b>7</b> 12-3pm E Team—Reception Room Wednesday Night Live 6:30pm Spiritual Church of God—Chapel Homeschool Speech Competition Begin Setup</p>	<p><b>8</b> Homeschool Speech Competition— Entire Building Rented</p>	<p><b>9</b> Homeschool Speech Competition—Entire Building Rented</p>	<p><b>10</b> Homeschool Speech Competition—Entire Building Rented except Chapel 9am Adonai—Chapel</p>
<p><b>14</b> 12-3pm E Team—Reception Room Wednesday Night Live 6:30pm Spiritual Church of God—Chapel</p>	<p><b>15</b> 7am BNI—Parlor 7:30am Bible Study—Conf. Room 9am Leisure Age—Gym 9:30am Bible Study—Reception Room 6pm Finance Meeting—Conference Room</p>	<p><b>16</b> Set up for Men of Elim Pancake Breakfast 6:30pm Women's Movie Night</p>	<p><b>17</b> 9am Adonai—Chapel 10am Cabin Fever Cleaning Day 11am Holy Yoga— Reception Room</p>
<p><b>21</b> 12-3pm E Team—Reception Room Wednesday Night Live 6:30pm Spiritual Church of God—Chapel</p>	<p><b>22</b> 7am BNI—Parlor 7:30am Bible Study—Conf. Room 9am Leisure Age—Gym 9:30am Bible Study—Reception Room 7pm Birdtown Theology Pub— Westphal American Legion</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 9am Adonai—Chapel 11am Holy Yoga— Reception Room</p>
<p><b>28</b> 12-3pm E Team—Reception Room Wednesday Night Live 6:30pm Spiritual Church of God—Chapel</p>	<p><b>29</b> 7am BNI—Parlor 7:30am Bible Study—Conf. Room 9am Leisure Age—Gym 9:30am Bible Study—Reception Room</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> 9am Adonai—Chapel 11am Holy Yoga— Reception Room</p>

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## **7-12 Youth Planning Meeting**

**Sun Jan 11 | 11:00 am**

Over the past six months we tried an experiment to merge youth groups with Cross of Glory in Brooklyn Park. Although it is an amazing concept, we determined it is not the right fit for Elim at this time, and we are tabling FOUR Youth Ministry.

This means we get to develop a new vision and plan for youth ministry at Elim this winter and fall. Parents and teens in grades 7-12 are invited to join Pastor Marcia in the Fireside Room at 11:00 on January 11. We will discuss your hopes and dreams and develop a course of action for Elim's youth ministry in the upcoming months.

## **Baptism Orientation**

**Tues Jan 13 | 6:30 pm**

Pastor Marcia leads a monthly class to talk about baptism and answer questions about this important sacrament.

If you are considering a baptism for a child or as an adult, please register by contacting the church office at (763) 537-8481 or [office@elim-robbinsdale.org](mailto:office@elim-robbinsdale.org).

## FAITH FORMATION AT ELIM

### **New Bible Study at North Ridge!**

**Wed, Jan 14 at 11:00am**

A new Bible Study, led by Pastor Chris, will meet at North Ridge Care Center on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Our first meeting will be January 14. We'll gather at 11 am in the Activities Room.

### **Bible Study**

**Wednesdays at 6pm**

**Thursdays**

**at 7:30am & 9:30am**

On Wednesday nights, join us for Bible Study during Wednesday Night Live.

On Thursdays, the 7:30am curriculum shows how the Old Testament relates to Jesus' life and teaching. The 9:30am group is led by Pastor Chris and discusses each week's Scripture readings.

*How to join:* No RSVP needed. Please join us anytime.

### **Philosophers' Book Club | Sundays at 11am**

One definition of theology is "faith seeking understanding." We meet in the Fireside Room at 11:00 to review the book of the month. Our January selection is Martin Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian*, a new translation by Prof. Mark Tranvik (you can find it online at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)). This was Luther's response to the Pope's criticisms of his teaching. We'll read the introduction for January 4.

*How to join:* Everyone is invited. No RSVP needed. Please plan to come – we are having great fun wrestling with knotty questions.

*For more info:* contact Mark Tranvik at [tranvik@augsborg.edu](mailto:tranvik@augsborg.edu) or Harald Eriksen at [h.eriksen@comcast.net](mailto:h.eriksen@comcast.net).

### **Birdtown Theology Pub | Thurs Jan 22 at 7pm**

A lively religious discussion group in a fun setting with great food and drinks. We gather at the Westphal American Legion, 3600 France Ave, and have a private meeting room available.

*How to join:* Everyone is invited. No RSVP needed. Bring a friend!

*For more info:* contact Harald Eriksen at [h.eriksen@comcast.net](mailto:h.eriksen@comcast.net).

### **Women's Circles**

**Ruth:** Mon, Jan 12 at 12:30 pm. Fireside Room. Hostess: Bess Warner.

**Anna-Esther & Hope:** No meeting in January.

**Naomi:** Wed, Jan 14 at 9:30 am.

**Hannah-Martha:** Thurs, Jan 15 at 7:00 pm. Conference room. Hostess: Cheryl Johnson.

Circles are small-group Bible studies and are part of the community of women in the ELCA. All women are welcome to visit one or more circles at any time. Call 763-537-8481 for contact info.



## Mardi Gras Planning is Underway!

Elim is looking for donations of 2-liter soda bottles. We also need cakes/cupcakes/cookies for the cake walk. Additionally, we need themed baskets and new items for the silent auction. Bring donations to the church office. Contact Christina Anderson at 612-240-9124 with questions. We look forward to seeing all of you at this year's party February 14!

## Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be Sunday, January 25 at 11:00 am after worship. All church members are invited.

Please have reports in by Jan 18 so they can be included in the Annual Report.

## Organ Update

by Dick Balkus

*[From Libby: I accidentally left this out of last month's Messenger.]*

Good news! The new wind chest for the organ is completed and is in the process of being shipped by truck from the East coast. It should be at Elim by the time you read this. Rick Arntson has completed the repairs to the walls of the organ chamber. The next step will be to move the new wind chest into the organ chamber and reconnect all of the electrical and wind connections. The final step will be to clean the pipes, remount them on the wind chest and tune the entire organ.

## Elim Church Council

Rick Arntson, President	Scott Hagen
Jeff Erickson, Vice President	Nancy Hennen
Erik Haug, Treasurer	Julie Madsen
Erin Spencer, Secretary	Brian Savior
Janet Anderson	Grant Taft
Harald Eriksen	Janice Wicks

### Council Meeting Notes from December

- The Annual Meeting will be January 25 at 11:00 in the Parlor
- Thanks to your generosity to the J29 Campaign, the organ and boiler projects are nearing completion.

## Elim Staff

Senior Pastor	Chris Enstad <a href="mailto:censtad@elim-robbinsdale.org">censtad@elim-robbinsdale.org</a>
Associate Pastor	Marcia Rosa <a href="mailto:mrosa@elim-robbinsdale.org">mrosa@elim-robbinsdale.org</a>
Organist & Choir Director	Dick Balkus <a href="mailto:rbalkus@elim-robbinsdale.org">rbalkus@elim-robbinsdale.org</a>
Children, Youth & Family Support	Ellyn Roth-Unzicker <a href="mailto:egroth@elim-robbinsdale.org">egroth@elim-robbinsdale.org</a>
Secretary	Libby Watkins <a href="mailto:ewatkins@elim-robbinsdale.org">ewatkins@elim-robbinsdale.org</a>
Director of Finance	Niki Bohne <a href="mailto:nbohne@elim-robbinsdale.org">nbohne@elim-robbinsdale.org</a>
Director of Maintenance & Facilities	Brandon Chenevert <a href="mailto:bchenevert@elim-robbinsdale.org">bchenevert@elim-robbinsdale.org</a>

Church Office: 8:00-2:00 Monday-Friday 763-537-8481 [office@elim-robbinsdale.org](mailto:office@elim-robbinsdale.org)

### Finance Reports

Copies of last month's finance report are available to pick up at the church office.

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 AM (EXCEPT 1ST SUNDAYS)**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

# *The* MESSENGER

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Women's Choir Sunday  
Youth Planning Meeting  
Veterans' Lunch Jan 12

*...and more!*



January 2015