

## “Part 1”

If being the Church was easy, everyone would do it.

It's a simple equation, really. Make a church that appeals to everyone and everyone will show up.

But it's not that easy, is it?

A few weeks ago Rev. Stephen Bouman, the former Bishop of New York City, spoke to the annual assembly of the Minneapolis Area Synod. Bouman was Bishop of New York the day the planes hit the World Trade Center. He watched from his office as unimagined destruction hit the city, the people, and the country he loved. It was a moment of helplessness and it changed his ministry forever. Today, Bp. Bouman oversees all of the congregations in our nation for our denomination, the ELCA. His remarks to us were challenging and uplifting at the same time. We all know that it is not for the faint of heart to be a church in the 21st century.

In fact, as Bp. Bouman left his prepared text for a moment, “Being Church today is *hard*. It is harder to be a congregation today than anyone in my generation has ever experienced.”

Church's in the 21st century are no longer the social hub and pillar of their communities. People can find conversation and company online, at their kids' sporting events, the gym and even at the office. Weekends are left for rest and relaxation, more sports, and, for more and more of us, work.



As a people, we are busier than we've ever been and if our churches are going to be a part of our crazy, busy lives then we expect them to play the same consumerist games that every other aspect of our lives do. And that frees us to make choices on our involvement in church with the same criteria we use to make all of the other choices in our lives: choices based on the time expended, the input expected from us and the outcome we need to make it through one day and into the next.

It is not surprising, therefore, that more and more people, as another pastor, Eugene Peterson, writes, “enter our congregations with the same mind-set in which they go to the shopping mall, to get something that will please them or satisfy an appetite or a need.”

We, as a congregation, aren't equipped to win at that game. If a congregation falls into the mindset of seeking to fulfill the needs and

appetites of everyone they wish to darken their doors eventually the doors themselves will go dark. As a church we have no stock to sell, no profits to reap and distribute, and no endless supply of capital to expend to make ourselves everything to everyone. And even if we did; would we then be faithful to the calling of Jesus Christ to take up our crosses to follow Him?

The moment we engage our consumerist culture on its own field we have given up our own calling as a church. Whenever we package God as something that can appeal to everyone all we are selling people is their own version of the God they want, not the God they need and certainly not the God they have!

So, what does this mean for us as a church?

I believe we exist for just such a moment. Elim's unique location between the city and the suburbs, between the faces of poverty and the comforts of wealth, between white and black, believers and unbelievers is a location that is rich with potential and possibility...

*(continued)*

*If being the Church was easy, everyone would do it.  
But it's not that easy, is it?*

*if* we have the eyes to see it, hearts to believe it, and hands to do the work that God has called us to in God's field.

Anthropologists call it a "liminal space." It is a space of already, but not yet, of being in-between what was and what will be. Liminality is where God meets us, as he met Jacob in his dreams and Isaiah in the temple. It is an unsettling place to be, but it is also transformative.

When we enter the sanctuary we may be seeking a place of comfort, where our needs may be satisfied, and this is what hopefully happens, but our worship is also a liminal space... a space in-between the hustle of daily life and the sacred presence of God.

Our church, in all of our other missions and ministries, seeks to create this liminal space on a daily basis. So whether we are gathered for prayer and worship, or for education and fellowship, we believe that we are encountering God in a sacred, transformative way. I pray that God finds us willing to be transformed for service in God's world. That in this liminal space we may discover a new way of being

church together for the sake of those we haven't met yet and who haven't discovered the life *that is truly life*.

At Elim, we have consciously and intentionally ceded the battlefield of consumerism to the corporations and activities that are battling for every dollar in our wallets and every minute in our calendars and have picked up our crosses to follow Jesus. In doing so, we seek to gather our fellow travelers (and that's everyone!) at the foot of the cross. It is a rich, loamy, tricky and hard field to tend but it is not ours - it is God's. It is a rich, tricky, loamy and hard church to be but it isn't ours - it is God's. And it is God's Word, in the end, that leads us on.

So what is a church supposed to "do"? Stay tuned more on that next month.

May this "Pentecost," this season of growth, find you transformed in the power of God's Word to do God's work in God's world.

See you at church.



## Get ready for Vacation Bible School!

July 27-31 | 6:00-8:30pm  
for ages 3 to grade 6



This year's theme is  
"Weird Animals:  
Where Jesus' Love is  
One of a Kind!"

Registrations can be found on the bulletin board by the Sunday School office or online at [www.elim-robbinsdale.org/vbs](http://www.elim-robbinsdale.org/vbs).

### PASTORAL ACTS

#### Baptisms

4/27 Finley Nicholas  
Peltier, son of  
Nick & Nikki Peltier  
4/27 Marshall Dennis  
Stark, son of  
Chad & Erica Stark

#### Funerals

4/9 Raymond  
Frei



## GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

Whiz Bang Blood Drive  
Saturday, July 12  
1:00pm-5:00pm  
Elim Lutheran Church

Sign up online at [www.mbc.org/searchdrives](http://www.mbc.org/searchdrives) and enter sponsor code 4123 or contact Ann at [aevans@mbc.org](mailto:aevans@mbc.org) or 651-332-7165.

### DONOR REQUIREMENTS

- You must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission)
- You must eat a good meal within a four-hour period before donating.
- You must be in good health.
- You must be free from colds and flu for 3 days.
- You must bring a photo ID with you to the drive.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Each week, 2,700 volunteer donors are needed to help supply blood to our area hospitals. Your single donation can save as many as three people's lives. Blood is needed for cancer and surgery patients, burn victims, accident victims, premature infants...the list is endless.

For questions about eligibility or travel, call (651) 332-7000.



# 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*  
*Bryan Stiernagle, Vice Chairman*  
*Scott Hagen, Treasurer*  
*Tim Evenstad, Secretary*  
*Maureen Engelstad*  
*Shirley Kramer*  
*Jan Wicks*  
*Senior Pastor Chris Enstad, ex officio*  
*Debbie Carlson, ex officio*

## **Notice of Special Meeting** **Elim Lutheran Church of Robbinsdale MN** **Foundation, Inc.**

The Board of Directors of the Elim Lutheran Church of Robbinsdale MN Foundation, Inc ("The Foundation") has called a special meeting of all members of The Foundation. **The meeting will be held on June 29, 2014 at 10:45 am. The meeting will take place at Elim Lutheran Church, 3978 West Broadway, Robbinsdale, MN.**

Members of The Foundation are all confirmed members of Elim Lutheran Church. The Foundation Board respectfully requests all members attend this special meeting to ensure we have a quorum for voting. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the Amended Articles of Incorporation as required by the United States Internal Revenue Service. Ten percent (10%) of the voting membership shall comprise a quorum and a majority of the members voting shall constitute approval of the Amended Articles of Incorporation.

A Notice will be mailed to each confirmed member household with information as to where you may review or request a copy of the updated Articles of Incorporation.

The changes in the Amended Articles of Incorporation were made to address concerns noted by the Internal Revenue Service during its review of the Foundation to re-instate its standing as a tax-exempt non-profit organization.

## **Adopt a Garden at Elim**

We are now looking for volunteers to adopt a planting garden or landscaping area on the church grounds—areas on all sides of the building that we do not have the resources to keep up with our staff. Bring your own creativity and green thumb to the grounds and show off your stuff!

*How to help:* Contact Terry Carlson if you are interested at (763) 553-9385.

## **Whiz Bang Days**

July 12 & 13

Every year, Elim serves a picnic lunch open to the whole community. Last year, over 350 people joined us for food and fellowship! We also walk in the Whiz Bang parade.

*How to help:* If you can help out this year, please let the office know at (763) 5367-8481.



The following assistance is needed:

Donate candy for parade: between now and July 13

Food preparation: July 11 at 10 am

Kitchen help (getting things ready to serve): July 12 at 2 pm

Set up tables/chairs: July 12 at 2 pm

Food servers: July 12 from 4-5 pm

or 5-6 pm

Food runners: July 12 from 4-5 pm

or 5-6 pm

Greeters: July 12 at 4 pm

Games: July 12 at 4pm

Clean up: July 12 after 6 pm

Help decorate float: July 13 after Sunday morning worship

# JUNE EVENTS & GROUPS



Wednesday, June 11

## “Patriotic” Homebound Worship Service & Luncheon

Worship Service: 11:00 am  
Lunch in Nerothin Hall (Gym):  
12:15–1:45 pm

Elim Lutheran Church and the Homebound Visitation Ministry Team invite Elim homebound members, families, and friends to enjoy a time of togetherness, great food, and accordion music by Skeets Langley. Hope to see you there!

Please RSVP by June 6 to Libby at (763) 537-8481 (call between 8:00–2:00 pm Mon-Fri). Please indicate if you need a ride when you call. If, after making a reservation, you are unable to attend, please call to cancel. Thank you.

*Thank you to Thrivent for their continuing support.*

Thursday, June 26

## Birdtown Theology Pub



A discussion group in a secular setting to help folks feel more at ease. Conversations are inspired by weekly Scripture or other theological questions on people’s minds.

Meetings are held at 7:00pm at the Westphal American Legion Hall at 3600 France Avenue. We have a private meeting room available. Order any food or drinks from the bar when you arrive and then come back to the room.

*How to join:* All adults welcome. No RSVP needed. You don’t have to be an Elim member, so bring a friend or two!

*For more info:* Contact Pastor Chris (censtad@elim-robbinsdale.org), Harald Eriksen (h.eriksen@comcast.net), or Erik Haug (ehaug300@gmail.com).

## Every Thursday Leisure Age

- June 5 Jim Berner sings our favorites
- June 12 Clyde Doepner, the Twins Team Curator, will have you spellbound with stories about the Minnesota Twins
- June 19 Music by women’s flute group Flute Cocktail  
Blood pressures 9:30–11:30 a.m.
- June 26 Betty Rydell performs  
June and July birthday parties!

*No Leisure Age in July.*

Leisure Age is an outreach program for retired members of our community, every Thursday starting at 9:00 with cards and social time.

Lunch is at noon, followed by entertainment. Lunch costs \$9.

*How to join:* Reservations are required for lunch. Sign up for next time each week you attend, or call (763) 537-1171 by noon on the preceding Monday.



# June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:30am <b>Worship with Communion</b> Coffee & donuts—Parlor 11am New Member Orientation 11am Lao ELC —Gym 11am Greater All Nations—Sanctuary 11am Spiritual Church of God —Chapel	<b>2</b> 7:30am Monday Sanctuary Team 9am Women's Rep. Meeting 4:30pm Baton Twirlers	<b>3</b> 12pm Altar Guild Luncheon 4:30pm Baton Twirlers 5:30pm Women's AA—Fireside Room 7:30pm AA—Fireside Room	<b>4</b> 6pm Spiritual Church of God—Chapel	<b>5</b> 7am BNI—Parlor 9am Leisure Age—Gym 7pm Greater All Nations Bible Study—Reception Room	<b>6</b> 3-9pm E Team—Reception Room	<b>7</b> 8-1pm E Team—Reception Room 9am Adonai—Chapel 10am-6:30pm Adonai Funeral Repast—Gym 11am Holy Yoga
<b>8 Pentecost</b> 9:30am <b>New Member Sunday</b> <b>Worship &amp; Baptisms</b> Coffee & donuts—Parlor 11am Lao ELC —Gym 11am Greater All Nations—Sanctuary 11am Spiritual Church of God —Chapel	<b>9</b> 7:30am Monday Sanctuary Team 4:30pm Baton Twirlers	<b>10</b> 8am Set Up Luncheon 4:30pm Baton Twirlers 5:30pm Women's AA 5:30pm Finance Mtg 6:00pm Worship Mtg 6:30pm Baptism Orientation—Chapel 7pm Board Meetings 7:30pm AA	<b>11</b> 8am FOUR Youth Parent Meeting 11am Homebound Worship & Lunch—Sanctuary & Gym 2:30pm FOUR Youth—Cross of Glory 6pm Spiritual Church of God—Chapel	<b>12</b> 7am BNI—Parlor 9am Leisure Age—Gym 7pm Greater All Nations Bible Study—Reception Room	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9am Adonai—Chapel 11am Holy Yoga —Reception Room
<b>15</b> 9:30am <b>Worship with Communion</b> Coffee & donuts—Parlor 11am Lao ELC —Gym 11am Greater All Nations—Sanctuary 11am Spiritual Church of God —Chapel	<b>16</b> 7:30am Monday Sanctuary Team 9:30am E Team—Reception Room 4:30pm Baton Twirlers	<b>17</b> 4:30pm Baton Twirlers 5:30pm Women's AA—Fireside Room 7pm Church Council —Reception Room 7:30pm AA—Fireside	<b>18</b> 5pm FOUR Youth —Elim 6pm Spiritual Church of God—Chapel	<b>19</b> 7am BNI—Parlor 9am Leisure Age—Gym 7pm Greater All Nations Bible Study—Reception Room	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9am Adonai—Chapel & Parlor 11am Holy Yoga —Reception Room
<b>22</b> 9:30am <b>Worship</b> Coffee & donuts—Parlor 11am Lao ELC —Gym 11am Greater All Nations—Sanctuary 11am Spiritual Church of God —Chapel	<b>23</b> 7:30am Monday Sanctuary Team 4:30pm Baton Twirlers	<b>24</b> 4:30pm Baton Twirlers 5:30pm Women's AA—Fireside Room 7:30pm AA—Fireside Room	<b>25</b> 5pm FOUR Youth —Elim 6pm Spiritual Church of God—Chapel	<b>26</b> 7am BNI—Parlor 9am Leisure Age—Gym 1pm Messenger Process. 7pm GAN Bible Study —Reception Room 7pm Birdtown Theology Pub	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9am Adonai—Chapel 11am Holy Yoga —Reception Room
Elim Week at Luther Park						
<b>29</b> 9:30am <b>Worship</b> Coffee & donuts—Parlor 10:45am Elim Foundation Meeting 11am Lao ELC —Gym 11am Greater All Nations—Sanctuary 11am Spiritual Church of God —Chapel 4pm Spiritual Church of God —Chapel	<b>30</b> 7:30am Monday Sanctuary Team 4:30pm Baton Twirlers					

# FAITH, FRIENDS, & FAMILY

## FOUR Youth Ministry

(Fun, Food, Friends & Faith)

for grades 7-12

**June 11** 2:30pm at Cross of Glory  
(ends at Elim)  
*Summer Kick-off Brunswick Zone  
Unlimited Laser Tag and More*

**June 11** 8-8:30 pm at Elim  
*Parent Meeting*

**June 18** 5-8:30 pm at Elim  
*Group Games and Team Building*

**June 21** 11am-8pm at Cross of Glory  
*Giving Hope Community Festival*

**June 25** 5-8:30 pm at Elim  
*Nerf Extravaganza*

**July 2** 5-8:30 pm  
at Lakeview Terrace Park  
*Ultimate Frisbee and Picnic  
— parents invited!*

**July 16** 5-8:30 pm at Elim  
*Obstacle Mania*

**July 30** 5-8:30 pm at Elim  
*Hunger Games*

**Aug 6** 5:30-8:30 pm at Elim  
*The Meaning of Life*

**Aug 13** 3-8:30pm at Cross of Glory  
*Como Zoo and Picnic*

**Aug 20** 5:30-8:30 pm at Elim  
*Sports Night*

**Aug 27** 2-10pm at Cross of Glory  
*Valleyfair*



## Meet Elim's New Summer Youth Ministry Intern

Hey hey, Elim Lutheran Church! I'm Amy Jensen and I am so pumped to be interning for you fine folks this summer! I absolutely l-o-v-e youth ministry peeps and Jesus, so getting to do that at the same time is like a win-win. A little bit about me: I'm a (soon to be) junior at Gustavus Adolphus College double majoring in Religion and Communication Studies from Chaska, MN with possible thoughts of being either a youth minister or a pastor. I'm a leader in a Christian org on campus called CRU and am a Gustie tour guide, and my home church is Mount Olivet. I am a huge coffee lover (caramel latte fanatic), I've really been into Newsboys and Tenth Avenue North and my favorite movie right now is a toss up between *RV*, *Frozen*, and *Heaven is For Real*. I am so psyched to get to have this top-notch experience at Elim and can't wait to get started!

## Whiz Bang Bike Decorating

Calling all kids! Decorate your bike, scooter, or wagon and join in the Whiz Bang Days parade. (Each child must have a parent walk with them. You don't need to walk the entire parade route.) July 12: decorate float and bikes at the picnic. There will be space in the gym to store decorated bikes safely overnight for the parade the following day. July 13 after church: hot dogs and chips lunch to finish decorating bikes and floats. Parade follows.



Cross of Glory Church  
5929 Brooklyn Blvd  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429  
Phone: (763) 533-8602

## Baptism Orientation June 10 | 6:30 pm

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

# FAITH, FRIENDS, & FAMILY

## Camp Registration

Due June 1

for entering grades 7-12

Join in on the fun at



Summer Festival is July 21-25 at University of WI River Falls. Meet terrific people, talk about real issues, play games, and experience God. It's a retreat for teenagers and it's a blast!

Registration is due with \$50 deposit by June 1. To get the form, see Pastor Marcia or download the Individual Registration from [www.youthforummn.com/wordpress/?page\\_id=34](http://www.youthforummn.com/wordpress/?page_id=34).

## Elim Week at Luther Park

June 22-27

for grades 1-6

Grades 1-2: Snooper camp  
June 22-25 \$295  
Grades 3-4: Snooper or full week  
camp options  
Grades 5-6: Full week camp  
June 22-27 \$430

Elim will contribute \$100 to Snooper camp and \$200 full week camp to offset cost.

Pastor Marcia will be driving up on Sunday and picking kids up on Friday. There are still 3 spots available in her van. If a parent wants her to drive their child, please contact her to reserve a spot at (763) 537-8481 or [mrosa@elim-robbinsdale.org](mailto:mrosa@elim-robbinsdale.org).

## Wednesday Night on the Lawn

June 18 | 6:00 pm  
for all ages

This summer, enjoy Wednesday Night on the Lawn! It will begin June 18 from 6:00-8:00 and meet the third Wednesday of the month (July 16 and August 20). Games, bonfire, and snacks. Everything from water fights and kickball to giant sundaes and s'mores. If the weather is warm, wear your swimsuit. Please bring friends and come for the fun.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### E Team: Positive Parenting

**Parenting Together with Positive Discipline:** Have you always wished you and your parenting partner were "on the same page" when it comes to handling the kids? Find out how to get there!

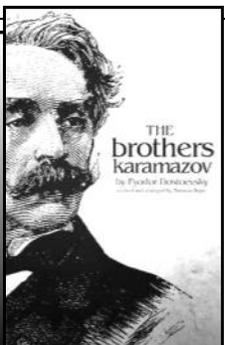
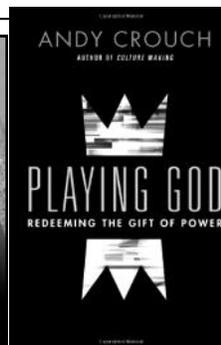
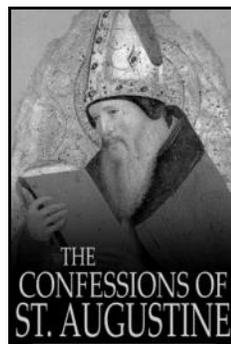
Friday evening, June 6 from 6-9 pm; light meal will be served. (Get a sitter so the kids can go to bed). Saturday morning, June 7 from 9-noon; coffee and scones will be served. (Childcare available).

The event will be held at Elim Lutheran Church. Cost is \$85 per couple. More details and registration at [www.eteamnow.com/parenting-together-with-pd.html](http://www.eteamnow.com/parenting-together-with-pd.html).

### MacLaurin CSF

We'll be hosting four exciting reading groups this summer, bringing together a wide range of people from across the Twin Cities community to discuss a variety of works.

If you're interested, please visit <http://www.maclaurin.org/summerreadinggroups>.





**Elim Lutheran Church**  
**3978 West Broadway**  
**Robbinsdale MN 55422-2286**  
(763) 537-8481 | [church@elim-robbinsdale.org](mailto:church@elim-robbinsdale.org) | [www.elim-robbinsdale.org](http://www.elim-robbinsdale.org)

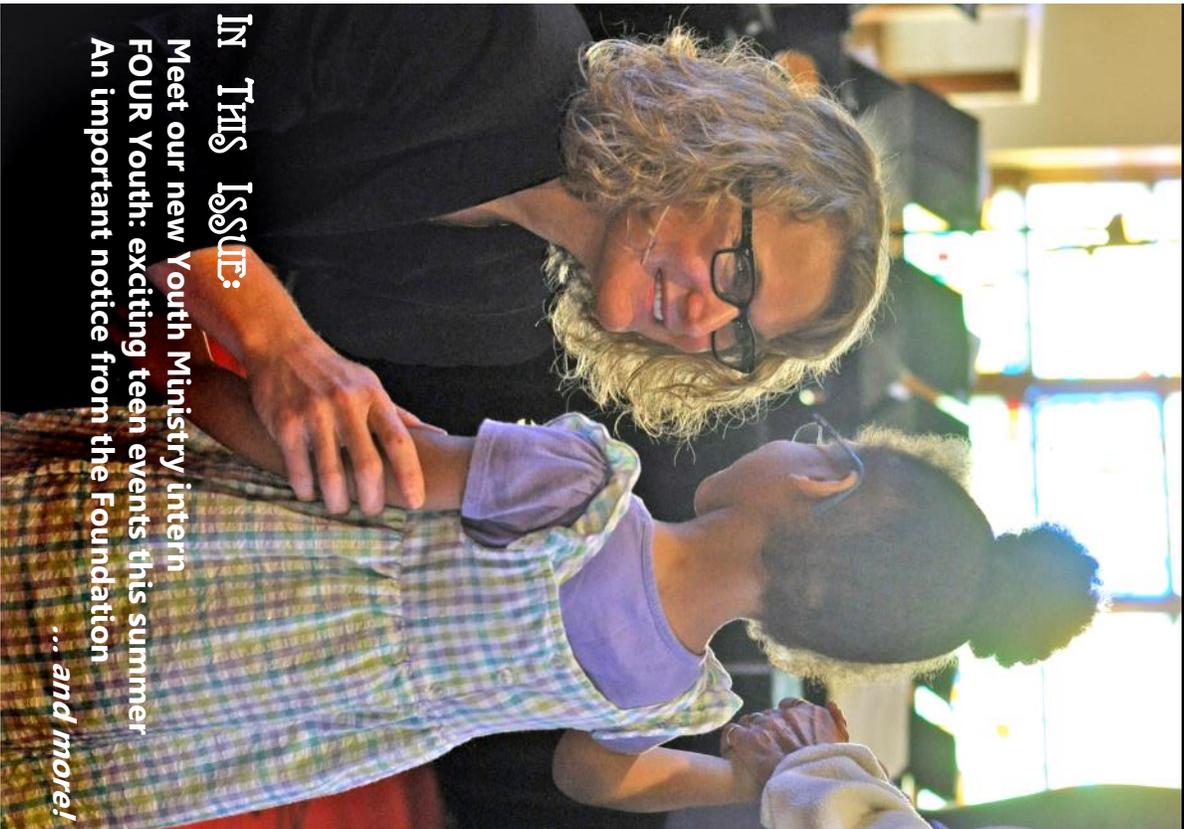
Non-profit org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 3253

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

# *The* MESSENGER

June 2014



## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

Meet our new Youth Ministry intern

**FOUR** Youth: exciting teen events this summer

An important notice from the Foundation

*... and more!*