



# THE SOURCE

A Monthly Newsletter of Elim Lutheran Church

December 2017

ISSUE 12 / VOLUME 23

## *Christmas At Elim*

*Sunday, December 3rd - Advent begins*

*Sunday, December 10th*

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Festival Choir Sunday

*Sunday, December 17th*

8:30 AM Worship Service

10:30 AM Children's Christmas Program

*Saturday, December 23rd*

7 AM Get into the holiday spirit with "Carols & Drinks" at Aqus Café (189 H Street, Petaluma)

*Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve*

10 AM Worship Service

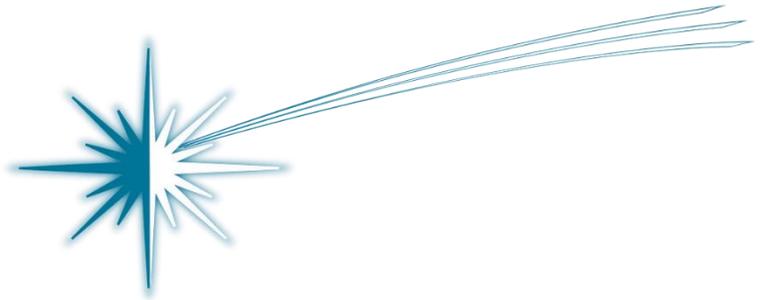
4 AM Christmas Eve children's service, with the Cherub Choir

5:30 PM Christmas Eve band-lead family service

9 PM Christmas Eve Service with the Christmas Choir

*Monday, December 25th - Christmas Day*

10 AM Christmas Day lessons and carols service at Saint John's Episcopal Church (40 5th St, Petaluma)



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# THE CRAZINESS, MYSTERY, AND HOPE OF CHRISTMAS

To put it in modern day terms, the Christmas story is kind of cray, cray (crazy). I mean, appearing angels, an impregnating holy spirit, more angels, leading stars, more angels and ultimately the birth of a human that is often referred to as God. The Christmas story is tough for me because I've never experienced being touched by a heavenly angel, I know about the birds and the bees, I've seen dancing with the stars but because they are so far away, never stars moving in the night sky, and all the humans I've known and know are not quite God. And so, it's hard for me to wrap my mind around a story with such incredible and unrealistic claims. But then again, I guess there are many things that I can't quite wrap my mind around. The size of the universe, where heaven is, who God is and what God does and how God speaks, what happens after you die and why in the world Ben and Jerry's discontinued their best ice cream ever – One Sweet World. In recalling the Christmas story I'm reminded that I don't have it all figured out, and perhaps I'm not supposed to have it all figured out. There are things that remain a mystery. In his book "Prophetic Imagination", Walter Bruggemann compares and contrasts the time of Moses with the time of Solomon. His conclusion is that Moses' community allowed for much more mystery than Solomon's community. He says, Solomon's "royal program...is fed by a management mentality that believes there are no mysteries to honor, only problems to be solved." Just as mysterious as God telling Moses the divine name "I am", perhaps the Christmas story is also one of those mysteries to be honored.

And at the same time, as much as it seems to me to be a mystery, it also seems to me that there is this simultaneously gentle yet bold claim of the Christmas story. It is a bold claim that there is God. And not just that there is God, but that this God does things. As Mary joyfully sings, this God brings the powerful down from their thrones, and lifts up the lowly, this God fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty, and this God helps people while remembering divine mercy. The Christmas story begins the larger story and claim that this God was present in and through the life of a prophetic person who invited people into an alternative consciousness and way of being, a person who spoke of an alternative reign and kingdom, a person who sided with the poor, the marginalized and the outcast, a person who called upon people to love their enemies and to be light to the world.

As we approach yet another Christmas, if you're sensing that the story is somewhat hard for you to wrap your mind around, know you're not alone. Revel in the mystery. And at the same time, perhaps in this story we might rejoice in the claim that amid all the darkness of our world and lives, there is the light of hope, and this hope is not giving up.

Blessed to share with you the craziness, the mystery and the hope,

**Patrick**

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# PRESIDENT'S POST

Dear Elim Community:

Looking back on November, my heart is full as I write this post. At the Reformation Dinner on November 19<sup>th</sup> (postponed from October due to the fires), fun was had by all. During the "Oldie-wed Game" (with Emcee Patrick Torbit and theme music) we found out how short and sweet a marriage proposal can be thanks to the Dials, that Katie Luther was the financial brains and beer-brewer in the family and that Rosemary Hart's nickname is "Perfect." The food was outstanding (duh – we're Lutherans) with various musical offerings - "A Mighty Fortress" in German, Tony Mustaro on the accordion, and "So Long, Farewell" performed by Leah Kellgren, Sarah Labberton, Ian Labberton, and Alex Miller in "Sound of Music" costumes! Want to see that? Check out Elim's Facebook page. A video of their performance and pictures of the dinner festivities have been posted for your viewing pleasure! Finally, a huge thanks to Mary Wyrick and the Reformation Planning Committee for hours (and hours) of very hard work - the turnout was tremendous, and it was evident that many folks enjoyed themselves.

So, it's "the most wonderful time of the year" – Right? Are you thinking of faces all aglow around a communal table loaded with food, or getting the family tree, or finding that perfect gift for someone, the fun of "Carols and drinks" - Or, maybe not so much . . .?

For some (myself included) no matter how hard we try during the holidays, we may feel like a three-legged cat in a four-legged cat-world (dog lovers may substitute "dog" for "cat" here – the analogy still works). We manage to get around, but something is missing. Which brings me to Alfred Jr., a three-legged cat I met once.

Alfred Jr. was (and still is) a seven-year old rescue cat that lost his right, hind leg in a trap and currently resides at a retreat house in the East Bay. I encountered Alfred when I was on a weeklong retreat and as it often is at retreats, distractions (iPhone, TV) were off-limits during the daytime, so Alfred was a huge hit with the retreat guests. We looked for him at breakfast, played with him outside when he was around and tolerated his insistence on plopping himself down in the most inconvenient spot (on the remote), in the evening when we could finally watch TV.

I have able-bodied cats (well – they have me) and so I was intrigued to observe how Alfred adapted to his limitation and managed to do almost everything a four-legged cat could do. And in short, Albert was (and still is) an amazing cat. He used a hopping; rocking method of walking and running that was both graceful and efficient. Desired perches (some not too desired by the staff, like the dining room table) were easily accessed and he was even rumored to have a girlfriend cat on the next block! Albert tolerated a lot of handling and love, but one thing he didn't do was purr (dog fans substitute "tail-wag"). Various guests tried but found even the tiniest rumblings were absent.

Then one day toward the end of my stay, I observed the retreat director, Will, pick up Albert, flip him over on his back (a defenseless position that most cats detest) and pet him vigorously on his right side from mid-section to his head. And Albert started purring – very quietly, but audibly and eventually was in full-purr mode. The trick? Will explained to me that he was scratching the spots that Albert couldn't reach and would never be able to reach because his hind leg was missing. After Will discovered Albert's secret; he took some time each day to scratch where Albert could no longer itch himself.

This time of year, can be especially challenging for those of us who have experienced loss, grief and sadness. Our “missing” limbs may be absent loved ones and family, good physical or mental health, financial security, reasonably priced housing, or employment. As people of faith, we KNOW our God offers solace and comfort when we hurt and there are numerous verses and Psalms to remind us. But it’s usually “in community” I have found that God’s love is truly manifested, and I find comfort and support.

So, here’s the trick. Like Albert, we, the “three-legged,” must seek out community in order to experience more healing and wholeness - in other words, to get our “itches scratched”. IF we do, we may discover more three-legged cats like ourselves, or we may discover that somehow our itch got scratched, or that maybe we will be able to offer solace and friendship to others. There are numerous opportunities for encountering healing communities outlined in this mailer. Come listen to the Festival Choir, but consider JOINING one of our choirs. Come to church and STAY for the Adult Bible study – or stay for coffee and then come in and help dry the coffee cups!

So, I encourage you to join in with Elim community this season as we celebrate the coming of the Light into the darkness. May we all find wholeness, healing and peace.

Blessings,

Lynn

*Lynn is currently 23<sup>rd</sup> on a list of potential caretakers for Albert Jr. should he ever decide to move on from his cushy life at the retreat house . . . Please do not reveal this fact to Toffee, Penny or Herbie Miller.*

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## DECEMBER EVENTS

### FRUITS OF THE HARVEST!

December 10

Did you miss out on grabbing some canned fruits last month? Not to worry, the Fruits of the Harvest is returning! So, bring your wallets. There will be plenty of jars ready!



### FESTIVAL CHOIR

December 10

A grand celebration of the season takes place at both services on Festival Choir Sunday, December 10th. Our Festival Choir, with more than 40 members, will lead the services, featuring a brass quartet and members of our Waves of Grace band. Please invite your friends and family to join us for these joyous services.

### HOLIDAY CONCERTS!

#### A Winter’s Eve

Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 PM, and Saturday, December 9, 3 PM, at Petaluma Valley Baptist Church

Presented by the Petaluma Chorale, proceeds to benefit the SRJC Fire Relief Fund. General: \$12, Seniors/Students: \$10, Children 12 and under: free.

## **This Christmas Tide**

**Friday, December 8, 7 PM, St John's Episcopal Church**

As part of their third season, The North Bay Singers offer you their 2017 Holiday Concert. General: \$12, Seniors/Students: \$10, Children 12 and under: free.

## **Cinnabar Singers to perform at Elim Lutheran church**

**December 10**

The Cinnabar Singers, a Petaluma community chorus under the direction of Michael Shahani, will perform a holiday concert at Elim Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 PM. This family-friendly event will feature a variety of classical favorites and holiday fare.

Highlights include:

- Selected movements from *Rachmaninoff's All Night Vigil*, a gorgeous choral piece that will be sung in Russian.
- Two joyful Gospel songs by Rosephanye Powell, *Wait on the Lord* and *The Word was God*
- A novel arrangement of *Deck the Hall*, by Kirby Shaw
- Two more holiday treats: *Easy to Assemble* (a hilarious tale of parents working through the night to put together a tricycle) and *Figgy Pudding*, by award-winning local composer Robin Eschner.
- Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or online at [www.cinnabartheater.org/tickets/](http://www.cinnabartheater.org/tickets/).



## **CAROLS AND DRINKS**

**December 23, 7 PM**

Everyone's welcome. Bring your kids. Bring your parents...and especially, your holiday cheer!

\*\*\**(For those looking for some real fun, meet at the Petaluma Historical Museum (4th and B Street) at 5:30 PM for Aqus community's holiday caroling around town. The final stop will be at Aqus at 7 PM for Carols and Drinks.)\*\*\**



## **WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE – MONTHLY INFO MTGS.**

**December 14**

Join us for an information meeting for adults 50+ and family members interested in the innovative Village concept of “neighbors and volunteers helping neighbors” to continue living vibrant, active, and connected lives in our own homes as we age. Held at the Village office, 402 Petaluma Blvd. North (at Oak St.), from 11 AM to 12 Noon.

Bring a friend or a loved one, get your questions answered, and meet Village members and volunteers. Learn how the Village offers social engagement, learning opportunities, transportation, home visits, connection, and fun — all contributing to your increased sense of community, support, and peace of mind.

To request a speaker for a group gathering, or to learn more, email [info@villagenetworkofpetaluma.org](mailto:info@villagenetworkofpetaluma.org) or call us at (707)776-6055. Or visit [www.villagenetworkofpetaluma.org](http://www.villagenetworkofpetaluma.org)



## **WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

Join the Elim community in visiting Saint John's Episcopal Church on Christmas Morning! There will be lessons and carols at the Christmas morning service at 10 AM, with Holy Communion.

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# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (ELCW)**

We are inviting all women to prayerfully think about being on the ELCW Board. Even if they are not in one of the circles, all women are a part of the ELCW, with an integral part in serving the congregation and deep involvement in community outreach. Please consider serving on the board this coming year, helping to enrich and shape the vision of God's work. Please contact Joann Andrus, Kathy Matt, Carol Mayo, Karen Pesutich, Suzy Sellai if you are interested or have any questions about ELCW.

## **ENDOWMENT GRANTS AVAILABLE**

The **Elim Endowment for Mission** provides a long-term fund attracting both current and pre-planned future gifts, as people are inspired to leave a legacy for ministry. Apportionments from the "total return" of the fund can be distributed to support mission work at home and around the world.

Distributions from the endowment fund come from an amount set annually by the Church Leadership Team. The fund grows through additional gifting that is actively solicited by a five-member elected Endowment Committee. Prudent distribution strategies then protect the endowment fund principal, while a steady stream of returns is provided from which mission and ministry can be strengthened for years to come.

The Endowment Committee also administers an application process through which grant requests for mission projects can be received and considered. Grants are awarded upon the basis of criteria set each year by the Endowment Committee and Leadership Team. New applications for grants may be submitted beginning on June 1 of each year and can be considered as funds remain available until the following 1st day of March. Paper applications should be turned in or sent to the attention of Alex Miller in the church office.

Additional information and application forms for grants are available at the church office and on our website at <http://www.elimpetaluma.org/news-blog/grant>

## **MEALS FOR THE NOCKLEBYS**

Would you like to prepare and deliver a meal for our dear members, Diane & Daryll Nockleby, in their time of need? They would like meals on Sundays and Wednesdays. If you want to jump on this meal train, please contact the office for information on how to sign up.

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# ADULT MINISTRIES

## MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

Elim men meet for a pass-the-hat breakfast every Saturday in the church kitchen. Cooking at 7-8 AM, 8-9 AM eat and discuss. Topics include the Bible, fatherhood, and the great bacon vs. sausage debate. For more information or to sign up to cook, contact Brian Crosby.

## ELCW – ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Would you like to attend a monthly women's group but not sure which one? Just contact one of the Circle Chairs and let them know you are interested. Below you will find Circle information and when they each meet.

- **Grace Friendship** (hosted by Carol Mayo) always meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month – December 14th – at 12 PM in the back of the sanctuary. Pastor Patrick will lead the bible study.
- **Elizabeth** (hosted by Debra Jensen Orner) meets on the 3rd Monday of the month – November 18th – at 7 PM.
- **Esther** (hosted by Jo Ann Andrus) meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month – December 12th – at noon. The meeting will take place at Kathy Matt's house, as is tradition. There will be a cookie exchange as well!

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# FAITH FORMATION

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!!

December 17, 10:30 AM

Christmas program practice has begun!!!! We will continue practice each week, and work on artwork for the program! Practice will take place at 9:40 AM during Sunday School. Dress rehearsal will be December 16th from 9 AM to 11 AM. If there is anyone interested in playing or singing a song before the program, please let me know soon!



- Any people interested in helping with the set or in any way come talk to Allison or Sarah!
- There will be no Sunday School December 24th and 31st. We will resume on January 7th.

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

### High School/Jr. High Wednesday Gatherings

Wednesday, December 6, at 6:15 PM

Regular high school and junior high youth group gatherings will happen on the first Wednesday night of the month. These gatherings will begin at 6:15 PM and end at 8 PM. Youth will eat dinner together, listen to a speaker and/or have a guest/conversation topic introduced. Then the high school and junior high groups will separate into groups for further conversation and check-ins.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

### Exploring the Story

Tuesdays at 7 PM, Choir Room

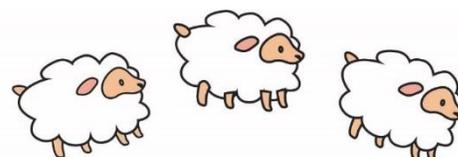
Come and engage in deep, meaningful, and exploratory conversation about the Bible reading and sermon topic for the upcoming Sunday. A great group of regulars is always eager to welcome newcomers to the bunch.



## LITTLE SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

Dear Elim Friends,

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. We have been busy the past couple of months and I apologize for not updating you all on our activities. October was hectic with the sadness of the fires and the closure of school. We felt very blessed to have our families and our homes safe. We were happy to get back to school and see our friends at the Pumpkin Patch and our Harvest Festival. November brought lots of baking of pumpkin cake and pumpkin pies followed by a wonderful time with children and their families at our Thanksgiving Dessert Feast. We look forward to celebrating the joys of Christmas with our children. They will have their Christmas programs on Wednesday, December 20 and Thursday, December 21. Families will come to watch their children perform during their class time and enjoy delicious treats afterwards.



**Little Shepherd  
Lutheran Preschool**

Blessings to you all,

Kathy Fowler

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## MUSIC

### CHERUB CHOIR

The next cherub choir will sing again at the 4 PM service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7 PM. Contact Vicki Navarro for more information.

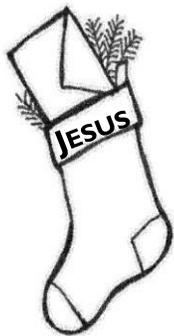


### CHANCEL CHOIR

The chancel choir rehearses Wednesdays at 5:30 PM, and usually sings at the 8:30 AM service on various Sundays. Interested in joining this joyful noise? We are always looking to welcome new singers! If so, please contact Cathe Kiler.

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# OUTREACH & COMMUNITY

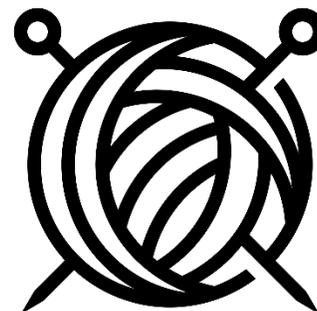


## JESUS STOCKING

An Elim tradition, the Jesus Stocking, returns again this year. Take the stress out of the holiday season (and reduce the amount of stuff you accumulate) by giving a gift to Jesus that supports those with real needs. We have an extensive list of ministries to choose from – Petaluma nonprofits, ELCA services, Tanzanian projects, and various Elim programs. Make a donation and take one of the red gift cards to notify that special person on your Christmas list that your gift to them is making a real difference. See the bulletin board in the Welcome Area.

## KNITTING FOR NAOMI

Many of you may be familiar with Nancy's "Knitting for Naomi" Project. Nancy knits all year, sells the products - mostly scarves, hats and headbands - to friends, relatives, and folks at Elim, and donates ALL of the sales towards Naomi's education. Naomi is attending the Jomo Kenyatta University in Arusha. You can support Naomi's education by purchasing Nancy's creations on Sunday mornings in December alongside the World Store.



## WORLD STORE

**December 3, 10, 17; 8-10:30 AM**

Elim's World Store will be stocked with a variety of fairly-traded gifts made by artisans from around the world. Your purchase helps break the cycle of poverty for those families and our profits are used to support various ministries of Elim. Stop by the store in the Fellowship Hall during the Christmas season to shop with a purpose! Some sale items are also available.

## EASTSIDE AND WESTSIDE INTERFAITH PANTRIES



This month Elim will host the Eastside Pantry on **Tuesday, December 5th**, at Lucchesi Park, and the Westside Pantry on **Thursday, December 21st**, in our Fellowship Hall. Come a little before 5 PM to help set up. We start serving at 5:30 PM and are usually done and headed home by 6 PM. Bring the kids, a friend or neighbor, and a high school student who needs to fulfill community service hours. If you would like to be included in the reminder emails about pantries, please contact the office ([elim@elimpetaluma.org](mailto:elim@elimpetaluma.org) / 762-4081).

### Thanksgiving Pantry

The thanksgiving pantry served a record number of 100 families!

### Help Needed!

Want to give back to the community? Would you like to become involved with Elim's food pantry on the third Thursday of the month? We are looking for a new food shopper to pick up food from the Redwood Empire Food Bank on Thursdays.



## ELIM R<sup>3</sup> NEWS!

The R<sup>3</sup> group (Rebuild, Restore, Recover) is open to all, and readily welcoming newcomers! We are currently looking into opportunities to work in Sonoma county. Please visit our meetings or contact Athena Labberton on how to become involved.

### Renovation Project

December 10, 16, & 30

This month we will be working several different weekends on the house of an Elim member. The big event date is December 16<sup>th</sup>, but come to as many of the weekends as you wish. Please contact Athena for more information.

### MEXICO HOUSE BUILDING

Forms & deposit due December 10

Believe it or not, it is time to start planning for the Spring 2018 Mexico House Building Mission Trip, scheduled for March 19-24, 2018, during spring break for many of the Petaluma schools. Students are eligible to attend if they are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or higher. Students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade are also able to attend if accompanied by a parent. High School students - this mission also qualifies for 40 service hours and looks good on college applications! You can find the forms on the Elim website. It is not too late to join the team. Please call Roger at 707-484-5609 to let him know you would like to attend, or email [radaudio@comcast.net](mailto:radaudio@comcast.net). **Come to Learn. Come to Build. Give a family Hope.**

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## REFORMATION 500 \* 1517 - 2017

Freed and Renewed in Christ: 500 Years of God's Grace in Action

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the doors of Wittenburg Church. That was the beginning of The Reformation.

Elim has celebrated this 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Reformation with many activities: two movies...lunch with Rick Steves' "Luther and the Reformation" and joining Thanksgiving Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa for "Martin Luther: An Idea that Changed the World"...Augsburg Press Reformation 500 Bookstore on Martin Luther writings, ELCW circle studies and adult forum on Martin & Katie, Pastor Patrick's sermons on the history of the reformed church, and on Luther himself, and how does that bring us to 2017. We attended Reformation celebrations in San Francisco at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Hymn Festival & Oktoberfest, and the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod "Festival Reformation 500 Anniversary Service" at Grace Cathedral, a mass concert and service with 2500 celebrants!

At the writing of this Source article, Elim's Reformation Dinner has not happened, being rescheduled from October to November due to the fires in our county and the effect on so many of our families and friends. But, the anticipation is exciting for the fellowship of 129 Elimites with a delicious German Dinner, Newlyweds Luther & Katie skit, Luther's "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" and the Reformation commemoration hymn "God Alone Be Praised" from our choir, and a charming quartet bidding us "Adieu."

A huge “thank you” to the Reformation Committee and the many volunteers who worked on our celebrations! A special “thank you” to our sponsors who financed so many of our activities: Elim Endowment Fund, Elim Lutheran Church Women (ELCW) and Thrivent Action Grant!

The Reformed Church is ongoing, let us celebrate our faith and continue the dialogues on diversity to bring peace on earth, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!

**Joyous Advent! \* Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus! \* Merry Christmas!**

## GRATITUDE

### PEP RESIDENTS THANK YOU!

Thanks for all your generous donations of cash and warm items for the residents of the PEP housing units. With your donations and the Thrivent Action Grant we brought over a carload filled with hats, scarves, gloves, socks, umbrellas and some warm clothing items. Elim members are providing the residents with some new, warm clothing items that will keep them warm and put a smile on their faces. Thank you, generous Elim members!

## REGISTRY

**Nancy Cameron** passed away on November 16th. A memorial service is scheduled for December 9th at 2 PM at Elim.

## WORSHIP NOTES

### NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26	Average Weekly Attendance in November	
8:30 AM	51	59	54	49	2017	142
10:30 AM	89	99	102	66	2016	181
Week total	140	158	156	115		



### ALTAR FLOWERS

Help make the altar look special each Sunday! You are invited to pick a date that is significant to you (someone’s birthday, anniversary, or ??) and provide the altar flowers on the closest Sunday. Put your name on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the Welcome Area. The cost depends on whether you use flowers from your garden (free), make your own arrangements, or use a florist.

- December 3:** Atwoods
- December 10:** Cameron Family
- December 17:** Lynn Harenberg-Miller
- December 24:** Poinsettias
- December 31:** *Open*

## WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM

Did you know we have a team that plans worship services? The team meets once a month to discuss upcoming services, music and brainstorm how we can make worship more meaningful for our congregation. The team consists of Pastor Patrick, Cathe Kiler, Kevin Hart, Athena Labberton, Vicki Navarro, Audrey Norman and Barbara Villa. We plan to keep you updated with a monthly Source article. The Annual Report will cover the Worship & Music Team's full year of service.

Ideas discussed for this past month of November were the All Saints/Dia de Muertos Service and the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Below is a picture of the Dia de Muertos Altar created for the service. Members wrote the names of loved ones who have passed onto the tissue flower stem. During the service the flowers were brought forward and placed on the altar to honor those loved ones. Special thanks to our crafters who helped make all the flowers!



At the time of this writing the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service has not yet taken place, but Pastor Patrick and Cathe have been meeting with the other congregations to plan a service meaningful to all religions as we come together as a community.

December promises to be an exciting month as we enter the Advent Season of preparation and waiting for Jesus' birth on Christmas. Be sure to check the calendar for all the special services throughout the month.

We are always open to ideas of how to improve our worship. If you would like to contribute an idea, please speak with one of the team members or email your idea to [barb@elimpetaluma.org](mailto:barb@elimpetaluma.org).

## BULLETIN COVER ART

Here we are at the end of the year. It's been a great year for Bulletin Cover Art. Many have contributed incredible artwork. Just take a look at our bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. How blessed we are to have such talent among us!

In December we will continue with our Prophet series from the Narrative Lectionary. Joëlle Harris submitted artwork we have been using for the series. If there is a scripture reading that speaks to you during this series, please submit your artwork. We would love to use it. We will also have a few special bulletins for the holidays. Festival Choir will be singing on December 10th. The Children's Program will take place on December 17th at the 10:30 AM service. On December 24th we will be having one regular Sunday service in the morning and then our three Christmas Eve services in the evening. So, as you can see there are many opportunities for artists of all ages to contribute. What a wonderful gift to share with your church family.

Artwork submitted by members of any age should represent the text of the day. Drawings must be done in dark colors and easy enough to copy. Photographs may have to be adjusted for better quality copying. The due date will be the Tuesday before the service. Sign up for a date by contacting the office or online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e49aea82aa4f49-bulletin> and submit artwork/photos to [barb@elimpetaluma.org](mailto:barb@elimpetaluma.org) or drop off at the church office.

Date	Theme / Gospel/Reading / Deadline
Dec 3	<b>Theme:</b> The Prophets – The Apocalyptic Prophet <b>Scripture:</b> Daniel 3:1, 8-30 <b>Point:</b> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; God present in the fiery furnace <b>Artwork Deadline: Nov 28</b>
Dec 10	<b>Theme:</b> The Prophets – The Hopeful Prophet Festival Choir <b>Scripture:</b> Ezekiel 37:1-14 <b>Point:</b> Ezekiel prophesies to the dry bones and they are raised to new life <b>Artwork Deadline: Dec 5</b>
Dec 17	<b>8:30 AM Service</b> <b>Theme:</b> The Prophets – The Consoling Prophet <b>Scripture:</b> <b>Point:</b> An invitation to Abundant life, for you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace <b>Artwork Deadline: Dec 12</b>
Dec 17	<b>10:30 AM Children’s Christmas Program</b> Main idea: The Christmas story <b>Art Deadline: Dec 12</b>
Dec 24	<b>10:00 AM Service</b> <b>Theme: Word Made Flesh</b> <b>Scripture:</b> John 1:1-18 <b>Point:</b> In the beginning, a triune God brought light to a dark nothingness. Christ renewed that light. <b>Artwork Deadline: Dec 19</b>
Dec 24	<b>4:00 PM Children’s Service</b> <b>Theme: Christmas Eve</b> <b>Scripture:</b> Luke 2:1-20 <b>Point:</b> Jesus is born <b>Artwork Deadline: Dec 19</b>
Dec 24	<b>5:30 PM Family Service</b> <b>Theme: Christmas Eve</b> <b>Scripture:</b> Luke 2:1-20 <b>Point:</b> Jesus is born <b>Artwork Deadline: Dec 19</b>
Dec 24	<b>9:00 PM Service with Communion</b> <b>Theme: Christmas Eve</b> <b>Scripture:</b> Luke 2:1-20 <b>Point:</b> Jesus is born <b>Artwork Deadline: Dec 19</b>
Dec 31	<b>Theme:</b> A Voice in the Wilderness <b>Scripture:</b> John 1:19-34 <b>Point:</b> The Word became flesh <b>Artwork Deadline: Dec 26</b>

## WORSHIP HELPERS:

Wishing you a joyful Christmas season. We have many opportunities for you to give the gift of service to Elim. We encourage everyone to be a worship helper. We are trying to make signing up to help as easy as possible. Don't have a computer or can't get the hang of signing up on line. There is a sign-up sheet just outside the Sanctuary. You can also give Barb a call at the office (707)762-4081, or email her at [barb@elimpetaluma.org](mailto:barb@elimpetaluma.org). If it is the first time you are filling a position, we will make sure you have the instructions or pair you with someone who has done it before. It would be great to fill all the positions a month in advance, but we understand people have busy schedules these days.

The December schedule is on the Worship Helper page of the Elim website (<http://www.elimpetaluma.org/worship-helpers.html>). If you would like to be scheduled automatically for a specific time each month, or are signing up for the first time, just give Barb a call in the office at (707)762-4081. Every week we are looking for volunteers. Many of the positions only require your help during service. You do not have to make a commitment to do the task every week. Many hands, make light work.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Debra Jensen Orner Will Osman	7	Bonnie Clapham Audrey Norman	15	Zachary Warner	24	Gene Smith Sally Warner
2	Alicia Christensen Pierce Christensen Scott Clark Kirsten Creamer	8	Trudee Herman	17	Martha Sabourin	25	Ryan Chavez Joel Petersen
3	Pam Lewis	9	Katie Hunsicker	18	Caroline Flett Dolores Frey McCloud Mark Norman Bill Tennyson	27	Liz Ravenscroft Mette Wong
4	Spencer Prime Dane Svinth	11	Juliet King Lydia Zipp	19	Jim Wyrick	28	Grant Gibbs
5	Jacob Sampietro Tim Williamsen	12	Lynn Harenberg-Miller	20	Robin Butts	29	Lisa Stewart
6	Laine Price Gen Joseph Roemer	13	Kiera McGavin Veronika Svinth	21	Martin Bohn Hannah Dillingham Natalie Micco Kinley Torbit	30	Cindy Moore Alva Whitt Gregory Winters
		14	Cotter DeJong Scott Hilbert Susan Rodkin	23	Caroline Stewart	31	Kevin Unger Declan Widger

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# ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

504 Baker Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Office: 707-762-4081 / Fax: 707-773-7866

[elim@elimpetaluma.org](mailto:elim@elimpetaluma.org) / [www.elimpetaluma.org](http://www.elimpetaluma.org)

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am-2pm



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443-668-2024 / [patrick@elimpetaluma.org](mailto:patrick@elimpetaluma.org)

Doris Widger, Bookkeeper

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Audrey Norman, Staff Transition Manager

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Alex Miller, Interim Office Manager

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Cathe Kiler, Music Director

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Lynn Harenberg-Miller, Leadership Team President

[president@elimpetaluma.org](mailto:president@elimpetaluma.org)

Sarah Labberton, Youth Leader

[sarah@elimpetaluma.org](mailto:sarah@elimpetaluma.org)

Kathy Fowler, Little Shepherd Director

769-0462 / [LittleShepherd123@gmail.com](mailto:LittleShepherd123@gmail.com)

Living in God's love, it is Elim's mission  
To invite all people  
To grow in God  
And to work together  
To heal and transform the community  
In Jesus' name.

# Elim Lutheran Church

# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:00 am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen) 2:00 pm Piano Recital
<b>3</b> Beginning of advent 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Faith Formation 9:45 am ELCW Board Meeting (Fireside room) 10:30 am Worship	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm Worship Team rehearsal (Choir Room)	<b>5</b> 5:00 pm Elim at Food Pantry (Lucchesi Park on McDowell) 7:00 pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room) 7:00 pm School Board meeting (Nursery)	<b>6</b> 5:30 pm Chancel Choir (Choir room) 6:15 pm Junior & Senior High Youth meeting (room 10)	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Cherub Choir (Rm 9) 7:00 pm Festival Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00 am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen) 9:00 am Festival Choir Practice (Sanctuary) 2:00 pm Memorial Service - Nancy Cameron 6:00 pm Youth Movie and Game Night (Rm 10)
<b>10</b> Festival Choir Sunday 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Cinnabar Concert	<b>11</b> Source Deadline	<b>12</b> 12:00 pm Esther Circle (Matt) 7:00 pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room)	<b>13</b> 5:30 pm Chancel Choir (Choir room)	<b>14</b> 12:00 pm Grace Friendship Circle (back of church) 6:30 pm Cherub Choir (Rm 9) 7:00 pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary)	<b>15</b> PHS Choir Concert	<b>16</b> 8:00 am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen) 9:00 am Christmas program rehearsal 12:00 pm Danish Club Christmas Party
<b>17</b> Children's Christmas Program 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship with Christmas Program	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Elizabeth Circle 7:30 pm Worship Team rehearsal (Choir Room)	<b>19</b> 5:45 pm Worship & Music Planning Committee (back of sanctuary) 7:00 pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room)	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Leadership Meeting (Fireside Room)	<b>21</b> 4:45 pm Elim's turn at the Westside Pantry 6:30 pm Cherub Choir (Rm 9) 7:00 pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:00 am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen) 7:00 pm Carols and Drinks (Aqus)
<b>24</b> Christmas Eve 10:30 am Morning Worship 4:00 pm Worship (Cherubs) 5:30 pm Worship (Band) 9:00 pm Worship (Christmas Choir)	<b>25</b> Christmas Day 10:00 am Worship at St. John's Episcopal 	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00 am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen)
<b>31</b> New Year's Eve 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>Faith Formation 9:40 – 10:25</b> Sunday School (Upstairs) Adult forum (Choir Room)		<b>SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE</b> 8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship 9:40 am - 10:25 am Faith Formation 8:20 am - 11:40 am Nursery open		