



THE SOURCE

A Monthly Newsletter of Elim Lutheran Church

March 2018

ISSUE 3 / VOLUME 24

LENT



WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

Join us on Wednesdays, March 8–April 5, for soup suppers served 6:15-7pm, services at 7-7:30pm.

- February 28 – **Listening to God through Others**; soup supper host: Grace Circle
- March 7 – **Listening to God through Silence**; soup supper host: Elim R³
- March 14 – **Listening to God through the Earth**; breakfast for supper host: Men's Breakfast Group
- March 21 – **Listening to God through Music**; soup supper host: Elizabeth Circle

Proceeds from the free-will donation Wednesday evening meals and Lenten service offerings will support UNDOCUFUND.

JESUS AND TATTOOS

I think I'm going to get a tattoo. If all goes according to plan, I'll get my first ever ink job this month. The idea started when a friend asked me a couple months ago if I would be up for getting one with him. "Sure, I'm game" I said. Though I played my response kind of cool to my friend, I must say I'm a bit anxious. First off, I'm worried that it's going to hurt. I'm worried that the tattoo artist is going to get half-way through and I won't be able to take it anymore, and I'll end up with a half-done tattoo. I'm also worried about placement. How does a person go about deciding where on the body is best? There are a lot of placement options, some more appealing than others. And then of course perhaps the biggest dilemma of it all is what to get. The options are really endless. I have wondered what it is that I won't mind looking at on my body for the rest of my life. Or better yet, I have wondered what is it that I would like to look at on my body for the rest of my life.



It's kind of a big deal. Our bodies are made in the image of the divine and are important and good and wonderful and are to be honored and wonderfully cared for. And then again, perhaps it's not as big of a deal as I might think given my ashy destiny.

Getting a tattoo is a thing of discernment.

Another thing of discernment is Jesus and his story. Who was this Jesus? What was he after? What was it about him that caused polarization? What was it about him that caused some to leave all that they had in order to follow? What was it about him that caused some to give all they had in order to kill him? What do we do with the cross? What do we make of his death? What do we chalk it up to? And what does all of this say about God?

I wonder if I/we have too readily come up with neat and canned answers to these questions. I wonder if in this season leading up to and culminating in the holiest week of our faith, we might throw our cans away (or recycle them). Perhaps in doing so we might open ourselves up to whatever forms answers, insights and the divine to come forth. That in hearing and living with the stories of Jesus' life, last days and death we might open up our ears to the living voice of God speaking to us, here and now.

warm wishes,

Patrick

PS – Any and all tattoo ideas/tips are welcome

PRESIDENT'S POST

Dear Elim Community:

Lent in March

As some of you may know, I wasn't raised as a Lutheran, so "Lent" was not observed in my home. Getting ready for Easter was called "spring cleaning" – and took the form of well . . . CLEANING . . . the house, your room, mending clothes, washing windows, and shining shoes, all of which culminated in a trip "uptown" to locate a new Easter dress (with matching shoes and purse). Even after becoming more familiar with Lenten practices, I've had a number of misconceptions about Lent over the years, often focused on whether I have to give up chocolate or Diet Coke for 40 days (always unsuccessful).

So, what is Lent? From Lent 101 - *Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God**.

Over the centuries, Christians have found that certain daily practices (prayer, fasting, service) have been helpful to them in growing closer to God. Unfortunately, suggested practices may have become stumbling blocks to our spiritual progress – like giving up on Lent because of chocolate and Diet Coke consumption. Ultimately, what "growing closer to God" looks like – is your personal decision. It may or may not involve chocolate and Diet Coke at all & it may involve lots of spring-cleaning. This month, I encourage you to find your own Lenten practice and join with folks all over the world as we seek ways to grow closer to God. One suggestion? Come to Elim's Wednesday Lenten services throughout March. Join us at soup supper, stay for the service and explore what growing closer to God means to you. I'll see you there.

Suggestions from "Lent 101" linked below.

<https://www.upperroom.org/resources/lent-101>

Blessings,

Lynn

UPCOMING EVENTS

TASTY TACOS

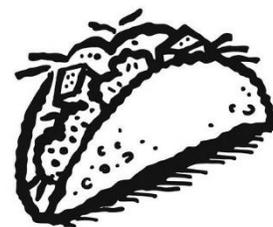
Sunday, March 4, 5-7 p.m.

The Mexico House Building Team is having their Taco Dinner & Silent Auction on Sunday, March 5. Help support this most excellent mission trip while enjoying some totally awesome tacos! Cost is \$7 per person or \$25 per family. Tickets will be sold on Sunday morning and at the Taco Dinner. You may also call the Elim office to reserve your tickets.

RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM MEETING

Sunday, March 11, 11:45 a.m.

Join us at our next planning meeting on March 11.



WORLD STORE

March 11, 18, & 25; 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Find some great additions to your Easter baskets that also make a difference in the world! Our World Store will sell fair trade products in the Fellowship Hall on the four Sundays before Easter. Proceeds from the World Store support various Elim ministries.

AEBLESKIVER BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 17

Please contact Debra Jenson-Orner or Kathy Matt to participate in planning the Aebleskiver Breakfast. Enjoy the deliciousness of our Scandinavian heritage even more by helping to organize the event! Mark your calendars and plan to attend the event.

MEDITATIVE HEALING PRAYER GROUP

Saturday, March 17, 9:30 a.m., Fireside room

We are a group that gets together, and with God's presence we pray for people's healing. We spend some time getting prepared for the healing process. It takes about half an hour for each healing that we do. If you are unable to come to the church office and live locally, we will try to come to your place to pray. All this is done with love and in strict confidence with you.

The times that are available on the 3rd Saturday of the month are 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. Please call the church office to schedule an appointment. (762-4081)

CELEBRATION HONORING DORIS WIDGER

Sunday, March 18, Between Services, Fellowship Hall

Please join us for a celebration honoring Doris Widger, who has served with distinction on Elim's office staff for as long as many of us can remember. Over the years, she has contributed immeasurably to Elim's financial well-being and the smooth functioning of office operations and will be sorely missed on staff. We rejoice with her in her new pursuits and give thanks that she will still be among us, applying her many gifts to Elim ministries as a volunteer. She will receive blessings during services and eat cake with us between services. Please bake and bring your favorite cake or bring a fruit plate to share!

A LIVING LAST SUPPER



In the spirit of Jesus' last supper we gather to...
Eat. Commune. Wash feet/hands.

In Elim's community hall starting at 6:30pm
Thursday, March 29th

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 29, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

In the spirit of Jesus' last supper with his friends, abandoners and betrayers, we'll gather together at 6:30pm in Elim's community hall for a meal, communion, and hand/foot washing.

GOOD FRIDAY

March 30, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

As we recall the story of a world that put reform, love and hope to death, we'll gather for a time of lament and prayer for our world, community, and lives.



A time for lament and prayer

Friday March 30th at 7pm

Elim Lutheran Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DORIS WIDGER – LEAVING THE OFFICE

Dear Elim friends,

My departure from the office staff was planned over two years ago but various things happened to postpone that change. I've decided that it is now time for me to retire and return to "volunteer" status at Elim. It has been a privilege and honor to serve in many capacities on the Elim staff. Thank you to all the pastors, paid staff, volunteers, members and friends who served with me over the past 16-1/2 years. My last regular day of work was January 31, but I will still be in the office occasionally doing some training. May we continue to work together in Jesus' name at Elim!

Doris Widger

Who ya gonna call?

A Guide to Who does What on Elim's Office Staff

For many years, the question of who to call on Elim's staff was easily answered – Doris for financial, policy, personnel, & IT matters, Becky for everything else. Either Doris or Becky. Straightforward. Easy to figure out. Elim's staff transition began with Becky moving to Texas last summer, and with Doris exiting her bookkeeping role at the end of January, it continues. (FYI: Doris IS still an Elim employee, but is here only occasionally – handing off duties, doing some training, working on special projects.)

The hiring process for the general manager and bookkeeping positions will be going forward soon, but for now Elim's interim office manager (Alex) and staff transition manager (Audrey) are still temporary employees. Barb is our veteran on staff, but she is now performing duties that were previously performed by Doris, so we are all learning on the job and doing our best to support your ministry needs. Meanwhile, our Treasurer is stepping in to perform bookkeeping duties until a bookkeeper is hired.

Here is the link to a detailed description of who does what in the office. Meanwhile, the bullets below should help: <https://www.elimpetaluma.org/news-blog/who-ya-gonna-call-a-guide-to-who-does-what-on-elims-office-staff>

- For help with Giving Statements, please contact Barb Villa, barb@elimpetaluma.org
- For financial questions, please direct them to Elim's treasurer, Kevin Prime at treasurer@elimpetaluma.org
- Anything else, check with Alex Miller at alex@elimpetaluma.org and he will point you to the right staff member.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Yes - Elim's Endowment Fund still has money left to award, and applications are being accepted until March 15! Members of Elim or non-profits can apply for funds for the following purposes:

- Outreach into the community: A source for seed money for projects that reach out to help others and spread God's message of love.
- Educational projects within our church that require sponsorship or initial purchases in order to get started.
- Outreach of faith: Projects to spread the Lutheran faith or to care for the faithful.
- Enhancements to worship
- Facility modifications
- Response to disaster, such as recent fires.

Applications can be completed and submitted online (<https://www.elimpetaluma.org/news-blog/grant>) or by getting an application from Alex in the main office and returning it to him.

WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM



The Worship & Music Team met on Tuesday, February 20. We reviewed the Lenten series, themed "Can you hear God now?". This comes from "Listen Here! The Art and Spirituality of Listening" by Megan McKenna. Each Wednesday focuses on listening to God through a different means. In March our "Listening to God" will be through silence, nature, and music.

On Ash Wednesday we had a delicious meal prepared by Gene and Dolores McCloud and Bob and Kathy Reinhard. A huge thank you goes out to them and all who helped with set-up and clean-up. We served about forty-five people. A wonderful service with the imposition of ashes followed with sixty-six in attendance.

The Soup Supper schedule has been filled. We would like to thank in advance the groups who have signed up for supplying our soups: The Elim office staff, Grace Circle, R³ Team, the Men's Ministry Breakfast Group, and the Elizabeth Circle. Donations from the soup suppers and Wednesday services will go to the fire victims.

Plans were discussed for Holy Week. Passion/Palm Sunday is in the process of being planned with our Chancel Choir and Waves of Grace. Festival Choir will not be singing on Passion/Palm Sunday but will sing on Earth Day (April 22). Maundy Thursday will be celebrated with a Living Last Supper starting at 6:30 p.m. A simple soup supper will be served as part of the worship service. Good Friday will be a service of lament. The Festival Choir will be singing during the service. On Easter Sunday we will have three services (8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m.)

Other items entering discussion revolved around summer services, worship times, and our music groups. These discussions will continue at our next meeting.

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.

A MATTER OF BALANCE SERIES

Mondays and Wednesdays March 5-28 10 a.m. – noon, at Petaluma Library, 100 Fairgrounds Dr.

Falls are the #1 reason that Sonoma County seniors go to the emergency room. Fracturing a hip or spraining a wrist means a long rehabilitation, which can decrease seniors' quality of life or even prevent them from living independently in their own homes. Yet falls don't have to be accepted as a normal part of aging.

Seniors can learn to prevent injuries by attending this free workshop. Trained coaches help participants increase balance, flexibility and strength through fun, gentle exercises, give tips to remove falling hazards at home, and lead discussions to promote safe lifestyle strategies.

To reserve a spot in the series, contact the Program Coordinator at djacoby@schsd.org or (707) 565-5936. This nationally acclaimed fall prevention program is hosted by the Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the Sonoma County Library. For more information visit, sonomacounty.ca.gov/Human-Services/Adult-and-Aging/A-Matter-of-Balance-Managing-Concerns-About-Falls/.

Wednesdays at Hospice

2018 Education Series

Food for your Mind, Body & Spirit

*Discover ways of caring for yourself, and increase your effectiveness
in caring for others ...*

“Me with Me”

Presented by Janet Caliri, Founder of Visible Transitions

Hospice of Petaluma
416 Payran Street, Petaluma

March 14, 2018
5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Memorial Hospice
439 College Avenue, Santa Rosa

March 21, 2018
5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Janet Caliri, creative and energetic sought-after speaker and coach, and founder of Visible Transitions, will lead a fun and interactive experience that will guide us to discover ways of caring for the self, thereby increasing our effectiveness in caring for others.

ADULT MINISTRIES

ELCW – ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Circles

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 Shirly Bunce) always meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month – March 8 – at 12 p.m. in the back of the sanctuary. Pastor Patrick will lead the Bible study.
- **Elizabeth** (hosted by Suzy Sellai) meets on the 3rd Monday of the month – March 19 – at 7 p.m.
- **Esther** (hosted by Jan Moffet) meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month – March 13 – at noon.

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

Elim men meet for a pass-the-hat breakfast every Saturday in the church kitchen. Cooking at 7-8 a.m., 8-9 a.m. 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.

FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

We have lots of exciting events coming up for Sunday School! Easter is just around the corner!! We will have our annual Palm Sunday Easter Egg hunt. If you would like to donate 'fillers' for the Easter eggs please drop off in the Sunday School room upstairs on Sundays or in the church office during the week. Filler ideas could be anything from candy, stickers, erasers, small little trinkets!! If anyone is willing to help fill a set of eggs that would be helpful. Also, anyone willing to hide the eggs 30 min ahead of time please let Allison, Sarah or the office know!!!

Upcoming special days to mark on your calendar for Sunday School:

- **March 4** - Lesson
- **March 11** - Lesson and painting base for the resurrection gardens (we will be using acrylic paint so dress accordingly if choosing to paint)
- **March 18** - Resurrection Gardens -- We will be meeting outside on the patio --- we will be creating 1 larger garden per family. Suggested donation is \$5.00/garden. We will have extra supplies if you want to make an additional garden and other members from the congregation are welcome to join. This is a great family project to do together! All hands on deck!!
- **March 25** - Easter Egg Hunt --- more details to come!
- **April 1** - Easter - No Sunday School

**Save the date for
Vacation Bible School!
June 11-15**

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

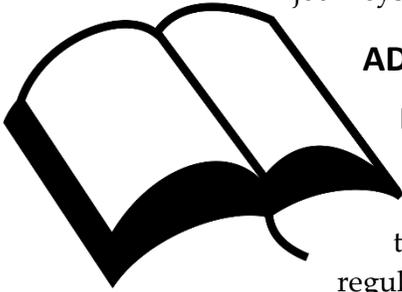
Jr. High Hybrid Faith at Elim

Those in 6th-8th grade are invited to participate in this group. We'll meet on March 4 before the "Taco Feed" to think together about the story of Creation.

High School Wednesday Gatherings

Wednesday, at 6:15 p.m.

Regular weekly high school group gatherings have resumed on Wednesday nights. These gatherings will begin at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. Youth will share a meal and converse about their lives and faith journeys.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Exploring the Story

Tuesdays at 7 p.m., 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.

MUSIC

FESTIVAL CHOIR

I am so excited to share that Festival Choir has been asked to provide the music for the two services on Earth Day, April 22. To be prepared, we will have to **start our rehearsals on Thursday, March 8**. We have also been asked to sing on Good Friday.

I realize that some members have shied away from singing for Palm Sunday because they expect the musical message to represent the days of Holy Week and that could be somber and pensive. Know that Pastor Patrick and I have discussed the music for those two services and we will be choosing uplifting, inspirational, and rhythmical anthems. The repertoire will be beautiful, varied and enjoyable. I hope that all of you will be able to participate and that those who were unable to sing last December will return to help us for Good Friday and Earth Day.

Rehearsal dates are on Thursdays, 7-9pm, in Elim's choir room:

- March 8, 15, 22
- No rehearsals during holy week
- April 5, 12, 19
- April 21 – Saturday dress rehearsal (time TBA)
- April 22 – Festival Choir Sunday morning services



In order to choose appropriate selections, it would be very helpful to know the make-up of the ensemble. If you know that you can join, please let me know ASAP. One does not need to be a member of Elim to participate in Festival Choir, so invite your friends!

CHERUB CHOIR

Spring session starts March 1, 9:30 p.m., Room 9

Do you know any children looking for a fun music experience? Invite them to join Cherub Choir! Our primary focus is children ages 3-7, but older children who want to sing with us are welcome! It's a great avenue for them to explore their faith! We will perform at the 10:30 service on March 18 and April 8, and there is the potential for an outreach concert at Springfield Place. As always, all are welcome, so please bring friends who would like to sing as well! We will meet on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in Room 9. Questions? Please feel free to contact Vicki Olivas Navarro.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY

SECOND MILE GIVING | CHANGE THE WORLD: PETALUMA PEOPLE'S SERVICES

"Second mile giving" refers to an extra offering towards a special cause. The March recipient will be the Petaluma People's Services. Check off "Special Offering" on the pew envelopes, look for the special offering envelopes in the back of the sanctuary, or click on the "Donate Now" button on our website to contribute.

PPSC is much more than a collection of 53 human services programs based on best practice research with measurable outcomes. We are a community of caregivers existing within the larger community, whose sole purpose is to help make people's lives better. We strive to do this one child, one adult, and one senior at a time. Last year we served over 10,000 people through our programs. The hands-on, face-to-face support that individuals receive from PPSC is wide ranging; counseling, job placement, gang prevention, daily hot meals, rides to the doctor, case management, financial assistance for homeless prevention, informational and referrals....People Helping People. PPSC has five significant core service areas:

- Senior Services – Meals-On-Wheels, Adult Day Care, Case Management, Nutrition Site-Senior Cafe, Transportation
- Homeless Prevention, SHARE of Sonoma and Fair Housing Sonoma County
- Employment & Training – Adult and Youth
- Counseling – Individual, Couples & Family, Drug & Alcohol Prevention, Gang Prevention
- Petaluma Bounty – Healthy Food For All

Read More about PPSC's programs: [PetalumaPeoplesServices2016 Argus](#)

Donate by using the special offering envelopes, check off "Special Offering" in the pew envelopes, click on the "Donate Now" button on our website, or send a text to 707-317-6431: \$(amount) 2nd .

EASTSIDE AND WESTSIDE INTERFAITH PANTRIES



This month Elim will host the Eastside Pantry on **Tuesday, March 6**, at Lucchesi Park, and the Westside Pantry on **Thursday, March 15**, in our Fellowship Hall. Come a little before 5 p.m. to help set up. We start serving at 5:30 p.m. and are usually done and headed home by 6 p.m. 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 / 762-4081).

MEXICO HOUSE BUILDING MISSION TRIP

Send Off, March 18

The Elim Mexico Mission Team is south bound on Monday, March 19. We will be sending them off with a blessing at the Sunday service on March 18.

ALLEY OOP'S ROCK N BOWL CHARITY EVENT

Put on your best argyle socks and join PPSC for some Jungle Jive at the 2018 Rock N Bowl.



Our Impact in 2017:

Thank you for your 2017 donation to the UndocuFund for Fire Relief in Sonoma County. With generous support from 7,500 individual donors as well as dozens of fundraisers and foundations, we provided direct cash assistance to nearly 1,000 families last year. Approximately 4,000 people, half of whom were children, benefited from the UndocuFund.



ELIM R³ NEWS!

The Elim R³ group (Rebuild, Restore, Recover) is open to all, and is readily welcoming newcomers! Please visit our next event/meeting or contact Athena Labberton about how to become involved.

COTS Dorm Clean-Up

March 17

COTS has asked if we could help out... We need to know if there is any interest. Please let Athena Labberton know ASAP if you are interested in helping as part of an Elim R³ group.

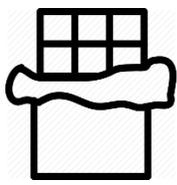
"We need up to ten adult volunteers to help with a dorm clean-up at the Mary Isaak Center, disinfecting mattresses and bedframes and sweeping and mopping the floors. We'll also be removing excess belongings from the dorm.

We're working with residents from now until the 17th to reduce their belongings to the permitted amounts. Our hope is that there will be little to no drama around the issue by March 17. We might do a dump run; we'll certainly do a Good Will run."

Elim R³ Meeting to prep for Fireworks and start planning for 2019

March 2, Labberton Household

Join our meeting to start preparations for the 2019 trip, and for our annual summer fireworks fundraiser.



R³ See's Candy Sales

Giving up chocolate for Lent? Getting ready for Easter? Elim R³ can help you. We will be preselling See's candy from 2/20-3/13. Watch for a table in the fellowship hall on Sunday morning, or talk to any of the group that goes to New Orleans.

How does this help you give up chocolate for Lent? It doesn't, but it lets you have some yummy chocolate ready for Easter. The proceeds will be going to Sonoma Fire Victims and Elim R³ will match the amount and send a donation to SBP for Puerto Rico.

Facilities and R³ in the Choir Room!

Spring Break is almost here and that is a good time - when preschool is out of session - to update the Choir Room. We have been blessed with the funds to have the floor professionally installed during the week of Spring Break - March 19th through 23rd. Prior to that, we need to prep and paint the room. Then, we will need to assemble office furniture.

If you have availability and can help, please come to one of the work party days. Some of you have signed up, thank you. The sign-up sheets are at the R³ table in the Fellowship hall, and you can get your See's Candy there, too! (And, you are still invited whether you signed up or not.)

We will have some tools/equipment available, but if you have some, please bring it along. We'll also have some refreshments.

Schedule of events:

Saturday, March 3 at 10 a.m.

- Move filing cabinets
- Remove cupboards
- Remove chalkboard
- Some prep if time allows

Saturday, March 10 at 10 a.m.

- Prep walls
- Paint walls

Sunday, March 18 at 11:45 a.m.

- Assemble office furniture

PLEASE NOTE: Free filing cabinets will be available for adoption on Saturday, March 3rd or Sunday, March 4th. Please take one home with you! If possible, please pick up your file cabinet before Saturday.

GRATITUDE

Where do I begin to say thank you to all of you for your amazing support of this ministry for our college students. You were beyond generous, both with supplies, and monetarily. Together with all your donations, the generous donation of the ELCW, and the Trivant Action Grant, all the costs were covered for the mailing, supplies and Starbuck's cards. We were able to send Valentine gifts to the 22 students throughout the United States, with 1 going out of the country to Vancouver, BC. We also remembered our 10 local JC students. That's a total of 33 of our youth continuing their educational journey. We are so very proud of each and every one of them. It is so important for us to remind them that their Elim family always has them in our hearts and prayers. A special thank you to Tammy Albertson, together we stuffed those envelopes with more goodies than ever before. A very special thank you to Alex Miller, who's help is invaluable. This ministry is not only a blessing to the students, but in turn a blessing to us as well. I have to share one more blessing. As the sweet postal lady was checking in our packages, she paused and looked at me and said, "I was raised by a loving and supportive community also." Thank you again for your generosity, positive response, and enthusiastic support of our College Care Pack Ministry. We are not only touching our church family, but our community that we live and work in.

In Christian Love,

Karen Pesutich

Ps. Here are some thank you notes we have received.

Hey Mrs. P I just got my annual package and wanted to thank you for thinking of me again. They're really helpful items that I always forget to buy for myself. And I just ran out of Starbucks money so now I'll be able to get coffee again in these cold mornings that always catch me off guard. Thanks again for all of the support that I get from you and the Elim community!
Nate Bechtel

Thank you for the Valentine's Day care package!! I really appreciate receiving gifts from home, I'm majoring in molecular biology and working at a coffee shop this quarter, as well as visiting the beach often and taking advantage of the nice Santa Cruz weather. Thanks again,
-Hadley Osman :)

Dear Elim,
Thank you so much for the Valentine's day package! It was such a nice surprise to receive at college, It means so much that you all thought of me.
Thank you, again. Love,
Natalie Micco

Thank you Elim for another great care package! It's always a nice Valentine's Day treat to get some goodies from church! Lucky to have such great memories with my church family! ♥
Love Alex Mendoza

Hey Uncle Kevin and Aunt Rose! Thank you so much for the Valentine's Day package!! ♥♥♥
Kayleigh Hart

Dear Elim Congregation,
Thank you so much for the Valentine's care package! It's always nice to get a little something from back home!
Love, Kira Svinth

FINANCIAL REPORT

Regular Giving Report		
	JANUARY	YEAR-TO-DATE
Regular Giving:	\$ 21,431	\$ 206,590
Budget:	\$ 22,572	\$ 208,445
Variance:	(\$ 1,141)	(\$ 1,855)
Variance (%):	-5.0%	-0.9%
Regular Giving Last Year:	\$ 20,095	\$ 192,604
Change from Last Year:	\$ 1,336	\$ 13,986
Change from Last Year (%):	+6.6%	+7.3%
Full Year Budget:	\$ 344,485	
Last Year's Actual Giving:	\$ 306,884	
Increase over last year:	\$ 37,801	
Increase over last year (%):	11.0%	



Budget Comparison (Congregational Programs)			
<i>The report below includes all congregational activities <u>except</u> Little Shepherd Lutheran Preschool and the Elim Lutheran Church Women.</i>			
JANUARY 2018	Actual	Budget	Variance
Unrestricted Contributions	21,525	22,705	(1,170)
Other Revenue	5,007	4,963	44
Use of Restricted Funds	6,790	7,413	(623)
Total Revenues	33,333	35,081	(1,748)
Expenses	(35,123)	(38,995)	3,872
Excess (Deficit) of Revenue over Expenses	(1,791)	(3,914)	2,123
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE	Actual	Budget	Variance
Unrestricted Contributions	209,887	210,709	(822)
Other Revenue	42,621	43,123	(502)
Use of Restricted Funds	47,066	59,560	(12,494)
Total Revenues	299,574	313,392	(13,818)
Expenses	(314,148)	(347,054)	32,906
Excess (Deficit) of Revenue over Expenses	(14,574)	(33,663)	19,089

WORSHIP NOTES

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25	Average Weekly Attendance in January	
8:30 a.m.	51	57	40	52	2018	134
10:30 a.m.	82	72	78	104	2017	165
Week total	133	129	118	156		



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.

March 4: Brian Tolson

March 11: *Open*

March 18: *Open*

March 25: Atwoods

BULLETIN COVER ART

During Lent we continue scripture readings from the gospel of John. Please prayerfully consider expressing one of the readings in art form. We would love to feature your artful interpretation.

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. Due to the cost of printing color, artwork will be displayed black and white with the exception being special services. Photographs may have to be adjusted for better quality copying. The due date will be the Tuesday before the service.

Since we are updating our Worship Helper Database we have added Artist/Photographer to the positions. You can sign-up online by going to www.elimpetaluma.org and clicking on Worship Helpers at the bottom of the screen. Just click on the date you interested in. If the website does not let you in send an email to Barb Villa at barb@elimpetaluma.org or call her at the office (707) 762-4081.

Date	Theme / Gospel/Reading / Deadline
Mar 4	<p>Theme: Peter's Denial Scripture: John 18:12-27 Point: Jesus experienced Peter's betrayal deeply – Jesus knows exactly what it is to be human. Artwork Deadline: Feb 27</p>
Mar 11	<p>Theme: Jesus and Pilate Scripture: John 18:28-40 Point: We can live with differing truths, and still work together to do God's work. Artwork Deadline: Mar 6</p>
Mar 18	<p>Theme: Jesus Condemned Scripture: John 19:1-16a Point: Sometimes surrender is the best way to victory. Artwork Deadline: Mar 13</p>

Mar 25	<p>Theme: The Crucified Messiah or Triumphal Entry Scripture: John 19:16b-22 or John 12:12-27 Point: King Jesus was a leader for the people. Artwork Deadline: Mar 20</p>
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WORSHIP HELPERS

A huge thank you to all who have responded to our request for worship helpers. We have had fifty-one members update/sign-up as worship helpers. On February 18 we had a successful potluck/orientation to train/refresh worship helpers on the positions they were willing to perform. If you missed the orientation and would like some training send an email to Barb Villa at barb@elimpetaluma.org.

Being a worship helper is a small way you can give of yourself to Elim. Most of the tasks occur during worship and require only a few minutes of your time. You may find helping will enhance your worship experience. Worship helpers include: acolytes, bulletin folders, coffee hosts, ushers, readers, worship leaders, communion helpers, bread bakers, sound tech, Children’s Church leader and assistants. There is something for everyone and we encourage everyone to be a worship helper. You do not have to make a commitment to do the task every week. Many hands, make light work.

The spring schedule is on the Worship Helper page of the Elim website (<http://www.elimpetaluma.org/worship-helpers.html>). We are still 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. 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.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|-------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Eva Garibaldi | 10 | Mary Ellen Duerre | 15 | James Stone | 25 | Nic Chlebowski |
| 2 | Casey Aldrich | 12 | Eric Hunsicker | 16 | Kevin Hart | | Christian Mason-Davis |
| | John Charles | | Nancy McLean | | Grady King | 26 | Dave Hokanson |
| | Amanda Overton | 13 | Art Cooper | | Chris Mulhall | | Christopher Micco |
| 3 | Melissa Becker | | Don De Jong | 18 | Ruby Chlebowski | | Vicki Olivas Navarro |
| 4 | Debbie Crosby | | Meghan Genovese | | Erik Eskes | | Karen Sipich |
| | Kenly Eskes | | Dia Gutierrez | 19 | Lambeth Safriet-Schempf | | Lynsee Witham |
| | Penny Micco | | Glen Hunsicker | 21 | Joëlle Harris | 27 | Jodi Witham |
| 6 | Greta Choi | 14 | Kalen Clemmens | | Hailey Skanderson | 29 | Teri Clark |
| | Skylar Horne | | Jeania Malaise | 24 | Susan Power | | Barbara Martinez |
| | Garrett Labberton | | Chris Stewart | | Bob Wong | | Amy York |
| | Jared Svinth | | | | | | |

ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

504 Baker Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

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

elim@elimpetaluma.org / www.elimpetaluma.org

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



Pastor Patrick Torbit

443-668-2024 / patrick@elimpetaluma.org

Doris Widger, Bookkeeper

762-4081 / doris@elimpetaluma.org

Audrey Norman, Staff Transition Manager

762-4081 / audrey@elimpetaluma.org

Alex Miller, Interim Office Manager

762-4081 / elim@elimpetaluma.org

Barb Villa, Bulletin Production & Ministry
Scheduler

762-4081 / barb@elimpetaluma.org

Cathe Kiler, Music Director

415-898-1248 / cathe@elimpetaluma.org

Sarah Labberton, Youth Leader

sarah@elimpetaluma.org

Lynn Harenberg-Miller, Leadership Team
President

president@elimpetaluma.org

Kathy Fowler, Little Shepherd Director

769-0462 / 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

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE 8:30am & 10:30am Worship 9:40am - 10:25am Faith Formation 8:20am - 11:40am Nursery open			 ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH	1 6:30pm Cherub Choir Practice 7pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary)	2 6:30pm Elim R3 Meeting (Labbertons)	3 8am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen) 10am Facilities and R3 in the Choir room			
Faith Formation 9:40 – 10:25 Sunday School (Upstairs) Adult forum (Choir Room)				4 4pm Jr. & Sr. High School youth meeting (Choir Room) 5pm Taco Feed (Fellowship Hall)	5	6 5pm Elim at Food Pantry (Lucchesi Park on McDowell) 7pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room)	7 5:30pm Chancel Choir 6:15pm Lent Soup Supper 6:15pm High School Youth Group Meetings 7pm Lenten Service	8 12pm Grace Friendship Circle (back of church) 6:30pm Cherub Choir Practice 7pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary) 7pm Festival Choir Practice	9
11 Daylight Saving Time starts 11:45am Relay for Life Meeting	12	13 Last Day to order See's Candy! 12pm Esther Circle 7pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room) 7:30pm Worship Team rehearsal (Choir Room)	14 5:30pm Chancel Choir 6:15pm Lent Soup Supper 6:15pm High School Youth Group Meetings 7pm Lenten Service	15 Source Deadline 4:45pm Elim's turn at the Westside Pantry 6:30pm Cherub Choir Practice 7pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary) 7pm Festival Choir Practice	16	17 Ableskeiver Breakfast Elim R3 COTS dorm clean-up 8am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen) 9:30am Meditative Healing Prayer Group 			
18 9:40am Celebration honoring Doris Widger 10:30am Cherub Choir 11:45am Facilities and R3 in the Choir room	19	20 5:45pm Worship & Music Planning Committee (back of sanctuary) 7pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room)	21 5:30pm Chancel Choir 6:15pm Lent Soup Supper 6:15pm High School Youth Group Meetings 7pm Lenten Service	22 7pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary) 7pm Festival Choir Practice	23	24 8am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen) 12pm Danish Club Tea			
Mexico House Building Mission Trip / Spring Break									
25 Palm Sunday 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt 	26	27 7pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room) 7:30pm Worship Team rehearsal (Choir Room)	28 5:30pm Chancel Choir 6:15pm High School Youth Group Meetings	29 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service 7pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary)	30 7pm Good Friday Service	31 8am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen)			