



THE SOURCE

A Monthly Newsletter of Elim Lutheran Church

November 2017

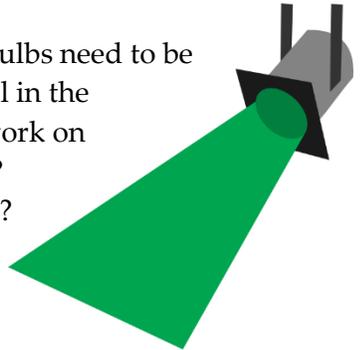
ISSUE 11 / VOLUME 23

SPOTLIGHT ON:

George Matt

What happens at Elim when an electrical socket sparks, or a faucet drips, or lightbulbs need to be replaced? What happens when something serious goes wrong and you need to call in the professionals, let's say the plumbers, but they can't get to the pipes they need to work on because there's a giant chunk of concrete buried in the dirt surrounding the pipes? Does your office staff get seriously stressed out trying to deal with these problems? Does the staff have to bring in the Leadership Team and ask them to vote on moving the concrete? The answer might be YES if we didn't have George, but the answer is NO because George is on it! Often without even a phone call

George is here: taking care of our leaks and our sparks, climbing ladders, checking for defects and malfunctions, to help us avoid breakdowns and failures. Everywhere around Elim's physical plant, George is on it, and we love him.

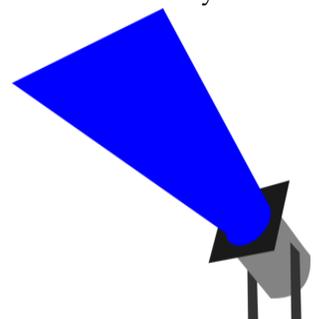


Robin Merrill

On the third Thursday of every month, Elim hosts the westside interfaith food pantry. Before the great Texas migration, Elim Thursdays were led by Becky and Cathe Kiler, with help from Nancy Hokansen, but recently Cathe has been on her own. A hearty and grateful shout-out to Robin Merrill, who stepped up to share pantry leadership and now works alongside Cathe to make sure Elim's pantry Thursdays run smoothly.

Susan Rodkin and Athena Labberton

On March 24, 2007, Elim held a celebration to honor our 38 "Gems" – Elim members over the age of 75. In conjunction with this banquet, a booklet was assembled containing biographies of these lovely ladies written by Elim women of all ages. The women of Elim are eager to continue this wonderful tradition, so we've been searching for leaders willing to coordinate an updated "Gems of Elim" document and bash, and now our search is over. Many thanks to Susan Rodkin and Athena Labberton, who have volunteered to lead a Gems of Elim book and event in 2018.



TAKEAWAYS FROM THE WILDFIRES

A couple of Monday mornings ago I woke up peacefully to learn that many in our surrounding communities had woken up much earlier that same morning in horror. “Tornado Wildfires” as they have been called had rapidly descended upon the rural and urban of Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties. Now a couple weeks removed from that tragic Monday morning, these Wildfires are being called among the worst in California’s state history. Recent reports say that at least 8,400 building (6,000 of which were homes) were destroyed, 100,000 people were displaced, and 42 lives were lost as a result of the Tubbs, Nuns, Atlas, and Pocket Wildfires. As I’ve had some time to reflect upon the last couple of weeks the following has come to mind.

We are grieving. There has been a lot of loss in recent days - loss of homes, businesses, buildings, jobs and life. Paul once wrote “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” (1 Cor. 12:26) Members of our communities have suffered and are suffering. Who do you know that is suffering?

The wildfires were unnerving. And when I say unnerving, I might mean terrifying. I know, the fires didn’t make it to Petaluma, however being told to have things packed just in case the red flag winds carried the fires had me on complete edge. I don’t think faith removes fear. And I don’t think lack of faith necessarily means fear, though it might sometimes. In any case, I think there are seriously things in this world that are terrifying. The wildfires were scary for many, myself included. What were you feeling during the wildfires?

Faith offers us nerve. At one point in which I was driving through some thick smoke and kind of starting to freak out, a certain story of scripture came to mind – Daniel’s fiery furnace. It’s this story of protest. Three guys stand up instead of bowing down to worship a false idol, the king. They stand up because things aren’t right. They stand up because the king is not God and they refuse to worship that which is not God. The consequence for not worshipping the king is to be thrown into the fiery furnace. The king threatens this to the three and the three basically say to the king “burn us up.” It’s a story of protest. It’s a story of faith. Faith gives the three courage, faith gives the three strengths. Courage and strength to say, come what may, it’s going to be ok. I’m convinced that we can prep all we want, we can be completely safe, and yet fear can overtake us. I think faith offers us nerve amidst our unnerving world. What’s something that grounds you?

Perhaps the best place to start helping is with that which touches us. It’s this simple insight and I think wise observation by Rachel Naomi Remen that has stayed with me ever since I first read it. “We are healers of the world...It’s not about healing the world by making a huge difference. It’s about healing the world that touches you, that’s around you.” I think one of the challenges of our day is that we are exposed to a lot of pain, suffering and problems of the world. And it’s like where do we begin. It can feel overwhelming. The past couple of weeks I have witnessed people healing the world through that which touches them. From volunteering at evacuation shelters, to donating supplies, to housing evacuee people and pets, to providing counseling, to helping within the schools, to helping medically, to helping financially, to helping with food, to helping with loved ones, the list just goes on and on as to the many ways people have played their part in coming together to heal our communities. What of the world touches you and how can you work to heal that?

Thanksgiving seems important. While we have much to be sad about, it seems that there is also much to be thankful for. There's a picture of a mother and her young son waving to departing fire fighters. They were a part of a group that gathered with signs to say thank you to those first responders who selflessly and tirelessly worked to keep all of us safe. There are many of these kinds of people to whom our sincere gratitude is due. There's also been this reoccurring theme throughout conversations about what people were packing in preparation for evacuations and or possible evacuations. And the theme has been this - "it's just stuff. It can be replaced, we don't really need it. We have our lives. That's really what matters." Walter Brueggemann in his book "Prophetic Imagination" writes "The contemporary American Church is so largely enculturated to the American ethos of consumerism that it has little power to believe or act." I'm not saying that "stuff" is unimportant. I've just sensed a spirit of thanksgiving in the air for life and this grounding that believes that the precious gift of life itself is enough. What are you thankful for?

Doing justice is our call. Time will tell how long it takes for Sonoma, Napa, and Solano counties to recover from this disaster. Our faith is clear about our call, and that is to do justice and to love kindness. It is time to heed this call and to continue to help with relief, recovery, and rebuilding in all the ways that we can, and in particular, to be mindful of the low-income, undocumented, and vulnerable populations among us. What do you sense God calling you to?

Peace, courage, and hope to you in this time,
Patrick

PRESIDENT'S POST

Dear Elim Community:

God's Hands – Our Work

As Pastor Patrick has detailed in his post, the Elim community was involved in a wide variety of fire recovery efforts from the first days of the fires and we continue to find ways to serve. An acute concern is for those in the community who may be unable or afraid to contact traditional recovery entities for help due to cultural, language and legal status issues.

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' ~*Matthew 25:40*

I continue to be in awe of all that has been done already and pray for our continued strength, perseverance and peace as rebuilding begins. **But, as you step up to volunteer, put the oxygen mask on yourself first!**

Every time you fly, you will hear this phrase: ***"In case of a loss of cabin pressure, oxygen masks above your seat will deploy. Please place the mask on yourself first before assisting children or other passengers."*** Right? You know the drill.

I'm usually not paying attention throughout the flight safety demonstration. I'm worried that the guy next to me will hog the armrest and the steward will run out of Diet Coke, or I'm



disappointed that the in-flight movie is one I've already seen. I usually try to locate which aisles are exits, but having flown for years, without incident (thank you, Jesus), my mind tends to wander before takeoff. But recently, I discovered the science behind the oxygen mask caution and thought I'd share it with you.

Destin (*from You Tube's Smarter Every Day*) went to NASA to test what it's like to be inside a depressurized cabin in an airplane (when the oxygen masks drop down) to find out why you have to put your mask on first. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUfF2MTnqAw&feature=em-uploademail>

The video of his experience (10 minutes long but worth a watch) is both fascinating and frightening. As the oxygen saturation levels in his body drops, he begins to experience hypoxia, and you can see how basic human functions (like say, the will to live) just completely stops working. In a matter of minutes, a normal, rational person morphs into someone who can't recognize shapes, someone who can't move his hands, and someone who can't save himself, or anyone else.

<https://sploid.gizmodo.com/why-you-should-always-put-your-oxygen-mask-on-first-1784141153>

As we move into November, many of us are still reeling from a very stressful October. Hurricanes, gun violence, and the worst fires in California's history along with news 24/7 have taken a toll on us all. Some of us (myself included) may think it is our duty to help everyone else first and put ourselves last. The "oxygen mask" is **a great metaphor for taking care of ourselves first— for two reasons.** First, if you fall apart, you become someone else's burden; and second – we become unable to contribute our "talents" – if we are gasping for air ourselves.

I found these suggestions for quick ways to take care of ourselves first by Wendy Keller.

<http://wendykeller.com/put-the-oxygen-mask-on-yourself-first/>

She has 5 suggestions for taking care of yourself that I found valuable:

1. **Commit to telling one person how you REALLY feel.** Don't say "I'm fine" if you aren't.
2. If you become overwhelmed – **excuse yourself from the situation.** The emotion WILL pass but to continue to remain overwhelmed could prolong your immediate distress.
3. **Turn to nature.** Go hug a tree, work in your garden, walk a dog, go to Shollenberger Park, or my favorite – get near some water. Wherever your nature spot is, go there, unplug the phone, and "*lie down in green pastures . . . besides still waters . . . [to] restore [your] soul.*"
4. **Write it down.**
Even if you're not a writer. Pour it out on the page. Use every adjective you can think of to describe your feelings or the emotion you are experiencing . . . Get it off your plate and out of your head.
5. **Get to bed earlier. Eat healthy food, hydrate . . .** you know, all the things you tell your kids to do when they are stressed!
6. **Reach out to the community for help.** OK, this one is mine. Don't isolate. Call a friend or call us (numbers are at the end of The Source) and/ or plug into an Elim community activity. I might have a few suggestions!

Be well, stay well & blessings,

Lynn

Next month . . . Alfred Jr. the three-legged cat and what he taught me about asking for help.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 5



On this day it has been the tradition of the church to remember those saints who have died and gone on to be with God. This year there will be an All Saint's ceremony at both the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM worship, offering a time of remembering all those saints who have died and are on our hearts. The ceremony will take the place of communion. You will receive a flower on your way into the Sanctuary. Write your loved one's name or a note onto the *stem* and bring it forward during the ceremony placing it on the Día de Muertos altar. The person

being remembered may have died within the past year or may have died a long time ago. Either way, at this ceremony there will be the opportunity to remember all the saints, to grieve, and to hope.

JUDITH KING - NOVEMBER 14, 2016

DENNIS KOCA - NOVEMBER 19, 2016

DIANE SILVEIRA - NOVEMBER 28, 2016

GEORGIA PERANI - DECEMBER 7, 2016

BETTY HAMMER - DECEMBER 30, 2016

ED WHITT - JANUARY 12, 2017

CARROL MCCORMICK - MARCH 7, 2017

MICHAEL SAVAGE - MARCH 9, 2017

JOHN FORD - MARCH 14, 2017

JOHN NORTZ - AUGUST 25, 2017

GLORIA SENFTEN - OCTOBER 4, 2017

LEONARD SABOURIN - OCTOBER 22, 2017

EL DÍA DE MUERTOS ALTAR

Elim has its own El Día de Muertos altar this year. It is set up in the Choir room. You are invited to bring in a photo or small memento to honor a loved one who has passed. There is a place to hang a picture (with a paperclip) and a table space for small mementos of a loved ones who have passed. The altar will be moved to the Sanctuary for All Saints Sunday, November 5.

THANKOFFERING SERVICE

Sunday, November 12

Join us in our traditional Thankoffering service on Sunday, November 12th, at either of the services. *All women* are invited to participate! Contact Debra Jenson-Orner at (707)217-2051 for more information, and/or to become involved.

MEXICO HOUSE BUILDING INFO MEETING

Info meeting on November 13 at 11:45am in the Choir Room

Believe it or not, it is time to start planning for the Spring 2018 Mexico House Building Mission Trip! The first informational and registration meeting will be held on November 12th at 11:45 AM in the Choir Room, right after the 10:30 service. Mark your calendars and come to find out about this life changing annual Elim Mission! Information and registration packets will be handed out as well. This Spring's trip is scheduled for March 19-24, 2017, during spring break for many of the Petaluma schools. Students are eligible to attend if they are in 7th grade or higher. Students in the 6th 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! Any questions; please call the church office or Roger Davis at 707-484-5609 or radaudio@comcast.net **Come to Learn. Come to Build. Give a family Hope.**

WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE – MONTHLY INFO MTGS.

November 18

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 on: Saturdays 11/18 and 1/20 or Thursday 12/14.

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 or call us at (707)776-6055. Or visit www.villagenetworkofpetaluma.org

MEDITATIVE HEALING PRAYER GROUP

November 18

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

We meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Please call Alex in the church office to schedule an appointment. (762-4081)

R³

ELIM R³ NEWS!

November 19

Please meet us at 11:30 AM on Sunday, November 19th, 2017, in Room 10! We are going to explore opportunities to help and serve in Sonoma County. We are the Rebuild, Recover and Restore Group. Now is our time to serve locally. All interested in helping are invited; youth (age 15) and up are very welcome. This is a great inter-generational group.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

November 22nd at 7pm

Drawing from our various faith traditions we'll gather together as one with gratitude. Gratitude for life, light, love, simple things, basic things, and one another. The service will begin at 7pm and will include an offering that will be given to recent North Bay fire victims. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service with Elim providing the refreshments. If you are able, bring some cookies, a pie, or something else to share! Thanks!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WARM PROJECT FOR PEP

Close to Thanksgiving we will again provide warm items for residents of PEP. We will be collecting socks, scarves, hats and gloves for men and women. It's been warm lately, but winter is coming, and the Warm Project is always a welcomed Elim Ministry. Beginning in November there will be a box in the Welcome Area for your donations.

CINNABAR SINGERS TO PERFORM AT ELIM LUTHERAN

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/.

BEER AND CAROLS

Saturday December 23, 7-9 PM

Save the date for next month, and join us for another round of beers and Carols at Aquas café!

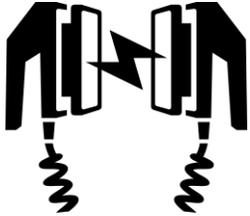
CHURCH SAFETY

Our church and office buildings are in use 7 days a week. For fire/ earthquake and other safety reasons, we need everybody using the building to follow basic safety rules.

- 1.) Do not store or leave items on or near stairs or in hallways.
- 2.) **Do not block any exits**- the path to the exit must be kept as wide as the widest part of the exit

- 3.) Do not block, cover, or place posters or decorations over any safety equipment (fire pull stations, fire extinguishers, fire sprinklers etc.)
 - 4.) Keep the floor space around ALL electric breaker panels clear (at least 36 inches, with a clear path to the panel) at all times.
 - 5.) Know where exits and safety equipment are located.
 - 6.) Do not use extension cords for heaters, and do not leave heat producing items unattended.
- If you have any questions about building safety, please ask Dan Widger.

AED TRAINING



Did you hear about the recent life saved at the Petaluma golf course with an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)? Did you know that Elim has an AED (located by the water fountain near the parking lot doors)? Most adults and kids can be easily trained to use an AED along with Hands Only CPR in about 20 minutes. Contact Dan Widger if you want to learn how to be a future hero for free.

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.

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.

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 – November 9th – at 12 PM in the back of the sanctuary. Robin Butts will lead the bible study.
- **Elizabeth** (hosted by Debra Jensen Orner) meets on the 3rd Monday of the month – November 20th – at 7 PM.
- **Esther** (hosted by Jo Ann Andrus) meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month – November 14th – at noon.

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays at 9:40 AM

Sunday School has been going great! We have started our journey through some of the stories in the Bible starting with Creation. We will continue to follow year 4 of the Narrative Lectionary as the year continues. Thank you to all the adult volunteers who have been stepping in to help, extra hands are always needed and greatly appreciated. On November 12th we will be having a Veggie Tales movie/popcorn party. At the end of November, we will begin practicing our Christmas songs and prepping for the Christmas program. Any and all volunteers are welcome!!! We will need help with props, art work, costumes, and leaders to help take groups at a time to practice and help things run smoothly!!! Please let me know how you would like to help!!!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!!

December 17, 10:30am

We will have our annual Christmas Program to share the story of Jesus's birth on December 17th at the 10:30am service. We will have a dress rehearsal on December 16th from 9 AM-11 AM. The songs will be practiced at Children's Church during the 10:30 service in the weeks leading up to the program. The deadline for sign-ups is December 1st.



HIGH SCHOOL/JR. HIGH WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS

First Wednesday of the month 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.

HIGH SCHOOL/JR. HIGH LOCK-IN

Saturday November 10-11

Meet at Elim Lutheran Church, time to be determined. Stay tuned for updates!



FAITH EDUCATION (FORMERLY KNOWN AS CONFIRMATION)

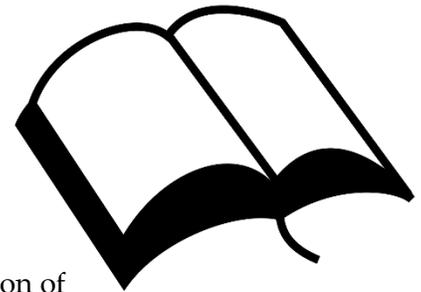
Sunday November 26th at 5pm

Those 6th-8th graders (and a parent/trusted adult) are invited for some food, fun and fellowship as together we explore faith related topics

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.



ADULT FORUM

Sundays at 9:40 AM - *The Prophets* starting November 5th

“The task of prophetic ministry is to nurture, nourish, and evoke a consciousness and perception alternative to the consciousness and perception of the dominant culture around us.” – Walter Brueggemann (*The Prophetic Imagination*). For the next five weeks we’ll be taking a look at some of the prophets of scripture and their timely words of challenge and hope. Together we’ll wonder about what the prophetic voices among us are today, and what it looks like to live prophetically in our time. The adult forum will consist of conversation around such questions. An accompanying reading for this series and forum will be Walter Brueggemann’s “The Prophetic Imagination”.

MUSIC

FESTIVAL CHOIR

Please join us! Only 4 rehearsals remaining on **Thursday evenings** – November 9th, 16th, and 30th, and December 7th, with no rehearsal Thanksgiving. On Saturday morning, December 9th, we will have a final rehearsal. Mark your calendars, and join us on Sunday, December 10th when we will be singing, at both services.

BELL CHOIR

Join us on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM. Contact Stephanie Bent if you would like to join the ringing!

CHERUB CHOIR

The next cherub choir will sing again at the 4 PM service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 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.



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, and we continue the celebration with the rescheduling of our Reformation Dinner:

Reformation Dinner rescheduled to:

Sunday, November 19th, 5:00 pm, Elim Fellowship Hall

5:00 – Social with Apfel Spritzer, Accordion Player, view German displays, photos with Luther

5:30 - German Dinner

6:30 - *Reformation-500* Entertainment: Luther & Katie, choir presentations

“Ein Feste Burg Ist Unser Gott,”

Sign Up Sheet on the Bulletin Board

Please re-sign from the October sign-ups, and sign-up even if you're unsure of attending as we would rather have leftovers than not enough!!!

Freewill offering!

Childcare provided



Elim has the DVD **Rick Steves' "Luther and the Reformation"** that we viewed in September. If you would like to view at home, contact Mary Wyrick for lending.

Bulletin Board Check out the Reformation history and current news, Luther's 95 Theses are posted there, take your picture with Luther, sign-up for the dinner!!!

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY

SECOND MILE GIVING | CHANGE THE WORLD: UNDOCUFUND



“Second mile giving” refers to an extra offering towards a special cause. The November recipient will benefit UndocuFund. Check off “Special Offering” on the pew envelopes, look for the special offering envelopes in the back of the sanctuary by the copper vase, click on the “Donate Now” button on our website, or send a text to 707-317-6431: \$(amount) 2nd to contribute.

This month Elim’s second mile giving will go to UndocuFund. An estimated 28,000 undocumented immigrants live and work in Sonoma County. Unlike other victims of the fires that have devastated Sonoma County, undocumented immigrants do not qualify for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Lack of immigration status, limited English proficiency, and fear of immigration enforcement will also impede their access to disaster-relief services, even when they are eligible. Lack of familiarity or comfort with law enforcement, county departments, and financial institutions present additional barriers. Consequently, the fire victims will face significant challenges in meeting urgent needs and rebuilding their lives here in Sonoma County where the cost of living is very high. The UndocuFund will ensure that undocumented families displaced by the fires will have the support and resources they need to recover and rebuild. The UndocuFund will provide direct funding to undocumented immigrants and their families to help with expenses incurred directly as a result of the fires including but not limited to: Temporary housing, Home repairs, Essential household items, Medical and dental expenses, Tools and equipment required for work, Clean-up items, Repair of essential vehicle, Moving and storage expenses, Funeral and burial expenses, and Necessary educational materials (computers, school books, supplies).

EASTSIDE AND WESTSIDE INTERFAITH PANTRIES



This month Elim will host the Eastside Pantry on **Tuesday, November 7th**, at Lucchesi Park, and the Westside Pantry on **Thursday, November 16th**, 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 / 762-4081).

DONATE SPARE CHRISTMAS CARDS

New Greeting Cards are needed for the Sonoma County Adult Detention Center: Please bring your greeting cards to Elim and place them in the designated box in the Welcome Area. Elim provides the male and female inmates with cards to send to their family and friends. This an important outreach ministry keeping those incarcerated in touch with their loved ones. Christmas cards are requested to be left by the middle of November for distribution. Thanks to many of you who bring cards on a regular basis. They are appreciated!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Regular Giving Report

	SEPTEMBER	YEAR-TO-DATE
Regular Giving:	22,589	95,850
Budget:	22,378	103,815
Variance:	211	(7,965)
Change:	0.9%	-8.3%
Compared to Last Year:	20,023	97,899
Variance:	2,566	(2,049)
Change:	11.4%	-2.1%
Full Year Budget:	344,485	
Last Fiscal Year Actual:	306,684	
Increase over last year:	37,801	Our budget for this fiscal year
Change:	11.0%	anticipated an 11% increase

General Fund (Unrestricted) Summary of Activity

These are funds that we received as regular offering, cost sharing from the preschool and other groups; we use this fund to pay salaries and our operating expenses.

SEPTEMBER 2017	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue & Transfers to General Fund	26,792	26,988	(196)
Expenses	30,722	31,571	849
Net Increase (Decrease)	\$ (3,930)	\$ (4,583)	\$ 653
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue & Transfers to General Fund	107,168	114,776	(7,608)
Expenses	116,726	133,767	17,041
Net Increase (Decrease)	\$ (9,558)	\$ (18,991)	\$ 9,433

REGISTRY

Chub Senften passed away on October 4th.

Hadley Deardorff and **Jordan Grout** were married on Friday, October 13th at Elim Lutheran Church.

Leonard Sabourin passed away on October 22nd.

GRATITUDE

FIRST RESPONDERS

Elim would like to thank the first responders for their assistance to our community during and after the recent fires. We wish to acknowledge the firefighters from our county as well as those who came from across the state and further, as well as the local law enforcement and paramedics who also helped those in need. We are grateful for those in our community who volunteered, donated, or soused evacuees, and encourage continuing outreach. We are grateful to reside in such a supportive and resilient community.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS - FOOD DRIVE

A huge thank you to all who participated in the Reformation Food Drive. We achieved our goal! A special Thank you to Alex Miller for loading up and delivering two loads of food – totaling 500 lbs – to Redwood Empire Food Bank for distribution. His efforts are greatly appreciated by all.



**God's work.
Our hands.**



PUMPKINS FOR A PURPOSE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our pumpkin fundraiser last Sunday! Thanks to Peter Pumpkin Patch for donating the pumpkins, and thanks to the volunteers and kids for providing decorations and, importantly, for decorating the pumpkins. We sold all our pumpkins, and fundraised \$500 for UndocuFund, thank you!

WORSHIP NOTES

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29	Average Weekly Attendance in October	
8:30am	39	47	41	55	66	2017	149
10:30am	110	94	94	88	94	2016	147
Week total	164	141	135	143	160		



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.

November 5: Anita Kelly

November 12: *Open*

November 19: *Open*

November 26: *Open*

BULLETIN COVER ART

November! On November 5 we start a new series: The Prophets. This series comes from the Narrative Lectionary and we will continue with it till Christmas. As we learn about the prophets, we hope you will feel motivated to depict in art form your understanding of one of the topics listed below!

We appreciate everyone who has shared their interpretation of the readings thus far. Come take a look at the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to see all the artwork that's been submitted. We would like to continue featuring artwork each week submitted by members of any age that represents 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 or drop off at the church office.

WORSHIP HELPERS

November is a time for thankfulness. We are so very thankful for all of you who volunteer as worship helpers. 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. If it is the first time you are filling a position, we will make sure you have 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 Fall 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.

READINGS

Date	Theme / Gospel/Reading / Deadline
Nov 5	<p>Theme: The Prophets – The Despairing Prophet All Saints Day Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-18 Point: Elijah at Horeb; The prophet in despair, God speaks in the silence</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Artwork Deadline: Oct 31</p>
Nov 12	<p>Theme: The Prophets – The Female Prophet Women’s Thankoffering* Scripture: Judges 4:4-9; 5:1-9 Point: Deborah tells Barak that the God of Israel commands him to lead an attack against the forces of Jabin king of Canaan and his military commander Sisera *Please note: We would like to request a female artist for this bulletin cover!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Artwork Deadline: Nov 7</p>
Nov 19	<p>Theme: The Prophets – The Just Prophet Scripture: Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15,21-24 Point: Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Artwork Deadline: Nov 14</p>
Nov 26	<p>Theme: The Prophets – The War-time Prophet Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7 Point: People who walked in darkness have seen a great light</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Artwork Deadline: Nov 21</p>

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Hadley Deardorff	9 John Carter	17 Shirley Bunce	26 Roger Davis
2 Skip Sommer	10 Gwyneth O'Connor	18 Kathy Brown	Sabina Morgenlaender
3 Kurt Romstad	11 Hayden Klemenok	Patrick Rabbitt	27 Carolyn Tennyson
5 Betsy Hall	12 Jaime Sipich	19 Jane Crosby	28 Ron Svinth
Teresa Skanderson	13 Joy Carlson	20 Chase Plourde	29 Jill Eskes
6 Gina Bechtel	Jean Elliott	21 Anthony Chlebowski	Lisa Hilbert
Ben Becker	Rosemary Hart	Nancy Clarke	Marilyn Lee
Renate Bohn	Eli Reinhard	22 Nancy Cameron	30 Walt Griffith
7 Jim Eaton	Becky Wyrick	Theresa Castro	Michelle Klemenok
Tanya Morgenlaender	15 Ken Clark	23 Kristy Oakes	Diane Nockleby
8 Walt Kehr	Brigitte Winterboer	24 Lana Reuter	Kyle Wiegmann
Luke Svinth			

ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Kathy Fowler, Little Shepherd Director

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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

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE 8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship 9:40 am - 10:25 am Faith Formation 8:20 am - 11:40 am Nursery open			1 5:30 pm Chancel Choir (Choir room) 6:30 pm Junior & Senior High School Youth Meeting (Room 10)	2 7:00 pm Festival Choir Practice (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary)	3	4 8:00 am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen) 10:00 am Crafter's Brunch Bunch 12:00 pm Danish Club Mad Hatter's Tea (Fellowship Hall)
5 All Saints Sunday Daylight Saving Time ends 	6 9:00 am Finance Team (Room 9)	7 5:00 pm Elim at Food Pantry (Lucchesi Park on McDowell) 5:30 pm Women's Board Meeting (Fireside Rm) 5:30 pm Bell Choir Practice (Nursery) 7:00 pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room)	8 8:00 am The COTS Hour 5:30 pm Chancel Choir (Choir room)	9 12:00 pm Grace Friendship Circle (back of church) 7:00 pm Festival Choir Practice (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary)	10 Veterans Day observed – Office Closed	11 Veterans Day 5:00 pm Youth Group Lock-In 
12 Thankoffering services 11:45am Mexico House Building Mission Trip Info Mtg (Choir Room)	13	14 12:00 pm Esther Circle (Athearn) 5:45 pm Worship & Music Planning Committee (back of sanctuary) 7:00 pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room)	15 Source Deadline 5:30 pm Chancel Choir (Choir room) 6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	16 4:45 pm Elim's turn at the Westside Pantry 7:00 pm Festival Choir Practice (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary)	17	18 8:00 am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen) 10:00 am Crafter's Brunch Bunch
19 11:30 am R3 Meeting (Room 10) 11:45 am Reformation Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 5:00 pm Reformation 500 Celebration Dinner	20 7:00 pm Elizabeth Circle 7:30 pm Worship Team rehearsal (Choir Room)	21 7:00 pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room) 5:30pm Westside pantry hosted by B'Nai Israel (moved from Thursday)	22 Little Shephard closed 7:00 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	23 Office and little Shephard closed Thanksgiving Day 	24 Little Shephard closed	25 8:00 am Men's Ministry Breakfast (kitchen) 10:00 am Crafter's Brunch Bunch
26 5:00 pm Youth Faith Education (Room 9)	27	28 7:00 pm Exploring the Story Bible Study (Choir Room)	29 5:30 pm Chancel Choir (Choir room)	30 7:00 pm Festival Choir Practice (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 pm Waves of Grace (Sanctuary)		