



ELIM
CHURCH
AN OASIS
IN THE CITY

THE FORECASTER

DECEMBER
2016

“My Friend Brian”

Becky Hanson, Interim Lead Pastor

Hope Avenue will soon be ten years old; lately, I have been replaying in my mind the memories and faces of those early years. I have found myself especially reflecting on one particular friend. I met him during the street outreach of Hope Avenue in 2008. He introduced himself to me as, “Brian. Not spelled like Brain because I don’t have one. Or you can just call me Nobody.”

At night, he slept in the brush along the river, but during the day he would hang out with his friends at a corner on NE Washington called The Hill. His quiet spirit was lost in the midst of the gregarious crowd he called his friends. Brian laughed easily and was well liked. He had a quick smile and was tight with Steve Eggersgluss, the first person I met on the streets when Hope Avenue launched.

Brian grew up in a world far from The Hill—a middle class suburb called Champlin with houses with picket fences and 2.5 kids. As a child, Brian looked like you and me on the playground as he grew up with siblings and had a dream of finishing school. But somehow his life took a different direction. He ended up not finishing high school... and for a brief time was married to his sweetheart, who soon left him for another man.

As I sat on the grass watching Brian eat our sack lunch, I listened to his heart. He began by saying that his family of origin didn’t attend church. He had never even been inside a church for a wedding or a funeral, and certainly had never talked with a pastor. In fact, he was confident that a pastor “didn’t care for his kind.”

Our conversation was quick and easy. Soon we were laughing together as I talked about Hope Avenue and Jesus’ love for Brian. I told him about Psalm 139:1-3, where God whispered these words: “*You may not know me, but I know everything about you. I know when you sit down and when you rise up. I am familiar with all your ways.*” He had never heard about Jesus and was open to hearing more. I closed by praying with Brian and then hugging him. His final shout out was that “yes, he’d go to church with me on Sunday,” if I’d pick him up.

Sunday arrived and the old white church van lumbered around the corner. Standing on the edge of The Hill was Brian, waving a cardboard sign as he waited for me. For three weeks he joined us at Hope Avenue for breakfast and a hot shower, and sat next to me during worship. It was during the second week that he heard Roger Dahl’s song, *My Child has Come Home*. He folded that song sheet up and tucked it into his pocket to sing over and over... and over... on the way back to The Hill. The third week Brian said “yes” to following Jesus. He was absolutely giddy. He felt he had come home.

Two days later, two detectives came to see me at Elim. They had found a body in the river and my business card was in the pocket of the pants. *It was Brian.*

As I visited those we knew in the homeless community, the two detectives quietly joined me as they investigated Brian’s death. Steve E. was quick to point out that Brian got obnoxious the last three weeks of his life. That behavior seemed so out of character for Brian. Steve assured me it was true—Brian wouldn’t stop talking about Jesus. In fact, it got so bad that Steve told him to shut up. (And yes, Steve himself eventually came to call upon Jesus as his Savior.)

God’s ways are mysterious and faithful to us. To a man who called himself a nobody, the Lord called him somebody in John 17:23: “*I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus.*”

Elim Church

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Hope Avenue

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Leadership Team Update

Sunday, November 6, was a morning when several regular volunteers were gone, no other churches sent volunteers and an assortment of new folks came to Hope Avenue. Therefore, it was one of those mornings when I felt like the guy playing “whack a mole.” When I got into the service at 10:45 am, I found myself thinking and almost mumbling, “There have to be easier ways to ‘do church’ than this.” Yes, it was irrational and it carried a little (temporary) self-pity. Sorry.

And then the second set of music soothed, reassured and inspired me. I looked around and saw Elim folks I have known for decades and Hope Avenue folks; remembered that a great group of ECY kids and adults were at Trout Lake; and watched the faces of ECK kids and the video faces of the preschool kids. My mental state returned to “normal.” I listened to Sherry's sermon on Nehemiah and was reminded that **service** usually means sacrifice and... hassles. Sherry closed with her observations on Elim: “Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.” I see people who love each other... who sacrifice for each other... who give their time and do not take the privilege and position they could ... I see a church that does not compare itself to other churches... I see a church that desires to follow God. I sat there and thought, “Wow, I needed to hear that. Thanks.”

I am not sure that those things are always true, but I do think they are present and active here. Elim has always been able to muster work crews to help folks, care for all aspects of our multiple generations, find ways to help folks via clothes programs and keep Hope Avenue going for 10 years. More importantly, Elim has talented and committed people who use their time and talents in Biblical classes, in the worship service and in the maintenance of God's House. Elim tries to “do” and not just “say.”

So I am back to quoting Sherry: “Keep your eyes on Jesus... I encourage you and commend you for what God is doing in the midst of stuff... Lean in.” If you need a place to “lean in” or if you have a concern, talk to pastoral or lay leaders. Sometimes ministry is messy. But eventually it is rewarding and it is right.

Roger Dahl, Elim Church Chair

Office Hours and Contact Info

Office Hours: 8 am-4 pm, Monday-Friday
Phone: 612.789.3591 **Fax:** 612.789.9601
Email: info@elimchurch.com

Pastors' Hours:

Becky Hanson—Monday-Thursday
Chuck Fleming—As available

Emergency Calls: Pastor Becky: 612.314.3532



Pastoral Search Team Update

The Search Team is currently in our quiet phase, while applications come in and we finalize our evaluation criteria. We have heard from you through the congregational survey and have some other measurements (such as the DISC survey) that we will use. We will be meeting with our pastoral staff to talk to them about the kinds of personal and leadership traits they value, and we have read two books to help prepare us spiritually and practically for the upcoming selection process. By the time we write our next update (for the January Forecaster), we expect to be deep into the applications.

Please continue to be in prayer for us and our church.

Brian Turnquist, on behalf of the Search Team



December Calendar Changes

- There will be no Sunday School (for youth or adults) on **December 11**, because of the Christmas Brunch, or on **December 25** or **January 1**, due to Christmas and New Year's.
- The church office will be closed on **Friday, December 23** and **Monday, December 26**, in observance of Christmas, as well as on **Friday, December 30** and **Monday, January 2**, in observance of New Year's.



Save The Date!!

Please reserve Saturday, February 4, 2017, for Elim's annual Women's Retreat.

Seniors Christmas Event—*Tuesday, December 6, at 1:00 pm*—The December Seniors' Lunch will be a turkey dinner at Jax Cafe, 1928 University Ave. NE. We will enjoy lunch together and have a simple Christmas-focused program. Please note the later starting time—1 pm, rather than our usual noon.

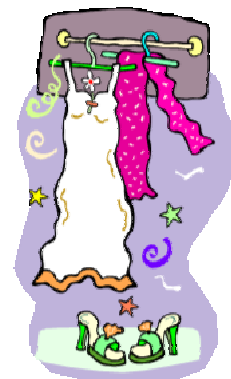
Mariners Breakfast—*Tuesday, December 13, at 9 am*—Breakfast in December will be at Bakers Square (1881 Highway 36 West in Roseville).

MerryMakers Potluck—*Saturday, December 17, at 6 pm*—In December, the MerryMakers will gather at the home of Clayton and Doris Nolby for a Christmas/Holiday potluck. More details to come!

The Unlimited / Kidz Klozet

The Unlimited is now accepting donations of gently-used, stylish, **WINTER** clothing—clean and on hangers. We can also use shoes and other accessories. Kidz Klozet is looking for clothing for kids of all ages, along with shoes, coats, backpacks... anything kid-appropriate, we can use!

You may drop off donations on Sundays in the old entry, behind the sanctuary. During the week, the office accepts donations during regular office hours. We are always in need of grocery or shopping bags. In November, The Unlimited and Kidz Klozet are both open on the first Thursday of every month, from 9 am—noon.



December News From Elim Preschool

December is here, and the holiday season is in full swing at Elim Preschool! The excitement that is in the air can't be measured as the children prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and the reason for this beautiful season.

We are celebrating in our classrooms with decorations, fun Christmas-related activities and singing songs! The children have had so much fun learning the songs for our program! They also have been practicing for the play, which is always the highlight of the show. It is truly a wonder to see them in action...



We will celebrate the season with a couple weeks off for break (December 19 - January 2). We will return all refreshed and ready for whatever the New Year has to bring us! I wish you a peaceful and beautiful holiday season, filled with the love of family and friends. May we all remember the reason for why we celebrate, the birth of our Lord, Jesus. Blessings!

Michelle Espelien and the Elim Preschool Staff

Christmas Brunch

Elim will be holding its Christmas Brunch on Sunday, December 11, from 8:30-10:00 am. Please invite your friends and family; everyone is welcome to attend! (Please note: there will be no Sunday School that day.)

ECY

ECY Update From Rick Dischinger

Elim's youth spent a miraculous time at Trout Lake Camp retreat during the first weekend in November. I use the word 'miraculous' to describe what occurred because it truly was this!

In Sunday School during October and November, we have been reading through John, my favorite gospel writer! John describes the miracles of Jesus, "as a SIGN that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ and that by believing you may have LIFE!" We have studied together a number of Jesus' miracles. Jesus and the woman at the well is one of my favorites. This chance meeting with Jesus, though not considered a 'miracle' in the classic sense, I think meets the criteria of miraculous. A woman's life is transformed and many in her village become Christ-followers because of her witness.

Meeting with God and life transformation is what Trout Lake Camp is all about! Twenty-one ECY students and leaders came together to encounter the living God! Our chapel speaker helped direct our thoughts and conversation around the topic of being "in the world but not of the world." We were blessed to hear real life, gritty stories of how Pastor Mike reached out to others in the broken city of Detroit with the gospel of Jesus Christ and how lives were transformed! We were encouraged to begin conversations with others, to build relationships, and to share the Good News and watch lives be miraculously transformed!

Every life that has been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit is a miracle and ought to be celebrated as such. As ECY continues to journey together, our hope is that the students' lives will be transformed and that through the miracle of transformation, their lives will bear witness that Jesus is the Christ! Amen.

Rick Dischinger, Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Invite a
friend!

Christmas Family gLo
Sunday, December 4
4 - 7pm

Fun for the
Entire family!

Workshop Choices (Pick 2):

Shadow Box Nativity

Angel Bracelet

Family Advent Wreath

Names of Jesus Wreath Craft Kit

Emmanuel God With Us Picture Frame

Event Schedule:

Workshops @ 4:00 pm

Dinner @ 5:15pm

After Dinner:

Carols & Entertainment

Unicyclist & Juggler Don Bursell

Workshop sign-up sheets will be available at the ECK check-in desk. Please sign up for two workshops.

Christmas Family gLo is a free event—it is a gift to our families.

Preschool—Kindergarten age children must be accompanied by an adult.



ECK Update

The plan of sending a Redeemer to rescue us is seen in the scripture, from Genesis through Revelation. Plan on joining us each Sunday as a family so that together we can celebrate that great plan. Above is the info for the Christmas Family gLo (Love God/Love Others). Sign up at the table just outside of the Sanctuary or at the Children's check-in desk. Everyone is welcome and it is free of charge. Below is the schedule for Sunday mornings in December (schedule also includes Christmas Program rehearsal and New Year's Day). Mark your calendars!

December 4—9 am—Jesus is Immanuel

4-7 pm—Family gLo

December 11—No Sunday School (Christmas Brunch)

December 17—11-12:30—Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program (Grades 1-5)

December 18—9 am—Jesus is Hope

10:30 am—Children's Christmas Program: *Star Trip: Our Faith Awakens*
 (Preschoolers will be singing as well)

December 25—No Sunday School

10:30 am—Christmas Day Service

January 1—No Sunday School

10:30 am—Church/Children's Church

Deb Somody,

Interim Director of Children's Ministry



Building Friendships With Internationals

God is graciously bringing the “nations” to our doorsteps. Through Arrive Ministries, and its ministry Refugee Life Ministries, Elim is again preparing to adopt a refugee family. On Sunday, November 13, we had a wonderful orientation training with Kyrie Deutschman, an RLM Coordinator.

What does the Bible say about foreigners?

We are to love them—*“You must regard the foreigner who lives with you as the native born among you. Love him as yourself.” (Leviticus 19:34)*

We are to take them in— *“I was a stranger and you took Me in...” (Matthew 25:35)*

But these strangers, these refugees are so different from me. How do I begin? Below are some simple steps you can take to begin building relationships with internationals.

1. **IN**.itiate! Be aware of who is around you. Create an opportunity for conversation. Sit by them, play at the same park, shop at their stores. Start with “Hello.” It’s easy and will break the silence.
2. **IN**.vest! Loving people richly demands getting to know them personally. Be interested in them because they are God’s creation and not just a “target” for the Gospel. Ask questions to find connection points. Where are they from? What is their name and how is it spelled? What brought them to America? What are their hopes and dreams?
3. **IN**.vite! Make room in your busy life. Most internationals are lonely and have never been in an American home. Most would like to come to yours. Create some time together—have dinner, go walking, play a sport, play a game, drink tea, cook a meal or just hang out.
4. **IN**.tegrate! Be a learner and notice the rhythms of their culture—do they take off their shoes when entering, eat with their hands, drink tea at certain times of the day? Learn to be comfortable in their environment. Learn to laugh at yourself as you learn to love your differences. Celebrate together—birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, both yours and theirs.
5. **IN**.troduce! Take friendship to a new level by introducing them to your friends. This communicates that they are part of your wider friendship circle. It creates an opportunity for your family and friends to learn another culture and to live missionally. It opens a door for them to also invite you into their circle of friends.
6. **IN**.tervene! Help to meet their physical needs. Many internationals are lonely as they adapt to a new life. Become an encourager.
7. **IN**.tercede! Recognize that God has been at work and continues to be at work in your life and the life of your refugee friend. Invite the Holy Spirit to create an awareness in your heart for divine moments to show love and share the Good News of Jesus.

Bruce Pinke, for the World Missions Team

Taken from an IMB publication.

Wanted: Bulletin Board Designer/Decorator

Inside the Madison Street entrance is a large bulletin board (behind the information desk). This bulletin board is an initial point of information about Elim. Your creative flare and time are needed to make this bulletin board attractive and welcoming. The church will provide all the supplies. Why not partner with a friend to make the job more fun? If you’re interested, please contact Pastor Becky.



HAPPY TENTH BIRTHDAY HOPE AVE!

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 1ST DECADE!

Hope Avenue Volunteer/Donation Requests

The number of visitors to our free Hope Avenue clothing closet has been running very high. As such, we regularly have need for good used items and welcome your donations! We currently need: warm jackets, waterproof boots, heavy gloves and hats, hooded sweatshirts and jeans, underwear and socks, blankets, And hygiene items (i.e., disposable razors, toothpaste, etc.)

In addition, Hope Avenue is in need of some volunteers. Are we looking for you? We need:

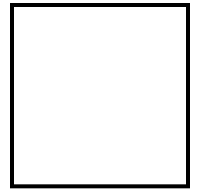
Seamstress/Tailor: The Hope Avenue clothing closet receives items in need of repair, such as having a ripped seam or the need for a zipper. Are you able to help us by taking these type of items home to repair? We can use you, and your work will bless those in need. Hope Avenue will pay for the supplies.

Clothing Closet: We would welcome your putting your customer service skills to work on a Sunday morning for an hour or two, helping people find what they need. The closet is open from 7:15 to 10 am.

Please talk with Pastor Becky or Duane Metz if you're interested.

Elim Church

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Time Sensitive Information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 •Kidz Klozet, Unlimited open, 9:00 am	2	3
4 •Hope Avenue, 8:00-10:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am •December Family gLo, 4:00 pm	5	6 •Seniors' Christmas Event, 1:00 pm •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	7 •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •ECK, 6:30 pm, Gym, Kids Park •ECY, 6:30 pm, Gym/Youth Rooms •GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge	8	9	10
11 COMMUNION SUNDAY •Hope Avenue, 8:00-10:30 am •Christmas Brunch, 8:30-10 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am	12	13 •Mariners' Breakfast, 9:00 am •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	14 •Seniors' Bible Study, 1 pm, Library •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •ECK, 6:30 pm, Gym, Kids Park •ECY, 6:30 pm, Gym/Youth Rooms •GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge	15	16	17 •MerryMakers' Holiday Potluck, 6:00 pm
18 •Hope Avenue, 8:00-10:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Children's Christmas Program, 10:30 am	19	20 •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	21 •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •ECK, 6:30 pm, Gym, Kids Park •ECY, 6:30 pm, Gym/Youth Rooms	22	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 CHRISTMAS DAY •Hope Avenue, 8:00-10:30 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	28 •Seniors' Bible Study, 1 pm, Library •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room	29	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31