



**ELIM
CHURCH**
AN OASIS
IN THE CITY

THE FORECASTER

**MAY
2017**

Introducing Pastor Paul Olson

There is a sense of anticipation at Elim these days as we look forward to a new season of ministry and growth for our church. On April 9th, Elim voted to call Paul Stephen Olson as our Lead Pastor after a year-long pastoral search process. Paul will complete his Masters of Divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary in early May, and in mid-June his wife Heather will finish her spring season as a youth soccer coach. By end of the June the entire family should be in the Twin Cities and beginning to settle into our community.

It's difficult to summarize the many ways that God has prepared Pastor Paul to lead our congregation. Paul and Heather both have a heart for urban ministry and are conversant in urban culture. They have worked for years with young adults leading dozens of international missions trips in India, Africa, the Philippines, and Central America. Paul is a talented musician and song-writer, using music to make cultural connections and to express his heart for the "little ones" who are all around us.

While at Princeton Seminary, Paul interned with the Episcopal Church as a curriculum writer and with the Presbyterian Church working at the United Nations as an advocate for women's rights in developing countries and for refugee resettlement. Paul worked alongside Pastor Becky for two years at Great River Faith in Action as Director of Family Support Services, and they are looking forward to partnering in ministry again.

Please be in prayer for the Olsons as they finish their work in New Jersey and the kids begin their transition as well. Pray that they find a good rental in the area near Elim and for ongoing provision for their financial needs. Paul will come to Minnesota in early June and then fly back as the kids' school year draws to a close, so please pray for all details of the move, including support for Heather during the transition.

With thanksgiving,

Brian Turnquist, on behalf of the Elim Search Team

Photo by David Walden



Elim Church

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Interim Lead Pastor

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Pastor to Seniors

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Hope Avenue

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Leadership Team Update

The end of a fiscal and leadership year brings the need to say thank you. It is dangerous to list names, but ...

- Larry Bonasera and Becky Hanson put in long hours, dealt with too many emails and sat through some tough conversations, as did the rest of the Leadership Team.
- David Walden has been the treasurer for 6 years.
- Jennifer Turnquist has done the detail work on the books for several years and Lisa Venkatrathnam worked hard with us on the budget.
- The Search Team put in a lot of effort, sought discernment and came up with a great find.

We are in the debt of all these folks.

About a month from now, Elim takes on an opportunity by adding Paul Olson to Pastor Chuck and Pastor Becky. We know about the budget challenge. Each of us needs to assess our situation and see if we can be of some help on that. This is about looking for an opportunity, as the Search Team did, and seizing that opportunity, as we did with our votes on April 9th. Elim seized an opportunity in the 1980s with the building addition, in the 1990s with a first-time female senior/lead pastor and in the 2000s with Hope Avenue.

So, what is necessary to turn a challenge into an opportunity that works? Prayer, planning, patience, perspective and perspiration. This is God's work, and prayer is basic. Pastoral and lay leadership will think intentionally and collaboratively in planning. We need to know that "the fruits of our labors" will take time. We need to think of this opportunity from the perspective of "how do I help?" And sometimes, there is just some plain old work to do.

We have the basics: a great facility; a solid core of dedicated people; a healthy ECK and ECY; a CEMT that thinks in creative and active ways; an attitude and atmosphere of worship; a collective spirit of unity, even if agreement is not guaranteed; a heart for Elim and our community; and a desire to seek out and attempt to live up to what God would have us be and do. There are good reasons to be excited.

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



Art-A-Whirl

Come enjoy NE Minneapolis's largest open art gallery tour on May 19-20. This year, Elim will be featuring an art gallery by children and another one by adults. Also on Saturday, there will be a hands-on art activity for the children to participate in. If you are interested in showing your artwork or volunteering for the weekend, contact Kari Nelson or Leslie Smith. Our gallery hours will be 5-8 pm on Friday and 10 am-4 pm on Saturday.



ECY Update

Rick Dischinger, Interim Director of Youth Ministry

On Wednesday, April 19, we celebrated at ECY! Elim has called a new pastor and our students are excited to welcome Paul and Heather and their kids to Elim in June! April 19th is also Beth's birthday and she has been a dedicated ECY volunteer and deserved to be celebrated on her special day! April 19th is also the Wednesday after Easter Sunday so we had to celebrate the resurrection with Easter Sundaes! Elim purchased "9 square in the Air" for our youth and we had a most excellent time playing together on that night!

As the school year winds down, time seems to get compressed and sometimes we feel rushed. I want to encourage students to take time to thank God, to ask God for help, understanding, for patience, wisdom and rest as they complete their courses.



I would like to highlight two of our ECY students who are graduating this year:

Anna Smith will graduate from Calvin Christian High School. Anna brings so much energy, fun and enthusiasm with her every time she joins us at ECY. When Anna sings....the birds stop their singing! Anna participated in school choirs and theatricals and can sometimes be found singing with the Elim Praise Team. When Anna participates in an activity, it always becomes a most enjoyable occasion! She makes everyone feel like this game or activity is the most fun a person can have! That kind of enthusiasm is contagious and Anna is the vector! We will miss her laugh, her smile and her thoughtfulness!

William Turnquist will graduate from Mounds View High School. William has grown into a fine young man right before our eyes! His athletic ability and his keen eye make him a great coach and mentor! It is fun to watch him participate in any competitive sport. He likes to push himself and his team but is always mindful of those of us that may lack his ability. He is a selfless, team player and is quick to encourage both teammates and opponents. William has been a role model for younger students. He sets the example in his behavior, his sense of humor, his wisdom and compassion! We wish William all the best!



Pastor Chuck Retirement Celebration

Pastor Chuck Fleming has announced that he will be retiring as Pastor To Seniors, effective the end of May.

The Leadership Team invites the congregation to come to the Dining Room after worship on May 21, and celebrate Pastor Chuck's years of service here at Elim Church. Please join us for cake and beverages as we bless Pastor Chuck as he begins the next stage in his life and ministry.

Getting To Know Our Supported Missionaries

Since February, we have been re-introducing our Elim missionaries and their ministries to you. This month we meet our own dear Pam Isenhower.

Pam grew up in Minneapolis and Christ captured her heart in 1983. Ten years later, convicted about the Great Commission of Jesus to bring the gospel to all nations, Pam went on a 6-week missions trip to Indonesia. She then returned to Indonesia three years later, commissioned by the organization CMML, to full-time work assisting in church planting ministry and women's village outreach (discipleship and leadership training). In 2001, she moved to East Java and began working with the Worldbridge Language Center. The school obtained property and a building to teach English and Indonesian languages. Currently, they have over 150 students.

With the blessing of God and the help of gracious supporters, Worldbridge is now able to start a children's fund for education in the villages. Christian kids there have no chance of going to school because of little income from poor farming families. This causes disruption to families as fathers move to the big cities to find work in the factories.

Pam notes: "What a blessing to be part of such a work that God is doing half way around the world. I realize that this is all His and that it is for His glory and honor."

Greetings From Elim Preschool!

The month of May brings our preschool year to a close. We are all so sad to see this year end, but look forward to a new school year starting in September! We already have 65 children enrolled for our next school year!

Our program has always been such a respected and well-thought-of neighborhood preschool program, and word of mouth has been our best point of contact with new neighborhood families. Seeing the area change so much and seeing the growth with all the wonderful new families, we are blessed here at Elim to continue on such a good path. I believe our school will be a safe and welcoming place for many years to come!

Our graduation is on May 25 and will be filled with memories of the year we have just shared. We love all the children so much and it is always our pleasure to watch them grow. They are a part of each of our lives every day for 9 months, so it makes saying goodbye very difficult. So, we prefer to say, see you all soon!

Michelle Espelien, Elim Preschool Director



Seniors' Lunch—Tuesday, May 2, at Noon—Pastor Becky has invited us to come to her home for a time of fellowship and food for our May lunch. If you need a ride to her home (or able to provide a ride for someone), please contact Pastor Chuck Fleming. Becky says that we don't have to bring any food!

Mariners' Breakfast—Tuesday, May 9, at 9 am—Our May breakfast will be at Original Pancake House (1661 W. County Road B2 in Roseville).

MerryMakers' Outing—Tuesday, May 23, at 10 am—Our May outing will be a walk around the perimeter and interior of the Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley. The walk is 2.5 miles, mostly on wood chip or paved trails. After the walk we will eat at Hibachi Grill and Supreme Buffet (8225 University Ave NE). Contact Bonita Johnson if you have any questions.

Mother's Day Reflection

Becky Hanson, Interim Lead Pastor

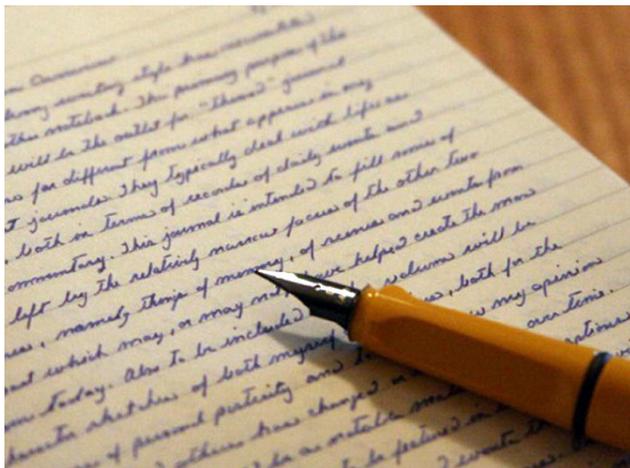
Recently, I was reflecting on Mother's Day and decided to thumb through a scrapbook of pictures of my mom. Although she was very petite and only 5'1" tall, she was a strong woman and disciplinarian.

When I was twelve, I was left in charge of my six-year-old brother, John. It was one of those days when he wasn't going to listen to me. I was particularly perturbed by his behavior and roughly shoved him out on the front porch and shut the door behind him, locking him out of the house. That certainly took care of my not having to listen to him, but shortly thereafter my parents returned to find him beating his fists on the porch window, trying to get in the house.

My mother marched me upstairs, heard my side of the story, and then lectured me on my actions. She didn't seem to care how John had provoked my behavior. In fact, I was required to apologize to John.

I assumed the issue had been dropped, but later that same afternoon a letter from my mother was taped to my bedroom mirror. In it she reiterated some of our conversation. She talked about being responsible and never emotionally or physically hurting another person, especially a child. She shared with me about tempering life with love and how love does include discipline and restrictions – but always with wisdom and kindness. But the last paragraph of her letter somehow tugged at my young heart:

“Don't toss this down. Read it again and again. Read it until every word is burned on your heart. This is the greatest gift I can give you—my experience. And I give it to you for you are my precious child too!”



Throughout my teen years, letters would occasionally appear on my bed. In them, my mother would underscore why she was having to ground me. She told me why I wasn't allowed to attend a coed party where no parents would be present or why curfews were to be obeyed. I also received love letters telling me how precious I was to her and Dad.

I'd keep each letter for awhile but eventually they all landed in the trash can. To my surprise, with the birth of my first child, my mother gave me back her stack of letters that she had retrieved one by one from the trash. They were bundled together and wrapped with a ribbon.

My mother died suddenly 34 years ago. There have been many times that I've wished I could pick up the phone and talk with her. I would have loved for her to meet my children. But through a precious stack of letters, she left me a legacy on parenting and love.



Helpers Wanted This Summer!

We are looking for at least 3 volunteers for the summer in the 2-5s class. Do you like teaching, playing, singing, and being silly? We have a great group of 2-5 year olds who are excited about learning and growing. Please send Kiah an email at kiah@elimchurch.com if you know you can serve at least 3 hours this summer. Kiah will train you in and have you prepared to lead these guys. You won't be alone, as you will have an experienced "big kid helper" working with you. You would need to give only 1 hour of your time in May, June, and July plus the training in May. Come experience the joy of serving the little ones as you serve the Lord. We're also looking for a nursery volunteer for one Sunday.

Kiah Andersen, Early Childhood Director

Hope Avenue Schedule Change

Starting in June, Hope Avenue will not be open in any form on the 1st Sunday of each month. This is our lightest client population week. We have had notices up since early April and we are trying to make sure that every one knows about this. The reasons for this are partially due to budgetary constraints, but mainly the preservation of the sanity and commitment of "every week workers." We do not like cutting services to our Hope Avenue friends, but we have not heard complaints from them on this. It seems to make sense and there seem to be options for them elsewhere. Hope Avenue will be open regular hours (7:15-9:30 am), the rest of the month.



Mark Your Calendars—May and June Dates

Below are some important dates in May and June as well as some changes to the typical schedule.

May 1	Office Closed
May 21	Last day of Spring quarter Sunday School, Pastor Chuck's retirement celebration
May 28	No Sunday School, Pastor Sherry's last Sunday, Pastor Sherry's goodbye celebration
May 29	Office Closed
June 1	Pastor Paul Olson's 1st day at Elim
June 4	Summer Sunday School kick-off, All-Church Picnic in Logan Park
June 7	ECY begins summer programming
June 18	Graduate recognition during the worship service

If you have any additional calendar changes that people should know about, please contact the office.



Goodbye Celebration for Pastor Sherry

Pastor Sherry's final Sunday at Elim will be Sunday, May 28. To honor her work at Elim as our Interim Preaching Pastor, there will be a time of celebration for her on Sunday, May 28, from 9:45-10:30 am (there is no Sunday School that day).

Come to the Dining Room for cake and coffee, and a short program at 10:15. Help us bless Sherry as she has blessed us and wish her well as she continues her life and ministry away from Elim Church. Thank you, Sherry!

Thank You, Suzanne and Naudeanne!

Thank you to Suzanne Dahl and Naudeanne St. Hilaire for sponsoring the enhanced coffee time on Easter Sunday. The food was delicious and the conversation plentiful. Again, you both have so richly blessed us!

ECK Update *Deb Somody, Interim Director of Children's Ministry*

Elim had the unique opportunity to partner with Mill City Church in an Easter Egg Hunt for the families of Northeast Minneapolis. We got to host the hunt and games for kids 2-6 years in our Kid's Park while the food, face painting and crafts and hunt for 7-12 year olds were at Logan Park. Our team gave out 600 helium balloons with a gospel message printed on them. Pray for our neighbors surrounding Elim that Christ might draw them to come to Vacation Bible School in August.

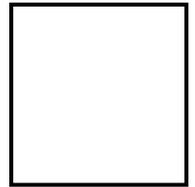


Our children brought their gifts and passion to our Easter celebration Sunday morning as the Kid's Bell Choir did the call to worship and later the Kid's Choir danced to "Jesus Is Alive." Later, during Children's Church, the children responded to the flannelgraph presentation of the Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Pray for those who have made a decision to follow Jesus that their faith will be strengthened.



Elim Church

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Time Sensitive Information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 •Seniors' Lunch, Noon, Pastor Becky's Home •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	3 •ECK, 6:30 pm, Gym, Kids Park •ECY, 6:30 pm, Gym/Youth Rooms •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room	4 •Kidz Klozet and Unlimited open, 9:00 am	5 •Men's Group, Lounge, 6:30 am	6
7 •Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am	8	9 •Mariners' Breakfast, 9:00 am •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	10 •Seniors' Bible Study, 1:30 pm, Library •ECK, 6:30 pm, Gym, Kids Park •ECY, 6:30 pm, Gym/Youth Rooms •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room	11	12 •Men's Group, Lounge, 6:30 am	13
14 COMMUNION •Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am	15 •Elim Book Club, 7:00 pm, Lounge	16 •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	17 •ECK, 6:30 pm, Gym, Kids Park •ECY, 6:30 pm, Gym/Youth Rooms •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room	18	19 •Men's Group, Lounge, 6:30 am •Art-A-Whirl, 5-8 pm	20 •Art-A-Whirl, 10 am-4 pm
21 •Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am •Pastor Chuck's Retirement Reception, 11:45 am	22	23 •MerryMakers' Walk, 10 am, Springbrook Nature Center •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	24 •Seniors' Bible Study, 1:30 pm, Library •ECK, 6:30 pm, Gym, Kids Park •ECY, 6:30 pm, Gym/Youth Rooms •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room	25	26 •Men's Group, Lounge, 6:30 am	27
28 •Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am •Pastor Sherry's Goodbye Reception, 9:45 am •Worship, 10:30 am	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	31 •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room			