



**ELIM  
CHURCH**  
AN OASIS  
IN THE CITY

# NOVEMBER 2017 THE FORECASTER

## Reflection: 500 Years, The Reformation and City Life

500 years ago, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the Wittenberg door, for which he was sentenced to death at the 'Diet of Worms' (though the sentence was never carried out). This marks for many the start of "The Reformation." Some historians see Luther's public outcry as the watershed moment; others point out that Luther's was one of many 'reformations' happening in the centuries leading up to that moment.



One interesting aspect of recent historical work has been uncovering the social and economic causes of the Reformation. From the end of the 11th to the 15th century, new forms of mercantile capitalism emerged in medieval Europe. Christian crusaders, who had journeyed to the Levant in defense of the Holy Land, began bringing back desirable and unique products not found in Europe. Eventually, independent

entrepreneurs seeking to make a living selling these goods (such as spices, silk, and textiles), took on loans or cash advances to fund trading operations both large and small. Cities, which were once the walled domains of nobles and a few priests, became home to a new middle class of bankers, merchants, artisans and humanist scholars. Church properties throughout Europe, or 'benefices' (which include the income generated from the production of the land), began to be traded, bought, and sold as commodities. Parish priests (or vicars), were put in place by secular lords (or bishops), and managed these affairs with varying levels of effectiveness and corruption. While the agrarian way of life was the most common experience for a vast majority of people, inter-continental trade and the rise of a cash economy meant that an increasing number of people had not only more earthly material goods and wealth, but more leisure time as well.

In this ever-growing and expanding system of trade and wealth creation, the role of the clergy became ever more complex. In place of the Catholic church, however, a strong civic ethos began to develop, which meant that property-owning citizens were valued as much for their long-term economic contributions to the community as for their relationship to the church. This social movement sought to value cities and regions, and the people who reside in them, in terms of their capital net worth and degree of loyalty as citizens of a particular domain. Martin Luther's 'Theses' precisely addressed the ways in which the church had gotten too entangled with these economic, political and social developments. 38 years after the 95 Theses, the famous phrase of the 'Peace of Augsburg' ("*Cuius regio eius religio*") reflects this new reality – that the princes and councils nestled within their regional cities and territories would decide which form of Christianity (Catholic or Lutheran) the people would adhere to, not the Pope.

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Martin Luther was not the originator of this idea to *protest* the inadequacies of the church. Almost 1000 years before Martin Luther, monastic communities were formed (St. Benedictine d. 543), and mendicant orders such as the Augustinians were founded (1244, Martin Luther was an Augustinian monk from 1505-1520), along with the Franciscans, Waldenisans (f. 1173) and the Jesuits (1540). They, too, sought to reform the church. They believed the goal of the church and its clergy was not to produce or secure earthly goods or develop a city-state, but to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to administer spiritual and pastoral services. St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) was born into a wealthy textile family, but gained many followers as he sought to serve the poor, took vows of poverty, and opposed the luxury, pride, and vanity of the civil and ecclesiastical powers of the time.

All these saw that nearness to God does not come from earthly goods, from a city, or even from the Church in Rome, but from a close personal relationship with God and in service to one's own Christian community. Martin Luther wrote *The Freedom of a Christian* (probably one of his greatest writings). Here he so illumines this beautiful paradox of Christian living.

*"A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.  
A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."*

Reformers of the faith, men and women died living out the truth that Christianity is a religion of the heart, not a means of control and coercion. In the spirit of the reformers and their *reformation*s, we must continue to be challenged by the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:33 (NRSV): *"But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* In this way, our *reforming* is a seeking, reaching toward the One who has made us and calls us upward as citizens of heaven.

*Paul Olson, Lead Pastor*

<http://www.spucc.org/sites/default/files/Luther%20Freedom.pdf>

"The Freedom of a Christian" begins on page 8 of the above PDF

★ **HAPPY** ★  
**BIRTHDAY!**

## November Birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to everyone at Elim celebrating their birthday this month!

Rick Dischinger (11-2), Ed DeHaan (11-4), Jacque Osborn (11-8), Stephanie Iverson (11-10), Nick Knuth (11-10), Cassie Champion (11-12), Jan Heide (11-13), Arlene Bruins (11-16), Brad George (11-16), Mary Westerberg (11-17), Berit Turnquist (11-18), Judy Moseman (11-19), Annika Paulson (11-20), Sarita Venkatrathnam (11-20), Nataly Gentolizo (11-21), Ruth Tyberg (11-22), Noah Turnquist (11-25), Vicki Gjesvold (11-26), Eric Fleming (11-27).



**50 + Lunch**—Tuesday, November 7, at Noon—The theme for November is “Thanksgiving: Gratitude and Remembrance.” Lunch will be oven-roasted turkey from Second Harvest, prepared by Kathy Huffman. Please bring a favorite Thanksgiving side or dessert to share, and invite a friend, family member, co-worker, or neighbor. We’d be delighted to meet them!

**Mariners’ Breakfast**—Tuesday, November 14, at 9 am—Breakfast in November will be at Denny’s Restaurant (2445 Twin Lakes Parkway in Roseville).

## ECY Update

*Rick and Beth Dischinger*

ECY has enjoyed a beautiful fall! We raised over \$100.00 in our first-ever Students vs Adults Basketball Charity Event last month. The contributions will go toward scholarships to the Trout Lake Camp Youth Retreat on November 3-5. On Wednesday, October 18, we had a fall bonfire and s’mores event at Ham Lake Camp! Students love getting together!

The youth retreat at Trout Lake is always a highlight! We hope to get an opportunity to serve with Feed My Starving Children later in November. Our ECY Wednesdays and Sundays have been well attended. We are becoming a more cohesive group of students and leaders.

We are always looking at ideas for creative fun and curriculum. If you have ideas or want to volunteer with ECY, let one of us know. We love serving the Kingdom and we love ECY!



## Operation Christmas Child

Pack a gift for a child in a 3rd-world country and bring them Jesus this Christmas. You need a brochure with a tag that indicates a boy or girl and the age category (brochures are on the table outside the sanctuary or at the info booth). You **MUST** enclose a \$9.00 donation check (or cash) in the envelope inside the box. Boxes should be returned by November 19. Shoeboxes may be dropped off at the Check-In Station in the Kids Park. Thank you, Elim!

## Social Team Leader Wanted!

Elim loves good fellowship! We are seeking a leader or a team to coordinate the volunteers for church picnics and the Christmas & Easter brunches. Many at Elim volunteer, but we seek someone to lead. Is God calling you? If so, please connect with Pastor Becky: [becky@elimchurch.com](mailto:becky@elimchurch.com) or 612.789.3591.



## Save The Date—December “50 + Lunch”

The December “50 + Lunch” will be held on Tuesday, December 5, from Noon-1:30 pm. Our lunch will take place at the historic Jax Café, right here in Northeast Minneapolis. The full menu is available, per your personal taste and budget. The theme for December will be “Jesus’ Birthday Celebration!” Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in Elim’s dining room or contact Laurie Damberg with any questions. We’re looking forward to seeing you all for fellowship, community, and refreshment.

## Elim Preschool News

It is so hard to believe that we are entering the month of November already! It seems as though we just started our new school year.

We were very busy in October; we had picture days, a great field trip, we played games and had special fun days celebrating the harvest. Plus, we shared many wonderful treats! We had a fantastic family night with a wonderful turnout and a fantastic meal. The children entertained the families and Elim Church members and we all enjoyed entertainment from a yo-yo champion! A huge thanks to our Preschool Board and all the helpers from Elim Church and the Preschool. It makes the night run smoothly to have such great volunteers!



In this beautiful month of November, we remember all that we are thankful for, and how grateful we are for all that we have. The children will make a thankful tree, share about their families and friends and create some beautiful fall decorations. We, the Elim Preschool staff, are so thankful for all our families and children and the wonderful adventures that greet us every day.

*Michelle Espelien, Elim Preschool Director*



## Refugee Support Team Update

“We won!” Deifan said, as he emerged from his latest (and final!) attempt at his written driver’s test. Deifan recognized his success was shared by his Elim team. Jim Kelley had taken him to the DMV office weekly for the last four weeks. Each time he came close but he “did not win.” Assisting Deifan achieve this goal required a team effort, and many on our team were involved with coaching, quizzing, and taking him to the test center. We came to understand the challenging nuances of the English language facing those learning English as a second language, such as his expressing his testing success or failure in terms of winning vs. passing. Each encounter with this family deepens our love for them and brings gratitude that God has brought us together.

The Refugee Life Ministry team is launching a YouCaring page to assist the family with some specific expenses. The money will be used to pay down an \$8900 loan the Fadul family owes for the cost of the airplane tickets that brought them to the US. All refugees are required to repay the ticket costs over 42 months. For a family of nine the monthly payment is sizable! If you would like to contribute a gift to help, please contact Don Heide or Patty Kelley.

## “Thank You” from Mae Anderson

Mae Anderson would like to thank everyone for their recent calls, prayers and care as she recovered from her September hip surgery.



## Now Recruiting Kitchen Teams For Funerals

We would like to increase the number of volunteers who are able to serve on the kitchen team for funerals. Would you be willing to share in that rotation? We are in need of people willing to make a cake, as well as those who set up and serve at funerals. Please connect with Pastor Becky at [becky@elimchurch.com](mailto:becky@elimchurch.com) or 612.789.3591.

## Leadership Team Update

As part of an introduction to the song “Come As You Are” a few weeks ago, Brian Turnquist wrote: “Jesus invites us to come as we are but to not stay as we are.” Those are not the exact words and they were part of a larger statement, but that concept hit me when I heard it. We need to know, and we need to communicate to others, that we can come to God while we still are wearing whatever dirt or guilt that we have accumulated. The line “come as you are” should affect how we see other people and how we accept them. It is a freeing statement in both human and spiritual terms. But the second part of the line, “do not stay as you are” tells us that we are expected to grow in faith, knowledge, efforts, caring and focus in reference to our relationship with God and other people. We all know that where we have been and what we have experienced add to our natural tendencies. Sometimes we just say, “This is what I am.” While I understand that, it is important to remember that Jesus pushed his disciples to grow and to change and He asks the same of us. This may be what I am, but what am I becoming?

That concept also fits groups of folks—for example: churches. At the September Leadership Team meeting, Pastor Paul had us look through Elim’s self-description. The last point is: “Spirit-prompted – We are called to be vibrant risk-takers... to move out of our comfort zones...” That is part of the shift from “come as you are” to moving toward “being like Jesus” as individuals, and improvements on “doing God’s work” as a church. Risk is necessary, and sometimes service and mission are messy. Hope Avenue is messy. Working with a large refugee family takes time and effort. Trying new sights and sounds in worship can be unsettling. Extending a church refinance and taking on an enhanced budget can be, to use the word, risky. Stepping into VBS and Wednesday Night Live requires new forms and numbers of volunteers. But, as we have said before, individuals and groups do not develop without risk and effort.

I think Elim is pretty good at accepting individual idiosyncrasies, thankfully. May we individually and collectively also be good at moving beyond “who we are” to focus on how we become “more like Jesus” and in how we are better at “doing God’s work.”

*Roger Dahl, Elim Church Chair*

## Newcomers’ Lunch—You’re Invited!

If you are new to Elim and would like to meet the pastors and learn more about us, please join us for a fun and casual welcome lunch on Sunday, November 5, at 11:45 am in the Library.



## Remember And Celebrate

*Deb Somody*

Scripture often refers to rocks as symbols of remembrance (e.g., Samuel setting up an Ebenezer pile of stones). Just recently, the children had the opportunity during Remember and Celebrate weekend to write words or phrases they wanted to celebrate. Examples of words could be Faithful, God has a Plan, new job etc. The picture to the left was taken by a small group leader as they shared stories of God's work in their lives. Our Remember Verse for October was Isaiah 40:28: “The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.” Here at

Elim, we rejoice for the dedicated teachers who are sharing God's Word with our children. Pray for the Holy Spirit's work to bear real fruit for His kingdom's sake.

## Wanted: Hope Avenue Volunteers

A rotating team of people is needed every Sunday morning to help serve breakfast, distribute clothing, and oversee showers. We also need the clothing closet restocked mid-week. Training is provided, and we'll accommodate your schedule. If you're interested, please call Pastor Becky at 612-789-3591 or email her at [becky@elimchurch.com](mailto:becky@elimchurch.com).



## Save The Date!

Elim's women's retreat is Saturday, January 27, 2018, from 8:30 am-2 pm. The speaker is Linnea Winquist, who will focus on rest and renewal in Jesus!

## Missions Team Update: Passion And Joy!

We are studying through Acts under Pastor Paul. Have you found that the potency of the first church passions fills your mind? Notice that they waited as Jesus said, and "they all joined together constantly in prayer" until Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to fill them.

In Indonesia, where Pam Isenhower works for Jesus, many people are understanding for the first time the amazing mystery that Christ took our shame and sin on himself. They are believing, confessing and turning away from that sin, and God is gifting them with the Spirit of Jesus. They are being disciplined—taught from God's words—and are obeying. They are learning how to walk in the way of Jesus in every part of their lives.

Jeff and Mary Ann Anderson serve in the Philippines. They go personally to see where beloved church members have suffered and lost their homes in destructive floods—and we partner with them. You can be a part of their ministry by earmarking extra in your regular giving.

Look back in Acts. Notice the keys to gaining the passionate joy in Acts 2:42-47:

- After believing, they devoted themselves to the teaching, to fellowship, to breaking bread, to prayer.
- Wonders and miracles were seen.
- They were united in heart and shared with each as the other had need.
- They met every day to worship, ate together with glad and sincere hearts and praised God.
- Every day new ones were entering the kingdom of God for the first time!

Today, this is happening in many places around the world. Does your heart yearn for that same fire? You can have it! Cry out to Him. Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away." (John 6:37)

*Carolyn Pinke, for the Missions Team*



## Safety And Security Team

The Security Team needs your help! Please join their rotating schedule and help provide a sense of safety to our members and guests by patrolling the building and grounds on Sunday mornings. Training is provided. Steve Murck leads our Safety and Security team; feel free to contact him with any questions.



## Kidz Klozet Help Wanted!

The Kidz Klozet is open every month to serve the clothing needs for children (birth to age 12). Several volunteers are needed: a team leader and volunteers to sort and process donations. The Klozet is open the first Thursday and the last Sunday of every month.

Please indicate your interest to Pastor Becky, who will get you connected to the ministry. Training is provided.

## 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. This month, The Unlimited and Kidz Klozet are both open on the first Thursday (November 2), from 9 am—noon. Kidz Klozet is also open the last Sunday of the month (November 26) during Sunday School.



## New Church Photo Directory Info!

Have you signed up for a photo session for the new Elim photo directory? Thank you to those who have!

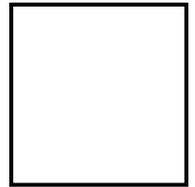
All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional photographer and meet with a Portrait Consultant at the church (you'll be able to see your photos right away). **Please note:** only those who have their photo taken (or those who submit one, should no times work for your schedule), will receive a directory, so please try to participate! You may schedule your appointment online at <http://tinyurl.com/elim-directory>

If you are unable to schedule online, please call the church office to make arrangements. Also, if you are unable to have your photograph taken on the dates listed below, you may still be able to have a photograph taken by LifeTouch. To see where they are currently taking photographs and to schedule a time at a different location (in the Twin Cities or other places), that works for you, call 800-521-4611.

Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule. Other things to know:

- You will need to come to the church only once for photography and for photo viewing.
- Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a free 8x10 photograph. **No purchase is necessary.**
- The program is available at no cost to the church (aside from extra directories the church may buy).
- You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time. While the finished directories will not be available until January, any portraits or gift items you purchase **will be available by Christmas.**

**The dates for photography are: Thursday and Friday, November 16 and 17 (from 1-8 pm) and Saturday, November 18 (from 10 am—4 pm). If those fill up, an extra date will be added.**



## Time Sensitive Information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge</li> <li>•Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room</li> <li>•ECY, 6:30 pm, Youth Rooms, Gym</li> </ul>	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Kidz Klozet, Unlimited open, 9:00 am</li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Men's Group, Dining Room, 6:30 am,</li> </ul>	4
5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am</li> <li>•Prayer Time, 8:00 am</li> <li>•Sunday School, 9:00 am</li> <li>•The Gathering, 10:00 am</li> <li>•Worship, 10:30 am</li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge</li> </ul>	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•50+ Lunch, Noon, Dining Room</li> </ul>	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Seniors' Bible Study, 1:00 pm, Library</li> <li>•GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge</li> <li>•Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room</li> <li>•Wednesday Night Live, 6:00 pm</li> </ul>	9	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Men's Group, Dining Room, 6:30 am,</li> </ul>	11
12 <b>COMMUNION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am</li> <li>•Prayer Time, 8:00 am</li> <li>•Sunday School, 9:00 am</li> <li>•The Gathering, 10:00 am</li> <li>•Worship, 10:30 am</li> </ul>	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge</li> <li>•CEMT Meeting, Dining Room, 6:00 pm</li> </ul>	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Mariners' Breakfast, 9:00 am</li> </ul>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge</li> <li>•Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room</li> <li>•ECY, 6:30 pm, Youth Rooms, Gym</li> </ul>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Photo Sessions Dining Room, 1-8 pm</li> </ul>	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Men's Group, Dining Room, 6:30 am,</li> </ul>	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Photo Sessions, Dining Room 10 am-4 pm,</li> </ul>
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am</li> <li>•Prayer Time, 8:00 am</li> <li>•Sunday School, 9:00 am</li> <li>•The Gathering, 10:00 am</li> <li>•Worship, 10:30 am</li> </ul>	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge</li> </ul>	21	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge</li> <li>•Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room</li> </ul>	23 <p><b>Thanksgiving Office Closed</b></p>	24 <p><b>Office Closed</b></p>	25
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am</li> <li>•Prayer Time, 8:00 am</li> <li>•Sunday School, 9:00 am</li> <li>•The Gathering, 10:00 am</li> <li>•Worship, 10:30 am</li> </ul>	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge</li> <li>•Elim Book Club, Lounge, 7-9 pm</li> </ul>	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Seniors' Bible Study, 1:00 pm, Library</li> <li>•GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge</li> <li>•Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room</li> <li>•ECY, 6:30 pm, Youth Rooms, Gym</li> </ul>	30		