



ELIM
CHURCH
AN OASIS
IN THE CITY

THE FORECASTER

APRIL
2018

12 Words In 2018: “Witness”

The National Registry of Exonerations (NRE) reported that 139 exonerations occurred in the United States in 2017. The average exonerated person spent more than 10 years in jail, due to eyewitness misidentification, official misconduct, false confession, or perjury. In 66 of the cases, no crime was committed whatsoever. Read more about it at The Innocence Project website:

<https://www.innocenceproject.org/report-exonerations-in-2017/>

The plight of the falsely accused highlights the power of “witness.” In very plain words, to witness is to see an event take place, while someone who testifies to an event becomes a witness.

The Biblical idea of “witness” highlights the power of words. The 9th command in the Decalogue (10 commands) says, “You shall not bear false witness.” Lying or bending the truth about a situation with someone is the equivalent of waging war on them. Proverbs 25:18 encapsulates this concept well: “Like a war club, a sword, or a sharp arrow is one who bears false **witness** against a neighbor.” A false witness gives rise to evil, makes a mockery of justice, promotes corruption, and brings judgment on themselves and society.

“A truthful witness...” on the other hand, “...saves lives.” (Proverbs 14:25) In the Bible, God is a faithful witness to both human and divine actions and promises. God is not only cosmic judge, but the ultimate witness. The prophets were “authorized witnesses,” empowered to speak God’s words and perspective to the people. The people said to Jeremiah, “May the LORD be a true and faithful **witness** against us if we do not act according to everything that the LORD your God sends us through you.”

God continues to be a witness in the New Testament. The faithful witness leads to the exoneration and freedom of the people of God. The Holy Spirit bears [s] **witness** with our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:16). Jesus Christ [is], the faithful **witness**, the firstborn of the dead. (Rev 1:5) As creatures made in God’s image and conformed to the image of Christ, we, too, are created to bear witness, just as God bears witness. [John] came as a **witness** to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. (John 1:7) The book of Acts defines the work of the church as the work of witness to an “Easter faith.”

“He has not left himself without a witness...”

“You [all] be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard.”

“One of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” (Acts 14:17, 22:15, 1:22)

- How does this help us to worship?
- How does this help me live out my faith better?
- How do I become a 'witness'?

This year’s Forecaster articles highlight a different word each month. In the first three months of 2018, we looked at the words ‘love,’ ‘glory,’ and ‘grace.’ In this month of Easter, we look at the word ‘witness,’ which appears in the Bible over 100 times and especially in regards to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

For answers to these questions, continue reading on page 2...

Elim Church

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12 Words In 2018: "Witness"

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How does this help us to worship? Witness is worship and leads to exoneration and freedom. Faithful witness promotes God's justice and forgiveness, the beauty of the cross, and joy of the resurrection. The New Testament calls the people of the Spirit to be witnesses and to testify to the truth of salvation, even when we don't want to.

How does this help me to live out my faith better? Witness is our function as the people of God. We are not judge, nor lawyer, nor prosecutors. New Testament scholar Richard Bauckham says that witness leads to a "compassionate call to mission."

***"A witness is neither judge (with final say) nor lawyer (responsible, primarily, for persuasive rhetoric) but one who reports (lived) experience. Ultimately, the cross of Christ is the essential key that prevents Christian witness from being assimilated with the will to power. Overall, a high-spirited, energizing, and compassionate call to mission."* —Richard Bauckham**

How do I become (or continue to be) a 'witness'? First, we accept and pray to Jesus for forgiveness, be reconciled to God as our savior and ask the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and minds. Next, we start to ask better and harder questions. Being a witness should make us critical of self-help questions such as "Who do I want to be?" and "How do I want to live?" Theologian Karl Barth said these questions were to him, "the chief manifestation of sin." Instead, Barth said, we should consistently ask, "How can what I do, here and now, give true(er) witness to the fact I was made in Christ for the purpose of life-long covenant and reconciliation?"

Paul Olson, Lead Pastor

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!

April Birthdays!

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

Marilyn Johnson (4-1), William Turnquist (4-1), Jan Torkelson (4-4), Colleen Knuth (4-6), Grace Nurnberger (4-10), Keith Wallin (4-12), Lois Froehlig (4-14), Daniel Smith (4-14), Ray Halvorson (4-15), Emma Hazdiefendic (4-15), Molly Wilson (4-15), Beth Dischinger (4-19), Tommy Nollie (4-19), Kathy Huffman (4-23), Marilyn Pennoyer (4-25), Fred Root (4-29). **(Did we miss you? Let the office know!)**

Leadership Team Update

Roger Dahl, Elim Church Chair

In recent weeks, Pastor Paul has spoken of the Early Church in the Book of Acts. The “Roman Peace” milieu of this era makes for some interesting parallels to the 21st Century. Times were changing, cultures were interacting and thinking was altered from purely tradition and local culture. The Apostle Paul, as a traditional Jew, a Roman citizen, and someone who understood Greek/Hellenic culture, was an important transition figure from Christianity as a Jewish sect to Christianity as God’s plan for all peoples and places.

The analogy to our era is not nearly a perfect fit, but aspects of what Pastor Paul has said feel familiar. New eras call for new approaches and thinking. Maybe that is in music, lighting, how we use social media and our “branding.” These things have, and will, come up, and they should. Conversations on strategies, communications and outreach need to be different than they were a few years ago. I am not “up on that,” but I am excited to listen to others who are. Elim has traditions which are solid and good, but ways of doing things and seeing things are changing, as they always have. We need to be **authentic** in our beliefs, but flexible in how we interact with the community that we are a part of.

Pastor Paul has referred to the ethnic, cultural, and linguistic issues of the early church. They needed to work out what a Christian is and how to cover the gaps between groups in their society. In Galatians 3:28, The Apostle Paul is clear on God’s view of His people. “*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*” Elim is an egalitarian church regarding male/female roles. Elim has moved in practical ways to bridge ethnic gaps via Hope Avenue, connections with Tree of Life church, and the efforts to connect with an African refugee family. I read the “neither slave nor free” as referring to socio/economic class differences in our society. Hope Avenue gives food, clothing, showers and sometimes furniture, to people in need, but none of that matters if there is not respect. I believe we try to do this, but connections are slow, difficult, intermittent, and usually one individual at a time. Nonetheless, many Hope Avenue folks are now part of our worship time.

Our efforts at gender, ethnic and class equity, in terms of the welcome and value we place on people, is neither easy nor 100% accepted. We attract some folks due to this and we put some folks off due to this. Our spiritual mission is **always** ahead of this set of social goals, but, in today’s world, we need to be one of the lights of God’s love to “all His children.”



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 can answer your questions; feel free to contact him at 612.298.7101 or smurck@gmail.com.

The Unlimited / Kidz Klozet

The Unlimited is now accepting donations of gently-used, stylish, **SPRING and SUMMER** clothing—clean and on hangers, as well as shoes and other accessories. Kidz Klozet is looking for clothing for kids of all ages, plus shoes, coats, backpacks... anything kid-appropriate, we can use! The Unlimited and Kidz Klozet are open on the first Thursday of the month, from 9 am—noon. Kidz Klozet is also open on the last Sunday of the month, from 8-10 am. You may drop off donations on Sundays in the old entryway behind the sanctuary. During the week, the office accepts donations during regular office hours.





Elim Preschool News—"Hoppy" Spring!

We are all awake and refreshed after our return from Spring break! This time of year is so busy that it is nice to be able to take time off and just breathe. Now, we enter our last 2 months of the school year.

We will be busy in Preschool having outdoor adventures, learning about the season of Spring, and celebrating the Week of The Young Child. We will have special team sport days, color days and even a pizza and movie day. Ah, the good life of a preschooler!

As I look at the months ahead, I am excited for all our new preschool adventures. Our space is always alive with laughter and smiles and the hugs we receive daily make us all realize why we do what we do. We will be buzzing happily along, looking forward to the nicer weather and sunshine and just relishing all things preschool. It is such an amazing time to celebrate childhood!

Finally, registration for the next year has a few openings from 9-11:30 am. Spread the word to your friends. We currently have 75 children on the roster for the fall and it is only April! What a blessing!

Michelle Espelien, Elim Preschool Director

ECY Update

Grumpy Cat would say, "There are two kinds of people: those who drink coffee and those who drink tea. I hate both!" We are left to imagine if Grumpy Cat is talking about the beverages or the people?

Beth and I have been talking with students about "Does God Love Me No Matter What?" There are unique challenges growing up in today's world. Students have a lot of questions about the future. What will the future look like? What will THEY look like? What school should I attend? Where is this relationship going? What relationship? Why are my parents so strict? (Or, conversely, why don't my parents care?) What difference does faith make? Am I the only Christian at my school? Why does everybody hate me? I feel so lost and alone sometimes... where are you, God? I wish I was different! Why is life so hard? Who can help me? Does anybody know what I am going through?



We (adults) don't have all the answers... we don't even know all the questions!

But ONE thing is true: Jesus loves you! He demonstrated that love at Calvary! There are good people that love you, that only need to hear your hurt and they would be there in a minute! Sometimes, we all need to be reminded of these truths! God is not Grumpy Cat!! He wants to hear from us! He longs to hear our voice... think of that! God wants to hear from you, from me, with all of our problems and doubts and troubles... God kinda tears up when we come to him. That is pretty awesome! That is the story of Calvary and of Easter! Hallelujah!

Rick Dischinger, Interim Director of Youth Ministry



50+ Lunch—Tuesday, April 3, noon—The theme in April is “Spring Cleaning.” (Kathy Huffman will lead the program.) Bring your favorite dish to share with the group and invite a guest! Newcomers are welcome, and no RSVP is required! If you have any questions, please talk with Laurie Damberg.

Mariners’ Breakfast—Tuesday, April 10, 9:00 am—Our breakfast in April will be at Denny’s Restaurant (2045 Twin Lakes Parkway, in Roseville).

Annual Meeting—Sunday, April 29

Elim’s Annual Meeting will be held in the Dining Room on Sunday, April 29, immediately following worship. This meeting is open to anyone who is interested in the ministry and finances of Elim. Anyone may attend and participate, but voting will be limited to Elim members. A light lunch will be served and childcare will be available. **Note:** If you are writing a report for the Annual Report, it is due on Wednesday, April 18.

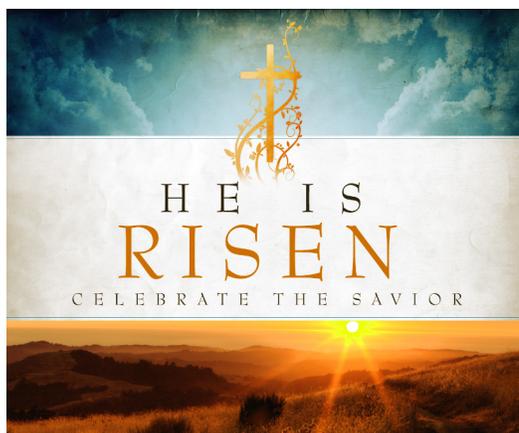


Help Wanted: Offering Counters

Your help is needed on the Offering Counters team. Are you able to help count the Sunday offering and take the deposit to the bank (the day and time are flexible), once every couple of weeks? Please talk with Archie Thomas (call him at 612-789-4185 or talk with him in person), to sign up and to arrange training, or if you have 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 each month. Please indicate your interest to Pastor Becky, who will get you connected to the ministry. Training is provided.



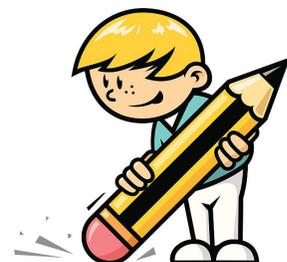
Easter Sunday: “Christ Is Risen!”

Our Easter Sunday celebration and worship begin with a sunrise baptism at 6:53 am, as several choose new life in Jesus. We will then hold an enhanced coffee time in the dining room at 10 am, with specialty breads and fruit.

During worship at 10:30 am, we will celebrate our new life in Christ through praise and worship. The ElimKids children will be playing the bells to “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord.” There will be nursery, JAM (for Preschool kids) and Children’s Church during worship, but no Sunday School classes (for any age).

Two Photo Directory Corrections

Below are two corrections that need to be made in the new photo directory. The first mistake is the email address for **Ruth Hill**, which should have been listed as rhill1958@msn.com. The second error was the cell phone for **Carolyn Pinke**. The correct number is 612-212-8095. If you find additional errors that need to be fixed, please let the church office know!



ElimKids Update: Raising Up The Next Generation



Leading our children to the Lord can be compared to a relay race in which we parents pass the baton to our young runners. If you've ever seen a relay race, you know how important it is to pass the baton carefully and smoothly. In fact, it's as important as having the fastest runners. This was demonstrated in the 1996 Olympics. The favorite in the 4x100 relay was the United States. In the modern Olympic era, the U.S. has won this race 75 percent of the time. The U.S. always has four of the fastest runners in the world.

In 1996, the U.S. team lost to the Canadian team. How did this happen? The U.S. was disqualified because of an improper passing of the baton. It is noteworthy that the few times the U.S. has lost this race was because of that same problem—the inability to pass the baton from one runner to the next.

The Bible compares our life to a race. Hebrews 12:1 says, *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”* But I want you to know, it's not just any race; it's a relay race. God is not only concerned about how you run or how I run; He also cares about the runners after us, who will take our baton and run the next lap—the next generation. The relay race that God has us running began with Adam and Eve, who passed on their baton to their children, who passed it on to their children, and on and on—and it is a race that is still not finished. And who knows whether the race of salvation history will end with our generation? The Lord may not return for many generations, so we need to have a long-term vision.

And we need to learn from the past. The Bible is full of glory days of blessing and fruitfulness whenever a generation received proper training from the previous generation. Yet the Bible also has gory stories when a generation experienced spiritual defeat and decay, because parents and leaders neglected to train their offspring for their turn in the relay race. In addressing the subject of passing on the baton generationally, my purpose can be summed up as follows:

1. To sound a warning, that even if we are like Joshua and his generation, who knew the Lord and experienced His power, there is no guarantee that later generations will follow in our footsteps.
2. To exhort each of us to play a significant role in helping pass the baton to the next generation with great care, because the race could easily be lost if we fumble the baton.
3. To give practical instruction to parents, as well as to others who join in this task, on how to pass on the baton of faith to the next generation—that they might win the race.



Passing the baton can only work if we put Children's Ministry at the top of our priorities, both at home and at church. Please join me as together we raise up a strong generation that runs after God. I need volunteers, so please pray how you can help pass the baton to the next young runners here at Elim.

I encourage you to limit your kids distractions by limiting screen time. That even if you can afford to spoil them, don't!! You owe it to them not to indulge them! Teach them at home, as well involve them at Elim.

Deb Somody, Director Of Childhood Ministries

Missions: The Heartbeat Of God (Part 4 of 5)

Last month, we heard how God saved Hussein's life, and how Hussein sold all he owned to start serving Christ. God blessed, and many people came to know the Messiah. One day, just after the team had received a delivery of five hundred New Testaments, the secret police suddenly raided the place where he lived, looking for Bibles. Hussein was handcuffed and taken away in a van.

While being taken to a prison, he was blindfolded and shackled, then transferred to another car. "This is just the beginning," one captor said smugly. "This is just the 'welcome parade.'"

Hussein prayed—not for himself, but that the small house church would not be destroyed. That the Bibles would not be captured. That their ministry would still find ways to keep proclaiming Jesus.

He was placed in solitary confinement, in a room the size of a large bathroom. There was no bed, no toilet, or sink; just two floodlights, one of which was kept on 24-7 to mess with his mind. *Are the women safe?* he worried. *Did they reveal names of church leaders who will now be in danger? How can I warn them? Have the police discovered the Bibles?*

"Let's pray together." These words came out of nowhere—amid dead silence in a room where he was the only person, and he was not talking.

Hussein believes they were the words of Jesus: "I felt like Jesus put everything aside—the whole world aside—to come whisper in my ear. He said to me, "There is no need for you to say anything because I am going to tell you what to say. Why are you afraid? At the end you are going to die, right? So why don't you just serve? Don't you have faith that when you close your eyes in this world, you will open them up to me? And when you open your eyes, you will be in my arms?"

Carolyn Pinke, For the Missions Team

It's A Brand New Office! Thank You, Jan And Don Heide!!

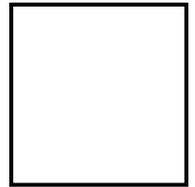
Stop by the church office to see its new look! Jan and Don Heide stripped wallpaper, patched and painted walls, laid carpet, and more. We are so grateful for the many ways their fingerprints are on the church!



More photos are available to view at www.elimchurch.com



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Time Sensitive Information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER SUNDAY •Baptism Service, 6:53 am •Hope Avenue, 7:15-10 am •Prayer Time, 8:20 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am	2 •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge	3 •"50 + Lunch," Dining Room, Noon	4 •Prayer Time, 8:20 am •Seniors' Bible Study, 1 pm, Library •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •ECY, 6:30 pm, Youth Rooms, Gym •GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge	5 •Kidz Klozet, Unlimited open, 9:00 am	6	7
8 COMMUNION •Hope Avenue, 7:15-10 am •Prayer Time, 8:20 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am	9 •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge	10 •Mariners' Breakfast, 9:00 am	11 •Prayer Time, 8:20 am •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •Wednesday Night Live, 6:00 pm •GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge	12	13	14
15 •Hope Avenue, 7:15-10 am •Prayer Time, 8:20 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am	16 •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge	17	18 •Prayer Time, 8:20 am •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •ECY, 6:30 pm, Youth Rooms, Gym	19	20	21
22 •Hope Avenue, 7:15-10 am •Prayer Time, 8:20 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am	23 •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge	24	25 •Prayer Time, 8:20 am •Seniors' Bible Study, 1 pm, Library •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •ECY, 6:30 pm, Youth Rooms, Gym	26	27	28
29 •Hope Avenue, 7:15-10 am •Prayer Time, 8:20 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am •Annual Meeting, 11:45 am	30 •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge					