



**ELIM  
CHURCH**  
AN OASIS  
IN THE CITY

# THE FORECASTER

**JANUARY  
2017**

## How We Got To Where We Are Today

### HOPE AVE

In November of 2006, Elim was in the same place we are today: waiting for the selection of a new senior pastor. During that transition, the pastors chose to renew within Elim its purpose, presence and call by God to this community. As such, we took turns preaching through a series entitled, *Awakened to Our Community*. I chose the topic of homelessness and was specifically looking at whether there were individuals experiencing homelessness within one mile of the church. I'd never seen anyone who looked homeless, so I was confident there weren't any homeless in Northeast.

I came to that sermon with a brief history in acting compassionately. When I raised my children, I was intentional to teach them about those who were less fortunate than we were. Each year we delivered a Christmas box of gifts to a family from my children's school where illness or unemployment had touched their holiday. In the back of my car sat a sack stuffed with socks, crackers and cheese, so that when we came across someone at a corner who was asking for money, each of my children would hand him/her one of these items. I was aware of the stories of families fresh from church who—when they came across someone in need on the corner—every head in the car would look away. I was determined to teach my children to look at a person in need and say, "Lord, how can I help?" But although we were blessing others, it was what I now call 'ministry at a distance.'

On a cold Saturday in November, I spent the day approaching people who looked homeless. My worldview was challenged as I listened to their stories: a homeless individual could have a life that looked very similar to mine prior to becoming homeless; several were educated, married and had a family; they all had dreams about their future. Not one wanted to be homeless. I found men and women just trying to survive. Lynelle told of sleeping under a truck on a piece of cardboard. In the morning the driver started the truck and about had a heart attack when she screamed and crawled out from underneath. Steve lived in a tent right next to a business, hidden by a shroud of trees and bushes. Five men lived outside within a few blocks of Elim.

I preached my 'heart out' in that sermon as we looked at Matthew 25. Two weeks later in staff meeting, Pastor Joyce raised the question: "The church is still asking. What are we going to do about the homeless?" I was not looking to start a homeless ministry at Elim. In fact, my encounters with homeless men 20 years earlier had not had favorable outcomes. And so I put on my best Jonah voice and said, "Not me." Pastor John Carlson and the rest of the pastoral staff replied, "You preached it. You need to deal with it." Today, ten years later, I am aware that in that moment my life and call to ministry were redirected by the Lord as He led me beyond my comfort zone, preconceptions and presuppositions as I reluctantly said yes to doing something I didn't want to do.

Hope Avenue launched two weeks later with many from Elim involved in making lunches, collecting clothing, faithfully praying, and helping build a street outreach team that included Jennifer Turnquist, Rod Tyberg, Andrew Johnson, Eric Ferrey and Lois Bergerud. Every week when we went on the streets we collectively prayed my children's simple prayer: "Lord, how can we help?" We didn't have a clue what we were doing but we tried to follow the Lord's leading. And while the breadth of the ministry has broadened in ten years, that simple prayer continues to fuel Elim's work yet today: "Lord, how would you have us help?"

*Becky Hanson, Interim Lead Pastor*

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### Hope Avenue

Extension 108

## Leadership Team Update

You know each of you are heard by God, loved by God, and delighted in by God. Right? And you also know that our lives should be informed by and marked by prayer. Right?



As we approach 2017, the Leadership Team invites you on their journey to become a prayerful people—people who encourage a prayerful church. God desires us to seek Him, pray with confidence, bring glory to Him and joy to His heart. He deserves nothing less!

- Will you pray for there to be a profound work of God in your hearts this year and in the life of Elim Church? Maybe you know some specific places where you want to see that work happen. Go there... pray for that.
- Will you pray that your hearts would be shaped and molded by the love of Jesus? Pray that same prayer for Elim Church. Pray that God will use our faith family in our given location, in this given time with the fullness of what we can handle.
- Will you pray continually and effectively, making prayer a part of everything you do? Will you encourage others to do the same? Set a regular time and place for daily prayer. Keep it simple. Talk with Him as a friend. Confide in Him and expect Him to answer your prayers.

There is much to be done in prayer! We are well aware of our shortcomings, our strengths and our desire to lead Elim Church well. Won't you join us? May we humble ourselves and be desperate and dependent upon God to work and move for the glory of His Name.

*Jill Jezierski, for the Leadership Team*

## 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](mailto:info@elimchurch.com)

### Pastors' Hours:

Becky Hanson—Monday-Thursday  
Chuck Fleming—As available

**Emergency Calls:** Pastor Becky: 612.314.3532





## Children's Ministry Leading Epiphany

The earliest reference to Epiphany as a Christian Feast celebrating the birth of Christ was in A.D. 361. The Greek word means "Manifestation," and celebrates the revelation of God in his Son as human in Jesus. It celebrates the significance of the meeting between the Magi and Herod's court. The wise men had followed the new star which led them to Jerusalem and was then hidden from them. Without their guide, they had no alternative but to consult the Jews. In this way, the birth of Jesus would be made known to all. "After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was." (Matthew 1:19)

On January 8, the Children's Ministry will present *Star Trip: Our Faith Awakens* during worship. Epiphany, also known as Three Kings Day, will be celebrated with a Christmas Program that the kids, along with some of our youth, worked on this Fall. We will see the 3 Kings portrayed, hear our Preschool Choir and Kids Choir as well as the Kids Bell Choir. Be sure to invite friends to commemorate the coming of the magi.

The families at Elim gathered on December 4th for our Christmas Advent gLo workshop. The pictures above show us getting ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus and an opportunity to teach about His Second Coming. "When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28)

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

## Greetings In 2017!

We are so excited to be in this wonderful new year!

After a fantastic Christmas break, we are back in the groove of preschool. The children are rested and ready to start learning about the winter weather and other fun things that go along with the beautiful snow! We are ready to play in the snow, decorate snowmen and explore everything that this cold time of year brings us! We will play outside, create snowflakes and snowman friends and just have fun!



Our friends enjoy dance class with Ms. Alice as well as fun art projects with Ms. Michelle. This month, we created sparkly snowflakes to hang from the ceiling in our hallways! It looks like a winter wonderland! Have a great month and a fantastic new year!

*Michelle Espelien, Elim Preschool Director*



## New Sunday School Class

The Christian Education Ministry Team is pleased to announce that a new Sunday School class is starting up on Sunday, January 15, 2017!

Have you ever asked yourself any of the following questions?

**What kind of influence do I have on my kids?**

*Or... what kind of influence do I have on other people's kids?*

**How do I know if my kids are being influenced by me in a Godly way?**

*Or... how can I know if there are kids in my life God is calling me to influence?*

**Are my kids' hearts teachable?**

*Or... am I aware that my kids or other people's kids are watching me closely?*

**How can I make sure I demonstrate Godly character?**

*Or... insert your own questions... topics will be geared to your needs!*

The class will meet in Room 402 at 9:00 am. Roger Dahl will act as facilitator.

Some of Elim's young families have expressed interest in having a "Life Builders" class offered during the Sunday School hour. Feel free to join our conversation:

Young Couples and Parents of Children & Teens, Single & Married Adults (interested in mentoring)

*"More is caught than taught... your life says more than your words."*

## Business Meeting—January 29

Elim will hold a business meeting in the Dining Room after worship on Sunday, January 29. The meeting is open to all members and regular attenders, as well as anyone interested in the life and business of our church. Anyone may participate in the meeting, but voting will be limited to Elim members.

## Pastoral Search Team Update

Our next meeting will be in early January and will include our Converge P3 representatives, who will give us their selection of 6-8 candidates for review. You may recall that these candidates are selected from their large database of candidates as those who especially match the profile that we developed through our congregational survey and meetings with the Leadership Team. In addition, we have about 25 applicants who came directly through our website and from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We will begin review of all of these applications in early January. Please pray for discernment for our team.

Blessings on behalf of the Elim Search Team.

*Brian Turnquist*

## You're Invited!

Mary Howell is marrying Phil Meyer! Come meet him and wish them well at a wedding shower on **Saturday, January 21, at 10:30 am**. The shower will be in the Atrium, and everyone is invited! Pastries and muffins will be provided. **Hope to see you there!**

## Blessing Service and Baptism Service This Month

On Sunday, January 15, Elim will hold a blessing service during the 10:30 worship time. The next Sunday, January 22, Elim will hold a baptism service for anyone wishing to make this public confession of faith.

**Seniors Lunch**—Traditionally, there has not been a Seniors' Lunch in January. Our next lunch will be held on Tuesday, February 7, at noon. See you then!

**MerryMakers Outing**—*Monday, January 9, at 10 am*—The January outing is a self-guided tour through the Minneapolis Institute of Arts exhibit titled Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation. Cost for the event is \$16.00 (lunch, in the restaurant inside the Institute, is separate). The reservation period has ended; please talk with Steve or Judy Moseman for more info.

**Mariners Breakfast**—*Tuesday, January 10, at 9 am*—Breakfast in January will be at Bakers Square (1881 Highway 36 West in Roseville).



## Save The Date!!

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

## The Unlimited / Kidz Klozet

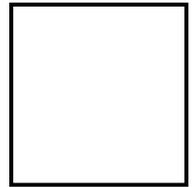
The Unlimited is now accepting donations of gently-used, stylish, **WINTER** clothing—clean and on hangers. We can also use shoes and other accessories. Kidz Klozet is looking for clothing for kids of all ages, along with shoes, coats, backpacks... anything kid-appropriate, we can use!

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 January, The Unlimited and Kidz Klozet are both open on the first Thursday of every month, from 9 am—noon.



# Elim Church

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## Time Sensitive Information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> •Hope Avenue, 8:00-10:30 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am	<b>2</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>3</b> •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	<b>4</b> •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •ECK, 6:30 pm, Gym, Kids Park •ECY, 6:30 pm, Gym/Youth Rooms	<b>5</b> •Kidz Klozet, Unlimited open, 9:00 am	<b>6</b> •Men's Group, Dining Room, 6:30 am	<b>7</b>
<b>8 CHILDREN'S PROGRAM</b> •Hope Avenue, 8:00-10:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Children's Program, 10:30 am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> •Mariners' Breakfast, 9:00 am •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	<b>11</b> •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	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> •Men's Group, Dining Room, 6:30 am	<b>14</b>
<b>15 BLESSING SERVICE</b> •Hope Avenue, 8:00-10:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Blessing Service (will also include communion), 10:30 am	<b>16</b> •Elim Book Club, 7:00 pm, Library	<b>17</b> •Mariners' Breakfast, 9:00 am •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	<b>18</b> •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	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> •Men's Group, Dining Room, 6:30 am	<b>21</b> •Wedding Shower for Mary Howell, 10:30 am, Atrium
<b>22 BAPTISM SERVICE</b> •Hope Avenue, 8:00-10:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge	<b>25</b> •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	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> •Men's Group, Dining Room, 6:30 am	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> •Hope Avenue, 8:00-10:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am •Business Meeting, 11:45 am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> •Women's Bible Study, 6:45 pm, Lounge				