



**ELIM**  
CHURCH  
AN OASIS  
IN THE CITY

# THE FORECASTER

**JULY**  
**2017**

## “A Prayer For Our City”

*Paul Olson, Lead Pastor*

Lord, give us your peace as we grieve—together with his family—the loss of a beloved man, Philando Castille. Give us patience and compassion as we grieve with those who grieve, and mourn with those who mourn... deliver us from evil, oh Lord. May your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.

We pray for Minneapolis, Lord. We pray for its leaders and its officials. Lord, we pray for those who are on the streets, who see and experience violence every day. Give us courage to speak up when we see injustice, when we see passivity or ignorance. Let us be imitators of you, who looked at the city of Jerusalem, and with tears wept and longed for the day it would experience peace.

You, LORD, Jesus, king of the universe, were betrayed. You were handed over to death by your own people; you were crucified by the state on an ugly cross—but you resurrected because DEATH could not keep you down! Lord, you showed us that violence and retaliation is not courage; it is not hope. You showed us that hatred is not courage; it only leads us down roads that are self-destructive.

Lord, the gospel is not a sweet, sugary pill; it does not flatter us; it shows us our sin and our pain; it is a gospel of the crucified Christ. In an age when racism and xenophobia persist, when disrespect for authority and lack of accountability by that authority is rampant, the gospel is THE paradox that we need. We need more truth-telling—about ourselves and about our past as a nation and as a city. We need more repentance and more clarity of vision as to our own condition without You.

Lord, Our community is torn down the middle right now, and our brokenness is seen in the streets and in the homes of people across our community. Remind us of our calling to carry our crosses and our identity as a people of the resurrection. Lord, thank you that you have provided an answer in your Son. Forgive us and heal us, we pray.

Amen.

## A Note of Thanks...

On June 1, I officially started as Lead Pastor here at Elim Church. My family, on the other hand, remained in New Jersey while the children finished their school year and Heather finished her soccer coaching. During these past few months, we have seen God answer our prayers in incredible ways. On Wednesday, June 21, we officially moved into a beautiful old house in North Minneapolis. We are excited and thrilled with our new home and neighborhood. I am also excited to have just moved into a newly-renovated workspace at church. Many volunteers and leaders have collaborated over the past months to see these events come to fruition. Because of your kindness, generosity, and friendship, we can truly say that Elim is our new family. Thank you, Elim!



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## Leadership Team Update

*“Needless to say, you can love people without leading them, but you cannot lead people without loving them.” John C. Maxwell*

I just love the church and—more specifically—I love Elim Church! One of the many reasons I allowed my name to be put on the ballot for the Leadership Team one year ago is because I wanted to be part of a group that comes together to make decisions related to Elim—a place that has a deep commitment to God and to His Church. What I have gratefully experienced over the past year is the large degree of love that is characterized in the members of the Leadership Team. I have witnessed many expressions of it as they care for people's needs, labor in prayer, feed hungry bodies and souls, humbly listen, protect, discipline and restore loved ones, and manage conflict with grace—all the while depending on God's guidance. Leading others with love is crucial and makes Elim Church a brighter light in our community.

I will close with one more personal reflection. There is great enthusiasm and anticipation for the work ahead of us. With Pastor Paul and Pastor Becky at the helm, I am excited for the future!

- I am excited about the future of Elim because of the example and guidance of the generations before us who passed down a deep desire to trust in God and crave the Scriptures.
- I am excited about the future of Elim because I see Christ living and active in younger generations. They are open about issues that are facing our world, but recognize that in weakness, Christ remains strong,
- I am excited about the future of Elim because it has been placed in our Savior's hands. It is His authority, grace, and hope that ultimately will lift us up.

May we always continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, and look with wonder and excitement for the future of Elim Church while here on this earth!

*Jill Jezierski,*

*For the Elim Church Leadership Team*



## Congrats, Elim Graduates of 2017!

**Michael Minnema**—North Central University  
*Master of Education, Specialized in Athletic Coaching*

**Paul Olson**—Princeton Theological Seminary  
*Master of Divinity*

**Megan Nurnberger**—PYC Arts & Tech High School

**Annalee Smith**—Calvin Christian High School

**William Turnquist**—Mounds View High School

## Family VBS At Elim: Coming August 7-11



Elim Church is excited to be hosting VBS during the evenings of August 7-11. This program is for everyone ages 0-99! As we focus on the marvels painted in the sky by the Creator, we will discover that the God who created everything wants a personal relationship with us. There is no cost for VBS; it is our gift to you and your family.

### Schedule

5:30-6:00—Dinner (Dining Room)

6:00-6:30—Worship Rally (Sanctuary)

6:30-8:15—Kids/Youth/Adult Activities (see below)

### Kids/Youth/Adult Activities

- **Nursery (0-36 months)** – Childcare is available in the nursery.
- **Pre-K (3 yrs – entering K)** – Activities including a Bible story, arts and crafts, learning centers, and music (Rooms 4-5).
- **Kids (completed K – 5th grade)** – As the Galactic Starveyors, we will search the skies and God's Word to uncover God's truth etched in His handiwork. Activities include Bible Study Club House, crafts, and games.
- **Youth** – Students will discover the incredible mysteries of the final frontier. They will encounter amazing and wonderful things designed by a creator who is even bigger than the vastness of His creation. Led by Rick and Beth Dischinger.
- **Adults (Sticky Faith)** – Sticky Faith will empower adults to develop robust and long-term faith in kids of all ages. Sticky Faith presents both a compelling rationale and a powerful strategy to show parents how to encourage their children's spiritual growth so that it will stick with them into adulthood and empower them to develop a living, lasting faith. Led by Pastor Paul Olson.
- **Adults (Searching the Visible, Discovering the Invisible)** – The God who created everything wants an intimate relationship with us. From the very beginning, God had a plan to restore the relationship He knew people would break, and a plan to heal broken people. Led by Randy Somody.

**Registration** – Fill out the registration card (available on the website), and return it to the registration table at Elim Church on a Sunday morning. Everyone who plans to attend (child or adult), should register, so that meals, classes and nursery care can be planned accordingly.

**Reach Out** – You have the opportunity to reach people by inviting them to attend VBS with you. Think about who you will bring with you. Tell your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members! The VBS brochure has all of the information and is available at [elimchurch.com/vbs](http://elimchurch.com/vbs) (or scan the QR code).



### Theme Verse

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him. —Colossians 1:15-16*



## Family Night Returning To Elim

Family Nights (aka Wednesday Night Live) will kick off at Elim on September 20th at 6 pm. A family-friendly meal will be served on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, with programming to follow from 6:30-8:00. Following supper at 6 o'clock, there will be high-energy worship, fun games and Bible-based teaching for kids and students in their various areas of the building. An Adult Bible Study/prayer Group will be offered with child care and a preschool class. In addition, a new parent support group will be offered for fellowship, worship, encouragement and prayer.

## Adult Summer Sunday School in July

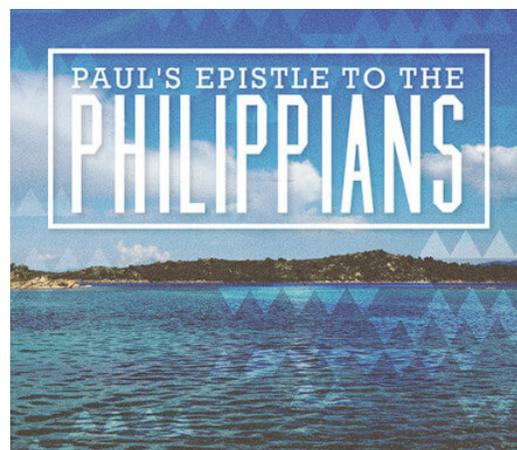
**Teacher**—Ralph Gustafson

**When**—9:00-10:00 am on July 9, 16, 23 and 30  
(No Sunday School on July 2)

**Where**—Elim Dining Room

### Topic—Phillipians: A Letter Of Love And Joy

Who doesn't know what it feels like to be in a tough place, with our hopes, dreams, and plans in disarray? The Apostle Paul understood what it meant as he wrote a letter to the Phillipians from prison. But his letter is not filled with defeat or despair. It reflects the reality of his dynamic relationship with God. It is clear that this relationship meant everything to him—not only when life was going according to plan, but even when those plans were dramatically derailed.



Our study in Phillipians will demonstrate how we can experience and proclaim the hope, joy, and peace of the Gospel—not only when everything is going well, but even in the midst of difficult trials. My prayer for our time together is the same as that of Paul who in praying for the Phillipians prayed: *“that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.”*

**About Ralph**—Dr. Rev. Ralph Gustafson is the Executive Minister for Church and Seminary Alumni Relations at Bethel University. The mission of Church Relations is to cultivate God-honoring, mission-focused relationships with churches, pastors, ministry leaders, and Bethel Seminary alumni, which actively engage them in support of the mission of Bethel University. Ralph seeks to serve, encourage, inspire, and further equip pastors, ministry leaders, and churches in the mission of advancing the Gospel of Jesus. As part of his work, Ralph has been involved in teaching, advising, mentoring, and supervising Bethel students at both the college and the seminary. He has been involved in student ministries for over 40 years.

## Business Meeting—July 23

Elim will hold a business meeting in the Dining Room after worship on Sunday, July 23. 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.

## ECY Update

ECY welcomes Pastor Paul Olson and his family to Elim! We are excited to partner with Paul in this new chapter of ministry for Elim! Some of our youth had a great time hanging out at Pastor Paul's house on June 14 as we begin to get to know one another! Thanks, Paul! And may you feel the love!



ECY's Mission trip through YouthWorks to the Quad Cities will take place from July 2-8. Several students and youth leaders will be involved in this week of summer ministry. Please be in prayer for safety during drive times and that students would be open to see themselves as the hands and feet of Jesus, ministering to the needs of this community.

We have spent some time together preparing for what we may encounter on the trip. We have talked about our purpose, which is to serve Jesus Christ. Reflecting on Jesus' words in Matthew 5, we thought about how we (together) can be "salt and light," and how Jesus uses people (together), in relationship to introduce his 'great commission' to disciple all people (Matthew 28).

- We have spent time thanking God for the opportunity to go.
- We have asked God to remove selfishness or harmful motives in our service.
- We have asked for God's vision and purpose to guide OUR vision and purpose.
- We have praised God in advance for what God will do through our willingness to serve.

Despite Elim's history with YouthWorks' mission trips, each trip is a distinctively unique experience! Join us in praying for our youth and leaders during this week in July. We will arrive on Sunday afternoon, full of enthusiasm and energy that carries us through Monday evening! Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday... things get real! On Friday, we leave the Quad Cities for a day of fun, arriving home on Saturday at 12 pm. Pray for strength, good weather, and relationship building, and pray for those in the Quad Cities who have allowed us to serve among them.

In other ECY News: We have many activities scheduled this month which will offer students plenty of time to hang out together:

Wednesday, July 12: Scavenger Hunt, hosted by Megan Johnson (6:30-8:00 pm)

Thursday, July 20: River Rats (6:30-8:00 pm)

Wednesday, July 26: Ham Lake Camp (3:00-9:00 pm)

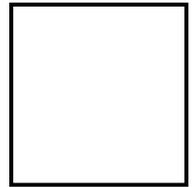
*Rick Dischinger,*  
*Interim Director of Youth Ministries*

**Seniors' Lunch**—Because the first Tuesday in July is July 4 (Independence Day), it was decided not to have a Seniors Lunch in July.

**Mariners' Breakfast**—Tuesday, July 11, at 9 am—Our July breakfast will be at Keys Café and Bakery (located at 8299 University Ave NE in Spring Lake Park).

# Elim Church

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## Time Sensitive Information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Gathering, 10:00 am</li> <li>•Worship, 10:30 am</li> <li>•ECY leaves on Mission Trip</li> </ul>	<b>3</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>4</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room</li> </ul>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•ECY returns from Mission Trip</li> </ul>
<b>9 COMMUNION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am</li> <li>•Sunday School, 9:00 am</li> <li>•The Gathering, 10:00 am</li> <li>•Worship, 10:30 am</li> </ul>	<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge</li> </ul>	<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Mariners' Breakfast, 9:00 am</li> </ul>	<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room</li> </ul>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am</li> <li>•Sunday School, 9:00 am</li> <li>•The Gathering, 10:00 am</li> <li>•Worship, 10:30 am</li> <li>•VBS Staff Meeting, 11:30 am</li> </ul>	<b>17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge</li> <li>•Elim Book Club, 6 pm, hosted by Mary and Shirley Barnes</li> </ul>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Seniors' Bible Study, 1:00 pm, Library</li> <li>•Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room</li> </ul>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am</li> <li>•Sunday School, 9:00 am</li> <li>•The Gathering, 10:00 am</li> <li>•Worship, 10:30 am</li> <li>•Business Meeting, 11:30 am</li> </ul>	<b>24</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge</li> </ul>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room</li> </ul>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am</li> <li>•Sunday School, 9:00 am</li> <li>•The Gathering, 10:00 am</li> <li>•Worship, 10:30 am</li> </ul>	<b>31</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge</li> </ul>					