

JULY 2018

ELIM FORECASTER



Staff Changes
p.3

Monthly Giving Update
p.4

Adult Summer Sunday School
p.10

12 WORDS IN 2018 - "GOD"

Paul Olson, Lead Pastor

It's July and we've come to the half-way mark through the year, 2018 (July 2nd is officially the middle day of 2018). In July it's good to reflect and check-in on those goals/resolutions we made at the beginning of the year. Perhaps you said back in January something like: "In 2018, I want to..."

"...be kinder to my neighbor"
"...lose 20 pounds"
"...not worry as much"
"...read my Bible more"
"...not make any resolutions..."

At the middle of 2018 and at the center of this 12-word study is "God". In many ways these 'words' communicate something about God. But perhaps it's rare that you take the time to think about the word "God" in its own terms.

For Christians around the world, the word God (english), Theos (Greek), Parmeshua (Hindi), El (Hebrew), Allah (Arabic) communicate the generic title of "God". God is very simply known to many as the creator and ruler of the universe. God is the source of all moral authority. God is the one supreme being who is unknowable, transcendent (above) and who is wholly other and different than us.

Humanity's search for the supreme being has led to a myriad of answers and supposed experiences with the divine. All cultures speak of "God" or "gods". The Old Testament speaks of these generic 'gods', but when referring to God, it's not just any generic god (little "g"), but the "God of _____." The Old testament authors, for example filled in the blank: "The God of Israel", "God of the Hebrews", "God of our Ancestors – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." "God of our salvation."

In short, the generic and universal "god" became a particular and specific "God" by way of revelation to and rescue of a people at a particular time and place. That God was revealed to Moses, Abraham and to all of Israel as the One who was alone in being God (Deut 6:4). As these ancestors grew in their knowledge and relationship with God, the title became less generic and more relational, "LORD" (Adonai). (By the way, the same is true of us today, acknowledging God's power and wisdom makes God, the "Lord" of our lives.)

The writers of the NT were very aware of how they handled the word "God". The orthodox church teaching on Jesus is that He is a member of the holy trinity, the God-head, the Father, Spirit and Son. But the New Testament never, ever, comes out and says: "Hey everybody, Jesus is God!" Interestingly, the most commonly used word in the New Testament is not "Jesus", but "God", appearing 1,153 times. God is the central issue of the Scriptures, the writings of the apostles and prophets, and that central concern points to Jesus, because Jesus reveals God, is the word of God, and at the beginning with God. (John 1:1)

Much more can be said, especially about the 'attributes' of God. But I'll conclude with these two thoughts: When we read and say the word "God", it should remind us to remain humble and vigilant because even though we have the witness of scripture, our knowledge of God is still limited. We shouldn't assume when people say "God" that it might mean what we think it does. We also should be reminded of the good news too: that though our knowledge of God may be limited, it is no longer generic. And it this God who has spoken in the person

and work of Jesus Christ. (John 1:18)

Secondly, I am writing this while here at the annual Karl Barth conference in Princeton, NJ. This has been a great time of retreat, refreshment, learning and seeing friends. It has also been a time to focus in on the study of God, (THEO-logy). Karl Barth was famous for writing so well (and much) about the truth of God's very self being revealed in Jesus Christ. He said this about the revelation of God:

This subject (of revelation is) God, is the subject par excellence, the subject, which is never and nowhere object, because it is grounded only in itself and may be known only by itself.... God is seen, believed, recognized, and known only in the act of his self-revelation.

Here we've come back to the middle, to the center of it all – “God in Christ” the one who lived, died and rose again revealing to all of humanity, God. May we, in the middle of 2018 resolve to know and love this Lord, our God, with all our heart, soul and mind – and as Jesus added, “Love our neighbor as ourselves.” Mark 12:30-31

STAFF CHANGES

Paul Olson, Lead Pastor

Change Happens Slowly, And Then All at Once ..

A thought popped into my head the other day and it was, “Change happens slowly, and then all at once.” I couldn't remember if I had heard that somewhere else so I googled it, and found Ernest Hemingway had said something very similar about going bankrupt! Wow! Over the past year, change at Elim has happened slowly, and then in May and June a lot happened all at once.

What do you mean change is happening? Well..

In May and June we welcomed four new employees (two interns and two office staff). The office functions largely the same as it always did, but with more hands helping to lighten the load. Speaking of loads, we also moved ‘heaven and earth’ (Roger Dahl's words) to accommodate a new space for Hope Avenue and the Children's Ministry. If that weren't enough, Becky and I were sponsored by AGRM to attend their national conference in June, a gathering of experts and practitioners of the most dynamic and well-funded organizations addressing homelessness in the world. Elim looks different, feels different, smells different (due to the new paint).

These are great developments, and new visions are emerging, but we are making our way slowly toward new seasons of ministry for Elim that are as exciting as they are change-ful. I wanted to write briefly on these new changes and the people that affect our day to day ministry at Elim.

Matthew John Smith may have a common English name, but Matt is far from an ordinary guy. Matt is also working closely with me to help formulate strategies for building deeper community at Elim. We've called his title the “Community and Mission Intern.” He brings to the internship a bright, curious and helpful spirit. I am excited as we are formulating some new strategies for “reaching in” toward one another through discipleship and fellowship, as well as reaching out to our neighborhood. Elim has had its fair share of Johnsons over the years...

and Olsons, (and other 'sons.')

Andy Johnson is our youth intern. Working directly with Rick, Andy is bringing needed support to that vital ministry to youth that we have here at Elim. I am excited about the possibilities that his giftedness brings!

My wife, **Heather Olson** started as the ministry assistant at the front desk and is also the coordinator of our intern office ministry assistants. She will be coordinating the interns over the summer as they take over front desk duties. **Kailyn Hill** is a graphic designer and the person I call the "Artist-in-Residence". Kailyn works closely with me behind the scenes to design all our internal and external communications. She is not the person to contact about where to find the table cloths, but she might answer you if you're asking what color table cloths you might want to use! We live in a time where you are judged heavily by your website and your 'branding' consistency. Right or wrong, it's what many visitors sense as a 'trust factor' when it comes to churches. I've told Kailyn I hope to see her fingerprints all over the building too! We are working on new professional looking signage and communications pieces to help direct traffic, and most importantly, help people (visitors and members) feel at home!

Pastor Becky is our pastor for Congregational Care. The "congregation" means the entire group of people who gather each week at Elim – homeless or not. She does a phenomenal job. She and I (along with many other prayer partners and discussion partners) have been journeying together over the past months, discerning what new possibilities await us in the Hope Avenue ministry. When it comes to our precious friends who are experiencing homelessness, we know that the way we do things is often more important than even what we do. Sometimes vision and change happen simultaneously and I feel that is very much the case here.

Rick Dischinger and **Deb Somody** head up our youth and children's ministries. Because of the new 3rd floor arrangement, more possibilities are there for ways in which our youth can minister to the children and visa-versa. Rick effortlessly (and tirelessly) works with our youth, facilitating for them engaging and fun ways to connect to God. The children's ministry is undergoing perhaps the greatest change! With a new space, the new ways in which we do ministry with Children will unfold as time allows. **Melanie Eslinger** continues to be a solid rock of organization for our music teams. I don't know what we would do without her consistency and heart for worship. I am praying along with the team for new inspiration in song writing and song choices as the team prays about the direction of part 3 of 'the Elim Project'.

I am so blessed to work with this staff! They are mature, strong, resilient, passionate and willing leaders. As we move forward into the rest of 2018, I ask for your understanding, patience and prayers as we find a new flow for the many tasks and opportunities we have each week to do ministry together at Elim. I see that these times of change require us to come together to have greater sense of cooperation and communication. Really, this means experiencing more of God's grace together – and that is what it's all about.

MONTHLY GIVING UPDATE

May Giving

Needed	\$39,333
Actual	\$27,652

Fiscal Year-to-Date (4/1/18 - 5/31/18)

Needed	\$78,667
Actual	\$85,287

ECY UPDATE

There is a lot happening with Elim Church Youth this summer! See the July events below and contact Rick Dischinger with any questions at rick@elimchurch.com

- July 11 - Science Museum and Omni Theater
- July 15-19 - Retreat at Ham Lake Camp!
- July 25 - Gibbs Farm or Fort Snelling (TBD)

Ham Lake Camp Retreat

Cost: \$210 (partial scholarships available)

Join Elim Church Youth for a retreat at the beloved Ham Lake Camp. Studies include Acts 16:29-31 and Tim Tebow's video series *"Shaken: Discovering you true identity in the midst of life's storms."* Activities include Valleyfair, canoeing on the St. Croix, and Wild Mountain, not to mention the fun stuff to do around the camp!



MISSIONS UPDATE

Carolyn Pinke, Missions Team

Missions: Until There is No Place Left!

Join together and let's pray for those we support:

- John and Elaine Mehn. Look at their faces and you can tell their focus is on teaching a closer walk with the Lord in Japan.
- Pam Isenhower and her team are poured out, teaching and discipling in the way of Jesus in Indonesia.
- Scott and Debb Sunblad are catalysts helping workers in Chad and Asia instruct men from previously unreached peoples in the crafting of Bible Stories in their own languages—for the first time ever. Our Sudanese family is now hearing those stories in their own tongue, Massalit!
- Jeff and Mary Ann Anderson train leaders and help the Philippino church reach street children, with a deep burning in their hearts.
- Steve and Nopaluck Cable teach English and plant small Thai churches, and lively women from the Philippines lead the Thai believers in worship!

If you and I lived where they walk, we would be excited to watch God at work!

As you serve the Master today, and some of us prepare for the trip to India next January 2019, think about these words:

Our vision focus is Jesus! He said, *"I have given them the glory that you gave me"* (John 17:20-24). *"I chose you to bear fruit—lasting fruit"* (John 15:16). *"Protect them from the evil one"* (John 15:15). *"They are not of the world... Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth"* (John 15:16, 17).

Hearts seek an intimate friendship with Jesus. Open your hands to the RAIN, you thirsty.

"Those who look to HIM are radiant" (Psalm 34:5)

ECK UPDATE

Deb Somody, Director of Children's Ministries

NEW SPACE, NEW NAME: THE LIGHTHOUSE

I am so excited for the new space and the new name the Lord has given us for our Kid's Ministry at Elim. On Tuesday a youth group from Montana came and spent the day serving us with God's heart to move us into our new space.

We have chosen to name our new space The Lighthouse. Lighthouses have long been a symbol of God's guiding light and how he provides safety for us. Lighthouses prevented shipwrecks on shoals. They prevented ships from entering shallows. They told crews that their vessels were where their maps said they were. Lighthouses have long been the symbol of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in Christianity. They guide us and show us where we need to go like God does.

"The Lord is my Light and my Salvation. Whom shall I fear?" -Psalm 27:1

Jesus told us that He is the Light of the World. When believers in Christ work together in unity, their fellowship of faith provides spiritual light in the world's darkness (Phil. 2:15-16). Jesus said, *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* -Matthew 5:14-16

Believers do the same individually and through our churches. We are God's lighthouse because Jesus lives in us. Through our Kid's Ministry here at Elim we have the opportunity to raise up lighthouses for Jesus.

*You are called with a holy calling
The light of the world to be;
To lift up the lamp of the Savior
That others His light may see. —Anon*



READ THE BIBLE IN 6 MONTHS - JULY

Get on pace with others from Elim as we read through the Bible chronologically over the next six months. Read and be refreshed as you encounter the Scripture! You can join us on Mondays at 10am in the lounge to discuss what we've read or do it on your own. Check the monthly Forecaster for the reading plan. We will be using the New Living Translation. You can get a copy at church. Email Pastor Becky at becky@elimchurch.com with any questions!

WEEK 1

Day 1, July 1: Genesis 1-5
Day 2, July 2: Genesis 6-9
Day 3, July 3: Genesis 10-13
Day 4, July 4: Genesis 14-19
Day 5, July 5: Genesis 20-26
Day 6, July 6: Genesis 27-33
Day 7, July 7: Genesis 34-40

WEEK 2

Day 8, July 8: Genesis 41-46
Day 9, July 9: Genesis 47-50, Job 1-3
Day 10, July 10: Job 4-9
Day 11, July 11: Job 10-17
Day 12, July 12: Job 18-24
Day 13, July 13: Job 25-32
Day 14, July 14: Job 33-40:5, Psalm 19

WEEK 3

Day 15, July 15: Job 40:6--42:17
Day 16, July 16: Exodus 1-9

Day 17, July 17: Exodus 10-18
Day 18, July 18: Exodus 19-24
Day 19, July 19: Exodus 25-32
Day 20, July 20: Exodus 33-40
Day 21, July 21: Leviticus 1-7

WEEK 4

Day 22, July 22: Leviticus 8-14
Day 23, July 23: Leviticus 15-22
Day 24, July 24: Leviticus 23-27, Numbers 1-2
Day 25, July 25: Numbers 3-9
Day 26, July 26: Numbers 10-16, Psalm 90, 95
Day 27, July 27: Numbers 17-24
Day 28, July 28: Numbers 25-32

WEEK 5

Day 29, July 29: Numbers 33-36, Deuteronomy 1-3
Day 30, July 30: Deuteronomy 4-11
Day 31, July 31: Deuteronomy 12-19

Hint: try reading half in the morning!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1: Barb Bremer
July 1: Martin Page
July 2: Ray Sotelo
July 2: Heather Carlson
July 3: Caleb Walden
July 4: Harley Schreck
July 6: Janet Wilson
July 8: Becky Nelson
July 10: Mary Kodet
July 10: Derren Abendroth
July 12: Stuart Champion

July 13: Emelia Nelson
July 17: Shirley Barnes
July 25: Susannah Eslinger
July 25: Katherine Stickler
July 27: Lloyd Goodman
July 29: Donovan Heide
July 29: Lisa Venkatrathnam
July 29: Peter Wolter
July 31: Robert Wadsten
July 31: Cherry Lampi
July 31: Helen Mohl

JULY EVENTS

The Elim Picnic will be held on July 1 at Logan Park after the church service, potluck style!

Women's Bible Study is held on Mondays 10:00am-11:30am in The Lounge

50+ Lunch is July 3, Noon-2:30pm in the Dining Room

Seniors Bible Study **will not be held in July**

Friday Morning Men's Group is held on Fridays at 6:30am in The Library

The Mariners Breakfast will be on July 10 from 9:00am-10:00am at the Original Pancake House (1661 County Rd B-2, Roseville)

The Elim Book Club will have its annual potluck on July 16 at 6:00pm, at the home of Shirley and Mary Barnes (1900 Central Ave NE). New members welcome! Call Barb Gabel with questions, 651 697 9613.

SAVE THE DATE:

"Summer Splash" VBS is August 13-17

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Roger Dahl, Church Chair

"90% of life is "just showing up" is a sometimes heard phrase that made it into a promo for a Keanu Reeves film awhile back. I saw the ad, but not the film. But the phrase has some validity.

Here is an odd example: Medieval Mongols were nomadic herding peoples, organized in individual clans and tribes. They covered a huge stretch of land as they needed large pastures to support their herds and flocks. They unified when threatened or when an opportunity for raiding promised success. To select the leader, or Khan, a tribe or a coalition of tribes would nominate a leader and call for a meeting of the tribes from far and wide. Those who showed were in favor of the proposed leader. Those who did not, were not. Showing up meant participation and joining the larger group. Examples closer to home: any coach or music director is insistent that practice is not optional; employers get frustrated by inconsistent employees, and as a teacher I told students that I cannot do anything for their development, and they cannot make as much progress, if they are not there.

Recent months, and especially recent weeks, have seen some serious work projects at Elim. Some folks were there often, some occasionally. Some came with skills and tools, some were lost until directed. Some were in their 70's and 80's, some were strapped to their parents – literally. Some were long-term Elim folks, some were fairly new and some were Hope Ave folks. What did they have in common? They showed up. Don't misunderstand me, many who did not get in on this had schedules that prevented it or they show up in many other ways – i.e. music team, cookie folks, clothes sorters, other projects etc.

"Showing up" exhibits one's sense of value in this community and God's work. It encourages others by just being there. It builds the community as we know each other better and it says that our work at Elim is God's work, even if it is inconvenient or tiring. That is also true for attendance in the worship service, classes, small groups, ECY, Summer Splash etc. Again, sometimes we have to be elsewhere. But it might be worth remembering that showing up is like God's grace. It does not require any special attributes, talents or wealth. God offers grace to all and we all can "show up" as evidence of our joy at receiving that grace.

MEET THE NEW ELIM INTERNS

Elim has been blessed with some amazing interns. Here is a bit about the guys!

ANDY JOHNSON

Andy is a down-to-earth, relational person with a heart for the Lord. Andy is a Senior at Bethel University studying Communications. Since he was a camper, Andy has been to Trout Lake Camp every year since 2005. Last summer he enjoyed the role of Program Events Coordinator. Andy is a creative and loves dreaming up ideas to bring new excitement into everyday life. Pastor Paul was a mentor and youth leader for Andy's home church, Becker Baptist. Andy doesn't know where God is leading him but he is willing to follow His call.



MATT SMITH

Matt is intentional with people and eager to follow God. He is currently studying Bible and Theology, as well as Missional Ministries at Bethel University, and hoping to graduate this fall. Matt is engaged to be married to Grace (the wonderful lady he is often seen with on Sundays), and their wedding will--Lord willing--take place on August 18th of this year. Matt has a passion for seeing purpose in humanity, value in each person, and our need to be in connection with our Creator.



CHURCH NOTICES



DONATIONS can now be dropped off in the donation bin by the elevator on the first floor. This includes Hope Avenue, The Unlimited, and Kidz Klozet. Thank you!

PLEASE do not flush baby or disposable wipes down the toilet, they clog the pipes!

ADULT SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

July 2018 - Elim Dining Room

Jed Hamoud - Study of Islam

Jed was born and raised in the Middle East. He was born into a Bedouin (nomadic) Muslim family. Due to his father being blind, poverty and abuse, at the age of 7 years Jed was brought into the Kids Alive Boys Home (an orphanage) near Beirut, Lebanon. As a result of the Christ-centered teaching at the Home, Jed accepted Christ. Jed immigrated to the US in 1971, graduated from college and spent his career working in the information Technology field. Jed served on the Kids Alive Board for seven years, retired from IT after which he served for four years with Kids Alive as Vice President of Operations for Africa and the Middle East. Jed now makes it his mission to speak at churches about Islam with the purpose of helping churches reach out to Muslims to lead them to Christ.



ELIM CHURCH STAFF

Paul Olson

Lead Pastor

Extension 106

paul@elimchurch.com

Becky Hanson

Pastor, Congregational Care

Hope Avenue

Extension 108

becky@elimchurch.com

Rick Dischinger

Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Extension 107

rick@elimchurch.com

Deb Somody

Director of Children's Ministry

Extension 102

deb@elimchurch.com

Linda Bonasera

Children's Ministry Admin

elimkids685@elimchurch.com

Kailyn Hill

Graphic Designer

kailyn@elimchurch.com

Steve Murck

Safety and Security

security@elimchurch.com

Melanie Eslinger

Worship Coordinator

melanie@elimchurch.com

Leonard Knight

Alberta Knight

Mark Gregory

Custodians

info@elimchurch.com

Leadership Team

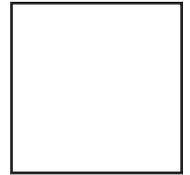
roger@elimchurch.com

Michelle Espelien

Elim Preschool Director

michelle@elimpreschool.org

Elim Church
 685 13th Ave NE
 Minneapolis, MN 55413



JULY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sunday Activities Church Picnic @ 11:45am	1 Bible Study @10-11:30am	2 50+ Lunch @ 12-2:30pm	3 HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY Office Closed	4	5 Friday Morning Men's Group @6:30am	6 7
8 Sunday Activities (No Sunday School)	9 Bible Study @10-11:30am	10 Mariners Breakfast @9-10am	11 ECY to Science Museum MerryMakers Event @5-8pm	12	13 Friday Morning Men's Group @6:30am	14
15 Sunday Activities ECY - Ham Lake	16 Bible Study @10-11:30am Elim Book Club @6-9pm ECY - Ham Lake	17 ECY - Ham Lake	18 ECY - Ham Lake	19 ECY - Ham Lake	20 Friday Morning Men's Group @6:30am	21
22 Sunday Activities	23 Bible Study @10-11:30am	24	25 ECY Outing TBA	26	27 Friday Morning Men's Group @6:30am	28
29 Sunday Activities	30 Bible Study @10-11:30am	31				