



THE FORECASTER

ELIM CHURCH | NE MPLS
DECEMBER 2021

A N O A S I S
I N T H E
C I T Y

The Names of Christmas

The many names of God arise out of the pages of Scripture to reveal the character, purpose, and nature of the being we call “God”. God is invisible, God is spirit, God is elusive, yet it is in the Christmas story that we see the names of God come alive.

Jehovah Tsedekenu - God Our Righteousness (Luke 1:5-25)

Luke describes Zechariah and Elizabeth as ‘righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord’ (Luke 1:7). An angel appears to Zechariah saying: “Your wife will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth” (Luke 1:13-14). However, the righteous but terrified Zechariah didn’t believe the angel Gabriel and became mute, or unable to speak, until the birth of his son, John. Even the greatest human attempts at righteousness fall short, but God’s righteousness is forever.

Jehovah Jireh - God the Provider (Luke 1:26-38)

One month later, Gabriel was sent to another town in Galilee called Nazareth to a virgin girl betrothed to a carpenter, Joseph. Through his servant Mary, God was going to provide a savior, the Son of the Most High (El Elyon), an heir to the throne of his ancestor David (Luke 1:32). The child to be born of Mary and the Holy Spirit will be the holy Son of God, Jesus (Luke 1:35). Through Jesus, God provides us righteousness, salvation, and a kingdom without end.

Jehovah Shammah - The Lord is Present (Luke 1:39-45)

Gabriel’s words to the women are fulfilled and both Mary and Elizabeth (her cousin) become pregnant. So, “Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb’” (Luke 1:39-42). With God’s presence, comes God’s blessing upon all humankind.

El Shaddai - The Mighty, All-Sufficient God (Luke 1:46-55)

Mary is overwhelmed by the promise and power of God to save her people. She exclaims, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for

he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant... for the Mighty One has done great things for me and holy is his name” (Luke 1:46-49). Mary foresees that this savior would vanquish evil, bring down the prideful, defeat the powerful and lift up the lowly and fill them with good things (Luke 1:51-53). The coming of God in Christ is bad news for pride, evil, and death, but good news for the poor, lowly and hungry.

Jehovah Shalom - The Lord is Peace (Luke 2:8-20)

The angels announced to the shepherds: “I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord... (they sang) Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace (shalom) among those whom he favors” (Luke 2:14). The song of the angels and shepherds that night reflects the very longing of all our hearts and the reason why Jesus came, to bring God’s holistic well-being to earth (peace). Jesus has come to bring peace to our world. Will we hear and profess his name?

Yeshua - The Lord Saves (Philippians 2:5-11)

The final name in the Christmas story is the name of Jesus - Yeshua. In Hebrew, it means God saves. Jesus came into our world, emptied himself, born in human likeness, humbling himself. Jesus’ obedience led him to empty himself, preach the good news, and be lifted up on a criminal’s cross. His cross led him under the earth to a garden grave. The garden grave led him to being raised on the third day. “Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:9-11).

These are the names of Christmas. I pray that this season is one of holy worship, awe, amazement, wonder and joy! Merry Christmas!

Paul Stephen Olson
Lead Pastor

Events

DAILY PRAYER & SCRIPTURE TIME WITH OUR PASTORS

@ 12 noon Monday - Friday
Join us for Scripture and prayer time at GoogleMeet
(no software is needed) Meeting URL:
<https://meet.google.com/ast-cxmh-ykk>
Phone: +1 401-684-3085 PIN: 724 649 481#

YOUTH GROUP

Every Wednesday · 6:30 pm
Youth Rooms
Enter the building on 13th Ave.

RE-COVERING IN GOD STUDY

Every Wednesday · 6 pm
Contact Sue Watlov Philips for more details. Enter the building on Madison Ave.

MORN. LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday · 10 am (online only). We will study the names of God during Advent alongside the sermon series. You can join the class by using the link or phone number above.

MENS' BIBLE STUDY

Every Friday · 8-9:30 am. Email Stephen Murck (smurck@gmail.com) If you would like to join. He will add you to the list of persons to whom he sends the email with the ZOOM link.

HOPE AVENUE MINISTRY

Every Saturday · 8-11 am (currently outside)
Kidz Klozet and the Unlimited are open on the first Saturday of each month. Starting December 2.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MERRY MAKERS BREAKFAST

Tuesday, December 14, at 9 am
Perkins, 1495 County Road B W, Roseville.
Reservations to B.Gabel by Dec. 10

MerryMakers Christmas Lunch

Saturday, December 18, at 12:30 pm
Nolby's, 2800 105th Avenue NE, Blaine.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Friday, Dec 24, 4-5:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, Dec 28, 6:30 pm in the Library.

FREEDOM IN CHRIST RECOVERY EVENT WITH JAY COPE

December 21 · 7-8:00pm
Every Third Tuesday of the month
<https://zoom.us/j/98924511537?pwd=U3R2RHIwK3BoWHhpaTNXVk94eDE0QT09>
Meeting ID: 989 2451 1537 **Passcode:** 112233
Phone: +1 312-626-6799 **Passcode:** 112233#

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/3 Matt Knutson	12/15 Chad Eslinger
12/4 Greg Howell	12/15 Ruth Hill
12/4 Steve Moseman	12/16 Ann Bremer
12/4 Kari Nelson	12/26 George Johnson
12/6 Felicity Champion	12/27 Dan Edinger
12/6 Brendan Marsh	12/29 Erin Hernick
12/12 John Bremer	12/31 Diane VanGrisven
12/14 Felix Klein	

UPCOMING ADULT CONNECTIONS CLASSES

DEC 5: All Ages Advent Family Prayer Gathering

DEC 12: Continental Breakfast NO Connection Classes

DEC 19: Holiday Break NO Connection Classes

DEC 26: Holiday Break NO Connection Classes

JAN 2: Holiday Break NO Connection Classes

JAN 9: Movie & Discussion in January Term (Middle School and Up)

December Events

ADVENT CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: Join your church family as together we celebrate Advent on Sunday, December 12, beginning in the festive dining room at 8:30 am. This time always promises a great time as we live into the words of Advent - hope, peace, love, joy.

STATIONS OF THE NATIVITY: This Christmas Season Elim will introduce the family-friendly "Stations of the Nativity" by Patrick Kelley.

Like Journey to the Cross, this takes you through 9 of the stations, from Annunciation to the visit of the Magi. This is a self-guided tour with Scripture, meditation, lessons, and psalms for reflection and celebration.

Available Sunday, December 19th through Christmas Sunday the 26th in the lower level kid's park space. Make this a part of your Christmas celebration!

Hope Avenue Twin Cities

Hope Avenue Twin Cities: We thank the Lord that the shelter for men experiencing homelessness will open on December 1 at 1229 Logan Avenue North. We are leasing 2/3s of the Apostolic Church which occupies and owns the building and who faithfully asked the Lord to use their building as a shelter. We have seen God's hand in this journey!

If you would like to volunteer with the rehab, please connect with Stephen Murck at stephen@hope-avenue.org or Kale Johnson.

You can continue to partner in this important work of the Lord with your financial gifts for shelter, food, and clothing. Please designate your tax-deductible gift to Hope Avenue Twin Cities, and just put it in the offering or mail it to the church. Together we can make it happen!! You can contact us at www.hope-avenue.org or through our treasurer: candace@hope-avenue.org

To date, we have raised \$75,000 for the work of the shelter. Thank you, Jesus, for the privilege of serving You -- and thank you, Elim, for supporting this work!

"O Come, O Come & Emmanuel"

This familiar hymn reminds us of Advent, a time traditionally marked for remembering the years of preparation and consecration prior to the coming of the Messiah. At Elim Church, we mark Advent with the display of a wreath - its circle reminding us of God Himself, eternal and endlessly merciful... it is evergreen - reminding us of the hope of eternal life. The four outer candles in the display represent the time of waiting and preparation for the Messiah during the four Sundays of Advent. The light emitted from these four candles reminds us of the Light of World, and the prophetic promise of His coming. The white central candle on the Advent wreath, lighted on Christmas, reminds us of Christ and the humble way He came to earth.

As Christians, we have tasted of His first coming as Savior, experiencing His forgiveness, grace and saving power. Through Scriptures, we have learned and embraced the truths of His virgin birth, His sinless life, His atoning death, and His glorious resurrection – a magnificent and redeeming event without comparison!

At Elim Church, we also appreciate and embrace another significance in this season of Advent. We affirm the promise that Jesus will one day, in the future, return to earth as our Sovereign Ruler. May we never lose sight of this as we experience the corrosive nature of unspeakable tragedy, uncertainty, and injustice in our world today.

Thank you, Jesus, for giving us strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow!

Jill Jezierski
Chair of Leadership Team

Afghan Immigrants

As we pray for our newest immigrants, the traumatized Afghans, listen to what Crescent Project leader Fouad Masri says:

"What would you guess is the highest need of Afghan people starting their new life? If you were to say, housing, clothing, and food, these are certainly important, but are not the highest needs. Nothing compares to the need for 'listeners'—caring people who do not just see a sea of foreigners with different habits and strange ways, but women, men, children who have just been through the most distressing days of their entire lives. Despite the language barriers, the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit beautifully transcend the cultural divide.

There is much more work to be done!

I sense that God has just opened one of the most significant doors in all our ministry — helping scores of communities and churches to address tens of thousands of refugees. — And the demand for our help does not stop at the U.S. border!

- The day after Thanksgiving, we head to Europe to build into hundreds of Christian leaders in Zurich.
- Austria is next, where I'm speaking to English and German-speaking Christians to help identify their unique opportunities to reach Muslims. They are so hungry!
- Budapest is next, where pastors are awaiting our help, and the opportunities for reaching Muslims are immense!
- Then Barcelona, Spain, where we are assessing strategic partnerships that touch not only Europe but perhaps North Africa!
- Finally, doors have opened for us to invest in leaders throughout France, as we gather in Paris for a summit of leaders, which according to The Jewish Press, is in 'The Final Stage of De-Christianization.' That should send chills down our spine and force us to our knees!

Friends — these opportunities are unprecedented! Many of you have joined us for years, praying that God would open the doors of opportunity — and GOD HAS

OPENED THE WORLD! With all the enthusiasm I feel, however, I am also sobered by the fact that no amount of teaching about reaching Muslims will be effective if Christian leaders and Christ-followers are not on fire for the Gospel and convinced of the absolute Lordship of Jesus Christ!

- Pray for revival!
- Pray for our entire team, engaged in hundreds of conversations right now with Muslims and Christ-followers!"

(A word from Fouad Masri, Crescent Project leader, and God's servant to those still not aware of how deeply they are loved by the One who made them!)

Let's pray!

*Carolyn Pinke and the
World Missions Team*

Anissa Lubbers

We applaud the work of Anissa Lubbers as she has faithfully and creatively served the youth and children's ministries as the Family Ministries Coordinator. And while we will greatly miss her leadership in this role, we celebrate that she has secured full-time work with an architectural firm. Thank you, Jesus, for Anissa! We are blessed by you!

*Thank
you*

Greetings from Preschool !!

It has been such a busy year here at preschool, and now that it is a little bit calmer, it is time to catch up!

Our spring and summer were wonderful. We had so many fun adventures and kept the kids busy with a wide variety of activities. I was in a classroom last school year with a group of school age children ranging from kindergarten-2nd grade. It was the best place to be with the state of the world, as children have so much love to share.

Our summer ended and we said goodbye to many friends and families. We had 18 families move from the city this year. It was hard to say goodbye to so many wonderful people.

We started our 2021-2022 school year with fewer children, but our enrollment is now up to 60! It is a blessing to be able to serve these wonderful families and children.

The preschool staff of 8 (including me) are all doing well. We are all thankful every day and we are doing our best to stay healthy. We are sometimes in need of more sleep (or more coffee!) but all the love and laughter get us through.

We are able to celebrate the season this year with a small Christmas program and it is wonderful to see and hear the excitement when the kids sing! Since we have been unable to gather for the last 1.5 years, the program gives us hope.

In January of 2022 we will begin registration for the new school year 2022-2023. It is incredible to think that the preschool is over 60 years old! So many of our parents came to school here, and the memories they share are all of kindness and love. This is Elim Preschool.

We wish you all a blessed season filled with so much love and hope.

**Michelle and the
Elim Preschool Staff**

The Bible Reading Plan

Regular Bible reading is one of the most important spiritual disciplines that you are encouraged to develop.

- It anchors you in God's wisdom and hope,
- strengthens your faith,
- and reminds you of the Lord's instructions and promises.

Contact Pastor Becky for more information:

(612) 789 - 3591

becky@elimchurch.com

Join us at this point in the reading plan. knowing the Word of God promises to change a life... yours!

December 2021

	John	Peter	Job	Ezekiel
1.	• 7:37-44	• 1:1-11	• 1	• 1-3
2.	• 7:45-53	• 1:12-21	• 2	• 4-8
3.	• 8:1-11	• 2:1-9	• 3	• 9-12
4.	• 8:12-20	• 2:10-16	• 4	• 13-15
5.	• 8:21-30	• 2:17-22	• 5	• 16
6.	• 8:31-47	• 3:1-9	• 6	• 17-19
7.	• 8:48-59	• 3:10-18	• 7	• 20-21
		1 John		
8.	• 9:1-12	• 1:1-4	• 8	• 22-23
9.	• 9:13-25	• 1:5-10	• 9:1-20	• 24-26
10.	• 9:26-41	• 2:1-11	• 9:21-35	• 27-28
11.	• 10:1-10	• 2:12-17	• 10	• 29-30
12.	• 10:11-21	• 2:18-23	• 11	• 31-32
13.	• 10:22-42	• 2:24-29	• 12	• 33-34
14.	• 11:1-16	• 3:1-10	• 13	• 35-37
15.	• 11:17-37	• 3:11-18	• 14	• 38-39
16.	• 11:38-44	• 3:19-24	• 15:1-16	• 40-41
17.	• 11:45-57	• 4:1-6	• 15:17-35	• 42-44
18.	• 12:1-11	• 4:7-21	• 16	• 45-47
19.	• 12:12-19	• 5:1-12	• 17	• 48
		2 John		Daniel
20.	• 12:20-36	• 5:13-21	• 18	• 1-2
		3 John		
21.	• 12:37-50	• 1-13	• 19	• 3-4
		Jude		
22.	• 13:1-11	• 1-14	• 20	• 5-6
23.	• 13:12-17	• 1-7	• 21:1-21	• 7-8
24.	• 13:18-30	• 8-16	• 21:22-34	• 9
25.	• 13:31-38	• 17-25	• 22	• 10-12

Elim Church Staff

Our staff here at Elim Church encourage meaningful, Christ centered relationships and communication with all people.

MONTHLY GIVING UPDATE

October Giving

Needed \$35,833

Actual \$28,888

Fiscal Year-to-Date (4/1/21 - 10/31/21)

Needed \$250,833

Actual \$251,233

Paul Olson
Lead Pastor
Extension 106
paul@elimchurch.com

Becky Hanson
Pastor, Congregational Care
Hope Avenue
Extension 108
becky@elimchurch.com

Melanie Eslinger
Worship Coordinator
melanie@elimchurch.com

Heather Olson
Interim, Children's Church
heather@elimchurch.com

Stephen Murck
Safety and Security
security@elimchurch.com

Andy Johnson
Youth Leader and Mission Resident
andy@elimchurch.com

Jill Jezierski
Chair of Leadership Team
jill@elimchurch.com

Michelle Espelien
Elim Preschool Director
michelle@elimpreschool.org

Brody Hed
Elim Intern and Mission Resident
broderickhed@gmail.com

Brandon Martinez-Luhmann
Mission Resident
bbm25767@bethel.edu

Gloria Metz
Office Manager
info@elimchurch.com

Kim Beck
Office Assistant
info@elimchurch.com

Elim Church
 685 13th Ave NE
 Minneapolis, MN 55413



December 2021

Noon Prayer Time is Monday-Friday

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

			1 <i>Re-Covering In God</i> Elim Youth	2 Staff Meeting	3 Men's Bible Study	4 Hope Ave. Ministry w/Kids Klozet & The Unlimited
5 Worship Service All Ages Advent Family Prayer Gathering	6	7 Women's Bible Study Bldg.Main.Team Mtg.	8 <i>Re-Covering In God</i> Elim Youth	9	10 Men's Bible Study	11 Hope Ave. Ministry
12 Advent Continental Breakfast Worship Service NO Connection Classes	13	14 MerryMakers Bkfst Women's Bible Study Freedom in Christ	15 <i>Re-Covering In God</i> Songwriting/Poetry Elim Youth	16	17 Men's Bible Study	18 Hope Ave. Ministry MerryMakers Event
19 Sunday Activities NO Connection Classes	20	21 Women's Bible Study	22 <i>Re-Covering In God</i> Elim Youth	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 4 pm	25 Hope Ave. Ministry
26 Sunday Activities NO Connection Classes	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED Leadership Team Mtg.	29 <i>Re-Covering In God</i> Elim Youth	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED for New Years	1 Hope Ave. Ministry

Phone
612-789-3591

Fax
612-789-9601

Elim Website
elimchurch.com

Elim Facebook
elimchurchmpls

Elim YouTube
elimchurchmpls