

Elim Church

November 20, 2022, 10:00 am

“A Secret Life of Righteous Reward”

*“The Lord will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.” (Isaiah 58:11)*

Welcome to Worship!

We Believe

Announcements and [Offering](#)

Oceans

Pastoral Prayer

*Lord, Speak To Me
King of My Heart **

“A Secret Life of Righteous Reward” (SOTM, Part 10)

Pastor Paul Stephen Olson

My Worth Is Not In What I Own

Benediction

Postlude



SERMON
ON THE
MOUNT
SERMON SERIES

** Children, ages 3-5th grade,
will be dismissed to Children's Church.*

Join us next week in-person or online at 10 am
at facebook.com/elimchurchmple/live

Check out audio sermons from past weeks
at www.elimchurch.com/sermon-archive

EVENTS Today

Masks are not required for attendees at Elim. As always, please take any precautions to protect your health and the health of others

WELCOME TO ELIM THIS MORNING!

- TODAY:**
- 9:30 am The Gathering with Bagels and Beverages (Dining Room)
 - 9:45 am Prayer Room for anyone needing prayer with the pastors
 - 10 am **Worship Service** (in person and on Facebook)
<https://www.facebook.com/ElimChurchMpls/live>
 - 3:00 pm ECY Sunday Vikings Game @ Bremers! Ann and Tim Bremers are inviting the youth group and their families to their house for the Vikings game. The game's at 3:25. And since the game will go through the dinner hour, we can provide hot dogs/brats and buns, and everyone can bring something to share. Beat those Cowboys!

UPCOMING EVENTS and NEWS

The following individuals have applied for membership at Elim. They have been interviewed by the pastors, and are presented to the congregation for membership: **Ann Bremer, Chad Eslinger, Melanie Eslinger, Andy Johnson, Adam Klein, and Renee Klein**. Their names will be published in the bulletin for two weeks and then forwarded to the Leadership Team for final approval. Please connect with a Leadership Team member if you have any questions or comments you'd like to share.

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Noon Prayer Time Holiday Schedule: No noon prayer time on the following dates

- November 24-25 – Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 26, 2022, through January 2, 2022 – for the Christmas Holiday (beginning again on January 3)

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11/26: HANGING OF THE GREENS

Help us decorate the church for the upcoming Christmas season! We will gather at 2:00 pm on Saturday, November 26. Cookies and hot chocolate will be provided.

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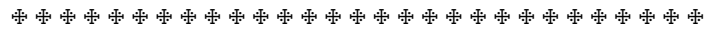
December: During Sunday Connections 11 am-Noon in December, we are going to be celebrating Advent together as a church family. These times are for all ages and will be fun and appropriate for all ages. Meets in the Dining Room.

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12/4: No Sunday Connections this day. We will take the Better Together vote during it.

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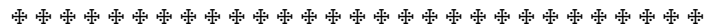
12/11: Christmas Brunch 8:30-9:45 am in the dining room. Join your church family as together we celebrate Advent.



12/14: MerryMakers Pot Luck Christmas Lunch will take place on December 14th at 12:30 pm at Clayton & Doris Nolby's home: 2800 105th Avenue NE in Blaine. Bring some cookies!

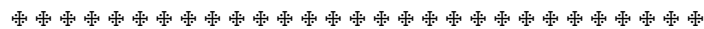
A-M last names bring salads or side dishes

N-Z last names bring a main dish



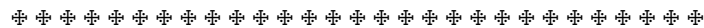
Coming soon - CHRISTMAS BUDDIES prayer initiative!

Building on the success of *Easter Buddies* in the spring, we have a new prayer initiative in the works: CHRISTMAS BUDDIES! Be on the lookout for more information on praying for one of our Elim kids/youth during the upcoming Advent season! More details to follow.



Deep Prayer Art Work

The art installation in the gathering area is made by Polly McCann who attended Elim years ago. She created these painted upholstery canvases to represent the 12 tribes of Israel. As you view the artwork think deeply about the prayers attached to each one. These 12 panels show twelve types of people and communities we can pray for.



UPDATED Hope Avenue Twin Cities: We are raising the funds to open an overnight shelter this winter for men in need as we hold out the hope, healing, and love of Christ. We invite you to partner with us through your financial donation, the gifting of used winter clothing, or volunteering of your time. However, we covet your prayer. We do not receive federal or county funds to support the shelter because we will not compromise on speaking the Gospel. As such we look to God's people to lead His work.

You may designate your tax-deductible gift to *Hope Avenue Twin Cities*, and just put it in the offering or mail it to the shelter. Together we can make it happen!! Or you can click on: www.hope-avenue.org and click on donate.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE:

What is God doing and how can we partner with Him in that work?

“A Secret Life of Righteous Reward” (SOTM Part 10)

Pastor Paul Stephen Olson

The transforming initiatives of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount call his disciples to make a radical departure from the world. Giving to the poor, prayer and fasting have been religious practices for millennia. But Jesus’ distinctive way draws us deeper into a secret life of righteous reward.

Jesus teaches on three common religious practices he assumes his followers will do: (Lexham)

- **Almsgiving (vv. 1-4)** “when doing your alms”: *alms* - the act of contributing money or goods to the poor; especially as flowing from a disposition to kindness and compassion.
- **Prayer (vv. 5-15)**, “when praying”: *prayer* - a petition or request made to a deity
- **Fasting (vv. 16-18)** “when fasting”: *fast* — to abstain from certain foods, as for religious reasons.

Jesus’ Warning! Communal religious practices can be a breeding ground for hypocrisy and deception. Jesus stands in the prophetic tradition of Isaiah (see ch. 58), Jeremiah 7:4-8, 21-23, and Psalm 40:6-8

Three transformative qualities that characterize Christ-Followers “Religious” practices...

Secrecy

- “They were not giving, but buying. They wanted the praise of men, they paid for it, and they have got it.” Plummer (London, 1909)
- “if it were possible, it may be concealed from the very hands that minister.” (Chrysostom, Homily Matthew, 350A.D.)
- See parallel in Mt 25:37–40: “When did we feed you, Lord?” (Nothing is hidden from the LORD)

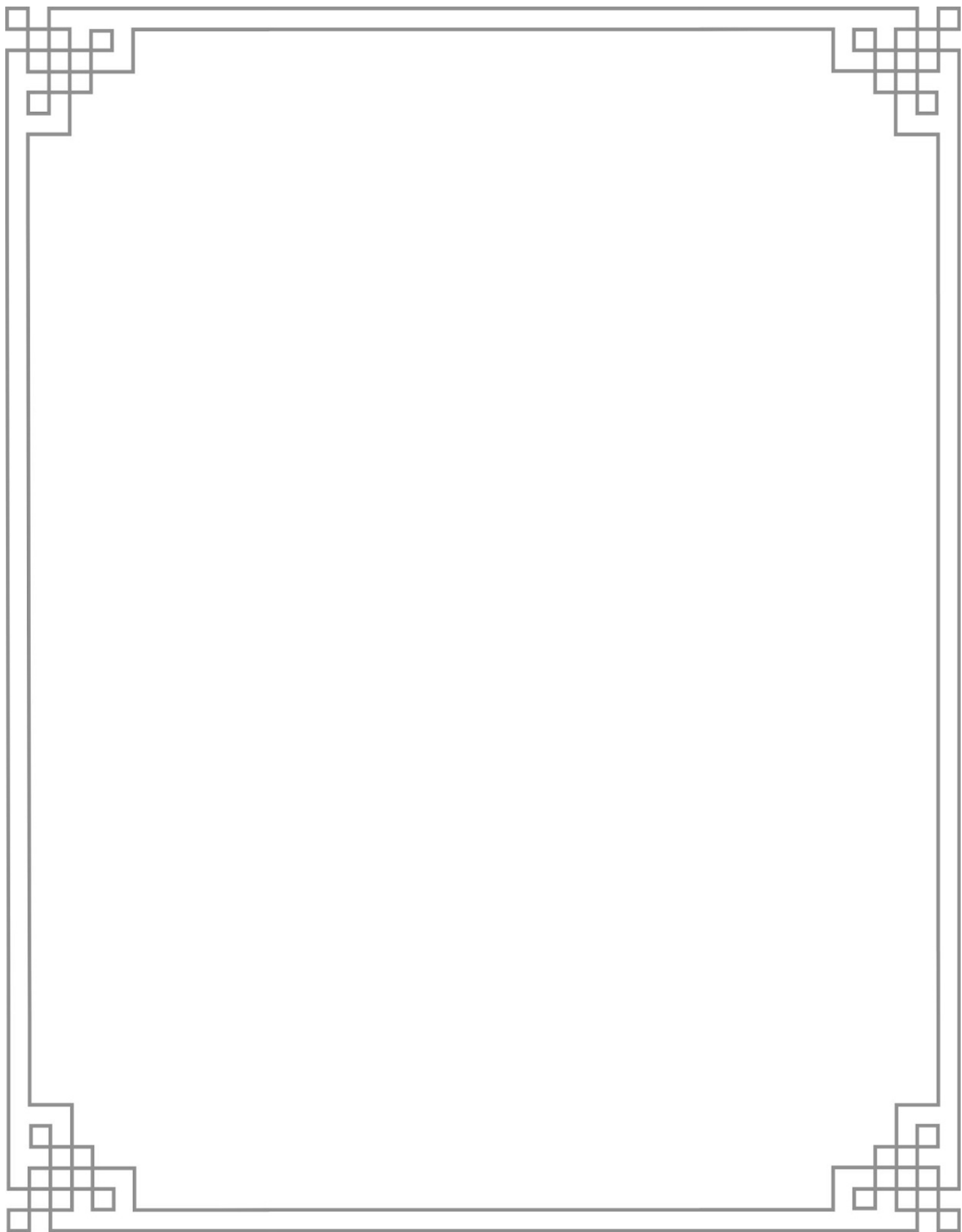
Distinctiveness

- “All our strategies for helping the poor need to be anchored in understanding ourselves as citizens in God’s kingdom.” - Practicing the King’s Economy
- “the use of ‘abbā’ in prayer was something special, a sign of unprecedented intimacy with God. (Rom.8:15-16, Davies and Allison)
- “Prayer is to the Father through the Son” (*De orat.* 10ff., Origen, ~220AD)
- “Street prayer” - Jesus isn’t condemning public prayer but rather “praying as the gentiles do”

Reward

- The one who prays: “Christ is standing beside him, helping him to pray, praying for him. You see what is happening. God is the thing to which he is praying—the goal he is trying to reach.” (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity)
- So prayer, the purpose of which is not to exercise the tongue, does not inform or remind God of anything; it is instead worship, and it serves to cleanse the mind, purify the heart, and align one’s will with God’s will. (Davies, Allison)

Next Week (11/27): First Sunday of Advent (HOPE), SOTM Series Continues: Part 11 Matt 6:19-24 Where is your treasure? What gives you hope?

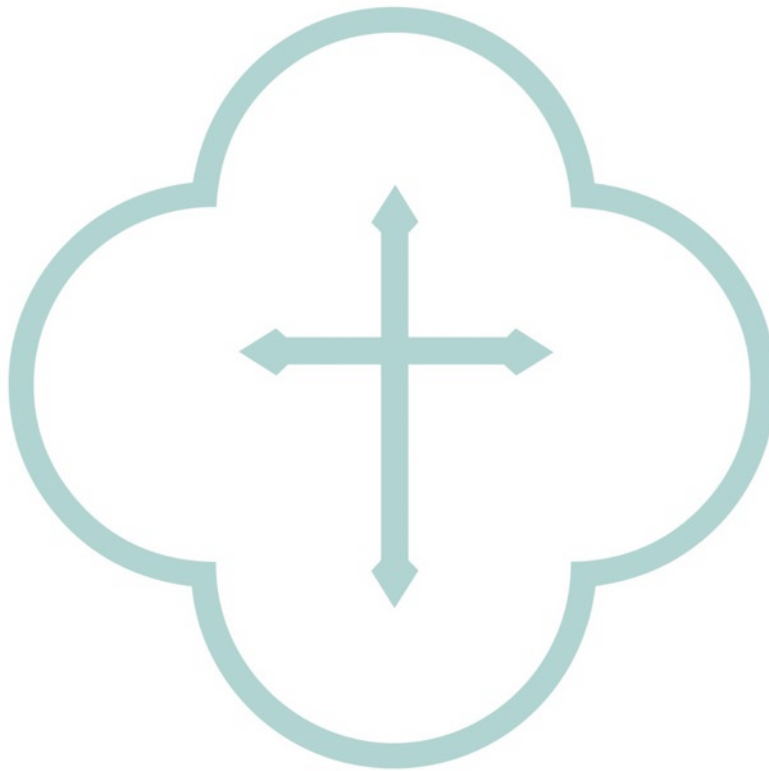


This Week (Nov. 20-27)

Mon-Fri:	12 noon	Noon Online Prayer Meeting URL: https://meet.google.com/ast-cxmh-ykk Phone: +1 401-684-3085 PIN: 724 649 481#
Mon:	10 am	Women's Bible Study on Mark at the online link above
Tues:	6:30-8 pm	Bible Study on <i>Find Your People</i> at the online link above
Wed:	6-7 pm	<i>Re-Covering in God</i> Bible Study
	6:30-8 pm	Youth Group meeting
	6:30-8 pm	GriefShare in the Lounge
Thurs:	All Day	OFFICE CLOSED for Thanksgiving Holiday
Fri:	All Day	OFFICE CLOSED for Thanksgiving Holiday
	8-9:30 am	Men's Bible Study online
Sat:	2:00 pm	Hanging of the Greens

Save The date (check the events page for information that may be available):

~~ Sun, 12/4	Better Together Voting
~~ Tues, 12/6, 6-8:30 pm	Building Maintenance Meeting
~~ Wed, 12/7, 6:30 pm	GriefShare last meeting
~~ Sun, 12/11, 8:30-9:45 am	Christmas Brunch
~~ Tues, 12/13, 6:30 pm	Leadership Team meeting
~~ Wed, 12/14, 12:30 pm	MerryMakers Pot-Luck Christmas Lunch
~~ Wed, 12/14, 6:30 pm	Wednesday Night Live w/supper by Hot Wok



Giving at a Glance

October Giving:

Needed – \$ 39,500
Received – \$ 45,035

Fiscal Year-to-Date:

Needed – \$ 276,500
Received – \$ 277,359

Paul Stephen Olson - Lead Pastor
Interim, Youth Leader
paul@elimchurch.com

Becky Hanson - Pastor, Congregational Care
becky@elimchurch.com

Kari Nelson - Pastor, Children's Ministry
kari@elimchurch.com

Leslie Smith - Chair of Leadership Team
leslie@elimchurch.com

Melanie Eslinger - Worship Coordinator
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