

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.

Elim Lutheran Church of Petaluma, California



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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PASTOR'S REPORT

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;
All are welcome, all are welcome, All are welcome in this place. (All Are Welcome ELW # 641)*

Elim is a place where all are welcome. Time and time again, I hear from visitors how welcoming and friendly the people of Elim are. It is the love of Christ which prompts and encourages us to love and welcome all to Elim!

It is a holy privilege for me to serve as your pastor. And what an incredible joy it is to be able to delete "Interim" from my email signature!

I believe and trust that the Holy Spirit is with us at Elim Lutheran Church! So many people have stepped forward to serve in creative and amazing ways so that the ministry of bringing God's love to the community can continue from this place!

Here is a list – which isn't exhaustive by any means – of the many ministries we've engaged in together this past year:

- 2 Festival Choirs
- Our Little Shepherd Lutheran Preschool
- Preschool Fundraiser (I attended along with Sheldon and Laine Gen)
- Adult Education on the 1st Sunday of the month: "Baptized We Live"
- Leading the Petaluma Pride Parade
- Children's Chapel led by Lauren and I (twice a week)
- Elim Lutheran Church Women Events: Women's Retreat, Women's Luncheon and Women's Craft Day
- A Grand Installation on February 19! and over-the-top, fabulous Reception
- 14 New Members
- Monthly Communion Kids activity

- Confirmation Classes twice a month: Lucy Bishop, Eva Garabaldi, Stella Prime, Max Caselli, Elliott Prime and Daphne Widger
- Weekly Inter-faith Food Pantry
- Tuesday night Bible Study Online
- Annual Youth Event in Rescue at the Primes'
- Mt. Cross Weekend with Elementary and Middle School students
- Watchful Presence at B 'Nai Israel Jewish Center on Rosh Hashanah

We are so grateful to Sue and Ben Barnes who served as our voting members this past year at our Synod Assembly. It was a difficult one and culminated at the end of the weekend with the resignation of our Bishop Megan Rohrer. Our Presiding Bishop appointed Bishop Claire Burkat as our Interim Bishop.

Staff: It continues to be a great pleasure working with such a fine staff at Elim!

Dr. of Music - Lauren Haile: She continues to delight us with the joy, energy and creativity she brings to her ministry of music. She encourages the musical gifts of so many of our members and is also a magnet for fine talent in our community.

Office Manager - Erin Hetrick Hohenner: Her organizational skills, her willingness to help in any way she can, and her love for Elim make her indispensable.

Bookkeeper - Richard Maxon: He works in so many ministry arenas at Elim and puts his heart and soul into it. His attention to detail is a gift for all of us in terms of caring for our financial resources.

Bulletin Editor - Barb Villa: A true partner in our Worship and Music Ministry. She is competent with her computer skills and shares her gift of creativity for our children.

Bulletin Folder - Fran Wilson: She is so much more than a bulletin folder. She sends out Elim Express to our members who don't use the computer, so that they don't feel forgotten. She

sends out weekly mailings to our Homebound members so that they don't feel forgotten. She's also available and willing to assist as needed – and volunteers all her time!

Leadership Team

Laine Gen, as our President, has spent hours gracefully facilitating many of the areas of ministry at Elim, manages our meetings and has been instrumental in helping our LT look forward to our future. Brava!

Many thanks to our fine LT who work together as a fine, dedicated team to help Elim run smoothly.

Vice President: Walt Griffith

Treasurer: Andrea Nortz

Secretary: Maria Svinth

Members-at-Large: Tom Harris, Becky Garibaldi, Ian Labberton

Call Committee

What a fine job they did – careful, thorough, and persistent! Many thanks!

Co-Chairs: Rosemary Hart and Peter Labberton

Members: Mary Thomas, Mary Wyrick, Fred Svinth, Susan Rodkin

Mutual Ministry Team

I'm so grateful to them for their support of me in my ministry.

Alex Miller, Nancy Clarke, Nathan Widger, Catherine Winters, Maria Svinth

Tech Team

We are able to provide an excellent worship online experience which some 20 – 25 people watch every Sunday. We also have great sound in the sanctuary for those who are worshipping in person. Many thanks to these people for providing that for us every week: Kevin Prime, Andy Hohenner, Paul Haile, Maria Svinth

Facilities Team

There are so many people who care for and maintain our grounds and facilities. Indeed! From overseeing the project when our water main broke, to weeding and mowing, to the

community garden, to changing the candle in the eternal light, to replacing lightbulbs in the office kitchen, and to all those of you who have put in your time at our Workdays!! Thank you – Thank you!

Rosemary Hart (former chair), Rich Rodkin (current chair), Cynthia and Walt Griffith, George Matt, Don Bent, Tom Harris, Therese Van Wiele, and so many, many more!

Personal Note of Thanks

My heart is filled with gratitude for you calling me to Elim as your “regular” pastor! It was challenging for us all to wait and wait and wait for this to occur! The Reception was fabulous! My colleagues were so impressed with the hospitality they received, and everyone told me how wonderful the service and food were! A special thanks to our Dr. of Music, Lauren, and our musicians, for putting in so much extra time and energy to make that service shine!

I also want to thank you for your support of me after the passing of my Mom. She enjoyed watching worship online and felt like she was a part of our community. Your expressions of sympathy and love meant so much to me and my family.

The Ethiopian Cross is my gift to Elim in thanksgiving to Elim! I am so grateful to Don Bent for making such a lovely staff and stand for the cross.

My white chasuble was given new embroidered crosses which Genki Ripich created. Many thanks to him and to Kathy Matt for sewing them on, with silk thread!

May God bless Elim as we step into the future together!

Pastor Kathryn Ann Gulbranson

Pastoral Acts:

Memorial & Graveside Services

10/1/22: Doris Waters (Fernwood, Mill Valley, CA)

10/8/22: Corrine Christopherson

10/15/22: Cindy Williamsen (San Francisco)

1/7/22: Sue Kinsman

1/21/22: Shirley Gulbranson (Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Yreka, CA)

1/28/22: Martha Sabourin

4/22/23: B. Marshall West (Pr. Bill Wessner Presided)

5/6/23: Ray Gergus (Marin Lutheran Church, Corte Madera)

5/20/23: Melvia Rowland

5/29/23: Len Svinth

Weddings

7/30/22: Teresa Dinter and Derek Metcalfe (Essex, Massachusetts)

9/17/22: Adair Osterle and Karen Dietrich (Nicasio, California)

Holy Baptisms

5/23/22: Madison, Lucy and Grace Bishop

5/30/22: Margot Jones (Shepherd of the Hills, Tiburon)

3/19/23: Kathryn Nielsen

4/18: Nolan Silveri

8/14: Patricia Alexandro

10/9: Elsie Booker

10/16: Mark Norman

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What an incredible year it has been! One year ago, Elim did not know if we would be allowed to call Pastor Kathryn as our permanent pastor. We faced an \$80,000 budget deficit if we were going to have a full time pastor, so we made the difficult decision to renew her temporary contract at 80% time. The highly contagious omicron variant of COVID was sweeping through the United States. It was an uncertain and scary time. And yet, we remained hopeful and Pastor Kathryn remained faithful to serving our congregation as an interim.

Fast forward to May, 2023. We have a highly experienced, permanent pastor: our beloved PK! We have a thriving music program, a weekly interfaith food pantry, social opportunities for men, women, and children, a wonderful preschool and Scout troops, and every week, new people are discovering Elim's message of God's love for ALL people, both in person and online. We also now also have a very nearly-balanced budget, thanks to our members, who bravely met the challenge of a stewardship campaign led by the Rodkins and the Svinths, and to the additional income from our new renters upstairs. Thanks be to God! This is really nothing short of a miracle.

Yes, there is a lot of ugliness and reasons to despair in the world, but Elim is the antidote. People at Elim are busy caring, cooking, knitting, and praying for one another, feeding the hungry, making beautiful music and crafts, praising God, marching for justice, and loving our neighbors. Elim is a place of hope, love, and forgiveness, and each one of you makes it so. It has been my absolute privilege to serve this congregation this past year. I want to thank Pastor Kathryn for the incredible time, energy, humor and compassion she brings to her job. I also want to thank my fellow members on LT: Walt Griffith (our VP), who kept on top of all our facilities needs; Andrea Nortz (treasurer), who prepared financial reports every month; Maria Svinth (secretary), who started our visitation team and helped out with our confirmation program in addition to her secretarial duties; Becky Wyrick (member-at-large), who organized our summer barbecues, craft fairs, egg hunt and more; Tom Harris (M-A-L), who is busy making our church more energy efficient; and finally, Ian Labberton (M-A-L), who brought an amazing institutional memory to our meetings, an angelic voice to our services, and said yes to every request.

In addition, our staff serves this church so faithfully. Barb prepares our bulletins as well as tons of creative materials to enhance our worship; Cindy keeps the place clean; Erin manages 1 million details in the office, Kim and all the Little Shepherd teachers demonstrate God's love for children so beautifully; Lauren plans and plays amazing music; and Richard pays the bills with great attention to detail and makes sure the church is always locked and secured! We are lucky to have a staff that is not only competent but enjoys working together. And, last but not least, we are blessed to have YOU, the members who volunteer on countless committees to enhance our worship, our facilities and our programs.

As you may have heard, I plan to serve a third and final year as your president. I will be delegating more responsibility to other members of LT to help them prepare to take over once I

term out. Now that we are entering a period of stability and even growth, it is time for us to engage in strategic planning to discern where we want to put our time and resources in the next 3-5 years. Stay tuned for more information about that process this summer. We want all of you involved in voicing your opinion. And we want each one of you involved in the life of our church! Whether you are new or have been here 60 years, there is a role for you. Where can you serve? Do you want to help occasionally in worship or at the food pantry? Or do you want a longer commitment? We are recruiting now for the following teams: Audit, Christian Education, Facilities, Finance, Outreach and Visitation. Together, we will continue to live out Elim's mission to invite all people to grow in God and to work together to heal and transform the community in Jesus' name. Alleluia!

Regards, Lain Gen

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Communion Kids, 2nd to 5th Grade

This past year we had 4 to 6 kids attend Communion Kids classes and activities while learning about Holy Communion. Activities included; painting bowls for the 1000 Petaluma Bowls Event, going to Mt. Cross for an elementary/middle school weekend, cookie decorating and distributing them in the neighborhood, craft activities, and more! Many thanks to the adults, especially Amy York, who helped make these activities fun. A special thank you to Elim's Endowment Committee who gifted a grant so that all kids could participate in all the activities.

Confirmation

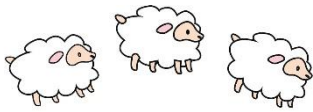
Confirmation classes and activities were held twice a month throughout the year. Activities included bowling, a weekend in Rescue at the Prime's, potluck with the parents, receiving Bibles, pool party, and Christmas Caroling. Attendees included Lucy Bishop, Eva Garibaldi,

Stella Prime, Elliott Prime, Max Casselli, and Daphne Widger. These confirmands will be confirmed in 2024. Confirmation activities will continue during the summer where upcoming 6th and 7th graders will be invited to join.

Vacation Bible School/Day Camp

Due to staffing issues Elim was not able to have a Day Camp with Mt. Cross Ministries in the summer 2022. There will not be a VBS program in 2023. If we would like to have a VBS program in 2024, or invite Mt. Cross to do a day camp (if they offer one), we will need a coordinator, or a committee to make this happen. If you are interested, please contact Erin in the office.

Little Shepherd Preschool



Little Shepherd Lutheran Preschool

Director:
Kim Naugle;
Assistant Director:
Cindy Conner
Teachers:
Debbie George,
Melissa Burgess, Cindy Skanderson, Bridget
Buell, Teresa Skanderson, Rhonda Holt, Teja
Burgess

Dear Elim Friends,

Thank you to all who have faithfully prayed for Little Shepherd Preschool this year. We've had a fantastic year with 80 preschoolers. They are so happy to be in class to learn and play with friends. The students are supported by 8 wonderful, dedicated, and loving teachers. We love meeting with Pastor Kathryn and Lauren Haile for Children's Chapel and Choir every

week. The children are learning basic bible stories and love to sing the songs they learn in chapel.

Our Spring fundraiser was a huge success this year. After a three year break, we were finally able to gather and celebrate our Little Shepherd Community and raise money for our school. I'm grateful to the teachers, children, families, the Elim leadership team, and congregation for their prayers and support.

This year, our graduation will be held on June 7 to celebrate our 29 Little Shepherd Preschool graduates who will be moving on to kindergarten next year. We pray that we have given them a foundation that fosters a love for school, a curiosity for learning, and a kind, loving heart.

Blessings,
Kim Naugle
Little Shepherd Lutheran Preschool Director

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Elim Lutheran Church Women (ELCW)

Submitted by Doris Widger, President

The ELCW Board:

Doris Widger, President; Kathy Matt, Vice-President; Mercedes Cooke, Secretary; Andrea Nortz, Treasurer; and Karen Pesutich, Elizabeth Circle representative.

The Women's group at Elim got busy this past year now that we can meet in person again!

Our board met almost every month to plan and organize events for women. And Elizabeth Circle (third Tuesday, in the early afternoon) met every month for a Bible study. Esther Circle met a few times as well.

May 2022: We gave flowers to every woman at church on Mother's Day.

July 2022: Twenty-two women attended our Saturday summer gathering. We enjoyed a potluck salad bar lunch and Pastor Kathryn led a Bible study that explored how our lives and Christian communities come together into a cohesive whole, including people of all shapes and sizes, abilities, and talents. Like a quilt! We also presented an updated Constitution and Bylaws for the ELCW to be voted on at our next business meeting.

November 2022: Over 30 women (including some from Marin Lutheran Church) attended our retreat, held at Ralston White Retreat Center in Mill Valley. It was a drizzly sort of day we had a fun and relaxing time. Pastor Kathryn led the retreat. We had great food and had time for a craft too.

December 2022: We had a Christmas Party, with soup (thank you, Sheldon Gen), salad and bread, as well as appetizers and treats brought by

women who attended the event. Robin Butts told us a great story, we had a short business meeting and then put together bags of goodies and surprises for over 30 people in our church that aren't able to get to church on Sundays. We got a Thrivent Action Team grant to help pay for expenses. We had a Thankoffering devotion and offering too.

We also underwrote the gifts at Christmas to our tech team. (Well, they finally got them in February.) Thank you to all who contributed to this fund.

We gave a gift of \$200 to Pastor Kathryn as a thank you gift for leading our retreat.

January 2023: Many of us gathered in the church kitchen and gave it a good cleaning and reorganization.

February 2023: The ELCW was involved in Pastor Kathryn's installation in many ways and also presented her with green chausable to wear on special occasions.

March 2023: We had a Spring Craft Day with food, crafts and fellowship. We also put together bags of candy for the Doorbell Dash project, again, with funds from Thrivent.

We'll gather in early June for a business meeting (to elect new officers) and then look forward to a summer event of some sort and perhaps another retreat. All women at Elim are invited to any or all of our activities and events. Please keep an eye out for future opportunities or contact Doris (doris@elimpetaluma.org).

The Elim Crafters are a part of the ELCW and they've been busy too!

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Submitted by Richard Maxon

We are a small group of 8-12 people who meet on Zoom Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:00. In addition to discussing the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday, and talking about how we can apply them to our own circumstances, we also encourage each other and share what is

happening in our lives. We are both a Bible Study and Support Group. We learn about God, the Bible, each other, and ourselves. New members are always welcome. For more information contact Richard Maxon at richard@elimpetaluma.org or talk to Pastor Kathryn.

Men's Breakfast Ministry

Submitted by Phillip Cannon

This year has been a year of transition. It is with a heavy heart that I announce that two of our members, Dave Hokanson and Len Svinth, passed on to the great kitchen in the sky. It was Dave who got us started meeting every Saturday and in his honor we have started serving a real breakfast in the kitchen again.

On almost every Saturday morning at 8:00am all men are invited to a hearty breakfast in the kitchen at the church. We serve eggs, bacon, muffins, fruit, yogurt and occasionally pancakes. Because not all of us can make the actual breakfast (with bacon) we still have virtual breakfast via zooming Saturday morning at 8 am

We email out a zoom meeting invitation on Friday night and if you want to get on the list just email men@elimpetaluma.org.

Elim's Crafters

Submitted by Becky Wyrick

The Craft group meets on Wednesday mornings in our upstairs craft room. Anyone is welcome to join us. We have a special procedure for entering the church. The red front doors will open at 10:00 on Wednesdays, take an immediate left up the stairs through the choir loft into the craft room. Our crafts are sold at our "Pop Up Sales" in the fellowship hall for holidays and celebrations during the year. Thank you Elim congregation for purchasing our crafts! Want to know what the crafters are up to? join our group email list. We are looking for someone new to lead our craft group.

MUSIC

Hello Elim Family!

There is so much to celebrate looking back on this last year! We had a very music-filled 2022/2023.

Last summer we had several BBQs/mid-week services with acoustic music provided by several of our wonderful instrumentalists and singers on the patio.

In the fall, it was full speed ahead! Our Elim Choir began rehearsing in August and sang for us about once a month during the year, always in both services. Our choir also had the pleasure of being led by some guest conductors from the community. Notably, they sang at Petaluma's Light Up A Life ceremony under the direction of Amanda McFadden of Sonoma Bach, joined by the Casa Grande High School Choir. Anyone interested in singing is welcome to join our Elim Choir. Our youngest member is 11 years old. We provide a loving community of people dedicated to sharing music and leading the congregation in worship.

We returned to two services in August. The early service is typically led by a cantor, piano, flute, guitar, and sometimes a quartet of singers. It features mostly hymns and often up to seven or eight sung liturgy pieces.

Our late service is led by a band with drums, guitar, bass, piano, and several singers. The band enjoys leading the congregation in spirited worship, and often offers special music during the offertory to the congregation. The band plays some modern settings of liturgy, as well as songs from the CCLI catalog.

Pastor Kathryn and I had the pleasure of leading chapel once a week with each preschool class at Little Shepherd this year. It was as adorable as you can imagine, and we look forward to strengthening our support for the students and

their teachers as the years continue. We have a great time singing with them, teaching them about Jesus, and making them feel comfortable and loved in our sanctuary.

Our children's choir met between services most Sundays this year. They will be leading all of the songs in both services on May 7th. They are few, but they are mighty! You won't be able to wipe the smile off your face after you hear them lead you song. We'll also be inviting the preschoolers to come sing their songs from chapel for the congregation that day.

Many of the special music selections we heard in our service this year were written by our own Elim members. I can't tell you how exciting that is! We enjoyed solos, duets, and preludes from various instrumentalists throughout the year. We have an incredible wealth of talent at this church and it makes my job fulfilling beyond explanation.

Music was also a part of our mid-week Advent services, as well as our mid-week Lent services. It was a pleasure adding hymns and Taize choruses to accompany art and poetry during these meaningful, casual, discussion-based services. We also had a fun time singing Holden through the Lent services, a beloved set of music known well by our congregation.

This year also marked the triumphant return of Festival Choir! Laila Schoenlein fearlessly directed a large group of singers from the community combined with our own Elim choir members. The addition of brass players, violin, clarinet, French horn, African drum, rock band, and various vocal soloists had us bursting with joy! We had the pleasure of hosting these special services on December 4th as well as April 2nd.

One of my favorite musical moments this year was Pastor Kathryn's Installation. All of our beloved musicians were able to show off what we do here and reciprocate the love we have for

our (now permanent) pastor! The band combined with some of our singers from first service, the choir sang with a stellar soloist. It was an exuberant day made even better by the collaboration of our diverse music ministries.

If you are reading this and can see your gifts matching any one of these ministries, we welcome you with open arms. Church is just the

place to hone your skills, grow your musicianship, make new friends, and share the love of God with others.

As I read over this I realize why I feel both tired and very happy. To be the Music Director at Elim Lutheran Church is a true pleasure. I feel thankful every day to get to work for you and with you!

Here are the faithful, dedicated, skilled musicians who offer their time and talents at Elim Lutheran Church.

Special Music/Solo Acts & Ensembles

Elim Choir

Jarene Bell
Cathy Cannon
Nancy Clarke
Mercedes Cooke
Diane Day
Rosemary Endicott
Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson
Paul Haile
Paul Hammelton
Lynn Harenberg
Pat Kellgren
Athena Labberton
Ian Labberton
Sarah Labberton
George Matt
Kathy Matt
Richard Maxon
Carol Mayo
Robin Merrill
Alex Miller
Vicki Olivas Navarro
Audrey Norman
Matt Norman
Karen Pesutich
Judith Peterson
Kevin Prime
Stella Prime
Rich Rodkin
John Sedlander
Brian Tolson

Farrah Walton
Daphne Widger
Doris Widger
Mary Wyrick

Elim Band

Todd Haile
Kevin Hart
Kevin Jensen Unger
Ian Labberton
Sarah Labberton
Alex Miller
Vicki Olivas Navarro
Nick Rodkin
John Schempf
Phil Sorensen
Farrah Walton
Nathan Widger

First Service Quartet

Athena Labberton
Audrey Norman
Mark Norman
John Sedlander

Children's Choir

Juniper Haile
Eire Hetrick-Hohenner
Stella Prime
Waylon Walton
Daphne Widger

Special Guests

Roshan Hichins
Sean Millard
Dianna Morgan
Amanda McFadden
David Norman
Matt Norman
Laila Schoenlein
Sadie Sonntag
Bob Worth

Festival Choir



Director: Laila
Schoenlein
Accompanist: Lauren
Haile

Rachel Aragaki - French
Horn
Mary Gail Baker
Doug Bates - Trombone
Jarene Bell
Paul Behringer

Chris Cella
Terry Church
Nancy Clarke
Mercedes Cooke
Mary Davidson
Lisa Davis -Violin
Nancy Drelich
Karen Ely
Rosemary Endicott
Terry Fraser
David Freedman
Patrecia Graham
Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson
Paul Haile - Soloist
Paul Hammelton

Pamela Keller Hare
Tom Hyde - Trumpet
Pat Kellgren
Tim Kellgren
Rocky Klemenok - Bass
Athena Labberton
Sarah Labberton
Ian Labberton
Gillian Mahrt
Elizabeth Martin
Paul Mascovich
Richard Maxon
Carol Mayo
Cathy McClelland
Robin Merrill
Vicki Olivas Navarro
Linda Nelson
Terry Newell
Audrey Norman
Mark Norman
Ariel Waymouth Payne
Joseph Pandollfo - Trombone
Karen Pesutich
Judy Peterson
Kevin Prime
John Rathkey
Kimberly Richardson
Andrea Stevick Ringlein - Drum
Nick Rodkin - Guitar
Rich Rodkin
Sarah Ross
John Schempf - Drums
Eric Schlaepfi - Trumpet
Lisa Sides
Tori Tating
Jeff Tolman
Mary Wyrick

ELIM TEAMS

Worship and Music Planning Team

Team Members: Pr. Kathryn, Lauren Haile, Barb Villa, Andy Hohenner, and Kevin Prime

The team meets monthly to plan the worship services and work on the logistics of broadcasting. We continue to have in-person and broadcasted services almost every Sundays. We are still trying to meet the needs of those who haven't been able to return to in-person services due to Covid.

Facilities Team

Submitted by Rich Rodkin

Team Members: George Matt, Don Bent, Walt Griffith, Karen Pesutich, Fred Svinth, Rich Rodkin, Becky Wyrick, Greg Gray, Brian Tolson, Tom Harris

First a thank you to Rosemary Hart for her many contributions to our church and specifically our facilities. And to George Matt, Walt Griffith, and Tom Harris for being "on-call" for the ongoing attention to the repair and maintenance of our buildings. And, a big thank you to our R3 Team that has offered to team with Facilities on some of our projects.

We began a program to restore the stained glass windows in the sanctuary facing Stanley Street. The glass in one window had separated from the framing and could have failed. Helios Art Glass in Berkeley, CA restored this window and did an excellent job. The remaining three windows also require restoration, and while not an emergency, the work needs to be completed as funds become available.

This year a team removed the patio bench, filled the hole, and installed new benches. Don Bent donated materials to fix the foundation air vents and sprinklers. Donations for the benches came from Renate Bohn, Therese Van Wiele, Steve

Tasselmyer, and Katherine Winters. Thanks to all who helped and donated to this project. Jim and Mary Wyrick took care of professional cleaning and parts for our BBQ.

Bob Ortiz was able to grind down our sidewalks where tree roots had raised them up. This will hopefully hold us for a while. We repaired the main water line to the church that was attacked by a tree root. The middle aisle lights in the sanctuary were replaced with LED's. There were further audio/video upgrades to facilitate online streaming. Room 9 (the "apartment") was cleared out and issues with the bathroom fixtures were taken care of so the room could be made available to an outside group.

As always, there are a lot of things in the works. Thanks to a donation from the Sabourin family we have new furniture in the fireside room and more redecorating is planned, and thanks to Alex Miller and Ian Labberton (with a little help from Pastor Tim and me) for moving the old couches upstairs! When Pastor Kathryn picks a color her office will be repainted and flooring will be updated. Another issue is our kitchen stove. It has gotten difficult to operate and raised some safety concerns. Doris Widger and Rich Rodkin have elicited input from interested parties and are currently evaluating different options.

On a larger scale, the front porch of the church office needs to be rebuilt and the exterior of the building needs to be painted. Many of the windows are not operable and need to be repaired or replaced. We are in the process of getting preliminary cost estimates for this work.

We are continuing to evaluate the best way to utilize our property at 506 Baker Street. The front yard is our Community Garden. A small part of the building is used for storage, but the rest of the interior is in such a state of disrepair that it is not useable. There are asbestos and lead

paint issues to deal with. The foundation and roof are concerns, as well as the wiring and plumbing. None of this is new news. We are currently considering possibilities for the short term. But we are also going to be actively working on this property as a part of the Strategic Planning that the congregation is entering into.

Thanks again to everyone who contributes their time, talents, and treasure.

Baker Street Garden

Submitted by Cynthia Griffith

Despite the continuing drought restrictions, the church garden provided the food pantry with many vegetables and fruits through the efforts of our gardeners. Kale, spinach, onions, tomatoes, squash, and lemons are some of the items we put in the pantry the past year. We did cut down the number of beds and followed the water restrictions. Thank you to our member from the neighborhood, Mary Ellen, who watered one day a week during the spring and summer! Therese Van Wiele for helping in the planting. Thank you to Elim members that watered: Dave Bachman, Walt Griffith, Brede Westby, and myself.

We have worked with Don Bent and George Matt in taking the old planter boxes down. The following assisted: Dave Bachman, Walt Griffith, and myself.

We applied for a grant from the Endowment Committee to help us get the new beds in and fix up the area. We are very appreciative of them helping us with this project. Don Bent has worked on designing the new garden beds and building them. We worked out a plan where we would do most of the work and hopefully get others to help.

Rich and Walt mowed the field of weeds in April, which grew due to the abundance of rain and then sun. Kaden and Jesus, Instructors for Culinary Specialist Class 09-23 for the Coast Guard and their students: Natalie, Brian, Charles,

Christina, John, Hailey, and Raymond (a partner) helped with raking and tilling.

Dave Bachman, Walt Griffith, and I started leveling and pulling out more weeds with more work ahead for the end of April and beginning of May. Others who helped are Greg Gray and Catherine Winters

If anyone is interested in helping out, even as a substitute gardener, you would be most welcome. We will be planting soon, continue weeding, and during the summer watering according to the guidelines the city sets.

Landscaping Team

Submitted by Don Bent

Team Members: Walt and Cynthia Griffith, Don Bent, Rich Rodkin

A special thanks to Rich Rodkin for lawn mowing, and running the Landscaping Team, while I took time off for medical reasons. I must say thanks to those that showed for cleanup days, cutting, trimming, and sharing their fellowship and ideas with others on the team.

While the work was accomplished, people power was always the issue, both for the Landscaping and Community Garden teams. The Congregation at Elim needs to undertake consideration that the “graying” of the Congregation does not lend itself to dealing with repetitive labor issues. In the case of Landscaping, outside assistance, as needed, should be considered as the best solution. Care of the Community Garden shares this issue to a point. This year we hired Monster Tree to remove two dead palm trees. This spring we plan to repair the sprinkler system serving the flower beds surrounding the parking lot in anticipation of the eventual landscaping of these beds. More “hands” and “ideas” are always welcome, not just on a clean-up day, but doing things at other times. We need to make Elim stand out and a pleasant place to attend services.

Elim Endowment Fund Committee

Submitted by Catherine Winters, Chairperson

Members: Wendell Day; Roy Martinez, Brede Westby; Catherine Winters

The mission of the Elim Endowment Fund Committee (EEFC) is to encourage gifts of the accumulated assets to enhance the mission outreach of this congregation beyond Sunday and special offerings. We prudently distribute a set percentage of the funds value while protecting and growing the principal. The distributions of the funds are made through grant requests that are carefully considered based on criteria set by this committee and the Leadership Team (LT). When the EEFC recommends a grant to be funded it goes to the LT, which has the final say on grant approvals.

Our budget for this fiscal year was \$14,000.

This year the following grants were approved;

- 1) \$2,500 for Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin-Sonoma - This was used for scholarships for low-income children to attend summer camp that provides academic & enrichment opportunities.
- 2) \$1100 For Elim Music Program - Festival Choirs - This was used to pay for music and musicians for both the Christmas and Easter Festival Choirs.
- 3) \$700 Elim Kids Learning and Service Projects - This was used to pay for project supplies and some retreat grants, which created opportunities for youth to serve our church, community, and learn more about their faith.
- 4) \$2500 Afghan Allies Project through St John's Episcopal Church in Petaluma - This was used to support local Afghan refugee families as they continue to transition to self-sufficiency.
- 5) \$4200 for Una Vida for Classified Homeless Students - Una Vida is a local nonprofit resource agency that specifically works with

students/families/people with food insecurities and other life insecurities.

School site counselors determine which students are eligible for the Classified Homeless Student program, what specific needs they have and help them with resources. Some examples are helping pay for car registration for work transportation, glasses, shoes, orthodontic treatment, camps, and gift cards so they can fit in with their peers.

6) \$3000 Baker Street Garden - This will be used to build new garden beds, since the last ones built in 2009 have deteriorated. It will also be used to provide screening to keep out moles, etc, purchase soil and amendments while conserving water and enhancing the beauty of the property. The food produced is donated to the Interfaith Pantry.

Our future hope is to encourage gifts to the Endowment fund so that Elim can support even more outreach to the local and global community.

Thank you to all the individuals who have contributed to the Elim Endowment Fund! We encourage anyone who would like to consider donating to this fund now or in their estate planning to go to the Elim Website or contact the church office.

Scholarship Team

Emily Hennagin, Coordinator (6/1/22 – 3/31/23)
Ian Labberton, Coordinator (4/1/23 – 5/31/23)

2022 Recipients of Elim Scholarship Awards on August 21, 2022 were Grace Martinez, Natasha Garibaldi, and Keenan Horne.

Beginning in April the application process was opened to all college or trade school bound members, as well as those already enrolled in higher education that have not previously received a scholarship from Elim. We plan to award the scholarships on June 4, 2023.

Audit Team

Submitted by Mark Norman and John Sedlander

The audit for the fiscal year 2021-22 was completed by Mark Norman and John Sedlander, with expert consulting from Audrey Norman. We had the distinct advantage that our efforts followed the pioneering work of the prior year's audit team. For that year, Audrey Norman, Fred Svinth, and Phil Sorensen laid out a detailed work plan, concentrating on financial procedures and controls, that we were able to follow in our audit.

The prior year's audit report focused on internal controls, and as a result, a number of records and processes were cleaned up. We performed the same detailed transaction testing and found no irregularities. This year's report leans more heavily on the financial reporting side and less on the internal control aspect. We submitted the report to the Leadership Team, after having reviewed it with Richard Maxon and Kevin Prime.

The Audit Team made recommendations in the following areas:

- For the audit process itself ... that we begin the audit in a more timely manner, streamlining the testing of contributions and tuition payments and conducting all transaction tests prior to the end of the fiscal year.
- For financial reporting ... that the Treasurer send a copy of financial statements to the director of the Little Shepherd Preschool on a monthly basis, that the congregation members receive a copy of year-end financial statements, and that we work with the Treasurer and with Kevin Prime to improve monthly reports to the Leadership Team.
- For accounting for Revenue ... that Elim account for Contribution revenues on a "cash" basis, rather than booking Revenue

and Pledges Receivable after a stewardship drive, and further, that we change the way we book "revenues released from restriction" for designated funds so that financial reports follow the format recommended by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles" (GAAP) for nonprofit entities like Elim.

In summary, we examined the books of Elim Lutheran Church for the year ended May 31, 2022, and we agree that they fairly reflect the operations and financial position of the church.

Procedures for counting deposits, booking revenue, authorizing and processing payments, and entering transactions into the accounting system were done on a consistent basis in accordance with good practice.

We found no evidence of fraud or any other unusual activities.

Elim staff and volunteers were helpful, available, and transparent throughout the audit process. In particular we want to thank Richard Maxon, Kevin Prime, Kim Naugle, and Andrea Nortz and commend them on their conscientious attention to Elim's financial records.

Copies of the full audit report will be made available to anyone interested. Contact Erin in the office for a copy.

Elim Call Committee

Submitted by Susan Rodkin

Members: Rosemary Hart (co-chair), Peter Labberton (co-chair), Susan Rodkin, Fred Svinth, Mary Thomas, Mary Wyrick

After being elected by the congregation at the May 2022 Annual Meeting, the Call Committee was immersed in completing the step-by-step process designated by the Sierra Pacific Synod for Elim to offer a greatly-anticipated call to a long-term, permanent pastor.

Building on input gathered in 2021 by Elim's Transition Team at small group meetings as well as the draft Ministry Site Profile (MSP), the Call Committee met from June 2022 through December 2023 to complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and submit it to the Sierra Pacific Synod (SPS). The Call Committee worked with SPS liaison pastors to craft and conduct an interview process for pastor candidates. Following completion of the interview and background checking process, the Call Committee was thrilled to go to the Elim Leadership Team in November with a recommendation that Elim offer a pastoral call to The Reverend Kathryn Gulbranson. In December the congregation voted to offer a call to Pastor Gulbranson. Thanks be to God—she said “yes”.

On Sunday, February 19, 2023, Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson was installed as pastor at Elim. What a day to remember. With the church filled to the brim with attendees, musicians, speakers, and celebrants, it was a beautiful opportunity to give thanks to our generous God for the gift of Pastor Kathryn's leadership at Elim.

The Call Committee thanks the Elim faith community for its support in the call process.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Submitted by Doris Widger

A prayer shawl is a symbol of love, crafted to give comfort and warmth to those who receive it. Members of the Elim Prayer Shawl team continue to knit and crochet shawls. We create and gift so that those who receive our shawls feel embraced and sustained in good times as well as difficult times. Please let us know if you know someone who is in need of a prayer shawl. For more information, contact Doris Widger (doris@elimetaluma.org) or Nancy Clarke.

Elim Counters

Submitted by Cynthia and Walt Griffith

Our thanks to the following members who count and deposit the offering every Sunday after the services! Most people volunteer one or two Sundays a month.

Our volunteers are: Mercedes Cooke, Jeanette Genovese, Carol Mayo, Robin Merrill, Doris Widger, Brigitte Winterboer, Walt Griffith and myself. Our substitute: Shirley Bunce for when we run into some hard to fill places.

We also want to thank George Matt and Richard Maxon for taking care of the Offering and payments received in the office during the week.

Stewardship Campaign Team

Submitted by Susan Rodkin

Team: Maria & Fred Svinth, Susan & Rich Rodkin

The Stewardship Team extends highest thanks to the Elim congregation for its generous response to the “Grateful Giving” campaign.

In Fall 2022, over four Sundays from September 25 to October 16, Elim's Stewardship Team in partnership with Elim's Leadership Team, reached out to the congregation to invite and challenge increased giving to help secure Elim's healthy future for its ministries and enable Elim to call a full-time pastor to partner in our ministry. At that time, Elim's budget only allowed for a 78% pastoral contract. The stewardship campaign goal was to increase Elim's monthly giving total to support all aspects of church ministry including the calling of a full-time pastor.

Members of the congregation were encouraged and invited to prayerfully consider possible ways to increase giving and reach a bold giving goal that was a stretch, but achievable, with the help of God.

The result was a generous response to the fall “Grateful Giving” campaign from members at

Elim. The congregational budget was accordingly increased securing Elim's healthy future for its ministries and the calling of a full-time pastor. The congregation celebrated with an aebleskiver breakfast in the social hall on the morning of October 16th.

Special thanks to Bill Tennyson, Ian Labberton, and Len Svinth who shared their thoughts about stewardship from a personal perspective at Sunday services during the campaign. Appreciation also goes to the intrepid team, Fred Svinth, Tim Kellgren, and Rich Rodkin, that hung the "Grateful Giving" stewardship banners in the sanctuary. A special thanks to Kira Svinth who created the beautiful artwork for the campaign. Most of all, thanks to our loving God through whom all things are possible.

Centennial Committee

Elim marked its 98th year on April 23, 2023. This gives us a year and a half to plan a year of celebrations for the 100th Birthday. The call has gone out for people to be on a Centennial Committee and we have received some responses. If you would like to help plan, email Erin in the office.

Worship Helpers

Worship Helpers are a vital part of our worship services. There are many parts to having a worship service, up front and behind the scenes. Without volunteers we would not be able to conduct our worship service at the level we are accustomed to. There are many ways everyone can participate. We are a church family and everyone needs to contribute in some way to keep our family together.

Doris Widger and Cynthia Griffith continued with the role of Worship Helper Coordinators. We thank them for their service!

Special thanks to all who volunteered this past year. Thank you to all those who stepped in at the last minute, you are all very much appreciated.

Volunteer Program

Submitted by Cynthia Griffith & Doris Widger

There are so many different ways to get involved at Elim and it is such a wonderful experience to help with worship, serve on a committee or do other work around the church. How about helping at the food pantry once a month? Or helping keep up on the maintenance? The best way to get involved is to fill out the volunteer form on our website. There is a link on the home page and there is also a worship helper page that will give you links to the job descriptions of all the worship helper tasks, from acolyting to communion bread baking.

Thank you to all of our volunteers! We've probably left someone off of this list but please know that we appreciate all you do!

Volunteers:

Pat Alexandro
Tima Alexandro
Lucy Bishop
Shirley Bunce
Cathleen Cannon
Phil Cannon
Nancy Clarke
Mercedes Cooke
Casey Davison
Aidan Fusco
Eva Garibaldi
Laine Gen
Sheldon Gen
Jeanette Genovese
Kaden Gittle
Cynthia Griffith
Walt Griffith
Lauren Haile
Paul Haile
Paul Hammelton
Joelle Harris
Thomas Harris
Emily Hennagin
Andy Hohenner
Éire Hohenner
Debra Jensen-Unger
Kevin Jensen-Unger

Athena Labberton
Amy Malaise
George Matt
Kathleen Matt
Lynn Maxon
Richard Maxon
Carol Mayo
Robin Merrill
Sin Nam Sun
Louis Navarro
Jeanne Nelson
Huck Nielsen
James Nordquist
Audrey Norman
Mark Norman
Andrea Nortz
Karen Pesutich
Mike Pesutich
Judy Peterson
Elliott Prime
Kevin Prime
Spencer Prime
Stella Prime

Bob Reinhard
Genki Ripich
Richard Rodkin
Susan Rodkin
John Sedlander
Deb Sheridan
Philip Sorensen
Fred Svinth
Maria Svinth
Mary Thomas
Crystal Tyler
Barbara Villa
Daphne Widger
Declan Widger
Doris Widger
Brigitte Winterboer
Catherine Winters
Mary Wyrick

Plus you'll find many more volunteers listed in other articles in this publication!

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Elim R₃

Submitted by Athena Labberton

Elim R3 has been very quiet since having to cancel two trips to New Orleans due to a hurricane and Covid.

This year we met to figure out our next steps. We decided to donate the money we had in our account to restore two of the stain glass windows in the Sanctuary, and we decided we are going to fundraise to repair the rest. Watch for donut sales, Sees Candy sales and maybe even a Jazz Dinner.



KindKnits

Submitted by Julie Prime

Fifth Annual KindKnits Giveaway:
120 Scarves and Hats
Brighten Downtown
Petaluma

Our annual KindKnits community outreach project was a tremendous success! On Saturday morning, December 17, 2022, 120 scarves, cowl scarves and hats, lovingly handmade by the Elim KindKnits group, were hung downtown on the pillars outside of Copperfield's bookstore for our annual KindKnits giveaway. The scarves and hats were given free to anyone who wanted one for warmth—or to brighten their wardrobe and spirit. Each was

tagged with a label that invited the recipient to pay the kindness forward with a kind act of their own choosing—and join us either online or in person for worship. Passersby stopped by all morning to chat and choose items for themselves, relatives or friends who would appreciate the kindness, and by Sunday morning, every item had found its new home.

Many thanks to our team for another hugely successful year of spreading joy in the community: Robin Butts, Pat Kellgren, Doris Widger, Julie Prime and Suzy Sellai. A big thanks also goes to Maria Svinth and her friends for helping Julie and Kevin Prime hang the scarves in the 31° F weather! Let's keep it going—and growing! Keep knitting, crocheting and looming those wonderful scarves and hats in whatever colors or patterns bring you joy, and let's see how many we can hang next December. For more information or new pattern ideas, talk to Julie Prime.

“God’s work. Our hands.”

Submitted by Maria Svinth

Elim once again participated in God's Work Our Hands. Generous donations of toiletries and money were compiled to distribute to 50 unhoused people in Petaluma on Sunday, September 11th. With a \$250 donation from Thrivent, the recipients were also given \$5 McDonald's Gift Cards. None of this would have been possible without the participation of Elim. Thank you!

Interfaith Pantry

Submitted by Richard Maxon

Westside Interfaith Food Pantry Partners: St. Vincent’s Catholic Church, St. John’s Episcopal Church, and B’nai Israel Jewish Center

Elim has been participating in the Westside Interfaith Food Pantry since 2009, when it was first held in the park across from Elim and later hosted in our Fellowship Hall. For most of the

past three years, since the beginning of the Covid Pandemic, the Food Pantry has been held outside in the Elim Parking Lot or in the covered breezeway and patio.

The current congregations that rotate food purchases and distribution are St. Vincent’s Catholic Church (1st Thursday), St. John’s Episcopal (2nd Thursday), Elim Lutheran (3rd Thursday), and B’Nai Israel (4th Thursday).

Our food sources are Redwood Empire Food bank (REFB), Raley’s, COTS Kitchen, Sonoma

Family Meal, and Farm to Pantry, as well as local home gardens and the Elim garden in season.

Our cost for some of the food from the REFB averages around \$100.-\$150. per week, due to our maintenance fees being waived by taking monthly surveys. Some weeks the costs are zero or highly reduced by the grants that are provided to REFB by various donors. Additional costs include the purchase of gloves, hand sanitizer, cleaning products, Ziploc and paper bags, as well as equipment such as tables, hand trucks, & thermometers. REFB has started a diaper bank which allows the Food Pantry to provide free diapers, and The Code Red Project donates feminine hygiene products which are also distributed.

The Food Pantry serves approximately 40-45 households per week, which can provide food for around 450 individuals on a weekly basis. The congregations normally order food for 40-50 households since that is the typical average. We have between 10-12 patron volunteers on a weekly basis who help the congregational volunteers in setting up and distributing the food, as well as helping with clean-up after the Food Pantry. These volunteers are given first choice in receiving the Food Pantry items that are available, and the Food Pantry could not function properly without them. Some congregational volunteers help out every week, regardless of the rotation, and there are regular volunteers

who are not members of any of the participating Congregations.

This important interfaith ministry addresses food insecurity in the community, which has been greatly impacted by the Coronavirus & inflation.

Many thanks to the members of the Elim Pantry Team, several who help out on a weekly basis, for a job well done all year.

Relay for Life

Captain: Nancy Clarke

Our 2022 Elim Lites team was small, but mighty! We walked the track at Cardinal Newman High School in September and once again were the #1 fundraising team, raising \$32,000. The RFL Sonoma County raised \$156,000. Our Elim Lites teams have raised close to \$600,000 in our 25 years of participating! We thank our Elim members for all their loyal and ongoing support!

College Care Packages

Coordinator: Karen Pesutich

Thank you to each and every one of you who so generously donated money, supplies and prayers to the College Care Pack Ministry this year. You made it possible to remember 27 students continuing their college education all over the country. 21 Packs filled with Valentine Love were sent to students in Washington DC, Alabama, Nevada, Oregon, Arizona and up and down our great state of California, with 6 hand delivered to those studying here at home.

Thank you also to Thrivent who paid for all the shipping through their Action Grant Program.

This ministry is not only a blessing to each student receiving this package, reminding them that they are in our prayers, but a blessing to us as a congregation. Thank you one and all for continuing to support this wonderful ministry to our youth as they continue their journey.

In Christ Love, Karen Pesutich

Elim Chartered Boy Scouts of America Troop 9 and Pack 9

Submitted by John Schempf

2023 Troop 9 and BSA Cub Pack 9 Annual Report - Happy 14th Birthday Scouts BSA Troop 9 Petaluma and Welcome Brand New Cub Pack 9!!!

BSA Cub Pack 9 was founded on 06SEP2022 and chartered by Elim Lutheran Church. Pack 9 now has almost 20 brand new Cub Scouts ranging in age from kindergarten to 5th grade. Thank you Elim and thank you Bill and Emily Desenberg our Cubmasters!!!

Troop 9 was first chartered in March of 2009 with the generous support of our Chartered Organization – Elim Lutheran Church. We are a fully inclusive troop, just as Elim Church is in the local community. Our first Eagle Scout, which was celebrated in 2013, was Robert Marchionni (a founding member of T9 & past Elim member), and currently we stand at 26 young men who have achieved their Eagle - the highest rank in Scouting. Most recently this year Mr. Wyatt Daly and Mr. John Lundy – Congratulations!!!

Troop 9 is more than just about camping, and hiking and being in the outdoors; we believe strongly in our commitment to community service, so that our scouts learn to appreciate the responsibility of giving back to their community. These are some of the activities used to teach young women and men how to be respectful, responsible, and full of fun both today and into the future. Using all types of indoor and outdoor activities, Troop 9's young people are learning how to prepare for all the adventures of life.

The Mission of Troop 9: Is to provide boys and girls with a safe and supportive environment where they may learn not only how to become responsible but also how to lead, follow and take pride in themselves and their accomplishments.

Each year we attend a different BSA approved summer Camp for one week; for the summer of 2023, we will be attending to Camp Hi Sierra. *Camperships (scholarships) and grants are available to help with costs as needed.

Here are the activities and community service projects attended and/or completed by Troop 9;

July 2022 - Annual Independence Day Bell Ringing and Flag Ceremony Petaluma Museum and BSA Summer Camps Wente and Meriwether on the Oregon Coast

August 2022 – Aviation Merit Badge Weekend at Sonoma Sky Park

September 2022 – Brand New Cub Pack 9 first meeting. And BSA Troop 9's 10th Annual Petaluma Community Emergency Preparedness Fair Walnut Park with Pet PD, FD, Mayors Office, Offices of Emergency Management...

October 2022 – Rebuilding Together Petaluma Smoke and CO2 Detector installation with Fire Chief Jeff Schach at several Senior Mobile Home Parks

November 2022 - Veterans Day Parade and Troop Elections and Court of Honor

December 2022 – Invited to ride on the Petaluma Sea Scout Ship Compass Rose for the Annual Holiday Lighted Boat Parade, BSA Camp Royaneh Game Night

January 2023 – Cub Pack 9 Pinewood Derby Night, Lawson Landing Dillon Beach Campout

February 2023 - Winter Camp at BSA Camp Hi Sierra, Wyatt Daly Eagle Project for Land Pass

March 2023 – John Lundy's Eagle Project for the Youth Agriculture and Leadership Center in Rohnert Park

April 2023 - Rebuilding Together Petaluma, Butter and Eggs Day Parade with Troop 9 and

Pack 9, Woodward outing at Boreal Ridge, Cub Pack 9 Campout BSA Camp Royaneh

May 2023 - Tri Tip Mother's Day Fundraiser, Sonoma Sky Park Service Day, Lake Sonoma Lone Pine CG Backpacking

Building Use

We also serve the community by providing affordable space to groups for meetings and events: AA groups, Co-Dependents Anonymous groups, Refuge Recovery, Overeaters Anonymous, Troop 9 Boy Scouts, Cub Pack 9, the Westside Interfaith Pantry, Sonoma Bach, and piano recitals and choral events. In February the North Bay Hindu Center started renting out Room 9 for two nights a week, Room 8 for storage, and the Fellowship Hall for festivals throughout the year. Groups have been coming back slowly. Some groups are still waiting to return as their members are still uncomfortable meeting in person. Some groups are still doing hybrid meetings made possible by our wifi. Other groups are looking forward to returning, hopefully sometime soon.

Thrivent Financial

Submitted by Nancy L. Clarke

Thrivent Financial provides us with ongoing support for our volunteer outreach and Elim programs. Any Thrivent member can request an Action Seed Money Grant for an activity within the church or the greater community. A number of Action Grants were granted and they supported our outreach activities such as the Christmas and Easter Door Dash projects, the Women's Retreat and College Care Project. Thrivent members have Choice Dollars to donate and \$1,150 has been donated to Elim and \$913 to Little Shepherd in this fiscal year.

Greeting Card Ministry

Submitted by Nancy L. Clarke

Elim members have provided new greeting cards to inmates at the Main Adult Detention Facility and the North County Detention Facility for over 20 years. Members have been leaving their greeting cards at the Elim office and then they are delivered to Friend's Outside, the organization that distributes the cards. This is an important link to those incarcerated and awaiting trial to stay connected to their loved ones. Thanks to all of you that contribute to this important ministry. If your cards are piling up and you are not able to deliver them to the Elim office, let Nancy L. Clarke know and she will arrange to pick them up.

New Life Band

Submitted by Susan Rodkin

The New Life Band sends its greetings to the people of Elim. The New Life Band greatly appreciates the financial ministry support generously given by supporters at Elim through the many years.

The New Life Band is in the process of transitioning from an academic secondary school to a vocational school in Arusha, Tanzania. Under the new vocational/life skills model, students will receive instruction in a variety of trades such as culinary, technology, masonry, carpentry, and textiles/sewing. Classes will be short-term and will be held at the New Life School site as well as in the community itself. During spring and summer 2022, the New Life Band has been active in youth and college camps and gatherings in Tanzania and Kenya. Please check the "New Life Band" page on the Elim website for current news videos from the New Life Band. Asante sana.

Mexico House Building Mission Trip

Coordinators: John Schempf and Dave Bachman

For many years before Covid-19, Elim would partner with AMOR Ministries and send a group to build a house in Tecate, Baja, Mexico. A small group of Elim and community members were slated to go to Mexico over Spring Break 2023 and revive Elim's annual Mexico House Building Mission Trip. They did a See's Candy fundraiser and were planning a Taco Dinner. However, due to a number of members having to pull out unexpectedly, the group decided to cancel.

The group is enthusiastically planning on going this next year, Spring 2024. Mark your calendars to join them!

Second Mile Giving

June 2021: California Lutheran University

July: Petaluma Bounty

August: PEP Housing

September: New Life Band

October: ELCA Disaster Response

November: ELCA World Hunger

December: Lutheran Social Services

January 2022: Hope Counseling Services

February: Mexico Mission Trip

March: Lutheran Disaster Response

April: San Francisco Night Ministry

May: Mt. Cross Ministries

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

June: Welcome New Members

On June 19 we welcomed new members; Tim, Eli & Lucas Carter, Rosemary Endicott, Greg Gray, Todd & Connie Haile, Paul Hammelton, Lucy Maciel, Jeannie Nelson, Genki Ripich, and Maria Svinth

July/August: Worship and BBQ's on the Patio

Wednesday evenings in July members were invited to alternately worship and BBQ on the Patio. The BBQ's were so popular that they were continued on Wednesday nights in August. Thanks to Jim & Mary Wyrick and Rosemary Hart for fixing up the BBQ!

August: Welcome New Members

On August 21 we welcomed new members Huck, Erin and Harper Nielsen as new members! Little Kathryn became a member at her baptism.

August: Ice Cream Social

On August 25 an Ice Cream Social was held in the Fellowship Hall. Little Shepherd families were invited. A pom pom craft and coloring page were provided for all ages.

September: Picnic and Service at McNear Park

We again worshiped at McNear Park with the band. Some members brought a picnic lunch to continue the fellowship.

September: Welcome New Member

On September 11 we welcomed new Member Robin Scharf.

November: 1000 Petaluma Bowls Event

On November 13 Communion Kids, Confirmants, members and visitors painted bowls to be auctioned off at the 1,000 Petaluma Bowls Event on November 25 to support Petaluma People Services Center Senior Nutrition Programs and Petaluma Bounty.

November: Advent Wreath Decorating

On November 27 people decorated advent wreaths to take home. Thank you to the Crafters' for providing supplies.

December: Festival Choir Returns!

On December 4 Festival Choir joyously returned for a service of readings and music at both services.

December: Special Congregation Meeting

On December 11 we held a Special Congregation Meeting where we unanimously called Pr. Kathryn Gulbranson as Elim's permanent pastor!

December: Children's Christmas Pageant

On December 18 the Children's Christmas Pageant returned to the second service thanks to director Emily Hennagin and our talented children.

January/February: Valentines

On Sundays January 29 and February 5 between services members made valentines for Petaluma People Services Center Special Delivery event.

February: Installation of Pr. Kathryn followed by a Reception



On Sunday, February 19 Elim's congregation came together to celebrate the installation

of Pr. Kathryn Gulbranson as our permanent pastor. It was also attended by members of Pastor Kathryn's family, special friends, visiting clergy colleagues, Little Shepherd director and teachers, and more who came to honor and celebrate Pastor Kathryn. It was a beautiful service thanks to the hard work of the Staff, choir members and numerous volunteers.

Time to celebrate! Thanks to the over thirty individuals at Elim who contributed to making Pastor Kathryn's installation reception a beautiful and inviting place for all. The buffet tables were spread with delectable foods in a kaleidoscope of colors, with savory and sweet bites to tempt the palate and added to the joy permeating the entire day.

The Elim Church Women presented Pastor Kathryn with a beautiful green chasuble in honor of her installation. The reception ended with warm remarks from Pastor Kathryn and also with all-important coffee and decorated cakes to mark the significance of this incredible, God-given installation day.

April: Grounds Clean-up Day

This spring we had a great group come and brave the elements provided by the cold and rainy winter of abundance of weeds and grass growth. Thank you again for helping us to clean up some of the property before Easter: Rich Rodkin, George Matt, Greg Gray, Maria Svinth, Dave Bachman.

April: Festival Choir!

On Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2 the Festival Choir filled the Sanctuary with joyous music at both services.

April: Easter Egg Hunt

Becky Wyrick and Maria Svinth organized our Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt for kids. Thanks to those who helped stuff and hide eggs. The kids had a great time collecting masses of eggs.

May: Children-Led Service

On May 7 our congregation was led in song by our fantastic Children's Choir members; Stella Prime, Daphne Widger and Eire Hohenner. Scripture passages and prayers were read by other young members of our congregation. Six preschoolers from Little Shepherd joined us to share some of the songs they learned this school year in chapel.

May: Grounds Clean-up Day

On May 27 there was another outside clean-up day tackling the yard and parking lot area to have things looking nice for Little' Shepherd's graduation.

Interfaith and Ecumenical Partnership

This past year Elim participated in two interfaith and ecumenical activities including;

- An Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was held on Tuesday, November 22 hosted by First Presbyterian Church and including faith communities such as St. John's Episcopal Church, B'nai Israel Jewish Center, The Unitarian Universalists of Petaluma, Elim Lutheran Church, the Islamic Center of Petaluma, the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church.
- A Christmas Day worship at Elim with St. John's Episcopal Church.

STATISTICS

Baptized membership at end of 2021	292
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Baptized members received during 2022	
By baptism: children (15 yrs. & younger)	3
By baptism: adults (16 yrs and older)	2
By affirmation of faith	16
By transfer	0
From other sources and statistical adjustment	0
Total members received this year	21
<hr/>	
Baptized members removed during 2022	
By death	2
By transfer	6
For other reasons and statistical adjustment	8
Total members removed this year	16
<hr/>	
Baptized membership, end of 2022	297
Total confirmed membership, end of 2022	239
Number of baptized youth who were confirmed in 2022	4
In 2022, the number of weeks the congregation worshipped:	
a. On-site (in person)	52
b. Online (via streaming)	51
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Average weekly worship attendance in 2022:	
a. On-site (in person)	86
b. Online (via streaming)	35
<hr/>	
Total number of people (including children) actively participating in the life of the congregation in 2022	340
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AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA

Sunday, May 21, at 12:30 PM

1. Opening

1.1. Call to order

1.2. Opening hymn and prayer

1.3. Instructions on voting and test vote for online participants

2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Approval of the minutes of the annual Congregation Meeting of May 15, 2022

4. Reports

4.1. Pastor's Report

4.2. President's Report

4.3. Treasurer's Report

5. General Orders

5.1. Presentation and adoption of the 2023-2024 Budget

5.2. Elections

6. New business from the floor

7. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH, PETALUMA, CA SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022

I. Opening

I.1 Call to order: Leadership Team President, Laine Gen; Treasurer, Andrea Nortz; and Secretary, Maria Svinth presided. The meeting was held in the sanctuary as well as online. There were 56 in attendance and 10 online. It was determined that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 12:39 p.m.

I.2 Opening Hymn (#576) and Prayer led by Pastor Kathryn

I.3 Instructions on voting and test votes for online participants

2. Adoption of the Agenda: The Agenda was adopted unanimously.

3. Approval of the minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting of 2021:
Adopted unanimously.

4. Reports

4.1 Pastor's Report

Pastor Kathryn had 5 points she wanted to share. First, she thanked all the saints who drive Elim and who listen to God's call and share their gifts. Next, she asked the congregation to please read the Annual Report. Then, Pastor Kathryn quoted Audrey Norman's Audit Report: "in the financial operations there is a high standard of care." She noted that this could be said for all of Elim's Ministries. She then highlighted how the Transition Team interviewed the congregation and made notes that have now led to our Call Committee. The Call Committee will meet to discuss the Ministry Site Profile and make any changes, then present the Profile to the Leadership Team, then to the congregation. The Call Committee will meet with the Bishop after the Synod Assembly, which the Barnes will attend (June 4th). Finally, Pastor Kathryn thanked the staff for all that they do.

4.2 President's Report

Laine thanked her fellow members on the Leadership Team and then thanked all those who served on Committees and volunteered for worship.

Laine also noted the following accomplishments at Elim in 21-22:

- Provided worship both in-person and online, thanks to our volunteers
- Welcomed 16 new members
- The fantastic band and choir program grew to 25 people

- We host the only food pantry located on the west side
- We have a prayer chain that sustains people all over the country
- We have a preschool that educates 80 children
- We host Troop 9, a Boy Scout troop that has produced more than 24 Eagle Scouts
- As a congregation, we raised more than \$5000 for the New Life Band and vocational education in Tanzania
- Our endowment fund donated \$13,000 in grants to nonprofits
- Our Relay for Life team raised over \$30,000 for cancer research
- Our Bible Study, Confirmation, Communion Kids, Men's and Women's groups, crafters, knitters, R3 group and Baker St. gardeners all learned together, played together, and served together

In order to sustain all these wonderful ministries and momentum, the Leadership Team will be laser focused on ways to increase our revenue in the next 12 months. That includes: inviting Thrivent to educate us on the tax advantages of remembering Elim in estate planning; putting together a task force to research ways that 504 and 506 Baker St properties can generate income; perhaps partnering with another congregation to share our space; and asking the congregation to be intentional about inviting friends to join Elim. Laine closed her report by asking for continued prayers and support.

4.3 Treasurer's Report

Andrea thanked Kevin Prime for his continued support and then said Elim received approximately 60 pledges after the February stewardship campaign. Usually about 90% of what is pledged is actually given. To increase revenue sources, we are looking to rent space more, but have not seen a return to pre-pandemic levels yet. Our cash balance looks healthy. Traditionally, enough is kept in cash reserves enough to run for 2 months. We have restrictive funds for the Food Pantry, Mexican Housebuilding, New Orleans, Kitchen remodel, and the preschool's. We do not dip into that. Elim's assets are 504 and 506 Baker, and the Church itself. Our Staff, Pastor, and Music Director are our biggest expenses. All have received a 7.8% COLA, which is not a raise. Andrea noted this is a 12-month budget. The proposal is for a budget we can afford. Pastor Kathryn will revert to 80% in this budget, as she was when she first became an Interim Pastor. We are in a unique situation this year, because the Call Committee and the fiscal year did not work in unison. We do not know what choices the Synod will give us. Once the Call is settled, a new budget will be presented. With Pastor Kathryn at 80%, we have a \$45K deficit. If Pastor Kathryn were to remain at 100%, we would have a \$78K deficit. Andrea reminded us that this is not just a budget about a pastor, but for all of Elim's ministry.

5. General Orders

5.1 Presentation and adoption of the 2022-2023 Budget

5.2 Questions or comments about the budget

Questions arose from the congregation including:

- If we can afford a \$45K deficit, can we also, then, afford to keep Pastor Kathryn at 100%?
Answer: yes, but it would drain our reserves.

- Can we add pop-up sales' proceeds into the fund?

Answer: Yes, but these sales must be donations without prices because we would otherwise be subject to sales tax.

- Can people make specific donations to the general fund?

Answer: Yes. The Leadership Team will retain discretion on where the general fund monies will be spent. There is the possibility of having a restricted fund for Pastor Kathryn's salary. There is also the possibility of giving Pastor Kathryn bonuses.

- What will it look like if Pastor Kathryn goes to 80%?

Answer: Pastor Kathryn will take Mondays and Fridays off. There will be a reduction in in-person visits. There will be a reduction in electronic communication, both texts and emails. Pastor Kathryn will only participate in The Food Pantry when it is Elim's turn to host. The Mutual Ministry Team will continue to work with Pastor Kathryn to find other ways to reduce her time to 80%.

Comments and concerns included:

- For Elim to remain healthy and thriving, we need a full time pastor.
- Having a pastor at 80% may keep us from getting applicants for the permanent position.
- The congregation as a whole wants to keep Pastor Kathryn as our pastor.
- Many congregants expressed that the reason they have joined Elim is because of Pr Kathryn.
- Laine Gen made it clear that if in 6 months we see \$4k-\$6K more per month, then we can have another meeting and bring Pastor Kathryn to 100%, but we need to see the money first.

5.3 Vote on the Proposed Budget

Proposed budget for 2022-2023 passed (54 to 1).

5.4 Elections: No nominations from the floor. All candidates on the ballot were elected.

6. New business

There was a question about the Festival Choir returning.

7. Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm.

TREASURER'S REPORT

To paraphrase the song: “What a difference a year makes; 12 short months; Last year was blue; What a difference a year made; And the difference is you.” Our Elim budget has come back from concern and uncertainty and is now on track and healthy. Members stepped up in the fall stewardship campaign and literally “put our money where our mouth is.” Elim has also received many memorial donations in the past year for which we are very grateful. We are also very appreciative of our wonderful new tenants. Next year’s budget is attached for you to review in the event that you were not able to attend one of our listening sessions earlier this year. It is fair to observe that we are in a vastly different place this year as compared to last year. Understandably, our revenue expectations are just that: expectations and not a guarantee. Although we truly can afford our full time pastor, our budget is still very lean and conservative. Due to inflation, we estimated that our overall expenses will increase by 6.5 percent. We also raised our staff’s salaries by this same percentage. The only place we made a change from last year was in the music budget. It is no surprise that the Festival Choirs this past year were exceptional, wonderfully received, and thoroughly enjoyed, but we were not able to include them in our budget last year and instead requested funding from our Endowment Fund. This was a one-time option, so your Leadership Team voted to increase Lauren’s budget in order to assure the continuation of our Festival Choirs as well as to allow her to bring in special musicians more frequently than only twice a year.

Andrea Nort

PROPOSED ELIM GENERAL FUND BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

REVENUE				
----	Individual contributions	\$372,500		
----	Corporate contributions	\$2,000		
----	Building use fees	\$28,800		
----	Preschool revenue sharing	\$39,300		
----	Investment interest	\$1,808		
TOTAL REVENUE		\$444,408		
EXPENSES				
	MISSION SUPPORT--SYNOD	\$27,938		
	PROPERTY INSURANCE (10% increase)	\$21,050		
	OFFICE & GENERAL	\$19,287		
	WORSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP	\$18,966		
	FACILITIES	\$35,973		
	PASTOR'S COMPENSATION	\$161,251		
	STAFF	\$162,602		
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$447,067		
NOTE: This budget results in a small deficit of \$2,659				
NOTE: We were able to increase our revenue because we now have significantly more building revenue.				
NOTE: We used the current inflation rate of 6.5% to estimate next year's expenses.				
NOTE: LT also voted to increase staff wages by 6.5% for next year.				

PROPOSED ELIM 2023-2024 BUDGET DETAILS:

REVENUE		
---- Individual contributions	\$372,500	
---- Corporate contributions	\$2,000	
---- Building use fees	\$28,800	
---- Preschool revenue sharing	\$39,300	
---- Investment interest	\$1,808	
TOTAL REVENUE		\$444,408
EXPENSES		
MISSION SUPPORT--SYNOD		\$27,938
PROPERTY INSURANCE (10% increase)		\$21,050
OFFICE & GENERAL		\$19,287
----Telephone and network	\$4,260	
---- Postage and shipping	\$550	
---- Computer software	\$7,000	
---- Printing and copying	\$1,600	
---- Interest Expense	\$252	
---- Advertising	\$600	
---- Banking fees	\$1,800	
---- Supplies	\$1,450	
---- Licenses and permits	\$325	
---- Legal fees	\$50	
---- Other professional fees	\$250	
---- Travel & Meetings (synod assembly)	\$1,150	
WORSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP		\$18,966
---- Books and publications	\$1,675	
---- Royalties	\$2,000	
---- Food	\$866	
---- Supplies	\$2,325	
---- Postage & Shipping	\$400	
---- Equipment Maintenance (piano tuning)	\$600	
---- Youth Ministries	\$1,000	
---- Communion Kids	\$1,000	
---- Strategic Planning	\$1,000	
---- Music	\$3,000	
---- Contractors (2 Festival Choirs)	\$3,000	
---- Supply clergy	\$2,100	

PROPOSED ELIM 2023-2024 BUDGET DETAILS, *CONTINUED*:

FACILITIES		\$35,973	
----- Gas and electricity	\$11,908		
----- Water	\$3,025		
----- Refuse collection	\$2,736		
----- Facilities Maintenance	\$12,150		
----- Real estate taxes (506 Baker)	\$1,450		
----- Equipment purchases	\$2,000		
----- Supplies (custodial)	\$2,704		
PASTOR'S COMPENSATION		\$161,251	
----- salary	\$88,809		
----- housing allowance	\$30,000		
----- Pension plan	\$11,881		
----- Health insurance premiums	\$24,130		
----- Long-term disability insurance	\$1,069		
----- Life insurance premiums	\$950		
----- CA taxes (Unemp & ETT)	\$112		
----- Mileage (non-travel)	\$1,200		
----- Meetings & Travel	\$1,000		
----- Continuing Education	\$1,000		
----- Discretionary expenses	\$500		
----- Telephone	\$600		
STAFF		\$162,602	
----- wages	\$144,389		
----- Workers compensation	\$6,557		
----- Social Security	\$8,952		
----- Medicare	\$2,094		
----- CA (Unemp & ETT) tax	\$560		
----- Background checks	\$50		
Total Expenses			\$447,067
----- Because we are planning to double our music budget, we will be "dipping into" cash reserves by \$2,239			

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR LITTLE SHEPHERD LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
4010 Individual contributions	\$ 2,500	
5110 Tuition and participation fees	\$ 371,600	
5115 Registration fees	\$ 18,000	
5320 Dividends and interest on securities	\$ 7,274	
5820 Fundraising events	\$ 20,000	
6620 Preschool revenue sharing	\$ (39,300)	
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT		\$ 380,074
EXPENSES		
7221 Staff wages	\$ 295,528	
7240 Employment Benefits	\$ 29,931	
7250 Payroll Taxes	\$ 23,616	
8110 Supplies	\$ 6,300	
8160 Computer software	\$ 1,168	
8140 Postage and shipping	\$ 100	
8180 Books and publications	\$ 120	
8211 Facilities maintenance	\$ 1,550	
8212 Facility improvements	\$ 13,866	
8265 Equipment purchases	\$ 1,800	
8530 Membership dues	\$ 370	
8671 Licenses and permits	\$ 1,045	
8673 Banking fees	\$ 4,680	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 380,074
TOTAL BUDGET EXCESS (DEFICIT)		\$ -

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR LITTLE SHEPHERD LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

Notes on revenue and support. The preschool will conduct 5 weeks of summer session classes, each enrolling 15 students at \$300 per week. Enrollment during the regular school year will be 84 students. Tuition will be \$425 per month for three days per week and \$325 per month for two days per week. Extended care services are expected to provide approximately \$40,000 in additional revenue. Little Shepherd charges a non-refundable registration fee of \$125 for each student. Elim holds 132.444939 units of the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust Ministry Growth Fund on behalf of Little Shepherd (market value on March 31, 2023: \$179,661.58), which generates quarterly dividends of \$13.73 per unit. The preschool's operations will provide \$39,300 back to the Elim general fund this year.

Notes on expenses. The great majority of expenses are related to costs of employment for the preschool's staff of 10 (1 director, 1 assistant director, 6 teachers, and 2 aides). Staff will receive a 7.8% raise this year and the budget includes a \$500 Christmas bonus for each staff member. The significant facility improvement expenses are for planned replacement and upgrade to the preschool's playground equipment. Facilities maintenance costs are primarily for annual maintenance of the playground (such as replacing sand and bark). Banking fees are driven mostly by the finance charges applied when parents pay their accounts via credit card.

ELECTION BALLOT FOR 2023-24

The nominating committee composed of Alex Miller, Robin Merrill, Karen Pesutich, Len Svinth and Nancy. L. Clarke present the following slate of candidates for the term of June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual church meeting.

Leadership Team Officers

(1-year terms)

- President: Laine Gen
- Vice President: Ian Labberton
- Secretary: Maria Svinth
- Treasurer: Andrea Nortz
- _____
- _____

Leadership Team Members- At-Large

(vote for 3; 1-year terms)

- Rosemary Endicott
- Tom Harris
- Mary Thomas
- _____
- _____

Mission Endowment Fund Board

Members (vote for 2)

- Phil Cannon (2-year term)
- Robin Merrill (3-year term)
- _____

(Note: The following people are already members with various term expiration dates; Roy Martinez, May 31, 2024; Wendell Day, May 31, 2024; Phil Sorenson, May 31, 2025); Brede Westby, May 31, 2025)

School Committee - Church Voting Members (vote for 1)

- Karen Pesutich (1-year term)
 - _____
- (Note: Judy Peterson's 2-year term expires May 31, 2024)

School Committee - Parent Representatives (vote for 2)

- Kelsie Petersen
- Teresa Drake
- _____

2022-23 Sierra Pacific Synod

Assembly Delegates (vote for 2, 1-year terms; 6/1/23 – 9/30/23)

*Note: The meeting was moved to September, 2023. Their term ends May 31, 2023, so we need to reconfirm them to attend this fall.

- Jeanette Genovese
- Brigitte Winterboer
- _____

2023-24 Sierra Pacific Synod

Assembly Delegates (vote for 2, 1-year terms; 10/1/23 - 5/31/24)

- Athena Labberton
- Peter Labberton
- Ian Labberton

Nominating Committee

(vote for 5; 1-year terms, cannot have served in past year)

- Peter Labberton
- Susan Rodkin
- Doris Widger
- Erin Nielsen
- Fred Svinth
- _____