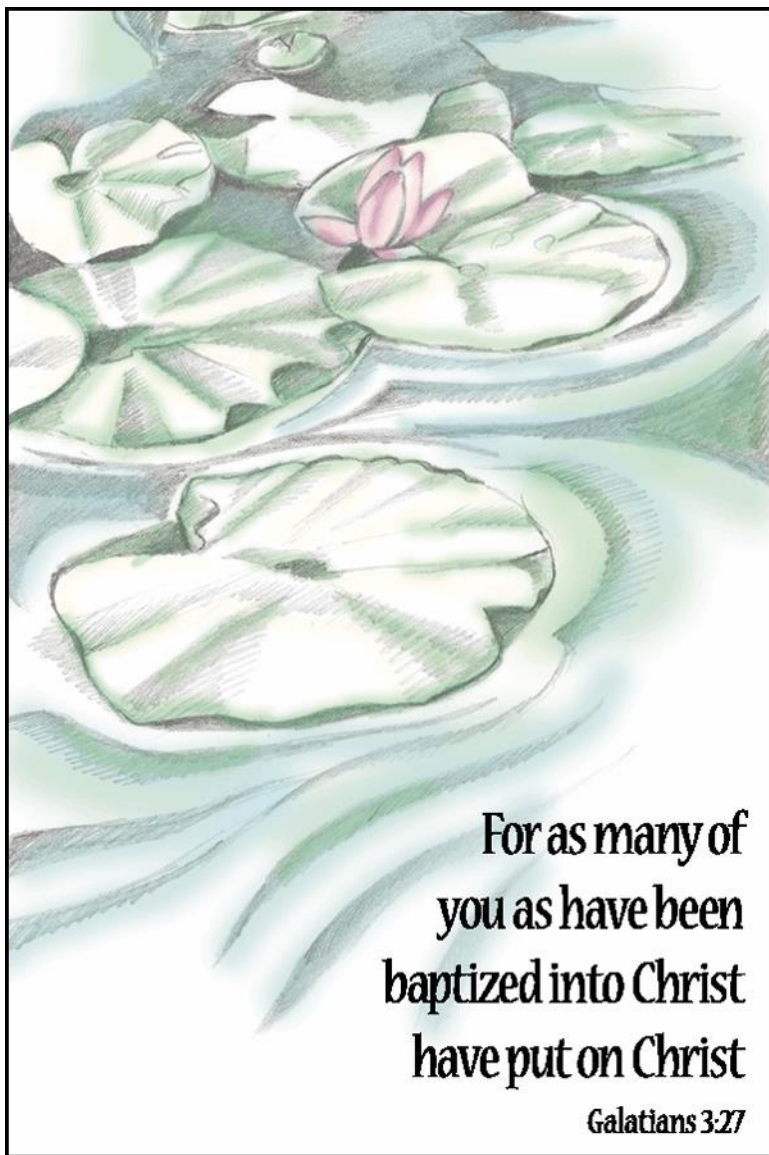


ELIM COVENANT CHURCH

January 4, 2015



For as many of
you as have been
baptized into Christ
have put on Christ

Galatians 3:27

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

January 4, 2015

"Grace is not opposed to effort, but it is opposed to earning."

~ Dallas Willard ~

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

We are invited into the presence of God!

Please turn your cell phones off

Please sign the register book & pass it on.

PRELUDE

SONGS OF PRAISE

Worship Facilitator

Zach Coil

CCLI #2005052

HEARING FROM GOD

We give our attention to God by opening our lives to His Word!

We invite God's Spirit to take this Word into our lives that we might be formed into the image and likeness of Jesus!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH

"Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always."

(1 Chronicles 16:11)

BAPTISM of Grayson Richard Ellis

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(Children dismissed for Children's Church, please for ages 3 thru 5th grade only).

WORDS FROM GOD

Mark 4:26-32

Scripture Reader, Juanita Arellanos

RESPONDING TO GOD

Now that God has spoken to us, it is time for us to speak to Him!

MESSAGE “Thriving: Growing Strong in Grace” Pastor Steve Peterson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Call to Communion

#887 The Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

OFFERTORY

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

BEING SENT BY GOD

God sends us out into the world that he desperately loves.

His presence goes with us. We leave as God’s agents of grace and mercy.

SONG

BENEDICTION

Scripture Reading for the Week

Sunday

Psalm 1:1

Monday

Matthew 2:18

Tuesday

Genesis 4:17

Wednesday

Proverbs 1:7

Thursday

Matthew 4:20-22

Friday

Genesis 11:10

Saturday

Numbers 9:15

TODAY’S GREETERS

Maxine Barnes & Tasha Munger

HEAD USHER

Gary Wells

USHERS Tom Dang, Mike Hermann, Orlin Johnson & Gary

SOUND SYSTEM

Josh Parrott

“Thriving: Growing Strong in Grace”

Mark 4:26-32

Key Verse: “You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”
(2 Tim. 2:1)

Key thought: If our lives are truly to thrive, we must first establish ourselves in God’s grace.

- 1) Intro & Context
- 2) Three primary spiritual paths:
 - a. Death: Bound by sin (cf. Rom. 5:12; 6:16; Gal. 6:7,8) “The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction” (Gal. 6:8a)
 - b. Works: Bound by religion and ritual (cf. Mt. 23:13-33; Col. 2:8,16-23) “... on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness” (Mt. 23:28)
 - c. Grace: Freedom through faith in Christ (cf. Rom. 3:23-24; Eph. 2:8,9; Col. 1:13-14) “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...” (Eph. 2:8)
- 3) Growing strong in grace (2 Tim. 2:1)
 - a. Strong in spirit (cf. Lk. 1:80; Rom. 1:11; 1 Cor. 4:20; Gal. 6:18) “I pray that... he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being” (Eph. 3:16)
 - b. Strong in mind (cf. Isa. 26:3; Rom. 8:5-6; 12:2; 1 Cor. 2:16) “The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace” (Rom. 8:6)
 - c. Strong in heart (cf. 2 Chr. 16:9; Ps. 31:24; 1 Ths. 3:13; Heb. 13:9) “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (Ps. 73:26)
 - d. Strong in character (cf. Pr. 12:4; Acts 17:11; Col. 3:12-14)
- 4) Grace & work vs. grace & works (cf. Rom. 11:5-6) “... I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me” (1 Cor. 15:20)
- 5) The litmus test: “Show me the fruit!” (Mt. 7:16-20; Gal. 5:22-23; Col. 1:10) “... every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit” (Mt. 7:17)

Which path have you been walking on? Death, works or grace? _____

What steps can you take to help you to grow stronger in God’s grace?

Are you satisfied with the level of fruitfulness evidenced in your life?

PRAISES and PRAYER CONCERNS

Praises: **The baptism of Grayson Ellis;**
 7 new members –
 Abigail Akpla, Dori Cosgrove, Leonna Ellis, Marc Ellis,
 Natalie Nipper, Zach Stulir and Diana Wood.

Prayer Concerns: **The families of the downed Asian plane;**
 Our Elim shut-ins; Continuing cold & flu season.

Those in Need of God's Strength and Healing:

Unspoken needs of our brothers & sisters: Dorothy & Adolph Laurick, June Riley, Anna Swanson, Vivian Smith, Gene & Ellie Wildermuth, Betty Lindberg, Marj Nelson, Jay Stanley, John Hutchison, Travis Ferry, Lyle & Maurine Beresford, the Ferry family, families who have lost loved ones, military families, and unspoken concerns.

Prayer Notes:



Sunday Prayer Following Worship

Please feel free to take your burden or praise to one of the Elim Prayer Team members available to pray with you. Team members include: Julie, Linda, Carolyn, Juanita, Dee & Tasha and can be easily found at the back of the sanctuary in the northeast classroom.

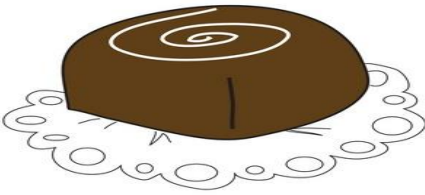


Monday Evening Prayer Gathering

Each Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. there is a prayer gathering held at Elim. You are encouraged to come and pray with the team members and share your requests/praises.

Prayer Chain

The prayer network is used when special needs arise during the week. Call Judy at the church 764-6920 Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. otherwise call or text Tasha Munger @ (309) 281-8784 with your request. If no answer, you may leave your concern on the answer machine and it will be relayed ASAP.



CHOCOLATE FANTASY MEETING

Cheryl Bear is holding a Chocolate Fantasy planning meeting following worship on Sunday, January 11th.

A workshop will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17th @ 9:00 a.m.



WEDNESDAY DOLLAR DINNER NEEDS BAKERS

There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering area for bakers to pick a Wednesday to furnish the Wednesday night Dollar Dinner group with desserts. Please sign-up if you can help out. See Tom Bivens or Greg Burney.



CHOCOLATE FANTASY WORKSHOP

There will be a practice Chocolate Fantasy Workshop

@ the Elim kitchens on

Saturday, January 17th @ 9:00 a.m.

See Cheryl Bear with any questions.



women's retreat

S.P.L.A.S.H. MINI RETREAT

OK ladies.....get ready.....

“Clear the Stage” is about to commence!!!

That's the theme of the next

S.P.L.A.S.H. mini retreat taking place on
Saturday, Jan. 24th

@ 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

It's a must be there event,
so clear your calendars!!!

2015

May your new year be filled with many
blessings and God's abundant grace
for you and your families!

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun	Jan. 4	9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service Baptism of Grayson Richard Ellis
Mon	Jan. 5	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tue	Jan. 6	6:45 p.m. Choir Practice
Wed	Jan. 7	5:30 p.m. Dollar Dinner 5:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. SPARK & AXIS 7:30 p.m. Fusion
Thur	Jan. 8	9:00 a.m. Keenagers Coffee Time/Bible Study
Sun	Jan. 11	9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service 11:45 a.m. Chocolate Fantasy Meeting following Worship
Mon	Jan. 12	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tue	Jan. 13	5:30 p.m. MLT Meeting 6:45 p.m. Choir Practice
Wed	Jan. 14	5:30 p.m. Dollar Dinner 5:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. SPARK & AXIS 7:30 p.m. Fusion
Thur	Jan. 15	9:00 a.m. Keenagers Coffee Time/Bible Study
Sat	Jan. 17	9:00 a.m. Chocolate Fantasy Workshop
Sun	Jan. 18	9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service 11:45 a.m. Collection for Christian Friendliness/Youth Hope 1:00-3:00pm CIU – Thompson Family

January Birthdays

7 – Victoria Fowler
9 – Sandy Parrott
10 – Anna Christy
15 – Rebecca Christy
16 – Natalie Hermann
17 – Judie Stanley

January Anniversaries

28 – Kathy & Donald Boggs

CIU – means Church In Use
(309) 764-6920

Church office office@elimqc.org

Attendance Last Week – Sunday School = 27

Worship = 114

CHILD CARE THIS WEEK

Nursery Meagan Bear & Judy Martel
Children's Church 3-6 yrs Rachel Cunningham
Children's Church 2nd-5th grades Rachel Cunningham
Pastor's e-mail pastor@elimqc.org
Church office e-mail office@elimqc.org

NEXT WEEK

Lori & Elizabeth Smith
Rachel Cunningham
Rachel Cunningham
Greg's e-mail youth@elimqc.org
Website elimqc.org