

# ELIM COVENANT CHURCH

December 18, 2014

*Happy 4th week of Advent!*



**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**  
**ELIM COVENANT CHURCH December 21, 2014**

**"A flower cannot blossom without sunshine, and man cannot live without love." ~ Max Muller ~**

**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

**We are invited into the presence of God!  
Please turn your cell phones off\***

**PRELUDE**

**SONG OF PRAISE**

**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!

**MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH**

**"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear."  
(1 John 4:18)**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

*Craig, Shannon, Jordan & Sera Pirmann*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**(No Children's Church today).**

**WORDS FROM GOD**

Psalm 89:1-4; Luke 1:47-55

*Scripture Reader, Orlin Johnson*

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

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

### **MESSAGE**

**“A Forever Love”  
Pastor Steve Peterson**

### **ELIM CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

**“The Christmas Story” Directed by Linda Gilmour**

*“The Word Became Flesh”*

*“The Manger Medley”*

*“Saints and Angles Song”*

*“Mary, Did You Know?”*

*“Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”*

***Congregation please all sing with us:***

*“Joy To the World”*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **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.

### **BENEDICTION**

#### ***Scripture Reading for the Week***

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Psalm 18:28</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Psalms 31:21-22</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Psalm 18:2</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Isaiah 41:10</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Hebrews 8:1</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Psalm 27:1</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 1:8</i>

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**TODAY'S GREETERS** Rachel Cunningham & Mike Hermann

**HEAD USHER**

Don Peterson

**USHERS**

Martin Bear, Tom Dang & Gary Wells

**SOUND SYSTEM**

Orlin Johnson

# **“A Forever Love”**

## **Psalm 89:1-4; Luke 1:47-55**

**Key Verse:** “I will declare that your love stands firm forever” (Ps. 89:2a)

**Key Thought:** God’s forever love is ours through faith in Christ Jesus.

- 1) Intro & Context
- 2) God always makes good on His promises! (2 Sam. 7:11b,16; Ps. 89:3-4; Lk. 1:32-33,54-55; 2 Cor. 1:20) (cf. Num. 23:19; Ps. 105:8; 145:13) “He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations” (Ps. 105:8)  
E.g. Abraham (Isaac, Father of nations); Israel & Promised Land; David—establish his throne forever;
- 3) The blessing of God’s favor (2 Sam. 7:8-9,16; Ps. 89:3-4,19-26; Lk. 1:30b) (cf. Gen. 6:8; Deut. 33:23; Ps. 5:12; 90:17; Isa. 66:2)  
“These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word” (Isa. 66:2)
  - a. Mercy that extends from generation to generation! (Lk. 1:50) (cf. Ps. 123:2; Ja. 5:11) “As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master... so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he shows us his mercy” (Ps. 123:2)
  - b. A forever love (Ps. 89:2a,24) (cf. 1 Chr. 16:34; Ps. 106:1; 136; Jer. 33:11) “His love endures forever.” (Ps. 100:5a)
  - c. Faithfulness to the end (Ps. 89:2b,24,33) (cf. Ex. 34:6; Lam. 3:23; Ps. 36:5; 100:5; Isa. 25:1) “His faithfulness continues through all generations” (Ps. 100:5b)
- 4) The promise of eternal life is transferred to us by faith (cf. Rom. 4:16; Gal. 3:29; Heb. 9:15; 1 Jn. 2:25) “And this is what he promised us—eternal life” (1 Jn. 2:25)
- 5) Conclusion

## **PRAISES and PRAYER CONCERNS**

**Praises: Elim choir members: Mary Bivens, Carolyn Carsell, Chris Carsell, Jim Carsell, John Clarke, Tom Dang, Linda Gilmour, Pat Hudson, Torie Lauritzson, Ashley Parrott, Abigail Peterson, Elizabeth Peterson, Rachel Peterson, Susie Schaechter and Greta Wiborg.**

**Prayer Concerns: Sympathy to the family of Mary Parrott; Mary's father Dick Bowman passed away Thursday, December 18, 2014.**

### **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, Tabatha Estes, Lyle & Maurine Beresford, 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**

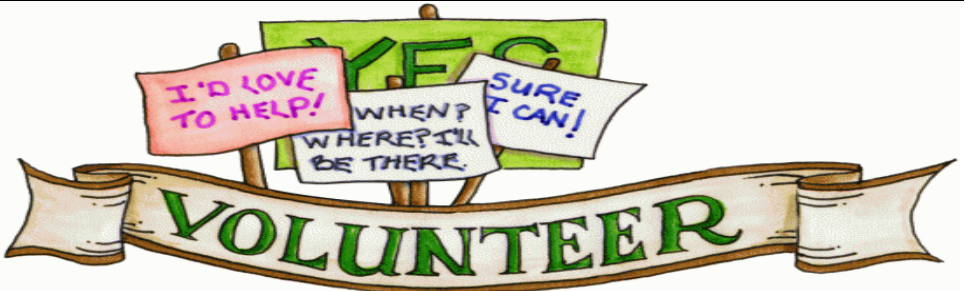
The prayer network is used when special needs arise during the week. Call Judy at the church 764-6920 Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. otherwise call or text Tasha Munger @ (309) 281-8784 with your request. If no answer, you may leave your concern on the answer machine and it will be relayed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

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## PLEASE NOTE:

There will be NO children's church or Nursery coverage today, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> so volunteers can enjoy the Christmas Cantata.

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### *VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS*

*The volunteer sign-up sheets for 2015 is on the table in the gathering area. Please consider volunteering for this coming year. We really need people to help out in every area. You need to sign up even if you already volunteer in that particular area.*

*Thank you.*

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## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

### BREAKFAST



The next men's fellowship breakfast will be **Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 8:00 a.m.**

Sign-up sheets are on the table in the gathering area.

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### CHOCOLATE FANTASY MEETING

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

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

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## 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.

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## **“NOON” NEW YEAR’S EVE AT ELIM**

*There will be a “Noon” New Year’s Eve party for the Elim families here at Elim from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.*

*Family Fun Events include:*

*Clown Daizy Dee’s presentation “Worry or Worship,”  
balloon sculptures, carnival type games,  
cookies and punch.*

*We’ll have the games and cookies in the fellowship hall and  
Daisy’s presentation in the sanctuary.*

*Hope to see everyone young and the young at heart there.  
See Dora Beth Christy or Pam Thompson  
with any questions. Thanks.*

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## 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. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

It’s a must be there event, so Clear your Calendars!!

## LOOKING AHEAD

Sun	Dec. 21	9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service/Cantata Sunday 11:45 a.m. Collection for Christian Friendliness
Mon	Dec. 22	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tue	Dec. 23	6:45 p.m. Choir Practice
Wed	Dec. 24	5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service
Thur	Dec. 25	Office Closed – Christmas Day
Sun	Dec. 28	9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service
Mon	Dec. 29	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tue	Dec. 30	6:45 p.m. Choir Practice
Wed	Dec. 31	10:30a-12:30p “Noon” New Year’s Eve @ Elim
Thur	Jan. 1	Office Closed – New Year’s Day
Sat	Jan. 3	8:00 a.m. Men’s Fellowship Breakfast
Sun	Jan. 4	9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service
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
Sat	Jan. 17	9:00 a.m. Chocolate Fantasy Workshop

### December Birthdays

22 – John Thompson

30 – Belva Van Norman

31 – Kristen Burns

### December Anniversaries

31 – Adolph & Dorothy Laurick

CIU – means Church In Use

(309) 764-6920

Church office      [office@elimqc.org](mailto:office@elimqc.org)

Attendance Last Week – Sunday School = 42

Worship = 125

### CHILD CARE      THIS WEEK

Nursery (Dec. 21 – No Nursery coverage)

Children’s Church 3-6 yrs (No Children’s Church)

Children’s Church 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades (No Children’s Church)

Pastor’s e-mail      [pastor@elimqc.org](mailto:pastor@elimqc.org)

Church office e-mail      [office@elimqc.org](mailto:office@elimqc.org)

### NEXT WEEK

Karen Johnson & Judy Martel

Lori Smith & Thao Luong

Rachael Ferry & Elizabeth Smith

Greg’s e-mail      [youth@elimqc.org](mailto:youth@elimqc.org)

Website      [elimqc.org](http://elimqc.org)