

ELIM COVENANT CHURCH

March 8, 2015



**I will praise you, O LORD,
with all my heart;**

I will tell of all your wonders.

Psalm 9:1

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

March 8, 2015

“So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord.”
(2 Timothy 1:8a)

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

Greg Burney
“Thrive”
“God Alone”
“We Are Hungry”
CCLI #2005052

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

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

“Do everything in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:)

CHILDREN’S SERMON

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

WORDS FROM GOD

Acts 26:1-20, 28-29

Scripture Reader, Gary Wells

MESSAGE “Thriving: Stewarding My Testimony”
Pastor Steve Peterson

RESPONDING TO GOD

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

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.

SONG

“Amazing Grace”

BENEDICTION

Scripture Readings for the Week

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Ephesians 3:16-19</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Luke 11:9-10</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>John 7:37-39</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Acts 7:51</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Zechariah 12:10</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Luke 22:18</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Acts 2:32</i>

TODAY’S GREETERS

Tasha Munger & Gary Wells

HEAD USHER

Gary Wells

USHERS

Felipe Cantu, Sandy Parrott, Tom Dang

SOUND SYSTEM

Josh Parrott

“Thriving: Stewarding My Testimony”

(Acts 26:1-20, 28-29)

Key thought: We should be able to articulate well our testimony and be vigilant, looking for every opportunity to share it with others.

Key text: “I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ” (Philemon 6)

- I. Intro & Context
- II. Defining a “testimony”
Testify (i.e. give witness, give an account, verify) to God’s powerful love and forgiveness as it has played out in one’s heart and life.
- III. Stewarding my testimony. Goal: To be used by God to lead others into a saving relationship with Him (Acts 26:29)
- IV. Lies that torpedo our sharing
 - A. People won’t want to hear it (fear of rejection)
 - B. My testimony is unimpressive
 - C. I don’t have the gift of evangelism
- V. Key aspects of an impactful testimony
 - A. **Conscious** of my sin (Rom. 3:23) “For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me” (Ps. 51:3)
 - B. **Confession** of sin (Ps. 32:5) “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn. 1:9)
 - C. **Repentance** from sin (Ezek. 18:32; Acts 2:38) “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” (Acts 3:19)
 - D. **Believe** in God’s forgiveness and love (Jn. 11:25-26) “... everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name” (Acts 10:43)
 - E. **Receive**/accept God’s forgiveness and love (Rom. 3:24) “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (Jn. 1:12)
 - F. **Reflect** God’s forgiveness and love (Col. 3:13) “... The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love” (Gal. 5:6)
 - G. **Pursue growth** and maturity (sp. disciplines) toward a life that is THRIVING in Him (cf. Eph. 3:20; 1 Pt. 2:2) “...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (Jn. 10:10)
 - H. Future **glory** (2 Cor. 4:17-18) “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18)

VI. 2, 5, & 20 minute versions of your testimony

VII. Giving God the credit and the glory (Lk. 17:10; 1 Pt. 4:11)

VIII. Conclusion

Questions for Reflection:

Do you have a testimony? (Hint: If you have a relationship w/ God, you do!)

Have you thoughtfully developed your 2, 5, and 20 minute testimony?

Would you be willing to attend a workshop to help you with your testimony?

PRAISES and PRAYER CONCERNS

**Praises: Finally a break in the cold & snow. Families.
The promise of Springtime. God's amazing grace. Attendance.**

**Prayer Concerns: Sympathy to Karen Johnson upon the death
of her mother last week in Minnesota.
Cindy Seaman (realitive of Don Neer) on life support after a fall.**

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, Dillon, the Ferry family, families who have lost loved ones, military families, and unspoken concerns.

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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.**

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 14th @ 8:00 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering area.



S.P.L.A.S.H. MEETING

Ladies, the next S.P.L.A.S.H. meeting will take place on Saturday, March 28, 2015, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Rock Island Christian Care Immediate Needs Updated:

Paper products, bath tissue, batteries, men's underwear (all sizes), men's thermal wear, trash bags (13 or 30 gallon size), Re-sealable bags all sizes.

Christain Care continues to appreciate all of our contributions – their thank you notes are always posted on the bulletin board in the side hallway by the office if you would like to read them.



WORKSHOP !!

"CRAFTING YOUR TESTIMONY"

Pastor Steve is presenting this workshop on Wednesday, March 11th @ 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., and repeated on Wednesday, March 18th. Please sign up if you plan on attending the Dollar Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. on the night of the workshop.

Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone at Elim for their concern and prayers for my son Tom during his knee replacement surgery in Chicago. He is doing well. Don Neer

Pancake Breakfast



The youth of Elim are once again inviting the congregation and friends to an Easter Pancake Breakfast. The event will begin on Easter Sunday, April 5th @ 9:00 a.m. and stopping right before worship time @ 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome and donations will be accepted.



Bring the children to our Easter Egg Hunt!! We will have an Easter Egg hunt right after worship on Sunday, April 5th. We are asking for donations of non-chocolate candies, individually wrapped (if possible) that we can put into the eggs for hiding. You may put your donations on the table in the gathering area.



*Here is the new address for
Betty Lindberg
% Heartland Health Care Center
833 16th Avenue Room #162-A
Moline, IL. 61265
Please drop her a note or a card.*

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun	March 8	9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service
Mon	March 9	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tue	March 10	5:45 p.m. MLT Meeting 6:45 p.m. Choir Practice
Wed	March 11	5:30 p.m. Dollar Dinner 5:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 -7:30pm Crafting Your Testimony Workshop 6:00 p.m. SPARK & AXIS 7:30 p.m. Fusion
Thur	March 12	9:00 a.m. Keenagers Coffee Time/Bible Study
Sat	March 14	8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Sun	March 15	9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service 11:45 a.m. Collection for CF/Youth Hope
Mon	March 16	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tue	March 17	Happy St. Patrick's Day!! 6:45 p.m. Choir Practice
Wed	March 18	5:30 p.m. Dollar Dinner 5:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00-7:30pm Crafting Your Testimony Workshop 6:00 p.m. SPARK & AXIS 7:30 p.m. Fusion
Thur	March 19	9:00 a.m. Keenagers Coffee Time/Bible Study
Sun	March 22	9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service
Mon	March 23	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tue	March 24	6:45 p.m. Choir Practice
Wed	March 25	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

March Birthdays

12 – Marc Ellis
17 – Katie Clarke
20 – Ellie Wildermuth
26 – Claudine Patton
28 – Jon Estes

March Anniversaries

16 – Jim & Danielle Ogden
23 – Jay & Judie Stanley
29 – Jon & Tabatha Estes

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

Church office office@elimqc.org
Church website elimqc.org
Pastor's e-mail pastor@elimqc.org
Greg's e-mail youth@elimqc.org

Attendance Last Week – Sunday School = 54

Worship = 144

CHILD CARE THIS WEEK

Nursery Meagan Bear & Diana Wood
Children's Church 3-6 yrs Cindy M. & Elizabeth S.
Children's Church 2nd-5th grades Thao Luong & AmandaDang

NEXT WEEK

Karen Johnson & Judy Martel
Rachael Ferry & Rachel Luong
Thao Luong & Amanda D.