

**ELIM COVENANT CHURCH
DECEMBER 13, 2015**



WORSHIP CELEBRATION

December 13, 2015

"I sometimes wonder whether all pleasures are not substituted for Joy...
I doubt whether anyone who has tasted it would ever, if both were in his
power, exchange it for all the pleasures in the world.

But then Joy is never in our power and pleasure often is."

C.S.Lewis, *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life*

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

Greg Burney

Worship Facilitator

"Desert Song"

"How Many Kings"

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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

Mike Hermann

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are
steadfast, because they trust in you." (Isaiah 26:3)

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Breath of Heaven"

Grace & Helen Wiborg

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

WORDS FROM GOD

Isiah 35:1-10

Scripture Reader, Juanita Arellanos
(Pages 709 or 749 in the red Bibles)

MESSAGE
"The Substance of Joy"
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

"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

BENEDICTION

Scripture Readings for the Week

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Romans 8:32</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Romans 5:10</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 4:7</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>1 Peter 5:10</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Ephesians 1:6</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>2 Corinthians 8:9</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Hebrews 10:29</i>

TODAY'S GREETERS

Karen Johnson & Gary Wells

HEAD USHER

Gary Wells

USHERS

Felipe Cantu, Tom Dang & Sandy Parrott

SOUND SYSTEM

Orlin Johnson

“The Substance of Joy”

Isaiah 35:1-10

Key Text: “Be joyful always” (1 Thess. 5:16)

Key Thought: God’s joy is an essential aspect of a thriving life in Christ. Everlasting joy will crown the heads of those He has redeemed.

1) Intro & context

2) The substance of joy

- a. Found in His presence *“You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand”* (Ps. 16:11) (cf. also Acts 2:28)
- b. A fruit of the Spirit: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...”* (Gal. 5:22) (cf. also 1 Ths. 1:6)
- c. Based in His unfailing love *“Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days”* (Ps. 90:14) (cf. also Jn. 15:9-11)
- d. Found in His salvation: *“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”* (Isa. 12:3) (cf. also Acts 16:34; 1 Pt. 1:8)
- e. A product of righteousness: *“The prospect of the righteous is joy, but the hopes of the wicked come to nothing”* (Pr. 10:28) (cf. also Pr. 21:15; 29:6)
- f. A result of God’s restoration: *“You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy”* (Ps. 30:11) (cf. also Isa. 35; 61:3)
- g. Produced by His Word: *“The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart...”* (Ps. 19:8) (cf. also Ps. 119:111)
- h. A result of His protection: *“But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy...”* (Ps. 5:11-12)
- i. In answered prayer: *“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”* (Jn. 16:24)
- j. In the midst of persecution: *“Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you”* (Mt. 5:12) (cf. Mt. 5:10-12; Acts 13:49-52; Heb. 10:34; Ja. 1:2)

3) Conclusion Questions for Reflection

- Do you experience God’s joy, even during difficult times?
- What pleasures are you seeking as a substitute for God’s joy?
- Would you give your life more fully to God, that His joy might increase in your life? What sacrifices need to be made to do that?

PRAISES and PRAYER CONCERNS

Praises: God's amazing grace!

Prayer Concerns: Sympathy to the Jacks family upon the passing of Christy.

Those in Need of God's Strength and Healing:

Gary Wells, Juna Wortz, Arlene Miller, Adolph Laurick, June Riley, Margaret Hasty, Anna Swanson, Vivian Smith, Marj Nelson, Gene & Ellie Wildermuth, Mindy Allison, Jay & Judie Stanley, John & Linda Hutchison, Lyle & Maurine Beresford, Ruth Armstrong, Joy Wright, Pennie Knary, families that have lost loved ones, military families, and unspoken concerns.

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, & 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.

Pizza, PJ's and Play!

*Bring the family for games, a movie, and some food,
and if you want, get comfy and wear your PJ's!*

Wednesday, December 30th
5:30-7:30 - FREE!

Please note this is a "family" event, adults must accompany children



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY

following worship today December 13th.



A.M. Prayer & Coffee Gatherings (coffee is optional)!
Every Wednesday morning during the holiday season, we're going to have a morning prayer gathering from 7:00- 7:45 a.m. It's a great opportunity for those who

- Want to counter-act the holiday stress with prayer.
 - Want to draw closer to Christ.
 - Feel a call to join with others in intercessory prayer. For those who are able, we'll finish with conversation over coffee at Village Inn immediately following our prayer time.
 - **Will meet without Pastor on Wed. Dec. 16th.**
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Christmas Cantata

Our Elim Choir will present their Christmas Cantata during worship on Sunday, Dec. 20th.



The children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, Dec. 20th @ 4:00 p.m.



ADDRESS CHANGE

Rolland & Joann Potts
1161 - 48th Avenue

East Moline, IL. 61244 (309) 203-1177

CONGRATULATIONS



Don & Jane Peterson are the proud grandparents of baby Oliver Landen Carr 7 lbs. 9 oz. born on November 22nd, 2015.

NO "FAITH from OBSCURITY" Class

canceled for

Sunday, Dec. 13th & Wednesday Dec. 16th.

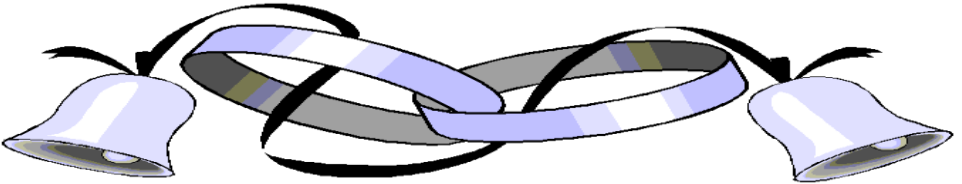
VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET FOR 2016

The volunteer sign-up sheet is on the table in the gathering area. Please sign-up early so schedules can be made out in a timely manner.

Thank You 

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, Cards and thoughts concerning my hip surgery.

It was appreciated. Arlene Miller



Don & Jane Peterson invite you to attend the marriage of their daughter Martha to Josh Collins on Saturday, January 2nd at 2:00 p.m. A light reception will follow in fellowship hall.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun.	Dec. 13	9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service 11:45 a.m. Congregational Meeting <u>NO</u> Faith from Obscurity Class Canceled
Mon.	Dec. 14	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tues.	Dec. 15	6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
Wed.	Dec. 16	5:30 p.m. Dollar Dinner <u>NO</u> Women's Bible Study until sometime January <u>NO</u> Faith from Obscurity Class Canceled
		6:00-7:30 p.m. <i>SPARK & AXIS</i> 7:30-9:00p.m. Fusion
Thurs.	Dec. 17	??? Choir Practice for the Cantata
Fri.	Dec. 18	5:00 p.m. CIU – Wedding Rehearsal
Sat.	Dec. 19	12 Noon CIU – Wedding
Sun.	Dec. 20	9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration – Christmas Cantata 11:45 a.m. Collect for CF/Youth Hope following worship 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program
Mon.	Dec. 21	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tues.	Dec. 22	<u>NO</u> Choir Practice
Wed.	Dec. 23	<u>NO</u> Wednesday Night Activities
Thurs.	Dec. 24	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Fri.	Dec. 25	Christmas Day – Office Closed
Sun.	Dec. 27	9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Service
Mon.	Dec. 28	5:30 p.m. Prayer Team Gathering
Tues.	Dec. 29	<u>NO</u> Choir Practice
Wed.	Dec. 30	Youth Family Pizza, PJ'S and Play! Night
Thurs.	Dec. 31	<u>NO</u> New Year's Eve Afternoon Party Canceled

December Birthdays

13 – Adam Hermann
19 – Elizabeth Smith
19 – Julie Wells
20 – John Wulff
22 – John Thompson
27 – Dave Parrott
30 – Belva Van Norman
31 – Kristen Burns

January Anniversaries

28 – Donald & Kathy Boggs

CIU – means Church In Use

Church office office@elimqc.org
(309) 764-6920

Church website elimqc.org

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

Attendance Last Week – Sunday School = 36

Worship = 101

CHILD CARE TODAY Dec. 13
Nursery Susie S., Elizabeth S. (Kate S.)
Jr. Church Rachel C. (Mary B. & Rachel P.)

NEXT WEEK Dec. 20
Leonna E. (Amanda D. & Rachel L.)
Rachel C. (Lori S. Natalie N.)