ELIM COVENANT CHURCH DECEMBER 20, 2015



WORSHIP CELEBRATION December 20, 2015

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him." *1 Corinthians 2:9*

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

We are invited into the presence of God! *Please turn your cell phones off* <u>Please sign the register book & pass it on.</u>

PRELUDE

HYMNS OF PRAISE HYMN # 147 HYMN #167 Mary Bivens Worship Facilitator "O Come, All Ye Faithful" "The First Noel"

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

Sandy Parrott

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 FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

WORDS FROM GOD

1 John 4:7-16

Scripture Reader, Mike Hermann (Pages 1280 or 1209 in the red Bibles)

MESSAGE "The Substance of Love" Pastor Steve Peterson

CHOIR PROCESSIONAL *"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"* (Congregation please join in singing – Blue Hymnal #146)

ELIM CHOIR

Christmas Cantata God Is With Us

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.

HYMN # 157

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

BENEDICTION

Scripture Readings for the Week

Sunday	2 Corinthians 3:5
Monday	Hebrews 8:6
Tuesday	Matthew 28:19
Wednesday	John 1:43
Thursday	Luke 9:23
Friday	Galatians 6:14
Saturday	John 10:27

TODAY'S GREETERSKaren Johnson & Gary WellsHEAD USHERGary WellsUSHERSFelipe Cantu, Tom Dang & Sandy ParrottSOUND SYSTEMDon Yoeckel

The Substance of Love" 1 John 4:7-16

Key Text: "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him" (1 Jn. 4:9)

Key Thought: If we trust and obey God, His Spirit will dwell in us, and His amazing love will work in us and through us.

- 1) Intro & Context
- 2) The Substance of love
 - a. God is love (1 Jn. 4:8,16)
 - b. God in us (thus, love in us) (Gal. 5:22; 1 Jn. 4:12-13,16b) *"God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us"* (Rom. 5:5)
- 3) We're called to love God & love others (Mk. 12:28-31; 1 Jn. 4:7-8) "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Mk. 12:30-31)
- 4) We're called to know God & obey His Word (Deut. 11:1; Jn. 14:15,21; 1 Jn. 2:3-6; 5:3) "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me" (Jn. 14:21)
- 5) Manifestations of love (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

Patience	Kindness	Doesn't envy	Doesn't boast
Is not proud	Is not rude	Is not self-seeking	Not easily
			angered
Keeps no record	Does not delight	Rejoices in the	Always
of wrongs	in evil	truth	protects
Always trusts	Always hopes	Always perseveres	Never fails

6) Ultimate love's ultimate demonstration (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8) "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters" (1 Jn. 3:16)

Closing

PRAISES and PRAYER CONCERNS

Praises: Thank you to the Elim choir and director Linda Gilmour!

Prayer Concerns: Holiday stress & feeling overwhelmed/depressed. Our shut-ins.

Those in Need of God's Strength and Healing:

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, Ann Seyller, 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.





Thank You

Dear Elim Family, Thank you so much for your loving concern and caring for Christy. She has been the light of our lives for 47 years and we know she will be missed by you also. It was a wonderful funeral celebration. Thank you for all you did, for the lunch, the many flowers, memorials and cards. We truly appreciate it all. Love, Dewey and Carol



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 the Village Inn.



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

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.

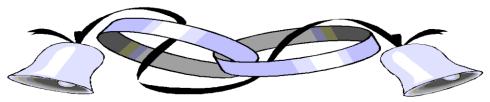
MISSIONS OFFERING UPDATE

Starting in January, we will be combining any amount marked on the Missions line on your envelopes into the For Church Expenses amount line. At the Congregational meeting, it was voted to make our Missions giving part of our regular budget, not relying on people to have to specifically mark it on their envelopes. It will still be distributed as outlined in the new budget, but the recipients now will know exactly the amount that will be sent each month, which helps them in preparing their budgets.

We will still need your Missions monies to meet our budget, so please give as you are lead to. Please continue to mark any extra amount for the Building Fund line, otherwise all goes into the For Church Expenses line.

Also, you can still specifically write in any extra giving to any nonbudgeted missions, such as YouthHope (Christian Friendliness), LoveHope, WDLM, Special Needs, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Hermann, Orlin Johnson or Sheila Yoeckel



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.

		LOOKIN	NG AHEAD
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	-	NO Choir Practice
Wed.	Dec. 23		NO 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		NO Choir Practice
Wed.	Dec. 30	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Family Pizza, PJ'S and Play Night
Thurs.	Dec. 31		<u>NO</u> New Year's Eve Afternoon Party Canceled
Fri.	Jan. 1	10:00a.m.	CIU – Set up for Martha Peterson's Wedding
Sat.	Jan. 2	10:00a-7:00p.	CIU – Peterson/Collins Wedding
Sun.	Jan. 3	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:30 a.m.	Worship Celebration Service
Mon.	Jan. 4	5:30 p.m.	Prayer Team Gathering
Tue.	Jan. 5	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Wed.	Jan. 6	5:30 p.m.	Dollar Dinner
		5:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
		6:00-7:30 p.m.	SPARK & AXIS
		7:30-9:00 p.m.	Fusion
Thurs.	Jan. 7	9:00 a.m.	Keenagers Coffee Time/Bible Study
Sun.	Jan. 10	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:30 a.m.	Worship Celebration Service
Mon.	Jan. 11	5:30 p.m.	Prayer Team Gathering
Tues.	Jan. 12	5:30 p.m.	MLT Meeting
		6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
December Birthdays		<u>Birthdays</u>	January Anniversaries
20 – John Wulff		en Wulff	28 – Donald & Kathy Boggs
	22 – John	Thompson	
27 – Dave Parrott		e Parrott	CIU – means Church In Use
30 – Belva Van Norman			Church office <u>office@elimqc.org</u>
	31 – Kristen Burns		(309) 764-6920
January Birthdays			Church website elimqc.org
7 – Victoria Fowler			Pastor's e-mail <u>pastor@elimqc.org</u>
9 – Sandy Parrott			Greg's e-mail youth@elimqc.org
10 – Anna Christy			
15 – Rebecca Christy 16 – Natalie Hermann			
	16 — Natali	e Hermann	

Attendance Last Week – Sunday School = 43Worship = 134CHILD CARETODAY Dec. 20NEXT WEEK Dec. 27NurseryDiana W. (Amanda D. & Rachel L.)Judy M. Meagan B. (Abby P.)Jr. ChurchRachel C. (Lori S. Mallory B.)Rachel C. (Megan & Mariah DeA.)