



# *The Elim Waterfall*

*January – March 2025*

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## ***From the Pastor:***

I am a genius! If you believe that, I have some swamp land to sell you! 😊 Alligators will cost you extra (\$\$\$)! Seriously however, I have been feeling a little brighter than usual. Lately, before I go to bed, as a way of helping me unwind, I play a game on my phone called Word Master. It is essentially the same game as Scrabble. The only difference is, I'm playing against a computer. I can easily take ten minutes looking at 7 letters before I come up with the best word. The computer does it every time in less than a second. It's hard on my ego. What's even harder is, not only is the computer faster than I am, it's also sharper than I am. Well, I should qualify that. I started out playing the game at a 'Master's Level.' At that level, I won about one out of ten times. Again, hard on my ego. But then I changed the level to 'Medium' and discovered that the outcome is exactly the opposite. I win about nine out of ten times. So, guess what level I have it permanently set on? Yes, Medium! That way I feel like a genius even if I'm not.

But I'll let you in on a little secret. Not only do I have a fragile ego, I'm also a sore loser. I hate to lose! Which means, that even at the Medium level, if I'm behind and all I have in front of me are lousy letters (you know the ones worth only 1 or 2 points), I've been known to accidentally hit the icon, "START OVER!" And I say to myself, "Oops, how did that happen?" 😊 That also explains why I gave up the game of golf. People stopped playing with me. They accused me of taking too many 'mulligans' (Do-overs!)

Call it a 'mulligan' or call it a 'do-over,' but I'll take it every time! After all, we all make mistakes, don't we? Having a second chance to get it right is a wonderful gift. And in some ways, that's exactly what we have in a new year. God gives us a 'do-over'. Take another shot at it but do it differently this time. Get it right this time. Doesn't mean we will, but at least we can try!

Paul said it well in his letter to the Philippians 3:13-14, "*But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on towards the goal.*" What a wonderful attitude! What a wonderful gift. Our God gives second chances...and third...and fourth...and well, you get the idea. John reminds us (1 John 1:9), *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* Which is to say, if we are genuinely sorry for our mistakes, God will continue to give us new opportunities to get it right.

Of course, we don't have to wait for a new year to get a 'do-over' either. Our human calendar is just a way to get our heads around the progression of time. Truth be known, a new year is simply a new day. With God on our side, we start fresh every morning...and fresh every minute in between!

So, my challenge to all of us is two-fold. First, don't take any moment for granted. No one can predict what will happen in the next few minutes let alone the next year. Value your time and do not waste a minute of it. Invest yourself in those things that will be a blessing to you, to others, and to God.

Second, remember and cherish the fact that a 'do-over' is a grace-filled gift from God. So, enjoy and appreciate all the 'do over' opportunities He gives you this year. Now, back to my Word Master Game. 😊 I'm ahead! 😊 😊

# Sermon SCHEDULE

January 5, "Walk, Don't Run" 2 Samuel 18:19-33

January 12, "Caller ID: Noah"

January 19, "Caller ID: Abraham"

January 26, "Caller ID: Moses"

February 2, "Caller ID: Samuel"

February 9, "Caller ID: David"

February 16, "Caller ID: Isaiah"

February 23, "Caller ID: Jeremiah"

March 2, "Caller ID: Paul"

March 23 & 30, Pastor Marv on Vacation

## *Is Reading the Bible a New Years Resolution for you?*

Consider reading through the Bible next year. One tool that can help is visiting the [biblerecap.com](https://www.biblerecap.com). This leads you through a chronological overview of the Bible. It also includes an overview of the content being reviewed each day. Check it out!

<https://www.biblerecap.com>



Before you read God's Word today, ask for His help by praying these:

1. God, give me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
2. Let any knowledge I gain help me love You and others more, and not puff me up.
3. Help me see something new about You that I've never seen before.
4. Correct any lies I believe about You or anything I misunderstand.
5. Direct my steps according to Your Word.

Amen.

# dates to Remember

## January

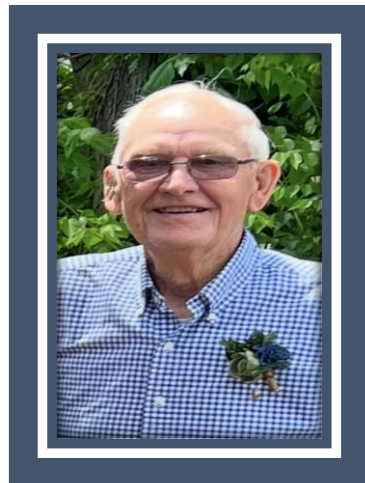
- 1 - New Years Day
- 4 - Open House for DeWayne Adams
- 6 - Epiphany
- 12 - Communion & Benevolent Fund Offering
  - Take Christmas Decorations down
- 19 - Consistory meeting 11:15 a.m.
  - Consistory dinner at Sunrise, Byron

## February

- 14 - Valentine's Day
- 17 - President's Day

## March

- 5 - Ash Wednesday
- 9 - Consistory
  - Daylight Saving Time begins
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day



## **OPEN HOUSE for DeWayne Adams**

**You're Invited to join us  
as we celebrate  
DeWayne's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>  
1 - 3 p.m.**

**Elim Reformed Church**

**No Gifts Requested**



## **Birthdays & Anniversaries (A)**



### **JANUARY**

- 6 - DeWayne Adams**
- 11 - Carol Hayenga**
- 23 - Luanne Hall**
- 28 - Blanche Houston**

### **FEBRUARY**

- 8 - Gary Rozeboom**
- 9 - Wayne Hayenga**
- 12 - Brad Engelkes**
- 28 - Dawn Somers**

### **MARCH**

- 6 - Rodney & Cyndy Hayenga (A)**
- 7 - Julie Mann**
- 8 - Roger Hayenga**
- 16 - Roger & Carol Hayenga (A)**
- 17 - Henry Haner**
- 24 - Bev Kearns**
- 26 - Deb Maas & Gary Nefstead (A)**
- 28 - Marla Rozeboom**
- 29 - Chuck Kearns**
- 31 - Charles "Butch" Hepfer**