



The Elim Waterfall

January – February 2022

From the Pastor:

2022! A New Year! Excited? Anxious? Happy? Depressed? Optimistic? Frightened? All of the above? The truth is, a new year represents a journey into the unknown, and the unknown always leaves us with mixed emotions. So, what will 2022 hold for our nation, our church, our family, ourselves? Ah...wouldn't you like to know?

As a kid, it was always easy for me to know what the future held. I simply asked my Magic 8 Ball! It offered 20 answers-10 affirmative, 5 negative, and 5 non-committals. You'd ask a question, shake the ball, and up would float the answer. Am I the cutest kid in my class? **YES!** Will I fail this test? **NO!** Does Mary Beth like me? **"REPLY HAZY, TRY AGAIN."** And I would! In fact, I'd try again and again until that Magic 8 Ball told me exactly what I wanted to see. **YES!** (Obviously, I was never a 'girls have cooties' kind of guy!)

Of course, now that I'm older, I realize that determining the future is not that simple. It's always going to look hazy from our vantage point. You can buy a Magic 8 Ball or even a Crystal Ball, but it's not going to help. The future will always remain uncertain leaving many to feel anxious and worried.

Personally, I don't want to know what my future holds. I'd much rather know who holds my future! One of my favorite life verses is Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the **LORD**, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Because God holds my future, I have nothing to fear. My God can be trusted because He always has my best interests at heart. My wife, Sue kept a journal as she fought brain cancer and at the end of every entry, she would write, "Life can be hard, but God is good...all the time!" And God is at His best, when His plan is to give us an eternal hope and future!

But let's go back to Jeremiah 29. We often quote verse 11, but verse 12 is equally important. It says, "then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Two great messages for the new year. Verse 11 encourages us to trust God in 2022 because His plans for us are always good! Armed with that assurance, verse 12 goes on to encourage us to seek God in 2022! Make this new year a prayerful year! As Jeremiah says, if we seek Him...His presence, wisdom, and will...**WE WILL FIND HIM!** And when we find Him, we will also find all that we need for the coming

year-strength for the challenges ahead, wisdom for the decisions ahead, grace for the difficult people and situations ahead, and joy for all the blessings ahead!

It's a new year and I'm praying that it will be a healthy, happy, and blessed year for all of us, collectively and individually. Proverbs 3:5-6 is the perfect complement to Jeremiah. As we enter 2022, may these verses reflect our heart's desire, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." May 2022 find your paths straight as trust, seek, and submit to Him! Looking forward to spending this new year with all of you!

Worship **SCHEDULE**

**January 2, "The Day Jesus Went AWOL"
Luke 2:41-50**

**January 9, "Starting the New Year Upside Down: First is Last"
Matthew 20:1-16**

**January 16, "Starting the New Year Upside Down: Give to Receive"
Luke 6:38**

**January 23, "Starting the New Year Upside Down: Weak is Strong"
2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

**January 30, "Starting the New Year Upside Down: Least is Greatest"
Luke 9:46-48**

**February 6, "God is for the Birds! Eagle"
Isaiah 40:28-31**

**February 13, "God is for the Birds! Sparrow"
Matthew 10:29-31**

**February 20, "God is for the Birds! Dove"
Genesis 8:6-12**

**February 27, "God is for the Birds! Stork"
Jeremiah 8:4-7**

NEWS About MEMBERS



Berniece Lucille Hayenga, age 101, passed away on Saturday, November 27, 2021, surrounded by family. Her funeral service was on December 1, 2021. Berniece actively farmed until she was 97 then retired to just mowing her lawn before having to move into Liberty Village in May of 2021. She was active with Elim activities such as Ladies Aid and teaching Sunday School for many years. She was involved with 4-H, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts as well. She is survived by her children: Roger (Carol) Hayenga, Rodney (Cyndy) Hayenga, and Dawn (Joe) Somers; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Rest In Peace Berniece – Well Done Faithful Servant!!

✧ CHURCH NEWS ✧

A new Bible Study called "On Purpose" begins on Wednesdays, starting January 12th at 6 p.m. (Please note the start date has been revised.) This study will be led by Tricia Mueller via Zoom. For those who don't have a computer or are unfamiliar with ZOOM, you can join Pastor Marv at the church. The study books and sign-up sheet are also at Elim.



ELIM POST-HIGH SCHOOL GRANTS AVAILABLE

Notice to post-high school students. It is time to fill out applications (which can be found on Elim's website) after registering for classes. Please turn in application to Pastor Marv or Bob Maas. The following are the Elim scholarship guidelines:

1. The student will be an active member of Elim Reformed Church.
2. The student must be enrolled in a college, university, or trade school for six (6) or more academic hours during the spring and/or fall semester. The student must be enrolled for three (3) or more academic hours during the summer semester. Individuals of any age are encouraged to apply.
3. The student must fill out an information sheet each semester before receiving a grant.
4. The amount of the grant will be limited to \$500 per student per spring and/or fall semester. The amount of the grant will be limited to \$250 per student per summer semester.
5. Grants will be offered for fall, spring, and/or summer semesters. These grants will be available until the grant fund is depleted.
6. The grants to be given are per student for a maximum of totaling \$2000.
7. The deadline to return the information sheet for the fall semester is September 8; for the spring semester it is January 17; and for the summer semester it is June 1.



The Meaning of the Snowflake

Every new snowflake comes to the earth
As a picture of our Saviour's birth,
Because they are sent from up above
And remind us of God's care and love.
Each one is so intricate and small
Because Christ see the details of us all,
And just as two are never the same
He knows and calls us each by name.
Snowflakes gently cover the world in white
And hide what's unlovely from our sight,
Showing us how He covers our sin
And gives us His grace when we come to Him.
So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind
And in every bit of white may you find
A reason to celebrate anew
And a reminder of His love for you.

❧ Kelley Gerth

dates to Remember

January

- 1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 2 – Last Day to Donate Items for MITTEN TREE
- 9 – Communion, Benevolent Fund Offering & Installation of new Consistory members during worship service at 10 a.m.
- 17 – Elim Grant Applications DUE!!
- 18 – Consistory at 6:30 p.m.



February

- 14 – VALENTINE'S DAY
- 21 – PRESIDENTS' DAY
- 23 – NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for March/April issue



BIRTHDAYS

January

- 1 – Dustin Alderks
Rogene Fraley
- 6 – DeWayne Adams
- 11 – Carol Hayenga
- 14 – Diane Terviel
- 21 – Bethany Hayenga
- 23 – Cayden Somers
- 28 – Blanche Houston

February

- 3 – Renee Langeland
- 8 – Gary Rozeboom
- 9 – Wayne Hayenga
- 12 – Brad Engelkes
- 14 – Dana Meyers
- 16 – Levi Calbeck
- 28 – Dawn Somers

*If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant:
if we did not sometimes taste of adversity,
prosperity would not be so welcome.*

- Anne Bradstreet

