



# THE SPIRIT OF ELMWOOD

*Joining with God as He makes all things new*

*Elmwood monthly newsletter*

## MARCH 2020

### THE FRONT PAGE

#### COMMUNION DURING LENT

For hundreds of years, followers of Jesus have used the season of Lent as a time to prepare their hearts for the good news of Easter Sunday. It's fitting that during this season which culminates in the execution of our Lord Jesus on the cross we would take time each Sunday to remember his death through Communion. Our prayer is that God would use this Lenten season to draw you closer to himself in a unique way as we celebrate Communion each week.

Pastor John

#### LENTEN MEALS WITH THE MCKANNA'S

This season of Lent, the McKanna family warmly invites our Elmwood Church family to join us at our Roseville home as we prepare our hearts for Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. While many of us have busy schedules, and while many of us have a variety of experiences in the practice of Lent, we'd like to create the opportunity for us to come together as a congregation this season in a special time of preparation.

On Thursdays throughout Lent, we want to open our home to you, to share a meal, to read from the psalms, and to pray together. Our time will be simple, as will our goal. We want to fellowship with one another, worship God, acknowledge our sin, and remember our mortality as we pray in hope of glory.

If you are physically able, perhaps you'd consider fasting each Thursday with us, then breaking that fast with your church family at 6:30pm. If you aren't fasting, you're still more than welcome to come. Our meals will be simple. We'll provide rice and beans for everyone. If anyone would like to bring a side of vegetables or fruit, that's fine, though not required. In the spirit of Lent, we'd ask that you not bring desserts. Our plan is to be done each evening by 8:00pm or a little later.

We want this to be available to everyone in our congregation, but space is limited. We can accommodate roughly 30 adults. We also have space for about 10 young children (2-7yrs) in our finished basement. Our teenaged children are willing and able to care for them during the prayer time, but we would ask that infants and older children remain with their parents. If you plan to join us, please RSVP for each of the evenings you'll be coming.

Dates: March 5, 12, 26, and April 2

Time: 6:30-8:00pm

Location: 2857 Merrill St. Roseville, MN 55113

Warmly,

Brian and Kami McKanna

# AROUND ELMWOOD

## CURRENT ADULT ED CLASS – A REASONED DEFENSE

### Weekly on Sundays at 9:15 am in the Conference Room

It seems as if now more than ever, people are unafraid to ask the question "Why do you believe what you do?" and as Jesus followers, we are commanded to be ready to give a defense for the hope that we have in Christ. In a world informed by rationality and skepticism, it's important that Christians are able to give real answers to people's legitimate questions. During the last portion of this class we'll be talking about world religions and the evidence for Christ's existence and His claims. It's our hope and prayer that this time would not only encourage you in your faith, but would motivate you to share with others about the good news of Jesus with both grace and truth.

**ELMWOOD SENIORS' BIBLE STUDY** will meet Wednesday, March 4th at 1:00 pm. All Seniors are welcome to attend as we continue our study of the Book of 1 John.

**GUEST SPEAKER** Please join us on Sunday March 8th as we welcome guest speaker Brian Farone. Brian serves as the superintendent of our North Central District of the Evangelical Free Church and is passionate about serving churches and church leaders within our district. He has been involved with our revitalization efforts here at Elmwood in a behind the scenes way and is excited to be here in person to encourage us and share from God's Word.

## HOLY WEEK AT ELMWOOD

### PALM SUNDAY, April 5TH, 10:30 am - Worship Service

Together we declare with heartfelt praise, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest!"

### MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 9TH

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. To mark this special night, we will be coordinating a number of smaller **in-home** meals where people will gather to share a meal and take Communion together. Check out the Connections Table for how to get involved! If you have any questions please contact Pastor John at [John@elmwoodchurch.org](mailto:John@elmwoodchurch.org), or call the church office at 612-788-9408.

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - APRIL 10TH

The beauty and wonder of Resurrection Sunday only make sense when our hearts feel the weight of the crucifixion that took place on Good Friday. During this year's Good Friday service, we will journey together through the Gospel narratives that tell about the last hours of Jesus' life. Plan to join us at 6:30 pm on Friday, April 10th.

### EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 12TH - Celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

"Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!"

Free Easter Breakfast, 8:30am – 10:00am

Children's Easter Egg Hunt – 10:00am

Easter Worship Service – 10:30am

## THANK YOU NOTE & GIFT FROM THE GROVE COMMUNITY

Elmwood recently received the following note from Grove Community Church:

*Pastor John, We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of Elmwood and the community here - we would not be where we are today without it! As we look ahead to the future, we are filled with excitement and expectation around what God will continue to do in and through the body of Elmwood!*  
- The Grove Community

*This lovely note was accompanied by an additional building use donation of \$10,000.00.*

## ELMWOOD EXPENSE & INCOME INFORMATION (as of February 26, 2020)

### February 2020

Actual February Income	Actual February Expenses
\$ 28,091.03	\$17,576

### Year-to-Date (Jan - Feb)

Actual YTD Income	Actual YTD Expenses
\$ 43,266.01	\$38,552

## MISSIONS & MINISTRY NEWS

### PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY ELMWOOD

*For more news from the missionaries and various ministries supported by Elmwood, please take a look at the white binder on the table outside the church office.*

**Mafú, Ednay and Zoey Abel, Paraguay:** We are well accustomed to being a family of four and can hardly remember what life was like without Ian in our home. Please pray for health and safety. Literally EVERYONE around us has contracted Dengue fever over the last month; we have not. We are being very careful about repellent, but it is God's protection, I'm sure, that has kept us safe. We are looking into a possibility of stepping into a role as camp directors with SIM as it would provide us with a place to live in a community with zero churches. Our desire is to plant a church among the unreached. Pray for us as the Lord directs our steps. Pray for our current discipleship ministry and for wisdom as we transition out in a couple of months.

**Dennis and Mary Ann Barnett, Barnett International Student Ministry:** Our daughter-in-law Betsy has been accepted into Teen Challenge, which is a huge answer to prayer. We're thankful for the opportunity to share the message of Christ's salvation with her; she's open. Pray for her to surrender to Jesus and become a committed believer. Her oldest granddaughter, Juniper, who's nine and a half years old, has need of deep healing from being abandoned by her mom. Many of our Chinese friends and students need protection from the Coronavirus as they return home to America to continue their studies and work. May Lydia and Thomas come to know Christ personally. We are thankful for the internet as we can disciple many students who've gone home from a distance.

**Duff and Sharon Gustafson, Ethnos360:** Continue to pray for a Bible translator named Mark who is in his last few months of life due to cancer. He hopes to finish all the details of getting the final version of the Guahibo (language) New Testament and portions of the Old Testament taken to the printer in the next couple of weeks. Pray that he will have the strength to do so. Pray for more missionaries to be raised up among the churches around the world. There are so many language groups still without the gospel. Our monthly support continues to decline as our support base is aging and retiring. Pray for this situation along with us.

**Carl and Cheryl Rich, Youth with a Mission:** Carl's mom passed in February. We miss her but are so happy she has joined Dad in receiving her crown of Life. Thanks for your prayers as we go through the next months. Losing a mom is very hard. Continue your prayers for our son David who has returned to work and school after his appendectomy. Pray for complete restoration of his health; a few symptoms are hanging on and he does not feel 100 percent yet. Pray for discernment for Carl. He has been invited to Washington State to help run a Kairos course for Russian believers in March. Lastly, continue to pray for one Drake Hotel fire family. This single mom and her four kids are responding to the gospel message. Pray that she will be able to get a job (she has experience as a nurses' aide) and pray that she could find more permanent housing.

**Troy and Cora Roberts, Chiang Rai International Christian School, Thailand:** Continue to pray that the seeds of relationship, hope, and truth that were planted during the basketball season and during the women's retreat will go down deep and bear fruit. It's also time to seriously pray for the teacher gaps we have for the next school year: math, science, computer, and social studies are big ones. Pray for us personally; we're quite tired and need discernment regarding which responsibilities to hold on to and which to let go of in the future.

**Nikolao and Tabita Vuni, Christian Brotherhood Church, Sudan:** Pray for Tabita who is being treated for malaria. We praise the Lord for the cease fire agreement which is still holding. Praise the Lord for the peace talk going on in Rome mediated by the Saint Egidio Religious Group with the other rebel group, which did not sign the present peace agreement. Pray for the future of South Sudan, which seems to have "war without end." Pray that the Lord will change the situation to peace. Pray that the churches here in South Sudan may rise to the challenge of missions in this country. People are outwardly "Christian," but there is need for a deeper spiritual revival.

## AROUND ELMWOOD

### IN LOVING MEMORY

*Jane Arlene Rich*

*b. August 4, 1936 ✦ d. February 4, 2020*

*83 years old*

*Maris Grovender*

*b. August 9, 1927 ✦ d. February 26, 2020*

*92 years old*

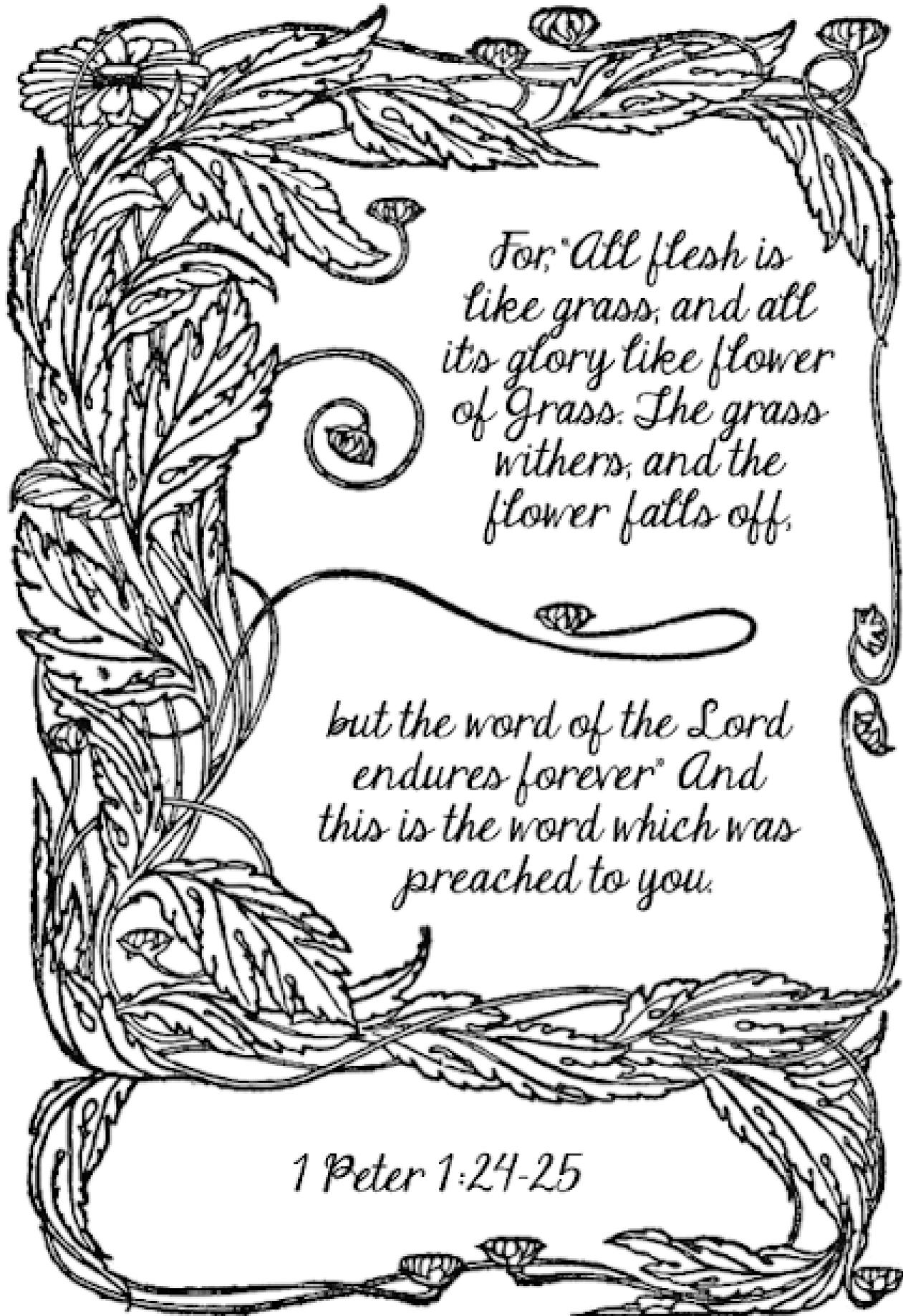
*"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little;  
I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."*

*~ Matthew 25:23*

# ELMWOOD MARCH 2020 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>COMMUNION 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
900 am Elmwood Worship Team (S) 915 am Elmwood Kids (ABCD) & Adult Class (CR) 900 am Real Church Worship (FH/L) 1000 am Elmwood Coffee & Connections 1030 am Elmwood Worship (S) & Children's Church (ABC) 1100 am CF Worship (FH) 4/6 pm Grove Church Worship (all)	<i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	1000 am EC Ladies' Prayer (CR)   630 pm North Star Chorus (FH) 700 pm RC Adult Study (S) 730 pm CF Bible Study (D)	1100 am Friendship Women's Bible Study (CR)  100 pm Senior's Bible Study (FR)  700 pm Grove Church	645 pm ATN Prayer Clinic	600 pm CF Prayer meeting (L)  Fri 3/6 - 4pm thru Sat 3/7 - 10pm	800 am CF Men's meeting (L) 600 pm CF Men's meeting (L)  Grove Church Worship Retreat  <span style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;"><b>Spring ahead 1 hour tonight before bed!</b></span>
<b>COMMUNION 8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<span style="color: blue;"><i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i></span> 900 am Elmwood Worship Team (S) 915 am Elmwood Kids (ABCD) & Adult Class (CR) 900 am Real Church Worship (FH/L) 1000 am Elmwood Coffee & Connections 1030 am Elmwood Worship (S) & Children's Church (ABC) 1100 am CF Worship (FH) 4/6 pm Grove Church Worship (all)	<i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	915 am ATN (ABC) 1000 am EC Ladies' Prayer (CR)  430 pm ATN Knead Time  630 pm North Star Chorus (FH) 700 pm RC Adult Study (S) 730 pm CF Bible Study (D)	1100 am Friendship Women's Bible Study (CR)  700 pm Grove Church	700 pm RC Cleansing Stream class (FR/ABC)  700 pm Elmwood Council Meeting (CR)	600 pm CF Prayer meeting (L)	830 am All Things New Second Saturday Prayer Time (all)  600 pm CF Men's meeting (L)
<b>COMMUNION 15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
900 am Elmwood Worship Team (S) 915 am Elmwood Kids (ABCD) & Adult Class (CR) 900 am Real Church Worship (FH/L) 1000 am Elmwood Coffee & Connections 1030 am Elmwood Worship (S) & Children's Church (ABC) 1100 am CF Worship (FH) 4/6 pm Grove Church Worship (all)	<i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	1000 am EC Ladies' Prayer (CR)  630 pm North Star Chorus (FH) 700 pm EC Elders Meeting (L) 700 pm RC Adult Study (S) 730 pm CF Bible Study (D)	1100 am Friendship Women's Bible Study (CR)  700 pm Grove Church	700 pm RC Cleansing Stream class (FR/CR/ABC)	600 pm CF Prayer meeting (L)	800 am CF Men's meeting (L)
<b>COMMUNION 22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
900 am Elmwood Worship Team (S) 915 am Elmwood Kids (ABCD) & Adult Class (CR) 900 am Real Church Worship (FH/L) 1000 am Elmwood Coffee & Connections 1030 am Elmwood Worship (S) & Children's Church (ABC) 1100 am CF Worship (FH) 1200 pm EC Worship Leader Mtg (FR) 4/6 pm Grove Church Worship (all)	<i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	1000 am EC Ladies' Prayer (CR)  630 pm North Star Chorus (FH) 700 pm RC Adult Study (S) 730 pm CF Bible Study (D)	1100 am Friendship Women's Bible Study (CR)  700 pm Grove Church	945 am ATN Prayer Clinic  700 pm RC Cleansing Stream class (FR/CR/ABC)	600 pm CF Prayer meeting (L)	800 am CF Men's meeting (L)  Celebration of Life for Maris Grovender 1000 am Visitation 1100 am Memorial Service followed by luncheon
<b>COMMUNION 29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>April 1</b>	<b>April 2</b>	<b>April 3</b>	<b>April 4</b>
900 am Elmwood Worship Team (S) 915 am Elmwood Kids (ABCD) & Adult Class (CR) 900 am Real Church Worship (FH/L) 1000 am Elmwood Coffee & Connections 1030 am Elmwood Worship (S) & Children's Church (ABC) 1100 am CF Worship (FH) 1200 pm EC Worship Leader Mtg (FR) 4/6 pm Grove Church Worship (all)	<i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	1000 am EC Ladies' Prayer (CR)  630 pm North Star Chorus (FH) 700 pm RC Adult Study (S) 730 pm CF Bible Study (D)	1100 am Friendship Women's Bible Study (CR)  100 pm Senior's Bible Study (FR)  700 pm Grove Church	700 pm RC Cleansing Stream class (FR/CR/ABC)	600 pm CF Prayer meeting (L)	830 am All Things New Second Saturday Prayer Time (all)  600 pm CF Men's meeting (L)

**KEY :** S = Sanctuary    FR = Fireside Room    FH = Fellowship Hall/Gym  
 (I)N = (Infant) Nursery    CR = Conference Room    L = Library    ABCD = Classrooms  
 EC = Elmwood Church    CF = Conquistando Fronteras    RC = Real Church  
 ATN = All Things New Prayer Ministry    NSC = North Star Chorus



For, "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like flower of Grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off,

but the word of the Lord endures forever" And this is the word which was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:24-25

WORSHIP SCHEDULE	
9:15 am	Elmwood Kids & Adult Class
10:15 am	Coffee & Connections
10:30 am	Worship Service and Children's Church

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS**



*Don't forget to  
 SPRING AHEAD  
 before bed  
 on Saturday, March 7th!*

 <p><b>ELMWOOD</b> CHURCH</p>	
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***Join Us for Lenten 40 Days for Life***

*"Accessing God's power through prayer and fasting to end abortion"*

**February 26 – April 5**

**6:00 am – 6:00 pm**

**Planned Parenthood, 671 Vandalia Street, St. Paul**

**TAKE A STAND FOR LIFE**

From February 26 to April 5, our community will take part in 40 Days for Life ... a groundbreaking, coordinated international mobilization. We pray that, with God's help, this will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in our city – and beyond.

**For more information, go to <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/st-paul/> or contact [brian.walker@plam.org](mailto:brian.walker@plam.org) or (651) 797-6363**