



The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr. Bruce

Joy in the Morning

It was early spring, 1966. Memory informs me that it was a week before Easter. I was in junior high, and my family lived on the North Dakota prairie.

We had just endured an intense whiteout—you could not see two feet in front of you. The three-day blow had dropped volumes of snow, along with bitter cold and unrelenting wind. We hunkered down, only venturing out to check on our small herd of cows. Three days of playing board games, reading books and watching TV....

The fourth morning, I woke up to an eerie silence. The wind had stopped. I hurriedly threw on several layers of clothing and tromped outside into a winter wonderland. Everything was white except for the amazing blue sky overhead. The sun was bright. The temperature was slowly warming.

I stepped off the porch, walking on top of the snow toward our east pasture, approximately a football-field's length from our front door. The drifts were huge and hard, having been beaten and packed down by the cold and intense Dakota wind. I walked over a fence buried under the drifts, my feet barely making an impression on the hard-as-concrete snow.

The effect of the dazzling white, the brilliant sun and the clear blue sky, the air sparkling with floating frozen droplets was incredible. I was soaking in the stillness and smiling “out loud.” It was great to be alive!

And, then, I heard it. The melodic song of a Meadow Lark wafting over the frozen tundra. My spirit soared! Music to my ears...! I stood still and listened as that harbinger of hope thrilled my soul and assured me—despite wintery appearances—spring is returning.

No matter how dark the night, no matter how bleak or long the winter, no matter how life can throw us curve balls and drain us dry... no matter what, never give in to despair. Never lose hope. God never lets us go. Easter reminds us of that very real hope and promise. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

“Weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.” Psalm 30:5

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday Worship (with palms)	10 a.m., March 28
Good Friday Worship	6 p.m., April 2
Resurrection (Easter) Sunday	10 a.m., April 4

There will be no Easter Breakfast due to continued COVID-19 restraints. We are getting closer to being back to normal though; don't lose hope and don't let your guard down.

Pastoral Visits

Pastor Bruce has received both COVID-19 vaccinations. He is more than two weeks past his second shot and is now able to do pastoral visits again with those of you who have also been fully vaccinated. Please contact him via phone (406-891-0434) or email (pastor.bruce@elimlutheran.org) to schedule a home visit or for home communion.

Live-streamed services began on March 7, when we returned to worship in the sanctuary. We had some technological issues for a couple weeks, but we have it mostly figured out now. We hope that you can join us for those services, including a few minutes of music before the formal worship begins. Go to our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/elimlutheran.church.3>) to "participate" in the service at the scheduled time. The video is saved afterward to the page, so you can revisit or watch it later.

We are once again scheduling readers, ushers, and communion assistants. If you are willing and able to help, please let Pastor Bruce or one of our council members know. Thank you in advance!

A little photo blast from the past on Easter:



Editor's note: Because we have now returned to in-house worship services - and because there aren't many "big" holidays coming up - the Scribe will be resuming our bi-monthly publication schedule. The next issue will be May-June, then July-August, and September-October. November and December will be deliberated as we see what news comes up and how we as a society are dealing with the "return to normal."

