



The Elim Scribe



Thoughts From Pastor Bruce

“O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever!” Psalm 118:1

Vicar Lisa’s year with us is drawing to a close at the end of June. Her final worship with us as our intern was her celebration service on Saturday, June 27th. However, she has agreed to help us during part of July and the first part of August as Reba and I take some time away.

Elim’s Council and I are still in dialog regarding when and how to resume worship. One of the things that affects that decision is seeing the case numbers in our part of Utah continue to rise. My wife has also been very concerned for everyone's safety. Individuals can be asymptomatic (not show symptoms) and still be infected with COVID-19 and capable of transmitting it to others. I have struggled with these restrictions but have yielded due to her concern. Nancy, our church council president, is also very cautious. Bishop Gonia is continuing to recommend that we not go to “in-house” worship at this time. Please know that I am also anxious to re-gather in worship. I miss you and all your smiling faces.

A possible compromise is to do a small group Bible study with a set time frame of four weeks per topic. One possible topic is what the Bible says about angels. Another topic could be based on the book of Ecclesiastes (which Reba and I would co-lead). The topic for me is less important than our being able to have some fellowship together. We could meet inside the sanctuary or downstairs in the fellowship hall. Physical distancing of at least six feet and masks would still be required. We could also do a small communion service in that context. This group could meet on a Sunday morning or during the week. I am offering this as an option, because I know there are several individuals who are longing to have some form of fellowship.

We are very grateful to our loving Lord who continues to watch over and bless us and all people. We are also grateful for God’s Spirit and life giving Word that is not bound by walls or physical distancing. We are still God’s Church—the Body of Christ—in our community and world.

God bless!



Vicar Lisa's Final Sermon ~

"Welcome...Goodbye..."

40 “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.” Matthew 10:40-42

It is fitting that my last sermon as an intern with you all is based on Matthew 10:40-42. People of Elim, you have been such a **welcoming** congregation to me, and I thank the Lord for being able to get to know a little about you. You have **given me a cup of cold water** when you shared your hopes,

worries, and your faith in God. I am so grateful to Zion Lutheran Church in Salt Lake City for providing financial support during our time together.

My first sermon at Elim as an intern was titled, “Welcome to Martha’s house!” I was nervous and soon learned what a forgiving congregation you were (and still are) as you witness me grow into how God has called me to be a prophet of sorts. My last sermon as an intern centers on the 3 dots (ellipsis) between the Welcome...and Goodbye. I pray that you were able to attend either in person at 6 pm on June 27, 2020, or in a digital format online.

The three dots are the places where God has brought us together as we navigated and discerned how God was creating something new between the spaces of the dots, between you...the church...God...the community...the world...me. We have had quite a ride, given that we have had to transform from meeting in person to cobbling together our version of digital church. And God is still creating something new in these strange times of COVID-19.

The three dots to me imply an incomplete thought or idea where God is still creating something out of nothing. My Goodbye as an intern has 3 dots at the end to remind all of us that God is still creating something through all this and will continue to be faithful and will continue to bless us with new beginnings – each step of the way. Will we listen to the call? Will we follow the life-giving dots? Will we continue to give a cold glass of water to those in need? I pray that we do. In the name of the three Holiest dots...the Father...the Son...and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Peace and Blessings, Vicar Lisa Mensinger (2019-2020)

Editor's Note:

As we navigate through this time of uncertainty about the future and having novel experiences tossed our way at every turn, we all do our best to stay grounded and take care of ourselves and others as well as possible. We will continue to produce monthly issues of The Elim Scribe as people remain isolated from each other. For those of you who have access to email and online social media, please check for messages from Pr. Bruce in your inbox; also check our facebook page as well as our website (elimlutheran.org.) for relevant posts. YouTube links for Vicar Lisa's release and celebration service on June 27th will appear in both places. Wear your mask, wash your hands, stay safe!

