



The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr. Bruce

Holy Disruptions!

Many years ago Robert Fulghum wrote a book about relational skills entitled, “Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten.” Share. Play fair. Don’t hit. Say you’re sorry. Flush. Warm cookies and milk are good for you, etc. We could add others. Tell the truth. Be kind. Always do the right thing.

These basic skills seem to pose a huge learning curve for lots of us today. Many people are just rude. Many folks say and act in ways that deliberately harm others - emotionally, physically, spiritually. Chaos and confusion then reign, leaving pandemonium and pain in their wake.

So, do we surrender our expectations of decency and hope? Should we pretend that everything is okay, ignoring the fear, greed and selfishness that surrounds us?

Amid the imbalance and injustice of our world, despite the appearances of all things wrong and out of order, can we find the Presence of One who is not content or pleased with how things are?

Consider Elijah. He thought all the world had gone awry and that he alone was faithful—that all was for naught. He was angry, disappointed and ready to throw in the towel. Then God’s presence was made known in “a still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12). No lightning bolt. No thunder. No booming announcement or world-changing event. Yet Elijah experienced God’s presence amidst the disarray and chaos of his day. God was on the move.

Consider Mary, Jesus’ mother, when Gabriel announced God’s plan through the birth of Jesus. The world was in a mess then too. Many people longed for change that seemed impossible. God’s news to Mary that Messiah was coming into the world caused her to shout and sing for joy. Her life did not magically and suddenly become easier. Greed, violence, injustice, hunger, homelessness, war, etc. have continued seemingly unchallenged since that announcement. Yet God—the Holy Disrupter—has continued to act and move, albeit silently and invisibly.

Sometimes God is hard to see. Yet if we are watching and listening we might catch glimpses of unexpected “holy interruptions.” Derek Chauvin was convicted of the unjust killing of George Floyd. He could have been acquitted like many others before him. Yet something disrupted the normal trend of injustice. God is on the move.

Maybe God is waiting for us to act and wonders why we do not care enough to work for change making a difference in our world wondering why we do not disrupt the cold injustice and indifference that surrounds us.

Frederick Douglas once said, “I prayed for twenty years but received no answer ’til I prayed with my feet.”

Annual Meeting: May 2021

Elim's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 16, in the sanctuary following our worship service. We will not have our traditional potluck because of COVID-19. If you cannot attend in person, written input on all items is welcomed. Send an email (office at elimlutheran.org) or a letter to Elim with absentee comments. The proposed agenda follows; items marked with an asterisk(*) require a congregational vote.

Old Business

Parking Lot Improvement and Landscaping: current status and future plans

New Business

- Discussion and approval of Elim's 2021 budget*
- Council Members: will continue in their present positions. Discussion and approval*
- Roof Repairs: Our north entryway roof is leaking; our south-facing sanctuary roof has more wind damage.
- Chair Lift Replacement: The chair is on order and will soon be installed.

Opportunities to serve: Please volunteer to help as you can. Without you, it can't happen.

- **Worship:** We need someone to coordinate each area and create/monitor sign-up sheets.

- altar guild: training and scheduling by Joan & Pastor Bruce
- readers and communion assistants
- ushers and greeters
- live-streaming service

- **Outreach and Evangelism:** What can we do as a congregation in terms of social justice and outreach? We have a couple of individuals helping Ascension with Family Promise. We give financial gifts to Lantern House and YCC. What other ministries might be reasonable to consider?

- How do we reach out to our neighborhood and surrounding communities? What sort of PR can we utilize?

- **Office and Administration**

- We need help with typing, printing, and folding bulletins and/or announcement sheets.
- We need help with files and general office tasks.

Brainstorming for Elim's future - Vision and Ministry

What should be our congregational focus? Where do you see Elim going for the next 5 years? ... the next ten? ... and beyond? How do we face the current challenges of a changing world and retain our existence and relevance as a faith community? What can you do to help?

