

The Elim Scribe

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Dear people of Elim

By Pastor Bruce

WAY TO GO! We have gone through some significant changes over the last year. Amid all these changes our worship attendance has remained steady and even grown a little. And, we are financially stable! Way to go Elim! Thank you for your faithfulness in worship and giving. It shows!

Our church office is being filled with volunteer help. Our church's voice mail is checked regularly, but I encourage you to call my cell phone if you need to get ahold of me. I may not always be able to answer every call but know that I will get back to you.

Change happens. We are building an informal care team that will work with me on making sure our members are cared for. Our prayer ministry team is going through some reorganization too. The weekly emails that Dave sent out have stopped, but we still have a committed team of prayer warriors. The Scribe has taken on a new format as well. Change is not always easy, but it is a normal part of life. Thank you for your patience.

I am excited that we are beginning the process of building and sanctuary improvements. Our entry way has been painted and the flooring and steps for our east entryway is complete. Our August Congregational Meeting will address what projects we are proposing, what priority to assign to each project and how to pay for what needs to happen.

We are hoping to begin a new scout troop through Elim. Tentatively we have set Wednesday, August 22 as our open house for our potential new troop. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5. A mailing will go out to prospective scouts as we get more firm information. James Beer has agreed to be our scout leader. Dave Thomas is our congregation's liaison with this newly forming troop.

When the Israelites refugees returned to Jerusalem after their being deported to Babylon and other parts of the world they had a lot of hard work to do. Jerusalem was in shambles. The Temple destroyed, and the defensive walls were broken down leaving the newly returned citizens vulnerable. Nehemiah and Zechariah took on the task of leading and encouraging the returned exiles. The returned exiles faced stiff opposition from those who didn't want the repairs to take place. The task of rebuilding the Temple, the city and the walls was overwhelming. Yet God reminded them that it is *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts"* (Zechariah 4:6). The same is true for us. God is on the move. Good things are happening!

Thank you, people of God, at Elim! Thank you for trusting us and working hard with us as we move forward.



Judge

By Nancy Marple, Council President

THE FIRST ARTICLE I WROTE for the Scribe this year was about “Trust” (to have trust in me). I closed that article with a lead into what I would write about of the following Scribe, which was “Perfect” (that I’m not perfect, nobody is). That article implied at the end, what I would be writing about next, which is “Judging”, so here goes ...

LOL ... don’t “judge” me too hard on writing this article. I just had to say that. I couldn’t resist. 😊

Anyways, I always say to my daughter, “The human race’s number one flaw is communication, but the number one sin is judging.” Ok, I know, murder is a pretty bad sin, but not everyone does that, but EVERYONE does judge. Everyone. Including me. Even me who says it is a sin and will also say, “God is the only one to judge,” and then I find myself doing it. If you say you don’t judge, you deceive yourself.

I would like to expand, though, on the word judge. I think it is linked a large percentage of the time with the word, “Should”. I don’t think one goes without the other. When judging goes on, there also seem to be the word “should” or “should not” with it. “I should exercise more”, “I shouldn’t eat so many sweets”, “He should find a better job”, “He shouldn’t talk to his wife that way”, “She should spend more time with her children/spouse”, “She shouldn’t buy so many clothes”, “They are a mean group of people”, “They shouldn’t be allowed in this country because they are low quality people”, etc., etc., etc. He, she, I, they, ... should or shouldn’t do or say something. The list is endless!

“Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

Even in the bible there is passage showing that judging went on back in Jesus’ time. For example Luke 10:38-42, “As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called, Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, ‘Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!’” Martha was judging her sister, in my opinion, of what Mary, “should” be doing.

Now this all comes across as sounding fairly negative. But I have discovered, that it is possible to judge positively. Yes, judge positively! It takes more work (which it “shouldn’t” ... tee hee). Think about it. The other day I was at the grocery store and saw this woman that had the most beautiful, long curly hair. I was judging her but in a good way. As I walked by her, I told her exactly this. That her hair was so beautiful. She looked at me stunned. And then recovered with a huge smile and said, “I work hard on it. Thank you so very much.” I know ... it is a compliment, but it is still a form of judgment in my mind but in a good way. I judged her nicely, kindly, and with a warm heart.

It is not easy to always judge positively. The negative way comes so easy. But I believe the positive judging can happen. It needs to happen. I have to work at it EVERY day. It can be a tough struggle and I pray for God’s help with it and also for his forgiveness when I fail. But think of what this world would be like if more positive judging happened instead of negative. There would probably be more “Compromises”.

Things that make you go ... Hmmm. As of August 1st, there is only 146 shopping days left until Christmas.

Coffee Cadre

Aug 5th – Potluck

Aug 12th – Donations (arranged by Joan Dawes and Gloria Wurst)

Aug 19th – Potluck

Aug 26th – Gloria Wurst

Sep 2nd – Mary Mills and Diane McDonough

Sep 9th – “God’s Work, Our Hands” day

Sep 16th – Widner Family

Sep 23rd – Jane Beasley and Jackie Jones

Sep 30th – Joan Tonn and Bonnie Rembacz



Tidbits

- As you can see, the “Scribe” has undergone some changes. We are trying out a fresh new look. It might stay the same at what you see here, but it could continue to evolve as we see easier or more appealing ways of accomplishing things. Another change isn’t just the look, but the way you receive it. Again, this is a work in progress. For those that are able to attend church, that is the first way we are trying to get the “Scribe” to you. If you, aren’t able to attend church, it will still be mailed to you. But we are also looking at the possibility of emailing. We know not everyone has email, but it is an avenue we are looking at. In this issue there are some items missing (birthdays for example). It doesn’t mean they are gone for good, just again things are being worked through on how the “Scribe” is moving forward.

- Some of you might not know that we are presently trying to raise extra money to do several projects around the church facility. It has been many years since major renovations have been done. Our church pew cushions are in desperate need of replacement. The carpet in the sanctuary has passed its life expectancy. The parking lot ... well ... it too is in sad shape. So a couple of fundraiser have started. The first fundraiser is the “Opportunity Quilt”. Nancy Marple has graciously donated a quilt she made. You can purchase a piece of candy from her, in return not only do you get a candy but a ticket. At the congregational meeting on August 19th, some lucky person will acquire this beautiful quilt. So far the quilt has raised \$420. The second fundraiser is the “Dollar a Day”. Let’s do the math, if a person started on August 1st, gave a dollar a day until the end of the year, they will have given \$153. If you multiple that by just 20 people, you get \$3060!!! If you multiple that by 30 people, you get \$4590!! That could help a lot on getting us on our way on at least one project. Many of you have already started giving on the dollar a day for this fundraiser which is awesome!!!

“When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace,” Jimi Hendrix

Congregational Meeting

Every year in August, we have a mid-year Congregational Meeting. It is an awesome time for all of us to catch up on how things have been going with the church and possibly vote on items needing addressing. With that said, our Congregational Meeting will be on August 19th, at 11:30am. As always, we will have a potluck before the meeting begins. So bring those wonderful made meals and treats that day. The below is the proposed agenda for the meeting:

- Vote on January's Congregational Meeting minutes
- Vote to install amendments into the constitution
- Discussion and possible motion with vote on improvements to the church facility
- Update on a possible Boy Scout Troop
- Discussion for September's "God's Work, Our Hands"

CALENDAR

August:

- 5th – Outdoor Worship/Potluck, 10am
- 12th – Council Meeting, 11:30am
- 19th - Congregational Meeting/Potluck, 11:30am
- 22nd – Tentative Boy Scout Open House

September

- 5th – Tentative 1st Boy Scout Meeting, 6pm
- 9th – "God's Work, Our Hands" Day
- 16th – Council Meeting, 11:30am

Reoccurring Events

- AA is Mon-Fri, 11:30am – 1pm
- NA is Tuesday, 6-8pm
- Mary's Circle is every 3rd Thursday at 12pm

*Indicates an event not held at Elim Lutheran Church

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress", Frederick Douglass