

The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

February is a busy month! It is the month of Presidents' Day (2/15) and Ground Hog Day(2/2.) Ash Wednesday is also in February this year, February 17th. And, of course, Valentines' Day is in February. It is the "love month."

The Jets sang, "Love makes the world go around." Dionne Warwick sang, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love." Nearly everyone is familiar with the love chapter in the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13—the chapter that defines what love looks like in action.

To love someone and to receive love, we must know ourselves and the one we love. We must be willing to be vulnerable—open and approachable. We must be humble and honest about our frailties and our faults. We have to "be human." And we must be willing to put our words and feelings into action. We must take the initiative to invest in our relationship with the one we love—to seize the day and do the little things that help to make our love genuine and real.

This indeed, is how God loves us! God became humble and vulnerable—approachable by becoming one of us—one with us. God takes the initiative. Yet, God is not arrogant or forceful. God comes to us, revealing God's divine love and presence to us. Yet, amazingly, God also waits for us to receive and respond to love.

Here are some thoughts on how can we respond and show God our love.

- Speaking and listening to God's voice through prayer.
- Paying attention to God's speaking to us in the Bible, in nature, in each other.
- Doing random acts of love and kindness for each other.
- Generously sharing our time, talents and treasures with our church and volunteer organizations that help to make a difference in our world.
- Getting involved with others in social action and politics.
- Being positive and sharing hope and good cheer in word and action.

"A bell's not a bell until you ring it. A song's not a song until you sing it. Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay. Love isn't love until you give it away."

—Oscar Hammerstein II

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

—1 John 4:7-8

Announcements of Note

Looking Forward to Worship in our Sanctuary

The church council, along with Pastor Bruce, will be watching our state's COVID-19 infection numbers, along with hospitalizations and the promise of the vaccine. Our hope is to return to worshipping in person in our sanctuary on Sunday, March 7, at our normal worship time 10 a.m.

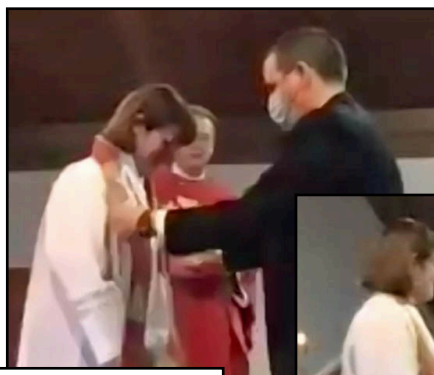
Ash Wednesday—February 17th

We will be offering the imposition of ashes this year from our church parking lot. You can drive into the Elim church parking lot and receive the imposition of ashes between the hours of noon and 1 p.m. Members, friends, guests and strangers are all welcome to come and receive the sign of the cross on their foreheads.

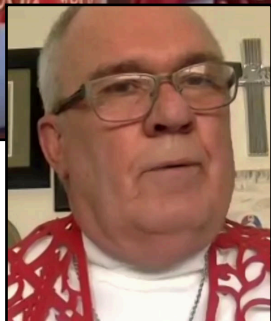
Several of us from Elim's congregation, and many others from around Utah, "attended" the Zooming of the celebration on Jan. 16th that transitioned our dear Vicar Lisa Mensinger of Ogden's Elim Lutheran into Pastor/Rector Lisa of McCook, NE, serving the congregations of Our Savior's Lutheran and St. Albans Episcopal churches. Nebraska isn't in the Rocky Mountain Synod, of course, so a "new" bishop, Bishop Brian Maas, from the ELCA NE Synod presided in person, with Episcopal Bishop Scott Barker attending via Zoom. The sermon was delivered by Rev Steve Klemz, former pastor of Zion Lutheran in Salt Lake City, for whom Lisa had served as a youth minister. (Some of Elim's youth knew her in that capacity before she decided to attend seminary.) The ceremony included representatives from her two new congregations presenting her for ordination and installation, as well as providing some of the readings. Her husband Brian was also there and read Psalm 96, placed her "official" stole around her neck, and, of course, provided moral (and technical) support. I have an electronic copy of the program for the day and can provide it to anyone who would like to see it.

I have a few "photos" (below) of the day, taken as screenshots during the Zoom meeting and, therefore, unfortunately, sometimes blurry.

We wish all the most wonderful blessings for Pastor/Rector Lisa as she "marches" forward in her new position and her new home.



Congratulations!



**Ordination & Installation
to the Ministry of
Word and Sacrament**

Lisa Marie Mensinger



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ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH