



The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

Finding Hope

“Simeon...was looking forward to the consolation of Israel” Luke 2:25

Finding hope presumes that hope is lost. Most have not lost hope, though our current political and social milieu certainly challenges the theme of hope!

I have not lost hope. Yet I also celebrate finding stories of hope that springs up fresh and new even in the most dire circumstances. An example of that is from a recent email newsletter I receive called, “Brainpickings” by Maria Popova. Her email is newsletter@brainpickings.org Maria shares this story from her archives:

The Christmas Truce of 1914: A Heartening Story of Humanity in the Middle of War

In December of 1914, a series of grassroots, unofficial ceasefires took hold of the Western Front in the heat of WWI. On Christmas, soldiers from an estimated 100,000 British and German troops began to exchange seasonal greetings and sing songs across the trenches, some even walked over to their opponents bearing gifts. The incident became one of the most heart-warming displays of humanity in the history of human conflict and was dubbed the Christmas Truce.

We are people of hope. Like Simeon in Luke 1:25-35 we look forward with hope. It is that hope within us that keeps us kind, patient, gentle and loving even when we are tempted to give in to being grumpy—to get tired or cynical. God is still at work in our world. God is still at work in us! And the good Lord is still working through us! The candle of hope continues to burn brightly even through the darkest times of the year.

God bless!

RMS-ELCA update: Bishop Jim Gonia is still advising all the churches of the Rocky Mountain Synod to continue online worship for the next couple of months. Pastor Bruce and Elim’s church council are watching the COVID infection and hospitalization numbers and will move us back into worship in our sanctuary when the numbers come down again. Thank you for bearing with us during this time. We know it is hard and frustrating, but it is also wise to be safe and protect our most vulnerable members. Thank you.

Also from the RMS-ELCA: Epiphany Weekend ZOOMfest! January 8 - 10, 2021

In a community gripped by fear, the magi step on in, and there they find themselves overwhelmed with joy! It's there that they open their gifts before the infant Jesus, not for their own benefit but in the joy of being in the presence of Christ. In this time when fear has its grip on so much of our life together, how can we step into the middle of it and therein find our joy as we celebrate who we are and who we are being created to be in Christ?

Details are in the Draft Program Booklet @ https://www.rmselca.org/.../media/zoomfest_bulletin.pdf, with some things yet to be finalized.

Join us via zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98084210913> or via Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/rmselca.

Sunday Worship Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93121810023>

ZOOM worship has capacity for 3,000. Worship can also be viewed on Facebook using the link above.

Vicar/Almost-a-Pastor Lisa News: We are delighted to share news that former Elim intern/Vicar Lisa has received a call to serve as pastor for St Alban's (Episcopal) and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches in McCook, Nebraska. Her ordination is scheduled for January 16 and will be streamed on Zoom. She is unsure of further details at this point, but when we know what they are we will share the information on Elim's facebook page. Congratulations, Lisa!!

Elim was saddened by the death of Karlene Widner on December 3, 2020. Her memorial service was held at the Ogden Botanical Gardens on December 5. Rick Widner made a video of the service which is posted on the Elim facebook page; Karlene's obituary is posted there also.

Deanna Lee organized a "band of merry masked women" who gathered on December 19 in the church fellowship hall and filled Christmas goodie baskets for our shut-in members. Although we couldn't do any caroling this year, Pr Bruce delivered the treats the following week. Thanks to the efforts of Deanna and her helpers (Joan Dawes, Catelynn Rude, Diane Krantz, and Gloria Wurst) any "sweet tooth cravings" were well addressed for our shut-in members.

