



The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

Lent. Suffering. Waiting.

Watching a recent episode of Sixty Minutes on CBS, I was overwhelmed with a sense of grief and hopelessness in the face of the suffering and atrocities endured by the Ukrainian people. Yet they do not lose hope or give up. Their resilience and determination is astounding. When will this unjust war end?

There are so many other things in life that are not fair but seem to have no end. Earthquakes, daily mass shootings, spy balloons, threats of spreading conflict and war; winter storms and gloomy days; add to that inter-personal conflicts and struggles—our own private stories of waiting and suffering. It is no wonder we have low energy, feel tired, and are depressed. Life is not easy, nor is supposed to be. Let go of that illusion!

During this season of Lent maybe we can seek to find refuge and strength in the One who is our Rock in this upside-down world. Lent leads us through the cross to the empty tomb. Jesus gives us the promise of hope and new life! Never lose sight of hope. Hope is the anchor for our souls.

Consider the following story. Ministering to those who are hurting inevitably brings pain to the one seeking to help. Workers training "trauma healers" in South Africa say that people who counsel and care for victims of apartheid experience their own stress and trauma, and themselves need healing. A Mennonite Central Committee worker in Burundi says it is "tiring, hurtful and overwhelming to be around such great suffering, hate, threat and death so much of the time." (-Ronald J.R. Mathies, "Wounded healers," Mennonite Central Committee, www.mcc.org) Repeatedly workers point to their faith. They recognize, even in the midst of violence and war, "evidence of a living and loving God."

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! *By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...1 Peter 1:3.*

Lent is a season of new life and hope as winter once again yields to spring's warmer temperatures and sunshine! God bless us and give us unyielding hope!



Schedule of Holy Week Events

- ~ Palm Sunday Service, 10 a.m., April 2, 2023
- ~ Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7 p.m., April 7, 2023
- ~ Easter Resurrection Service, 10 a.m., April 9, 2023

Soup and Bread Luncheons

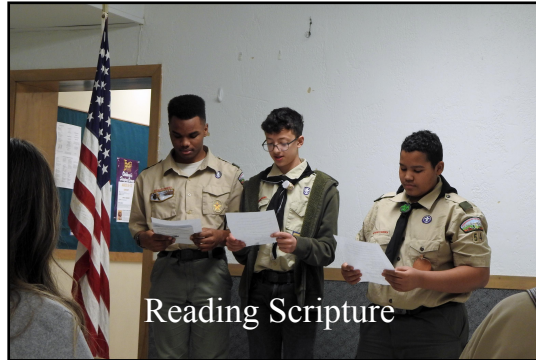
We will meet following our services in the Fellowship Hall downstairs, every Sunday during Lent, to enjoy some soup, bread, dessert, and (of course) coffee together. If you can/would like to contribute an item for the meal, contact Lucille Rossbach or sign up on the sheet on the Elim bulletin board.

Scout Sunday happened February 12, 2023

The service was a bit unusual, because a sanctuary broken furnace forced us downstairs - where, Dave T. reminded us, the very first meeting in the "new" (in 1949) church was held before the upstairs sanctuary was completed. The Scouts led the service, and we celebrated the great things, documented in a slide show, that Troop 54 has accomplished in 2022 and cheered them on for 2023! We applaud the troop's dedication to community service. Here are some photos from the day.



Presenting the colors



Reading Scripture

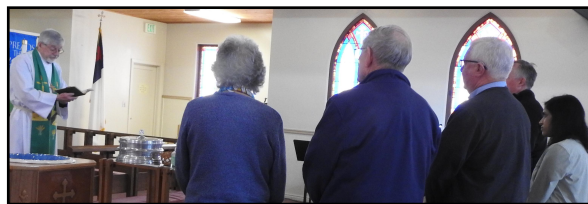


Scouts' Blessing - Scoutmaster Toni

Valentine's Day Love, shared with the folks at Youth Futures included donated supplies, running the gamut from socks, coats, gloves, etc, to cleaning supplies, to junk food for hungry teens. Thanks to Bonnie Rembaz for organizing the collection and delivery (thanks to the scouts) of the gifts, which were most appreciated!

Welcome (and Thanks!) New Council Members

At our Jan. 8th Annual Meeting, we elected 2023 Church Council Members, officially installed in their positions on Jan. 22, 2023. Thanks to Craig Bjorklund (P), Steve Munson (VP), Joan Tonn (T), Lucille Rossbach (S), Suma Anson (A-L), Kyle and Kelly Cook (A-L) for their service to come.



575 23RD ST. OGDEN, UT 84401 ~ 801-394-5543

ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH