



The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr. Bruce ~

Change Up

2020 was supposed to be a year of clear vision. At least, that is what I called it at the outset. And then, COVID-19 hit. This pandemic has given us clarity in many ways. We knew beforehand that democracy takes commitment, hard work and an engaged citizenry. This pandemic and our current political upheaval have driven that point home.

Face masks and social distancing have become the new norm. So have ordering online and home deliveries for products of all kinds, including meals and groceries. We have come through a year of catastrophic change, and 2021 appears to be a continuation of that change. COVID-19 will be part of our new normal, yet there is realistic hope that vaccines and herd immunity will help get the pandemic under control. Something to look forward to!

Because of the events of 2020, our country is dealing more realistically with what white privilege is and how our lives have assumed a social/political posture against people of color for multiple generations. The arc of history calls us toward justice.

Most of us would agree that “all lives matter.” Yet, we have slowly learned the importance of intentionally hearing, saying and repeating that “Black lives matter.” For too many years, people of color have not held the same positions of privilege and freedom that most caucasians have taken for granted. When a police officer is killed in the line of duty, our culture takes note and grieves. Until this past year, when a person of color died, their death would go by almost unnoticed by the general public. George Floyd’s death changed that this year. Yes, Blue lives matter. Yes, white lives matter. But we need to intentionally note that the lives of people of color also matter as much as anyone else. Culturally, we are catching up with that, but we still have quite a way to go...regarding health care, economics, education and opportunity.

This past year—2020—has brought all of that to the forefront of our attention. Eight years of Barack Obama’s presidency, followed by four years of Donald Trump’s presidency have brought about much awareness of our need for social change. Nothing happens in a vacuum. These tensions have been building for a very long time. This past year has seemed to bring it to a head. Change is happening. And, that is good!

Abide with Me, ELW #629

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day; earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away; change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Living in hope with you!

Announcements of Note

We will be resuming **worship in our church’s sanctuary** the first Sunday of March, March 7th. We are ready for that. Many of us have received or will soon be receiving our first and second vaccinations for COVID. The numbers of positive tests are going down. Hospitalizations are down. COVID deaths, too, are going down. Caution, with face masks and social distancing, is still important. But, there is hope as we move forward into spring.

Our **church council** will be **meeting** after worship on March 7th. Our council has numerous items to discuss, including:

- The parking lot improvement
- Replacing our chair lift
- More roof repairs
- Scheduling and setting the agenda for our annual meeting

We are excited and cautiously optimistic as we move forward through spring into summer. God is good. All the time.

Pr Bruce



Just a year ago, March 1, 2020



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ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH