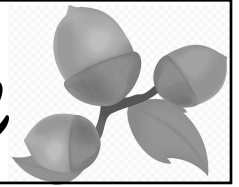




The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

“For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven...”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Waiting. Watching. Hoping. Dreading. Praying. Thinking. Pacing. Grumbling. These are anxious times. No doubt. So, what do we do? How do we cope? How do we spend our time when we are anxious and the world seems to have gone awry?

Ecclesiastes 3, one of the best-known chapters in the Bible, talks about seasons of time—there being a time for everything, both good and bad. The stuff of life is made up of both.

A challenge may be making peace with the current season of time we find ourselves in. Most of us are positive and want to focus on good times and good news. We get bewildered and lost when things do not go well. Such times make us want to hit the fast forward button—a phrase that only fits for those of us who grew up with cassette tape players—we want to escape, move on to the good times again. But life does not work like that!

That is when we learn to rest and trust in something and Someone bigger and wiser than us. We do not give in to bad news or bad times. We continue to hope. We continue to work toward positive and healthy change. We continue to discover and see the good around us. But we also learn how to be sad and grieve. We need to rediscover how to lament. We do not have to be happy with the way things are. We can express our sadness and at the same time move forward! So...don't be afraid to lament. However, do not give in or give up!

One of my takeaways from the book of Lamentations, especially chapter 3, is that bad times do not last. God is still on the move!

Keep hoping. Keep working. Keep seeing and doing good. Be kind. Be patient. God is still at work in us, with us and through us. Believe that and work to make a difference by how you think and act and live. And V O T E ! ! ! Don't ever think your vote does not count or is ineffective or wasted.

In Christ Jesus,
Reverend Bruce Kolasch

News updates:

- "Pastor" Lisa is still awaiting news of where she might be going and when. However, we will have the pleasure of seeing her again on October 18, when she fills in for Pr Bruce, leading our worship service in the sanctuary and creating the online version of worship on Elim's webpage.
- On October 18 and 25, Prs. Bruce and Reba will be attempting their previously planned and then postponed Oregon visit to Bend and to the Oregon coast. On the 25th, Pr Bruce will provide an online service, or Elim will partner with Ascension for worship that Sunday.
- After "losing" Ursula Brandenburg for a short while, we discovered that she and her friend Marga had moved from the Harrison Regent to Chancellor Gardens in Clearfield. They report that they are very happy there, and, in a brief video taken by Pr Bruce on a visit, Ursula looks both happy and healthy, as does Marga.
- From "InFaith Community Foundation" - Elim recently received a \$500 grant through the generosity and recommendation of the Thrivent Federal Credit Union Charitable Giving Fund. What a pleasant surprise and what great timing.... Thank you, Thrivent!

- Elim owes a huge debt of gratitude to Nancy J. for her heroic efforts to be "all things Elim" during the time we were not attending church in person. Not only was she serving as Council President, she was monitoring the phone in the office, the various groups who used our sanctuary, the mail (and the contributions) that were still coming in, and the ongoing maintenance of the building, along with some other items of business that required attention. THANK YOU, Nancy, from all of us in the congregation!

Back In The Sanctuary

After a long hiatus, we resumed our "in-house" worship services on Sept. 6 with social distancing, mask wearing, a thermometer to check worshippers' temperatures, pre-packaged communion elements, and plenty of hand sanitizer available. The services are a bit shorter than we remember, in part, because we cannot "share the peace" with each other physically and also we do not pass the offering plates or sing as many hymns. The attendance has been much lower than earlier in the year, but some folks were too hungry for a gathering place to pass up this opportunity. Here are a few photos from the resumed services.



Here's one more reminder to let us know whether you prefer receiving a mailed, printed copy of the Scribe or if you would prefer to receive it in your email inbox (or simply read it on our facebook page.) You can email the office (office@elimlutheran.org) or send a message on fb to let us know. Thanks! Also, please remember to notify us if you have a new address, or if you know of an Elim Member who has moved.

