



The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

A Spider and a Raft

Huck Finn, I was. On my home-made raft. Floating in the middle of the muddy rain-swollen creek that dissected our cow pasture. I was barefoot, with pant legs rolled up, and no shirt on. In my mind, I was Huck Finn. The raft had been constructed out of miscellaneous pieces of lumber and left over nails I could find in the barn yard. Propulsion was provided by the long pole I held in my hands. And life was swell! The sun was shining through the fleeing rain clouds. The wind, once a gale, was now calm. Ah, life was good.

Then I saw it. It came up through a space between the boards of my roughly constructed sailing vessel. As it surfaced, it moved toward me. And I froze. It was huge, ugly, hairy ... the biggest spider I'd ever laid eyes on. When it saw me, it stood still too. My mind raced through my options; step on it with my bare feet, clobber it with my long, awkward pole, or abandon ship. As my young mind strained, the hairy monster advanced toward me, and the raft seemed incredibly small. My brain unlocked, and I did what came natural. I started jumping, and stomping and hollering (a maneuver I'd discovered worked quite well against stray dogs, protective mother cows, and big sisters). As I stomped, jumped and hollered, a very unexpected thing happened. The gigantic spider went through a metamorphosis right before my eyes. What seemed to be a hundred little baby spiders jumped off their mamma's back and went helter-skelter. There were little tiny spiders everywhere! The mamma spider was now significantly smaller and not nearly as fearsome looking. She too, ran for cover. To this day, I'm not sure whether I was relieved or more distressed. I won't ever forget how that huge hairy spider became a small mamma with countless little baby spiders.

Life can be like that spider. Some of the biggest problems we face appear so threatening and dangerous, yet they are only a mass of little problems all piled together. Holding onto hope and facing our troubles (despite our fears) may produce startling results, such as the discovery that tackling our problems one at a time can make even the biggest challenges manageable.

Know that you don't face the future alone, regardless how dim it may appear—regardless how isolated or alone you may feel. You aren't alone. Don't let the problems that look so big now cause you to "abandon ship" or give up hope. It is easy to feel overwhelmed. God cares about you! His unconditional love, mercy and grace are yours in the Incarnate Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. So, talk to God (pray!), and seek the counsel and support of a good friend or pastor. You are loved!

Pastor Bruce Kolasch (406-891-0434)

Animal Blessing

As of this writing, we are deliberating whether to reinstate a Blessing of the Animals, held on or near October 4, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. We will monitor the COVID-19 resurgence to make a decision. Look for notification on our facebook page and in the weekly bulletin.

Healing service - September 5, 2021

Thanks to COVID-19 restrictions, we have not scheduled a healing service since 2019. During the regular service on September 5, we will hold a session of anointing and blessing those who would like to receive healing. Who knows when this might happen again, so please join us, if possible, to be supported in this way. Please remember to mask up, even if you are vaccinated, to protect yourself and your fellow worshippers.



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday - September 12, 2021

Another tradition affected by COVID-19 restrictions is that of joining our friends at Ascension Lutheran for a joint church service and for service projects in the community afterward. The Church Council is concerned about safety issues. We will have our regular service at Elim on Sept. 12. If you would like to make a contribution in celebration of the day, please bring some non-perishable food item(s) that we will collect and deliver to the CCS Food Bank as our congregation's effort.

