



**ELIM
CHURCH**
AN OASIS
IN THE CITY

THE FORECASTER

SEPTEMBER
2017

God, Our Refuge—A Reflection

Paul Olson, Lead Pastor

Preaching the summer series “God, Our Refuge” has spurred on a lot of thoughts, questions and ideas as to our identity as “Elim Church.” In Exodus, “Elim” itself was a refuge—an oasis of palms and wells in the midst of a dry and deadly Sinai wilderness. The phrase “God, Our Refuge” is taken from Psalm 46:1-7:

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.
- ⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

In our sermon series we looked at stories from the Torah:

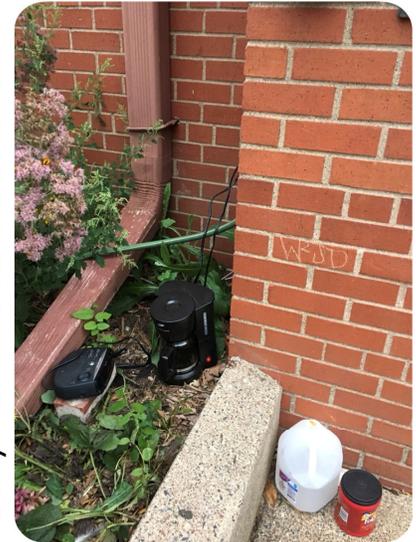
We are a people who are created “very good,” but often reject God’s way and are bound for trouble and turmoil.

Genesis 1-4 is more than a creation story; it’s a way of seeing God’s desire for creation and for seeing God’s design in all of life and all of death.

We are a people whom God has rescued and redeemed. In Exodus God hears and responds to the people’s cries, freeing them, desiring to bring them to the mountain to worship. In the process of worshipping, God’s new creation is brought about in the house of the Hebrews—a slave people—who are given a covenant and an assurance of God’s love and protection. They are given through worship, a new identity. This nation of priests and priestesses is called to respond to God’s love, by loving others.

We are a people who are called to love. At the center of Leviticus Moses teaches the people that the law of God is a law of love – all other commands fall under this rubric. Leviticus 19 reiterates the commands, and summarizes them by saying, “love your neighbor as yourself”. Very practically, this means practicing holy Sabbath (rest) and Jubilee (forgiveness). The ‘law of love’ provides us with tools for assessing our spiritual practice and health: Can you rest? Can you forgive? In other words: can you love?

Lessons like these from the Torah produce songs like Psalm 46. These priestly people are spiritual and sturdy. Ultimate hope is not a literal oasis, a mountain, an ocean, a stream, a political kingdom, a city, national identity, or geological footing (though all those things are good and proper). They find their refuge, their oasis in God, in the presence of God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.



A text from Pastor Becky Hanson to Pastor Paul Olson

PH

Elim is an oasis in the city! When I came to church yesterday I showed up about 7am. Sitting out front was one of our HA men drinking home brewed coffee and listening to the news on his radio. We had a sweet time of fellowship.

Leadership Team Update

It has been an interesting and, to me, an uplifting summer which makes me optimistic for the fall.

The summer at Elim has focused on the arrival of Pastor Paul and the Olson family. Paul cares deeply about spiritual things but also, Elim and the city. He and Becky cooperate closely. Dealing with Paul and Becky is easy to do because of their demeanor and heart for this ministry. Paul brings us Biblically rooted sermons with 21st century applications. He has also begun working with a group for young adults, called Oasis. The Olson family adds... a lot of liveliness. VBS was a revived phenomenon for Elim, and the week was uplifting. The Leadership Team is, and the congregation should be, aware that many folks worked in VBS, and some folks went over and above. The LT wishes to specifically thank: Deb S. and Linda B.; Randy S and Paul O; Rick and Beth D; Jill and Dennis J; and Leonard and Alberta K; for the extra work they did before and during VBS. And on a pragmatic level: as of July 31, one third of the way through the fiscal year, we are breaking even on our income vs our costs. Given the stretched budget, that is good news.

One current event change: On August 20, the congregation voted to act on the extended refinancing that was described on July 23. However, Wells Fargo, citing federal rules changes, told us that we could only refinance \$105,000 and then we could open a second loan for the additional \$20,000. Because that would have put our monthly costs over what the congregation voted for, we declined their offer. Our refinance will be \$105,000. That cuts our increased cost in half but it means our projects will be done over more time and possibly with the use of some savings. We will be very careful on this topic.

Sunday, September 10, is the restart of our Sunday classes and other programs. There is also a picnic in Logan Park, immediately following worship. It would be great to see a full building and active participation in the classes and the worship service. Also, be aware of the revived Wednesday Night Live plan. Many of us remember this fondly and hope we can build full family involvement and increased activity between Elim's generations. On October 15, the morning service will also be a CD release by the Elim Church Worship Team. The 13 songs are familiar to you and many of them are Elim creations. Examples will be played and CDs will be given away (one CD per family). Elim Church did invest in this but Sam Howell, Jeff Alvord, Brian Turnquist put a lot of time and expertise in on this, and many others did as well. This is not a money maker. It is a spiritual product, intended to be enjoyed but also be... well... uplifting!

Help September be your, and our, time to be uplifted in community and spiritual terms.

Roger Dahl, Elim Church Chair

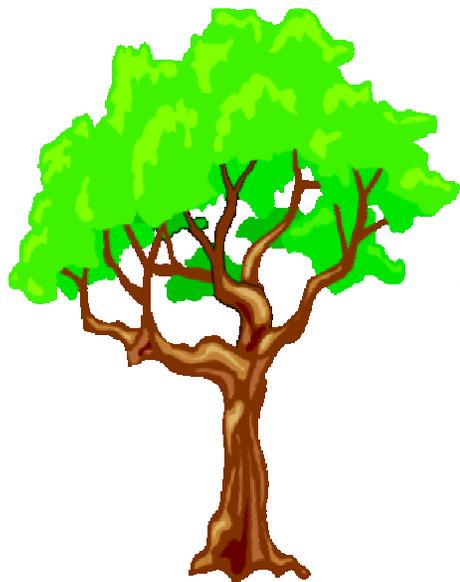


All-Church Fall Kickoff Picnic!

On Sunday, September 10, immediately following worship, Elim will hold a picnic in Logan Park to help kick off the beginning of fall programming. Elim will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, buns, baked beans, beverages, and paper products/utensils. You will need to bring your lawn chair and a dish to share (dessert, salad, fruit and veggies, chips, etc.). There will also be activities for kids.

Set-Up/Clean-Up Crew Needed For 50 + Lunch

The **50 + Lunch**, formerly the Seniors' Lunch, is now forming a volunteer Set-Up/Clean-Up Crew. Eight people are needed to serve for one year on a rotating schedule (4 crew members per lunch). Serve along with the committee members and share the joy! Please contact Kathy Huffman or Jan Page for more info.



50 + Lunch—The Seniors' Lunch has a new name, a new committee, and fresh programming! If you are over 50 years young, please join us for the "50 + Lunch" Fall Kick-off Celebration, happening Tuesday, September 5 at noon, to feast on a variety of salads and enjoy fellowship. Bring your favorite warm or cold salad to share as well as your neighbor, spouse and friends!

MerryMakers' Bus Trip—*Thursday, September 14, at 8 am*—Our fall bus trip will leave Elim at 8 am, heading for Superior, Wisconsin. We'll stop for coffee along the way before taking a tour of Fairlawn Mansion. After lunch at The Shack Restaurant, we will tour the Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center. On the way back to Elim, we will stop at Cherry's Ice Cream Parlor in Forest Lake. We should return at around 6:15 pm. Cost for the trip is \$36.00. Please RSVP to Larry and Dorothy Larson or LeRoy and Carol Erickson by Sunday, September 3. Please make checks payable to Dorothy Larson.

Mariners' Breakfast—*Tuesday, September 12, at 9 am*—Breakfast in September will be at Original Pancake House (1661 W County B2 in Roseville).

Macaroni & Cheese Recipe

Many people who attended VBS in August commented on how much they enjoyed the macaroni and cheese. Thanks to Dennis Jezierski, we are able to reprint his recipe. Please note: this recipe serves 150 people, so you may need to cut it down when cooking at home!

Ingredients:

- 8 pounds elbow macaroni
- 1 1/2 pounds butter
- 6 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 gallon whole milk
- 8 pounds Velveeta cheese, cubed
- 5 pounds shredded Cheddar cheese



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F.
2. Cook the macaroni until al dente as directed on package. Drain and evenly distribute in long shallow pans (catering pans are usually 12x20x4 and for this recipe you'll need 3 pans).
3. In a large double boiler, add milk, butter, salt & pepper. Add the Velveeta cheese and continue stirring until the cheese is melted and the mixture is smooth and creamy.
4. Pour the cheese sauce over the macaroni to evenly coat. Sprinkle the shredded cheddar over the top of the macaroni and mix thoroughly.
5. Bake (covered) for one hour, or until bubbly in the middle.

Elim Preschool News

Welcome back to all our preschool friends both new and returning! We are over the moon with excitement to welcome our 90 friends for another fabulous year! Our hallways will be brimming with excitement and activity as we all navigate this year of FANTASTIC enrollment!



This month, the children will learn so much about their new environment, their new friends and the world outside! We will talk about how special we all are in God's eyes and how he created us all to be special and unique!

We also welcome back all our wonderful teachers and are pleased to announce the addition of 2 new members to our staff! Liz Nelson will be joining us as a teacher 3 days a week and Heather Olson will be joining us as an assistant! We are pleased to welcome them both to our family!

As I have said before, I continue to be blessed by this preschool, this community, these teachers and especially the children and their families. My days are filled to the brim and I go home exhausted, but I would not have it any other way. Happy Fall to you!

Michelle Espelien, Elim Preschool Director



Creation Care Forum At Elim

On September 28, Transform Minnesota will hold a Creation Care forum in the Elim sanctuary, at 7 pm. *“The created world is a precious gift for which we will be held accountable. As stewards, we hold it in trust for God. As followers of Jesus, committed to justice and compassion, we seek to understand the potential threats changes to our environment, climate and natural disasters have on the lives and well-being of the poor and vulnerable.”*

Speaking at the forum will be meteorologist Paul Douglas; Joel Light, Professor of Biology at University of Northwestern, St. Paul; Emily Pahl, Global Teams Leader at River Valley Church; and Andy Carr, VP of Development and Marketing for Feed My Starving Children. This event is free and open to the public, but for planning purposes, please be sure to register through Transform Minnesota's Creation Care website (<http://transformmn.org/event/transform-ideas-creation-care/>).

Family Night Returning To Elim

Wednesday Night Live will kick off at Elim on September 13th at 6 pm. A family-friendly meal will be served on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, with programming to follow from 6:30-8:00. Following supper at 6 o'clock, there will be high-energy worship, fun games and Bible-based teaching for kids and students from 1st grade through High School in their regular areas of the building. Two adult classes will be offered and an early childhood class will be available for our youngest members. Nursery care will be available as well.



Welcome To Our Children's Ministry Team

I am so excited to Welcome two new members to our Children's Ministry Team. I have asked them to share their story and why they said YES to ministry here at Elim. We are blessed!

Deb Somody, Children's Ministry Director



Colleen Knuth—Nursery Team Leader

My family and I have attended Elim since my son was 6 months old. We had been going to a megachurch where we enjoyed the sermons but couldn't find a good church family connection. We decided to check out the little church called Elim in Minneapolis. As the story goes for most new people who walk through Elim's door, we were noticed and greeted warmly. It instantly felt like home. Having our kids grow up with a strong church family was important to us so the decision to move to Elim was easy. Participation at Elim has been a blessing to our family ever since. My family includes my husband Nick, Heinrich (8) and Gabrielle (6). I want to thank everyone at Elim for being the hands and feet of God, and for doing the ceaseless work of creating space and opportunities for people to worship and learn about God's Word.

I am happy to be able to help with these efforts to make Elim Church a welcoming place for all to learn about God's love and power. Please pray that God's love and power be evident in the Nursery as it is in the rest of Elim. I look forward to working with the Volunteers to make the Nursery welcoming and consistent. As we learn in 1 Peter, we need our elders to mentor and guide our younger generation. Please come be a part of our children's spiritual growth. Thank you to all who have been a part of the Children's Ministry. If anyone has suggestions, comments, or would love to volunteer in the nursery, please email, text, or call me. Your input is valuable.

Linda Bonasera (seated)—Children's Ministry Admin.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not lean on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6

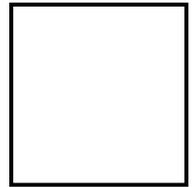
When I was young, I could not imagine the paths God would take me on. I came to know Christ at a young age here at Elim. When I was in Girl's Missionary Guild and heard Joyce Johnson speak about Kijabe in Kenya East Africa, God planted a seed in me. Little did I know I would someday work in the same country with Wycliffe Bible Translators. The Lord blessed me with a Christian family, a church family (Elim) and with wonderful teachers, youth leaders and pastors. The paths God brought me down all contributed to my spiritual growth. God's plan took me from teaching in the Minneapolis Public schools, to the mission field of Kenya, back to the US and eventually to serve as the Office Manager for 11 years at Calvary Church in Roseville.



After retiring, I returned to Elim and began to pray about how God wanted me to serve. Two and a half years later, God surprised me and called me to serve in Kid's Ministry, alongside Deb Somody, as the Admin. What an absolutely fabulous year it has been! I'm so excited to see what God is doing here at Elim. It has been so much fun getting to know the kids and they are truly awesome. It has been a joy to see several ask Jesus into their hearts, and some have followed him in baptism. It is a privilege to work in Kid's Ministry watching God build His heart into the lives of children.

Elim Church

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Time Sensitive Information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am 	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •50+ Lunch, Noon, Dining Room 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Kidz Klozet, Unlimited open, 9:00 am 	8	9
10 COMMUNION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am •All-Church Picnic, 11:45 am 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mariners' Breakfast, 9:00 am 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Seniors' Bible Study, 1:00 pm, Library •GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •Wednesday Night Live, 6:00 pm 	14	15	16
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge 	19	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •ECK, 6:30 pm, Kids Park, Gym •ECY, 6:30 pm, Youth Rooms, Gym 	21	22	23
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hope Avenue, 7:15-9:30 am •Sunday School, 9:00 am •The Gathering, 10:00 am •Worship, 10:30 am 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge •Elim Book Club, 7:00 pm, Lounge 	26	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Seniors' Bible Study, 1:00 pm, Library •GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •Elim Book Club, 7:00 pm, Lounge •ECK, 6:30 pm, Kids Park, Gym •ECY, 6:30 pm, Youth Rooms, Gym 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Creation Care Panel Discussion, 7 pm, Sanctuary 	29	30