



ELIM
CHURCH
AN OASIS
IN THE CITY

THE FORECASTER

OCTOBER
2017

Reflection: Parallels Between The YHWH Of Garden And Sinai

*“From the time of Moses, the Hebrew tribes began to worship a God called YHWH. This new divine name marks a milestone in that “wandering with God” to which the Old Testament bears witness. At this time God came forth in a new way; new aspects of God’s countenance became visible.” Trygve Mettinger, *In Search of God*, page 73.*

The introduction of the name of God, YHWH, is shown during Moses’ encounter with a burning shrub (Exodus 3). It is here that God identifies himself not only as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but as “*I will be who I will be.*” YHWH is someone who at least temporarily links himself to a given locale made holy by YHWH’s own presence. “*Do not come any closer,*” YHWH said. “*Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.*” (Exodus 3:5) Later in Exodus, YHWH asks Moses to demarcate the boundaries of the sacred area surrounding the mountain, which was not to be profaned by human contact. “*Do not touch*” and “*do not see*” the mountain (or you will die) are the basic ideas presented in Exodus 19:12 and 21.



YHWH—from Francisco Goya’s
“Adoration of the Name of God.”



The commands to “do not touch” and “do not see” are not new, however, in YHWH’s relation to human beings. In Genesis 2, the first man and woman are placed in a garden specially demarcated for them. YHWH set boundaries and limits to their life in the garden and commanded them, “do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” or “you will die.” (Genesis 2:17) Eve’s recounting of God’s command to the serpent in Chapter 3 illuminates her understanding of the prohibition. “You shall not eat... nor shall you touch it... or you will die.” (Genesis 3:3) However, it was when she “saw” that the fruit was a “delight to the eyes” (Genesis 3:6) that she and her husband decided to take and eat.

What the appearance of the name YHWH and parallel of the thematic elements from the Sinai account in Exodus 19 seem to suggest is that the Sinai event is a “re-gardening” of the people of God. Instead of seeing the expulsion from the garden as a static, unchangeable event, the garden stands for the ever-new possibilities at Sinai that exist when God’s countenance becomes visible. It is possible to read each story both forward and backward. If we look to the New Testament in the Gospel of John, the garden and Sinai themes are interwoven. Jesus appears as a gardener in a garden. Mary Magdalene recognizes Jesus, touches him, and leaves the garden with the testimony, “I have seen the Lord.” (John 20:18)



Paul Olson, Lead Pastor

Leadership Team Update

“Momentum” is an important word and concept. In general society, it refers to a sense of positive movement that adds to the chances of further positive movement. Momentum gets referred to by politicians, military strategists, athletic coaches, marketing folks and even teachers, because each of them knows that, although momentum is hard to define, it is an important human concept.

In my perspective, Elim has created some momentum. In Christian Education: summer classes/activities are back for youth and adults; VBS created enthusiasm; the kids and youth areas have built on previous work and are on a roll; and we have gone from two to four adult classes on Sunday mornings. In programs that are part of Elim: the Preschool is full of students and Hope Avenue has gone through two recent changes to meet the needs of volunteers and of those needing its services.

The physical parts of Elim have also undergone improvements: from LED lights, new lighting fixtures in the chapel, door stops and motion detection switches; to larger things like revamped office areas, a safety on-off valve in the boiler room and the anticipated repair of the Madison Street door and replacement of some windows in the east addition. And then, there is the huge deal of new chairs in the dining room. These are a gift from Jill and Dennis Jezierski, because they are spiritually focused and very generous. Thank you!

In monetary terms, we also feel momentum: as of about half way through our fiscal year, our income and expenditures are about the same; and the anticipated refinance is close to complete. In worship, momentum is seen in a wave of new songs developed by the Worship Team, in the subtle but smooth changes brought to the flow of the service and in preaching which is intellectual, spiritual and applicable to our lives.

Momentum is also felt in the combined efforts and thinking of Pastor Becky and Pastor Paul. Both pastors respect tradition but know that new terms, methods and ideas need to be developed. Both are able to “wrap their arms around” Elim’s people while they look for and try new ways to create a sense of confidence and momentum. You and I can follow their example. When we participate in activities, provide financial support, help those around us and help around Elim, we are adding to God’s momentum. Perhaps that momentum will affect us in the process.

Roger Dahl, Elim Church Chair



Fall Family gLo (Love God/Love Others)

When: Tuesday, October 24, from 5:30- 7:30 pm

What: Elim and Elim Preschool Fall Family Dinner and Celebration
Dinner starts at 5:30 pm; the Elim Preschool Singers begin at 6:15
Dazzling Dave will follow with a show and Gospel presentation.

Dave Schulte first picked up a yo-yo as a stressed-out college student in 1993, and has never really put it down since! He started his first career as a Technology Education teacher, but his drive to learn more about yo-yos, and to teach others, has led him to a career as a yo-yo professional! Dave travels the world teaching and entertaining with his yo-yos and spintops and we are thrilled to have him with us!

All are welcome to this free event, but please remember that you must sign up so we have an accurate count for supper. Thanks!



50 + Lunch—Tuesday, October 3, at Noon—Our next “50 + Lunch” will be at Pastor Becky’s house, with the theme of “*Show and Tell*.” There is no need to bring food this time; all you need to do is bring a meaningful memento to share, and enjoy the food and fellowship. If you need a ride, please meet at Elim by 11:15 am. If you have any questions or to volunteer to help with lunch, call Laurie Damberg. We need you and value your participation!

Mariners’ Breakfast—Tuesday, October 10, at 9 am—Breakfast will be at Perkins Restaurant (696 County Road D West, New Brighton).

MerryMakers’ Movie Night—Friday, October 20, at 6 pm—Movie Night will be in the Elim dining room. If your last name starts with A-L, please bring a main dish; everyone else, bring a side dish or salad. After the meal, we will watch the Tom Hanks movie, *Sully* (popcorn and beverages provided). Please use the parking lot entrance. Questions? Contact Jerry & Barb Vincent or Rod & Ruth Tyberg.

ECY Update

Rick Dischinger, Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Elim youth have been taking on Christian apologetics head on... though they may not know it! (Forecaster is not among their apps, so my secret is safe!)

We have spent some weeks in Sunday School viewing and discussing Leo Giglio’s “*How Great is Our God*” video, which does a wonderful job exploring God’s amazing creation! It is a creation that points to intelligence and design, glory and hope. Some scientists answer the metaphysical question of why we are here with a theory that holds that all there is came about by random acts, natural laws, unintelligible chance and mutations over time! Their *a priori* position does not allow for God; therefore, they are unable to see God!

There is a term in science, “irreducible complexity,” that posits that science can only explain so much, and we get to a point where our hands are thrown up, we shrug our shoulders and have to say: “yeah... *that*... I cannot explain *that*.” *THAT* may very well be the language of God! John says: “*In the beginning was the word [information] and the word was with God and the word was God.*” It is fun to see how science is leaning into a new theory of everything based on data, information... **WORD!** Each one of our DNA is 6 billion characters of information that describe us! Leo Giglio says it would take 97 years for him to read each of those 6 billion characters (one each second) describing ME!

Belief in a creator-God is an act of faith—faith in the terms of Hebrews 11:1: “*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*” Nobody was present at the time of creation... it is a reality that cannot be tested or proven in a scientific way. As people of faith, we can have “assurance of what we do not see” and a “confident hope” that the God who created all things is also a personal God that knows the plans he has for us—“plans to prosper us, not to harm us, plans to give us a hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

As I have hung out with youth over the years, I know their faith is tested in ways that challenge them. It is sometimes not easy or popular to hold views that are not aligned with current secular beliefs. For one hour each Sunday, it is our intention to point toward the truth of God’s awesome, mysterious, creative majesty, and to invite each student to consider what difference their faith in Jesus Christ makes in their lives. We covet your prayers as we lift up each of these sons and daughters of the King!

Elim Preschool News

September flew by and now, as we enter into Fall and the month of October, we are blessed with a full preschool and wonderful staff to take care of all our friends!

This month we are busy with a few fun events and happenings. We have our pictures taken by our photographer friend Dan this month! He is fun and does a great job with the kids. We will also go on a great field trip to Oliver Kelly Farm in Elk River, where we will see how fall vegetables are harvested and how to care for farm animals! On October 24, we will celebrate our first Family Night and Elim Church gLo Event! Everyone can join us for a fabulous dinner, songs sung by the preschoolers and a yo-yo professional to entertain us! It will be so much fun.

I am truly blessed by such an amazing environment filled with love and laughter and God's promise to hold all the little ones gently in his hands. Have a beautiful month!

Michelle Espelien, Elim Preschool Director



Social Team Leader Wanted!

Elim loves good fellowship! We seek a leader or a team to coordinate the volunteers for church picnics and the Christmas & Easter brunches. Many at Elim volunteer, but we seek someone to lead. Is God calling you? If so, please connect with Pastor Becky: becky@elimchurch.com or 612.789.3591.

Business Meeting—October 29

Elim will hold a business meeting in the dining room after worship on Sunday, October 29. The meeting is open to all members and regular attenders, as well as anyone interested in the business and finances of our church. Anyone may participate in the meeting, but any voting will be limited to Elim members.

Refugee Support Team Update

In April, Elim's refugee support team first met the Fadul family as they arrived from a camp in Ghana. The Faduls are from the Darfur region of Sudan, and were first displaced 10 years ago by the genocide resulting from civil war. They have seven children from 17 to 2 years old and are currently living in a rented house in Brooklyn Center.

It has been a privilege and blessing to get to know this amazing family and help them navigate our complex system in the U.S. God was at work in their lives through Christians they met in the camp, and has continued to show evidence of His mighty hand opening doors for conversation about Jesus as we serve in His name. If you are interested in getting involved, please talk to Don Heide or Patty Kelley.

Now Recruiting Kitchen Teams For Funerals

We would like to increase the number of volunteers who are able to serve on the kitchen team for funerals. Would you be willing to share in that rotation?

We are in need of people willing to make a cake, as well as those who set up and serve at funerals. Please connect with Pastor Becky at becky@elimchurch.com or 612.789.3591.



Faith + Fun = WNL!!!

September 13th was our kickoff for Wednesday Night Live with more than 100 in attendance. It was fun to sit around the tables as families and share as the table leader led us in a Table Connection Question. Our chef, Troy Lubbers and his crew, knocked it out of the park with a delicious meal! Pastor Paul and our VBS worship team led us in song. After supper, we were dismissed to our classes and activities.



Our littlest were loved on and rocked by Colleen Knuth, while Lois Froehlig and Lori Bailey led our Early Childhood kids to Noah's Park, where they laughed and giggled at the puppet show. Greg Howell, Deb Somody and Linda Bonasera ran our elementary group called Kidamazing, where they are doing Armor Up from Ephesians, and even got to paint and design their own shield of faith. The gym was "alive" with our youth, led by Rick Dischinger and Ben Smith, experiencing fellowship and building life-long friendships.

Pastor Paul's class, called Elim S.E.R.V., got busy doing just that while organizing and restocking donations for the Kidz Klozet and the Hope Avenue clothing closet. Some adults participated in a Bible study of the book of Acts led by Randy Somody. The study is called "Church Alive," and they took the elevator to the top floor where they met together.

Naudeanne St. Hilaire recruited folks for the new hand bell choir that is now part of our WNL activities. Anyone in 6th grade and up may participate. They will have an opportunity to serve on a Sunday in worship when they are ready.

Parents, you can have WNL **all month long** at home with the "Parent Script" that will be sent home with your children. This script includes scripture readings, conversation starters, and family meal discussions, so you can all **armor up** each Wednesday and stand strong together in the power of the Lord.



Mark your calendars for this month's WNL (on the 2nd Wednesday—October 11), from 6-8 pm. Please remember that you must register for dinner so we can prepare for you. In the meantime, ECY meets every Wednesday from 6:30-8 pm.

Our vision is to expand WNL in the new year to twice a month as the Lord bears fruit in our lives. We will let you know when we're ready.

*Deb Somody,
Children's Ministry Director*



Wanted: Hope Avenue Volunteers

A rotating team of people is needed every Sunday morning to help serve breakfast, distribute clothing, and oversee showers. We also need the clothing closet restocked mid-week. Training is provided, and we'll accommodate your schedule. If you're interested, please call Pastor Becky at 612-789-3591 or email her at becky@elimchurch.com.

Missions Team Update

"Do not leave... but wait..."

"He is lighting the world on fire!" "He will clothe you with power."

Pastor Paul is teaching on the book of Acts and the work of the Holy Spirit. "Those who want to live a holy life will follow Messiah—and will suffer." Jesus continues his agenda to purify his church. He never changes.



As we watch wars, epidemics and hurricanes pass, God's Holy Spirit is moving across the world, sending his children to love and show mercy and share where Refuge is found. One aspect of this work is that God's Spirit is giving dreams to thirsty souls. Nik Ripken, in his astounding book, *"The Insanity of God,"* writes about how God the Holy Spirit has been revealing himself to hungry hearts around the world. One man in north central Africa shared with Nik.

"I dreamed about a blue book. I was driven, consumed really, by the message of the dream. 'Look for this book,' the dream said, 'read this Bible!' I began a secret search, but I could not find a book like that anywhere in my country. Then, one day, I walked into a Quranic book shop and saw this sea of green books lining the walls. I noticed a book of a different color on a shelf in the back of the store, so I walked back there and pulled out a thick blue volume to discover that it was a Bible. It was published in my own national language. I actually bought a Bible in the Islamic bookstore, took it home, and read it five times. That's how I came to know Jesus."

Over and over, Nik was amazed by the testimonies as he traveled to places where Jesus-followers suffer. "These believers shout along with the testimony of those in Scripture that *Jesus is worth it; He is worth my life, the life of my spouse, and the lives of my children.*" Nik tells of being taught by these believers... "how to follow Jesus, how to love Jesus, and how to walk with him day by day."

Does the same desire burn in you?

May our prayer be, "Lord, give me a fresh revelation of You! Holy Spirit, teach me. I wait on You."

Carolyn Pinke, for the Missions Team



Safety And Security Team

The Security Team needs your help! Please join their rotating schedule and help provide a sense of safety to our members and guests by patrolling the building and grounds on Sunday mornings. Training is provided. Steve Murck can answer your questions; feel free to contact him.



Kidz Klozet Help Wanted!

The Kidz Klozet is open every month to serve the clothing needs for children (birth to age 12). Several volunteers are needed: a team leader, and volunteers to sort and process donations. The Klozet is open the first Thursday and the last Sunday of every month.

Please indicate your interest to Pastor Becky, who will get you connected to the ministry. Training is provided.

The Unlimited / Kidz Klozet

The Unlimited is now accepting donations of gently-used, stylish, **FALL AND WINTER** clothing—clean and on hangers. We can also use shoes and other accessories. Kidz Klozet is looking for clothing for kids of all ages, along with shoes, coats, backpacks... anything kid-appropriate, we can use! You may drop off donations on Sundays in the old entry, behind the sanctuary. During the week, the office accepts donations during regular office hours. We are always in need of grocery or shopping bags. In October, The Unlimited and Kidz Klozet are both open on the first Thursday (October 5), from 9 am—noon. Kidz Klozet is also open the last Sunday of the month, October 29, during Sunday School.



New Church Photo Directory Info!

We are excited to announce that we have partnered with LifeTouch to create a new photo directory of our church family.

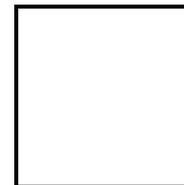
Please participate! All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional photographer and meet with a Portrait Consultant at the church (you'll be able to see your photos right away). Starting immediately, you may schedule your appointment online at <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y733nc10> (that is a zero at the end of the URL) If you are unable to schedule online, please call the church office to make arrangements. Also, if you are unable to have your photograph taken on the dates listed below, you may still be able to have a photograph taken by LifeTouch. To see where they are currently taking photographs and to schedule a time at a different location that works for you, please call 800-521-4611.

Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule. Other things to know:

- You will need to come to the church only once for photography and for photo viewing.
- Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a free 8x10 photograph. **No purchase is necessary.** Note: if you choose not to participate (by not having your photograph taken or by not submitting one), **you will not receive a directory.**
- The program is available at no cost to the church (aside from extra directories the church may buy).
- You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time. While the finished directories will not be available until January, any portraits or gift items you purchase **will be available by Christmas.**

The dates for photography are: Thursday and Friday, November 16 and 17 (from 1-8 pm) and Saturday, November 18 (from 10 am—4 pm). If those fill up, an extra date will be added. If you have questions, please contact the office.

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Time Sensitive Information

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <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 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge •Prayer Shawl Meeting, 7 pm, Lounge 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •50+ Lunch, Noon, Pastor Becky's Home 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •ECY, 6:30 pm, Youth Rooms, Gym 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Kidz Klozet, Unlimited open, 9:00 am 	6	7
8 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 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mariners' Breakfast, 9:00 am 	11 <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 	12	13	14
15 <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 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge 	17	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •GriefShare, 6:30 pm, Lounge •Jesus Calling, 6:30 pm, Prayer Room •ECY, 6:30 pm, Youth Rooms, Gym 	19	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •MerryMakers' Movie Night and Potluck, 6:00 pm, Dining Room 	21
22 <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 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge 	24	25 <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 •ECY, 6:30 pm, Youth Rooms, Gym 	26	27	28
29 <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 •Business Meeting, 11:30 am 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Lounge 	31				