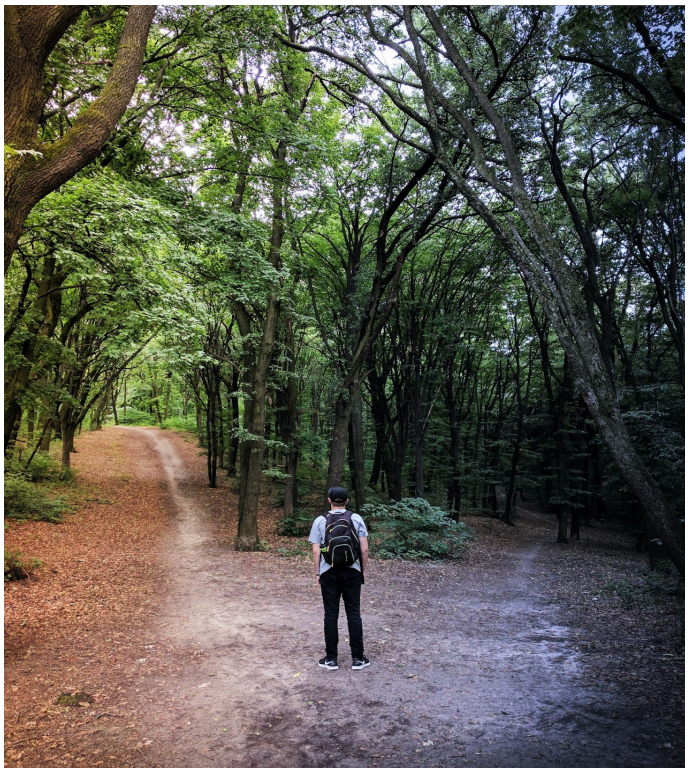
# Elim Church

February 6, 2022, 10:00 am



# *Seeking Spiritual Discernment: Pursuing God's Will Together*

*"For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him."*
*Psalm 62:5*

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Welcome & Announcements

Explanation for series "Pursuing Gods' Will Together"

Worship in GIving (Online Giving)

*All Creatures of Our God and King/Doxology*

*Be Thou My Vision/Take Time to Be Holy*

Time of Silent Prayer

*Teach Us Your Ways*

*God, I Look To You **

Sermon — "*Seeking Spiritual Discernment: Pursuing God's Will Together*"
-- Pastor Paul Stephen Olson

Closing Prayer and Benediction

Postlude

* *Children, ages 3-5th grade, will be dismissed to Children's Church.*

**Elim is participating in the Minneapolis Mask Mandate (1/6/22)**: The Leadership Team and the Pastoral staff are asking all attendees to wear a mask (preferably surgical or N95 style).

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

**TODAY:** **No Gathering or Connection Classes Today because of Covid**

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|---|---|---|
| **Mon-Fri:** | 12 noon | Noon Online Prayer Meeting<br>URL: https://meet.google.com/ast-cxmh-ykk<br>Phone: +1 401-684-3085 PIN: 724 649 481# |
| **Tues:** | 10 am | Women's Tuesday Study at the online link above |
| **Wed:** | 6-7 pm | Re-Covering in God Bible Study |
| | 6:30-8 pm | Youth Group meeting |
| **Fri:** | 8-9:30 am | Men's Bible Study online |
| **Sat:** | 8-11 am | Hope Avenue Ministry (hours change to 8-10a effective 2/12) |
| | 9:30-11 | Kidz Klozet and The Unlimited |

**Save the date (check the events page for information that may be available):**

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|---|---|
| ~~ Sat, 2/12, 8-10 am | Hope Avenue Ministry |
| ~~ Tues, 2/15, 7-8 pm | Freedom in Christ |
| ~~ Tues, 2/22, 6:30-8:30 pm | Leadership Team Meeting |
| ~~ Sun, 2/27, 11:15-12 pm | Elim Staff Meeting |

## UPCOMING EVENTS and NEWS

**Hope Avenue Twin Cities:** We welcome men to the shelter daily and will have an open house later in April. Thank you for your tangible gifts to the shelter of everything from computers to printers to pots and pans and food. But our greatest need remains–continued *prayer! God bless you, Elim, for the many ways you support us!*

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**Mask Mandate** Elim Church is participating in the Mayors' city-wide mask mandate for all attendees in our gatherings. Sunday Connection classes have been postponed to a later date. Please join us in person on Sunday and wear a mask (unless there is a medical reason not to).

Thanks for your understanding! We will get through this together! ❤️

Pastor Paul and Pastor Becky on behalf of the Leadership Team.

**Prayerful Pause**

"*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*" Rom. 12:2

**SERMON NOTES** **Today's Scripture Text**: John 9

## "Seeking Spiritual Discernment: Pursuing God's Will Together"

Pastor Paul Stephen Olson, MDiv

**Our goal:** *"...finding God in all things in order that we might love and serve God in all"*
- Ignatius of Loyola

**Today's Scripture Text**: John 9, a group of religious people witness Jesus healing a blind mans' sight. John has arranged the story in a very particular way…

John 9:1-12 - The Disciples and the Neighbors
[asking the wrong questions & caught up in debates]

John 9:13-17 - The Pharisees and the Parents
[stuck in the old ways & preserving the system]

John 9:18-23 - The Judeans and the Parents
[skeptical of God's works & victims of cognitive bias]

John 9:24-34 - The (formerly) Blind Man Speaks
[has true testimony based on experience, no longer 'belongs']

John 9:35-41 - Jesus Responds

Where is the good news in this story? Can we acknowledge when we lack wisdom and what obstacles stand in the way? Which of these characters do you identify with the most? What practices do you have in your life for cultivating spiritual discernment?

**Next Week**: ***Searching for Spiritual Transformation*** from our series, "Pursuing God's Will Together" comes from the title of the book by *Ruth Haley Barton* for groups going through times of discernment and decision making.

*Join us next week in person or online at 10:00 am at facebook.com/elimchurchmpls/live*
***Check out audio sermons from past weeks*** at www.elimchurch.com/sermon-archive/


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# UPDATE!
# Introducing the Online Elim Membership Class

We are migrating our “E-class” to fit an online format. This takes time and a little extra effort on our part but this class has expanded teaching and information about what it means to be a ‘member’ at Elim and of the ‘Body of Christ’.

“E” in E-class stands for Elim,
the Ekklesia (church) and,
Ephesians, a letter from the Bible we reference often in the class.

**How long does it take?**
The class is designed to have 4 weeks online and a final meeting in person. By completing all the weeks and attending in person you will receive an Elim Church mug!

**What if I am a member already?**
If you are already a member, please take the class!
www.elimchurch.com/courses/e-class

**How do I get started?**

- Register for the class with an email address at the address above as soon as possible, so that you can complete all four weeks by the in-person meeting on March 6, 2022, after the Sunday church service in Room 401.
- Start with week 1 (weeks 2-4 will be made available and an announcement will be made).
- You won’t complete the course until you’ve finished all four weeks, including the in-person session!

I am excited to welcome you and new members to Elim through this class. It will cover the biblical basics of membership, theology, and values of our church, plus our origin stories and roots in pietism and the baptistic movement.

Don’t wait any longer… Start your membership journey and complete all the e-class sessions before our in-person meeting on March 6th by coming to Room 401 after the service.

I hope to see many of you there!

–Pastor Paul