



“The Way of the Cross”

“The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.” Matthew 19:25-26

We Believe

Welcome & Announcements

Offering ([Online Giving](#))

Pastoral Prayer

*Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing
Jesus, Your Love **

Sermon: “The Way of the Cross” — Pastor Paul Stephen Olson

God, I Look To You

Benediction

Postlude

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK **

- TODAY:** 9-9:45 am The Gathering in the Dining Room,
9:15 am Prayer Room for anyone needing prayer with the pastors
10 am **Worship Service** (in person and on Facebook)
<https://www.facebook.com/ElimChurchMpls/live>
11:15 am-Noon **No Sunday Connections across the ages until June 5**
11:15 am Staff Meeting

**Masks are not required for attendees at Elim. As always, please take any precautions to protect your health and the health of others.

- Mon-Fri:** 12 noon Noon Online Prayer Meeting
URL: <https://meet.google.com/ast-cxmh-ykk>
Phone: +1 401-684-3085 PIN: 724 649 481#
- Tues:** 10 am Women's Bible Study on Mark at the online link above
- Wed:** 6-7 pm *Re-Covering in God* Bible Study
6:30-8 pm Youth Group meeting
6:30-8 pm GriefShare in the Lounge
- Sat:** 8-10 am Hope Avenue Ministry
- Sun:** **OPEN HOUSE AT ELIM**

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

- ~~ Wed, 5/25, 6:30-8 pm GriefShare in the Lounge
~~ Thurs, 5/26, 6:30-8:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting in the Library
~~ Sat, 6/4, 2-4 pm Wedding Shower for Kristin Stucker and Carlos Martinez-Luhmann

Prayerful Pause

Take the opportunity today to consider where your focus is placed? "Turn my eyes from worthless things and give me life through your word." (Psalm 119:37 NLT)

“The Way of the Cross”

Pastor Paul Stephen Olson, MDiv

The Way of the Cross is...**After “the Good”**

v.17 *“Why ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good.*

- *Ancient Philosophies Hardest Question: What to Make of One’s Self?... (Anthony A. Long) “The morality of ancient philosophy is a kind of mathematics—a calculus of making what is good for ourselves balances what is good for others.” Personal autonomy and reason guide life (eudaimonia - joy, happiness, lit. divinely favored).*
- *“I’ve obeyed all these...” (v. 20) Levitical Law: Sacrifice: to bring near “the system of sacrifice provided a metaphor, a method, for the Israelites to reach God, responding to the deep psychological, emotional, and religious needs of the people.” (Jacob Milgrom, Leviticus)*
- *The way of the cross: Matthew 7:14 “But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” (see also ‘the path of life’ Ps. 16:11’, and ‘the way of holiness’, Isaiah 35:8)*

Against the Grain

v.21 *“If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*

- *Christians engaged in “outreach to the poor and the adoption of virginity and chastity [that] were both held to be actions that went against the normal grain of human nature... that inspired its adherents to do such extraordinary things.” (Peter Brown, Eye of a Needle)*
- *Lactantius: “The only true and certain obligation is to feed the needy and useless... Hope of a return must be absolutely missing... men may have no use for them, but God has.” (Divine Institutes, Lactantius)*
- *The way of the cross: The Salmon, Coho, and Rainbow Trout return to their place of birth at maturity: kingdom reproduction requires swimming against the current together. (Daniel 3:16-18, Ecc. 4:12) We are upstream Christians in a downstream world. (Pastor Greg Crofford)*

Addressing the Gap

cf. Mark 10:21 “Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,”

v.22 *But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.*

v. 24 *I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”*

- *“An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics” - Plutarch*
- *“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.” - Mother Theresa*
- *Impossibility of the cross and resurrection. “Jesus was pronounced dead, he was somehow mysteriously found alive again. If we consider Jesus during his lifetime and then question the meaning of Easter, the answer to what propelled the Jesus movement is evident. “Under New Management: Easter and Beyond” (N.T. Wright)*

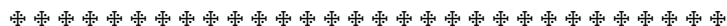
Application: How can we mind the Gaps?

- GAP #1 *The Gap Method – **G**oals, **A**nalyze, **P**erform, have you had an honest assessment with God? Do you have spiritual goals? Who can help you analyze honestly? What does a good ‘performance’ look like in 2022? (How does all this ‘make much of God’!?)*
- GAP #2 ***G**od **A**nswers **P**rayer: The gaps in the world that we see are too many and too great! We begin with prayer.*
- GAP #3 *God is **G**race, God is **A**ble, God has a **P**lan. (1 Cor 12:9, Eph 3:20, Job 42:2)*

Next Week: *“The Painting of the Cross” – join us for worship in the sanctuary at 10 am and then the Elim kids (led by Kari Nelson) will be painting the cross in the courtyard outside.*

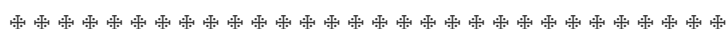
UPCOMING EVENTS and NEWS

Save the date: We rejoice in the addition of a new family at Elim as we celebrate the **Wedding Shower** for Kristin Stucker and Carlos Martinez-Luhmann on Saturday, June 4, 2-4 pm in the dining room. Please plan to join us in person or online. Their Wedding Registry is at <https://withjoy.com/carlos-and-kristen/registry> Target; Bed, Bath, & Beyond; Amazon.



FREE! [Currently stored in the DMZ and need a new home! Please contact the church office if you are interested.]

- **Office Desk:** Heavy-duty desk, 7-drawer (3 on each side & one in the middle). The approximate dimensions are 5' (L) x 3.5' (W) x 2.5' (H).
- **Rocking Chair:** Dark wood, gentle rocking chair to bring comfort and rock your little ones to sleep.



Join us Sunday, May 22nd for an Elim Open house Art-A-Whirl event!

We will be opening our doors to the Northeast Community to show off our spaces and smiles to the new neighbors in apartments around the neighborhood. There will be local snacks that can be enjoyed in the dining room and local coffee that can be brought around for tours of our key spaces including the Kid's ministry Atrium and Youth Rooms. Let's show Christ's love and hospitality to our new neighbors. Tour Guide sign-ups will be posted as you exit the sanctuary, or volunteer by emailing andy@elimchurch.com.

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