



The Elim Waterfall

March/April 2021

From the Pastor:

Wow! The last half of January and the first half of February have been brutal. Snow, ice, bitter cold—we've had it all! I'm tired of shoveling snow and navigating ice. I hate bundling up like an Eskimo, the short hours of daylight, waiting for the car to get warm, and missing opportunities to be with you! I'm ready for spring!

And while I'm on this complaint rant...what happened to that moderate winter the Old Farmer's Almanac was predicting for 2020-2021? Here's what it said, *"a light winter for most of us here in the United States, with warmer-than-normal temperatures in the forecast for a large part of the country."* I might understand it if they were talking about Hawaii, but 'that large part of the country' they mentioned, included us!

Okay, when it comes to following folklore or the Farmer's Almanac to predict winter weather, you can color me skeptical! I don't even trust the weatherman! Need batting averages? According to SciJinks, even your favorite meteorologist is right only half the time when predicting a ten-day weather forecast. While the Farmer's Almanac itself claims to have an 80% accuracy rating, objective reviews put it closer to 50%. That famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, has a dismal accuracy rating of 40% (although, keep in mind, he is 134 years old). And that old March adage that says, "in like a lion/lamb, out like a lamb/lion?" Well, the lion and the lamb aren't much better than the groundhog...coming in with only a 44% accuracy rating!

So...I guess it's up to you. When it comes to the weather, who are you going to follow? Woolly worms, acorns, corn husks, the Farmer's Almanac, the ground hog, the lion, the lamb, or your favorite meteorologist? Personally, I think I'll just look out the window and make my plans accordingly. Weather prognosticators may have good intentions, and some may be better than others...BUT...not one of them is completely reliable! Follow their advice, and you might find yourself in the middle of a rainstorm-WITHOUT an umbrella!

But then, that's weather. What about life? Who are you going to follow when it comes to your life? Is there someone we can depend on? Someone who is always right? Someone who will never let us down? And the answer is...you better believe it! His name is Jesus, and he invites all of us to "follow me." Why? Because He is the way, the truth, and the life!

By the time you read this article, the season of Lent will already be here. Lent, you'll remember, is a time of spiritual preparation and discipline. So, what better

way to prepare for the joy of Easter than by following our leader? That's what we'll be doing in this season's sermon series. We'll be following our leader. We'll follow Him from the fishing hole where He calls us to "follow me" all the way to the cross and the open tomb. Growing up, I'm sure you've all played the game, "Follow the Leader." It's fun and you can come out a winner! Much more important than that, however, is following our leader in real life. His name is Jesus and following Him makes us the biggest winners of all. Please join us this Lenten/Easter season as together, we follow our leader!

Thanks for making me your pastor and friend! Have a blessed March and April!
Love ya! Marv

Easter is Coming!!

Two of our favorites are coming back.....
Food and Flowers!!



While we're not ready to return to our BIG morning feast, we would like to offer a nice continental breakfast. It will be from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. before the worship service. More details will come as the date draws closer.

What symbolizes the beauty of Easter better than flowers? We plan on decorating the sanctuary with lightly scented potted plants from Merlin's Greenhouse in Oregon. There will be a limited number of Easter lilies ordered due to their scent.



Each plant will be \$15 and should be paid for at the time of ordering. Make checks out to "Elim" with "Easter plant" in the memo line. The deadline to order is Sunday, March 21. Plants can be taken home after the Easter worship service on Sunday, April 4. If you would like to order, forms are at the church or call Sharon Alderks with how many plants you would like to purchase and who they are in honor or memory of. Your payment should be mailed to:

Sharon Alderks, 907 Skare Rd., Chana, IL 61015.

RECENT BIRTHS



Cayden John Somers
Son to Nick & Brittany Somers
January 23, 2021
7 lbs, 3 oz. & 19 in.
Grandson to Joe & Dawn Somers
Great Grandson to Berniece Hayenga

Levi Allen Calbeck
Son to Robert & Kristi Calbeck
February 16, 2021
8 lbs, 6 oz. & 21 in.
Grandson to Bob & Linda Alderks

March Birthdays

4 – Braxton Tasso
6 – Mary Ellen Rahn
 Marie Hopkins
 Grant McClendon
7 – Julie Mann
8 – Roger Hayenga
10 – Jami Bruns
17 – Henry Haner
24 – Bev Kearns
26 – Donna Fruin
 Dan Alderks
28 – Marla Rozeboom
29 – Grace Wild

April Birthdays

6 – Nick Somers
10 – Warren Ippen
 Peggy Howe
15 – Heather Alderks
18 – Joe Somers
25 – Pastor Marv Jacobs
 Sandy Wild
27 – Rodney Hayenga
29 – Linda Buettner



Wedding Anniversaries

March 6 – Rodney & Cyndy Hayenga (50th)
March 16 – Roger & Carol Hayenga
March 26 – Gary Nefstead & Deb Maas
April 2 – Bob & Linda Alderks
April 10 – Robert & Kristi Calbeck

