



The Elim Waterfall

*May - August 2021**

**Due to the limited amount of church events going on through the summer, this newsletter edition will include the months of May through August. If any new info arises that the congregation needs to be made aware of, the information will be distributed through the weekly bulletins and church website as necessary.*

From the Pastor:

Please know...I am NOT a 'label' snob! Yes, there are a few brand names I insist upon. On Easter, you learned one of them. When it comes to peanut butter, it must be Skippy. Other favorites? When it comes to hot dogs, it must be Oscar Meyer. When it comes to soda, it must be Pepsi. And, when it comes to walking shoes, I will pay extra for Keens. Other than that, I'm a bargain shopper!

But what about you? Are you into labels? Is a designer label important to you? If so, you might want to look for the best designer label ever! It's found in nature and I would encourage you to look for it this summer! That's what David is doing in Psalm 8. He writes, *"Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens....When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor...Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"* What is David saying? It's simple! THE DESIGNER'S label can be found everywhere...in the air, on the land, and in the sea!

So, I'm picturing David laying on the ground looking up at the night-time sky. It's a picture-perfect night-a full moon, the sky twinkling bright with a million stars-so close you feel like you could reach out and touch them. It's a wow moment which leads David to write this wow Psalm...WOW, is God big! WOW, am I small! And WOW, am I blessed to be Smig!

WOW, is God big! He has designed such a beautiful, massive, and intricate creation. One of the things I really missed when I lived in Arizona were fireflies (lightning bugs to me!). I'm glad they're part of my life again. I love sitting on my deck at night watching those flashes of light. Did you know that an incandescent light bulb gives off 90% of its energy as heat and only 10% of its energy as light (if you've ever touched a light bulb that's been on for a while, you know what I'm talking about!). If a lightning bug produced that much heat every time they lit up, they would literally incinerate themselves. But they don't and that's because they produce their light through a chemical reaction that allows 100% of their energy to go for light.

And it's that chemical reaction that also protects them from birds (otherwise their little lights would make them perfect targets!). To put it simply, I will never understand how anyone can say there is no God...and lightning bugs are just one small example of how majestic our Lord's name is in all the earth. His divine label can be found everywhere, and it is awesome to see!

But you'll notice that, as soon as David says, "wow, is God big!" he immediately realizes, "wow, am I small! ***“What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?”*** How can the one who created this big, beautiful universe care about me personally? I'm told that if you want to compare the size of a human being to the size of the universe, it would be like looking at an atom in comparison to the size of our planet. And keep in mind that 5 trillion hydrogen atoms can fit on the head of a pin! What's that do for your ego? How big do you feel now?

And yet, David has one more huge wow to offer. Given the fact that God is so BIG and I am so SMALL, WOW, am I blessed to be smig (and yes, I did make this word up)! It's a combination of the words, small and big...hence, smig! Here's the wonderful news! While we may be small in the eyes of the universe, we are huge in the eyes of our God. David stands amazed that God has made us a little lower than the angels, crowned us with glory and honor, and then put us in charge of His awesome creation. Add to that, the glorious news of Easter which reminds us that God loves us so much, He would send His son to die on a cross so that He can enjoy us forever. WOW!!!

This newsletter is designed to cover the months of May through August! So, my challenge and encouragement to you is spend these summer months looking for the Divine Label. Enjoy God's creation. My mom and dad were two vastly different people when it came to viewing and appreciating creation. During the summer months, we would always take Sunday afternoon drives (can't say I was too thrilled! 🚗 😞). Mom would sit in the front passenger seat oohing and aahing over the trees, the wildflowers, a flowing creek, a startled deer, all the beauty of nature. My dad, on the other hand, would mmmm...wondering about soil contents, fertilizer usage, corn yields. To put it simply, mom would appreciate nature for how it looked, and dad would appreciate nature for how it worked.

So, what kind of person are you? The romantic type or the pragmatic type? In the end, it doesn't really matter. God's creation has something to offer all of us. The important thing is...are we paying attention? Are we looking for the divine label...so that, like David, we can end up saying, WOW GOD, are you big! WOW GOD, are we small! And WOW GOD, are we blessed to be smig! Have a blessed summer my friends! Enjoy what you see, take good care of it, and make sure to praise our creator for it! Much love! Marvelous Marv

“Kaffee’s Klöör!”



At least that’s how it sounded to me. Mom would speak in low German to tell dad his coffee was ready. I’m thinking it meant, “the coffee is colored!” Weird! At any rate, I’m happy to tell all my friends here at Elim that our “kaffee’s klöör!” Coffee time resumes May 2 following our morning worship service. While we plan to start with coffee only, we’ll soon work our way up to goodies, as well. Marv’s weight depends on it! Looking forward to resuming our weekly “kaffeeklatsch!” Good coffee, good times, good friends!



30 Days of Prayer for 30 RCA Missionaries

Prayer is powerful—especially for the mission field.

Every day, RCA missionaries are following God’s call in mission around the globe by being the hands and feet of Jesus and, ultimately, growing the global church. And every day, they covet your prayers to sustain them in this call.

For 30 days, you are invited to join us in praying for 30 RCA missionaries, the countries they serve in, and the people they meet along the way. When you sign up to participate, you will receive a daily prayer prompt in your email inbox as well as a scripture passage, a story, and video or audio blurb from the featured missionary or partner. Start date: May 25

To sign up, type in this address (or search for it on the RCA webpage)

<https://www.rca.org/global-mission/30-days-of-prayer-for-30-rca-missionaries/>

You simply enter your name and email address on the page to be included. At this time, it is only being offered online.

dates to Remember

May

- 2 – Coffee & Fellowship Time returns after worship services every week
- 5 – Women's Aid & Missionary Society meets at 1:30 p.m.
- 9 – MOTHER'S DAY
- 18 – Consistory meets at 6:30 p.m.
- 23 – PENTECOST
- 31 – MEMORIAL DAY

June

- 1 – Elim Post-High School Grant Applications* DUE
[*Grant guidelines and applications are on the church website or available at the church]
- 14 – FLAG DAY
- 20 – FATHER'S DAY

July

- 4 – INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 11 – Communion Sunday & Benevolent Fund Offering during worship service
- 20 – Consistory meets at 6:30 p.m.

August

- 25 – NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for September/October issue

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (A)

May

- 3 – Sue Tasso
- 5 – Jill Schaneberg
- 6 – Kylie McClendon
- 8 – Joe Meyers
- 9 – Alan Alderks
Linda Hoffman
- 13 – Randy Fruin
- 14 – Ada Mae Haner
Jaxon King
Thad & Allison Tasso (A)
- 16 – Teagan Meyers
Anlun Meyers
- 21 – Marjorie Stouffer
- 22 – Jan Dykstra
- 26 – Jeffrey Hayenga

June

- 4 – Roger Bruns
- 6 – Patty Crane
- 10 – Cynthia Donnelly
- 16 – Amber McClendon
- 25 – David & Jamie Alderks (A)
- 30 – Bernetta DeShazo (102 yrs)



July

- 1 – Trenton Somers
- 2 – Jason & Patty Crane (A)
- 9 – Cheyenne Somers
- 11 – Debbie Hahn
- 19 – Jason Crane
- 25 – Bob Maas
- 27 – Betsy Winn
Branden Tasso
- 30 – Linda Alderks
Alan & Heather Alderks (A)
Harold & Renee Langeland (A)

August

- 1 – Jan Maas
Kristi Calbeck
Beckett Alderks
- 5 – Roger & Jen Bruns (A)
- 9 – Denny Alderks
Joe & Dana Meyers (A)
- 11 – Eleanor Bonte
- 12 – Pastor Gerry & Jan Dykstra (A)
- 13 – Arlene Hansen
- 15 – Sharon Alderks
- 16 – Joe & Dawn Somers (A)
Wes & Amber McClendon (A)
- 28 – Lucinda Winn
- 30 – Brooke Alderks

*Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:15