



The Elim Waterfall

September – October 2021

From the Pastor:

“A Story of Two Pools”

Let me be clear. We like our neighbors! They’re friendly, helpful, and they all keep a careful watch over our neighborhood. One can’t ask for more! Of course, everyone is different. We have different interests, different styles, different priorities. That’s what makes the world go round! So...embracing that diversity, let me share with you two neighborhood pictures.

The first picture is the swimming pool of my neighbor to the west. They have two children. Every weekend from the vantage point of my deck, I watch them enjoying their pool. You wouldn’t believe how many inflatables, squirt guns, and toys they have! They often have family and friends over and enjoy a picnic right there on their pool deck. Cold drinks abound and obviously a good time is had by all! But it’s the water that draws my attention. It has a bluish hue and looks crystal clear. When it’s hot, it takes all I can do, not to jump in. The water looks so appealing!



This second picture is the swimming pool of my neighbor to the south. They also have two children. Every weekend from the vantage point of my deck, I watch no one enjoying that pool. There are no inflatables, squirt guns, or toys to be seen. No visitors, no picnics, no laughter, no activity whatsoever. I understand why. Most of the time, the pool water looks like a swamp. It’s green with algae and thick like pea soup. Even on the hottest day, I’m not tempted to jump in their pool. The water looks rather repulsive!



Two very different swimming pools. One draws me in. The other pushes me away. Which reminds me, of something Jesus once said in His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:16), **“let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven!”** What a great reminder. ‘Be like a swimming pool,’ Jesus says! Just make sure you’re a swimming pool that draws others to me, rather than pushes them away from me.

I wonder sometimes, how I come across to others? Sadly, I’m sure there are those times, when I’m like that pool to my south, leaving people to think, “ugh, if that’s what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus, I’m not jumping in!” My desire, of course, is to be like that other pool, the attractive pool to my west. I want to shine and shimmer. I want to look so inviting, I naturally draw others to Christ. I’m sure you want to be that kind of person, as well. In fact, together, we want to be that kind of church, as well. And all God’s people said, “last one in the pool is Marco...Polo!”



“Lessons Learned!”

**September 12, “Lesson Learned: Don’t Hide”
(Saul) 1 Samuel 10:17-24**

**September 19, “Lesson Learned: Don’t Pretend”
(Ananias and Saphira) Acts 5:1-11**

**September 26, “Lesson Learned: Don’t Forget”
(King Asa) 2 Chronicles 16:1-9**



Looking Ahead to the Holidays



November 21, Thanksgiving Sunday. Our worship of praise and gratitude will place at our usual time of 10 a.m. Tentative plans call of a “Thanksgiving Potluck” to follow in the fellowship hall. It promises to be a great day so please join us.

December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4 p.m. Join us as we sing our carols and hear the Christmas story. Pastor Marv will be offering a “first person” message from the perspective of the innkeeper. We hope you will be here (and invite your family and friends!) to celebrate the birthday of our Savior. If you would be willing to read scripture that night, please let Pastor Marv know - (we need five readers). Thanks!

dates to Remember

September

- 5 – Norm Shirk preaches
- 6 – LABOR DAY
- 7 – Pastor Marv returns from VACATION
- 8 – Elim Post-High School Grant Applications DUE!!
[*Grant guidelines and applications are on the church website or available at the church]
- 12 – GRANDPARENTS DAY
- 21 – Consistory at 6:30 p.m.



October

- 3 – WORLD COMMUNION DAY
 - Communion & Benevolent Fund Offering during worship service
- 11 – COLUMBUS DAY
- 24 – Pastor Marv on vacation through Oct. 31; Norm Shirk preaches
- 27 – NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for November/December issue
- 31 – HALLOWEEN

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (A)

September

- 9 – Joyce Bennett
 - Olivia Crane
- 11 – Bailey Wild
- 12 – Dennis Swanson
- 14 – Linda Rick
 - Jaxon Alderks
- 18 – Thad Tasso
- 20 – John & Norma Swanson (A)
- 23 – Cooper Alderks
- 27 – Gary & Marla Rozeboom (A)
- 30 – Cyndy Hayenga

October

- 1 – Fran Bruns
- 4 – Bob Alderks
- 10 – Nick & Brittany Somers (A)
- 14 – Ella Mueller
 - Brittany Somers
 - Ryan & Sandy Wild (A)
- 18 – Evan Meyers
- 19 – James Calveard
- 22 – Anton Crane

