The Elim Waterfall

April – May – June 2026

From the Pastor:

So, I'll preface my article this month by saying, I DID HAVE A WONDERFUL VACATION! The weather was perfect. The ship was beautiful. The Panama Canal was fascinating. Every Port of Call was enjoyable. And the company I was with made it all perfect. I have no reason to complain!

But guess what? I'm going to anyway! At least for a little while. 😊 It all started the first day. If you've been on a cruise before, you know how the best moments of a cruise happen when you first board the ship. That's the time to enjoy and explore the wonder of your ship. You visit the pool deck and the promenade, the restaurants and the entertainment venues. Even a visit to the ship's library to pick out a book (find a David Baldacci book, prop me up in a deck chair, and I'm in heaven!). I love those first few hours. During the winter months, I dream about those first few hours!

Unfortunately, this time, that pleasure was taken away from me. Within the first 15 minutes, I learned that they had issued me the wrong card and I was instructed to go down to Guest Services to get a new one. Which I did...along with a thousand other people! The line stretched as far as I could see. One of their agents, however, was moving down the line quite quickly to collect our old cards (picture a guy holding a bag with hundreds of cards. ☹) Once we had surrendered our card, we were told to just find a place in the lobby to wait for our name to be called!

Let me see if I can paint a picture of the process. Once...and I'll repeat that, once every 15 minutes, the names in ONE stateroom would be called. And when I say called, I don't mean over a loud speaker or even a megaphone. Instead, a soft-spoken employee behind the desk would share the names with one of the passengers in front of the task. And that passenger with a voice like Dan Adamson's would then turn towards this huge multitude and scream, "John and Mary Doe!" And then John and Mary Doe would come forward to receive their cards and we would wait another 15 minutes for the next name to be called.

Sound frustrating? Ohhhh....you haven't heard the half of it! As many of us stood there in the lobby waiting, word spread, 'don't give up your card!' So, this new group of people chose to remain in line and move slowly but steadily towards the other agents who remained at their stations. Can you imagine? Those of us who have been waiting for our name to be called for hours, are now watching this new group of people (many of whom had just arrived) receive their new cards immediately. Trust me, with that injustice, things quickly started to get ugly. The crowd grew steadily more restless and angry. In fact, there was a moment there when I seriously feared there might be a mutiny even before we set sail. ☠

It was not a great way to start. The best moments of a cruise were being lost as I stood there standing with hundreds of other people waiting and hoping to hear my name called next.

Okay, now that I've vented, let me ask you, "how do you think you'd react in a situation like that?" Truth be known, in some ways, it was a good lesson in human behavior. I witnessed some being more passive than they probably should have been. But I also witnessed many more people being angrier and more confrontational, as well. Me? While I admit I was not a happy camper, I resolved to share my grievances with NCL after the cruise. I saw no purpose in yelling at innocent employees who were working hard and doing their best to correct the situation. I also resolved not to let this rough beginning ruin the rest of my cruise. And trust me, many people did. The cruise lasted 15 days, and every day, multiple times a day, I would still hear people ranting and raving about the chaos and confusion of that first day. They just couldn't and wouldn't let it go.

Maybe it's because I've been preaching on Joseph, but I have to say, he came to mind as I was standing there. I couldn't help but wonder, "Hey Joe! how would you react in a situation like that?" And I could almost hear him say, "well, given the fact that my brothers almost killed me and did end up selling me into slavery. Given the fact that I was falsely accused of rape and unjustly sentenced to multiple years in prison. And given the fact that I went through all that without losing my head...or my faith...I'm pretty sure I could have handled waiting five hours in a nicely furnished, climate-controlled lobby.

I'm sure we're all familiar with the acronym WWJD. What would Jesus do? It's a phrase Christians use to encourage reflection on how Jesus would act in a given situation. I've always appreciated that phrase and have found it to be helpful on more than one occasion. But I have to say, to a lesser extent to be sure, but that J could just as easily stand for Joseph. And that's what I kept asking myself that day, "what would Joseph do?" And in the end, I really believe it kept from becoming AND doing something that I would have been ashamed of later. My challenge to all of us. In a world of chaos and confusion, not unlike the ship that day, let's do our best to show the world what Joseph would do! Let's do our best to be a positive and loving witness for our Lord!

Have I told you lately how much I love and appreciate all of you? ***I DO!!!***

Thursday, April 2nd – MAUNDY THURSDAY

Ebenezer Reformed Church (2997 German Church Rd. Oregon) has invited our congregation to join them for a light meal at 6 p.m. followed by a communion service which will be led by Brion Brooks.

Sunday, April 5th – EASTER SUNDAY

We will start the day with our annual Easter Breakfast which will be served from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. It will be followed by the Worship service at 10 a.m. A Glorious Day!!!

dates to Remember

April

2 – MAUNDY THURSDAY
3 – GOOD FRIDAY
5 – EASTER
Breakfast 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
12 – Communion Sunday &
Benevolent Fund Offering taken

May

10 – MOTHER'S DAY
17 – Consistory 11:15 a.m.
25 – MEMORIAL DAY
White Rock Memorial Day Service
9:30 a.m. at Elim

June

7 – Graduate Sunday (let Pastor Marv know if you have a high school or college graduate in your family by May 24)
11-16 General Synod
21 – FATHER'S DAY
24 – Newsletter Deadline

Birthdays & Anniversaries (A)

APRIL

2 - Bob & Linda Alderks (A)
14 - Rhett Monson
15 - Bill Luepkes
18 - Joe Somers
21 - Randy Monson
25 - Pastor Marv Jacobs
27 - Rodney Hayenga

MAY

3 - Lori Bee
7 - Sandy Remmers
11 - Chris Torgersen
14 - Ada Haner
- Glenn Hansen
23 - Jeff Monson
26 - Jeff Hayenga

JUNE

15 - Ron Hall
17 - Diane Monson
21 - Randy & Diane Monson (A)

Mark Your Calendars NOW.....

Outdoor Worship Service

at King's Camp (9560 Lindenwood Rd)
On Sunday, July 5th, 2026

WORSHIP will be in the Shelter House at 10 a.m.
(Bring Lawn Chairs or Blankets to sit on)

Followed by a POTLUCK.
(Bring at least one dish to share, your table settings, and beverage)

Invite your family &/or friends!!