



ELSINORE FIRST

updates

EFA NEWSLETTER | KEEPING US CONNECTED | APRIL 2020

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER *Encouragement from Pastor Fred*

I wanted to share with each of you during this time of “Sheltering in Place” caused by the pandemic.

I recognize the times have become uncertain and the truth is none of us could have imagined that America, as we know it, would ever be pulled out from under us the way it has, and practically overnight at that! We have all been forced into the realm of a new way of living as we practice the social distancing recommended by our governing authorities.

Nevertheless, as overwhelming as it may seem, we have great opportunity! Just like after 9/11, the country is turning towards the church for hope. And even though “doing church” looks differently than what we are accustomed to, the church is the only true source of Hope in this world.

I want to share with you a word that gave me renewed hope from the story of Paul’s conversion: As Saul was on his way to arrest believers in Damascus, Jesus revealed Himself to Saul. Saul was struck blind by the Lord and his companions led him into Damascus where he did not eat or drink for three days. What gave me hope was this: Paul did not know he was only going to be blind for three days, he had no idea when or if, he would see again.

In Acts 9:12 the Lord tells Ananias (a disciple of Christ), *“In a vision he (Saul/Paul) has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight”*. However, we do not know WHEN Paul saw the vision, nor whether or not the Lord gave him a timeline for when that vision would come to pass. Paul was a Pharisee, so he knew about the vision received from God by Joseph (in the Old Testament). Joseph had waited 21 years from the time he was sold into slavery to when his brothers came for food and bowed down to worship him. Did Paul wonder if he would ever see again, or, if it would take 21 years or more to be able to see again? Ultimately, Paul only waited three days to see again because Ananias obeyed the Lord, went and laid hands on Paul, and Paul’s sight was restored.

And here we all are, in a circumstance where we are blind to the future – maybe we have a vision, but we have no timeframe for when things will get back to “normal”. Friends, the future has always been full of uncertainty, and although this pandemic may make us feel more uncertain and more blind to the future than ever before, God remains the same. Because our God remains the same, we can trust that He is in control, that He has a plan, and we can trust that God has an Ananias on the way!

We can trust that our Ananias (Jesus Christ) will restore our vision and give us the guidance we need for the days and weeks ahead of us. In this time, have faith in God and stay focused on the Lord. Paul writes in one of my favorite passages of scripture, Philippians 3:12-14, The Message Bible:

“I’m not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back.” (Philippians 3:12-14 MSG)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as I said earlier, **we are in this together**. Kathy and I really are praying for you and yours during this difficult time. Also, your pastoral staff and I are here for you for each of you. If you need prayer or a word of encouragement, feel free to reach out to me by phone at 951.678.1757 or by email at contact@elsinorefirst.com.

In Christ, Pastor Fred

Facebook Live Service Times

Good Friday Service
April 10th @ 3 pm & 7 pm

Easter Sunday Service
April 12th @ 10 am

April 15th @ 7 pm
Wednesday Study

April 19th @ 10 am
Sunday Service

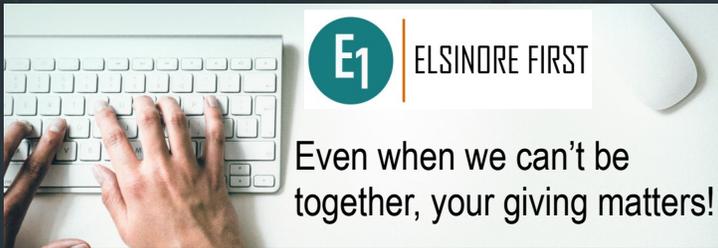
April 22nd @ 7 pm
Wednesday Study

April 26th @ 7 pm
Sunday Service

April 29th @ 7 pm
Wednesday Study

Stay connected with us by watching our weekend services with us live on Sundays at 10 am on our church Facebook website at: www.facebook.com/ElsinoreFirstAssembly.

These services can be replayed as you wish from our Facebook page or our YouTube channel.



E1 | ELSINORE FIRST

Even when we can't be together, your giving matters!

HOW TO GIVE WHEN THE BUILDING IS CLOSED:

1. **Mail** your tithe or offering to the church office: 19740 Grand Ave., Lake Elsinore CA 92530 (We have enclosed three giving envelopes for your convenience.)
2. **PayPal** on our website, www.elsinorefirst.com/give, click on the "Give Online" button to give through PayPal using your debit or credit card. PayPal offers a comments box on the payment confirmation page for you to designate what amount of your donation goes to monthly tithe, offerings, World Changer Missions Pledges, Building Fund, or any other area of ministry you would like to donate to.
3. **Text to Give** from your cell phone! If you are doing this for the first time, text "GIVE" to 951-433-1134, you will be prompted to visit a secure website. Once you click the registration link, you will be able to enter your credit or debit card information. At this point your donation will process. You will see a confirmation text showing your donation and registration were successful.
 - * Once you set up **Text to Give**, for future donations all you need to do is text the amount you would like to give to 951-433-1134.
4. **MinistryOne Church App** – this app is new to us and will allow you to view sermons, get updates on church news and donate online from your smartphone. Visit www.elsinorefirst.com/give from your phone, click the app link, then the app store download button for your iOS or Android device.
 - * Once you download the app, click the donate button and you will be prompted to visit a secure site where you can choose to donate any amount to tithe, missions, offering, etc., then you will enter your credit or debit card information and click the submit button. After you submit your donation you will be taken back to the app.

This information will be on our website as well as our Facebook page for you to reference at any time.

Thank you for giving to the Lord and for supporting Elsinore First Assembly.

YOU MATTER TO US!

How can Elsinore First be there for you and your loved ones during these uncertain times?

The pastoral staff at Elsinore First wants to make sure that you and your family have what is needed physically, emotionally, and spiritually. With that in mind, we want to encourage you to reach out to us and let us know how we can not only be praying for you, but also let us know if you have any needs that are unmet. For unmet needs we will do our best to assist you with the resources that have been made available through our local, state, and federal governments during this crisis.

Our pastors are still available to pray with you during this time. If you would like a pastor to contact you for prayer, please contact the office and a pastor will call at their earliest convenience. Contact information is below.

If you need assistance with accessing our weekly Facebook Live messages, contact the office and we will do our best to help you access our online services.

Additionally, while we are not able to meet physically, we will post this monthly newsletter online to help us stay connected. For those of you who would like to continue to receive this newsletter in the mail, please contact the office to let us know and we will add you to our newsletter mailing list.

Contact us at **951-678-1757** or contact@elsinorefirst.com.

Agape Food Distribution

Do you have a need for food for your family? Please come out and receive a box of food FREE!

We serve food out of our Youth Center every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday of the month at 11:00 am. We offer drive through service, so there is no need to get out of your car. You must be in line by 11:00 am to receive a box, and distribution begins at 11:30 am.

To receive a food box, just bring a photo ID and proof of residency in Lake Elsinore or Wildomar.

If you have questions, contact the church office.

