



# The Elim Scribe



## Reflections from Pr. Bruce Kolasch: “Change”

An old joke: “*Brother, can you spare a dime? I need some change in my life.*”

Celebrating another new year is time to reflect on where we have been and where we are going, individually and collectively. That usually translates as change ... change of habits, adjusting our direction, and maybe re-ordering our priorities.

Portia Nelson wrote a poem called, “There’s A Hole in My Sidewalk” Google it. It addresses the issue of making new decisions and learning to change. Its message is simple, if you keep falling into the same hole that is in the path you are taking, choose a different path.

A new beginning might mean stop beating yourself up. Let go of the past. We all make mistakes. Don’t dwell on them. Rather than falling into the same hole over and over again, make a different decision. Insanity is when we do the same thing over and over again, expecting different results. Choose a different path. It is never too late to start over.

A new beginning might mean learning to accept yourself as human and flawed, imperfect. Doing that helps us to accept being loved and forgiven because of God’s amazing grace in Jesus. Beginning anew might mean claiming God’s life-giving and empowering presence within you, through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

We never know what the new year might bring, but we can count on God’s faithfulness and God’s unchanging love and grace. That empowers us to make the changes and adjustments necessary. So, keep moving forward. Don’t quit. You might have to adjust your focus and direction, but do not stop. Keep walking. Choose to walk in grace.

*2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation. The old has gone. The new is here.*

## Bishop Gonia’s Visit to Elim Lutheran Church



Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop, the Reverend Jim Gonia, is coming to Elim Lutheran Church on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. We will host a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. with Bishop Gonia leading his “Gifts” workshop after the potluck, beginning at

6:30 p.m.. There will be an opportunity for informal socializing at 5 p.m.

Please come and participate in this excellent opportunity to get to know our Bishop and to learn more about how we can serve together as a congregation. You are welcome for any/all of the evening’s activities.

Christ’s Church — Better Together!

**Elim's Annual Congregational Meeting,  
Sunday, January 27, 2019.**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

**Troop 54 is back in operation,** meeting Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Scout Executive Derek Van Kampen for help in reinstating our Troop number. Look for us (Fred Lund Boy Scout Troop 54) on FaceBook. On Feb. 15 & 16, we will attend the Klondike Derby with Troop 4 of First Presbyterian. Tax-deductible donations to Friends of Scouting benefit Troop 54 as well as others.

**“Azekah” by Karlene Widner**

Archaeological digs sometimes sound much more exciting than they are in reality. Workers start before daybreak and stop around noon because of the heat. Then, they wash their finds, study, attend lectures, etc.. It is dirty, hard work, both on and off-site.

Azekah is a very large dig where work resumed in 2012. and it has yielded exciting new finds and information. The site was mentioned in the bible in the story of David and Goliath.

There was a very dramatic and sudden destruction of the area about 1130 BCE. It was then abandoned for 200 years.

During the last 6 years, multidisciplinary studies have drawn out many of Azekah's secrets. More than 200 complete ceramic vessels were found with many containing oils and fat. Numerous other artifacts have been found, as well as the ruins of buildings. It is a very prolonged and interesting excavation. More information about Azekah is available online (e.g., <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

**From the ELCA:**

*This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.  
We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person — questions, complexities and all.  
Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.*



575 23RD ST. OGDEN, UT 84401 ~ 801-394-5543

**ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH**