



The Elim Scribe



The When & How of Returning to Worship ~ Pr. Bruce

Bishop Gonia will be meeting via Zoom with our Rocky Mountain Synod pastors to examine and discuss options for our returning to worship. Here are some thoughts:

- Utah is still experiencing a spike in infection rates and beginning to see increased numbers of COVID-19 related deaths as a result.
- The news I keep hearing and reading also indicates that fall and winter threaten to be more serious even than now.
- Current information I read on how the virus spreads shows that it is very much “airborne” or “aerosol.” Wearing face masks and physical (social) distancing helps to control its spread.
- I am guessing that we are all tired of this and long for reconnecting. I know that is certainly true for me! There is tension between wanting to be “free” to worship as we choose and to be “responsible” in caring and protecting each other, especially those who are more at risk among us. There is no easy balance.
- God is not responsible for the virus, any more than God is the author of sin or death.
- God does not protect us from all evil but remains with us through our trials. Christians, too, can get the virus and pass it on. God does give us intelligence and the wisdom to know how to respond. A point for consideration would be the devil’s temptation to Jesus where our Lord is taken to the pinnacle of the Temple and challenged to throw Himself down. The devil’s temptation was that God would protect Jesus and have His angels come to the rescue. Jesus’ response was, “You shall not put the Lord, your God to the test” (Luke 2:9-10).
- We do need a balance between being cautious and reconvening in some fashion for fellowship and worship. We cannot stay in “lock down” indefinitely.
- As a compromise, I am proposing meeting as small groups in the sanctuary or fellowship hall for small group Bible study and fellowship. We are also looking at having an online study through Zoom or Google Hangout.

Thank you for your continued prayers, financial support, patience and understanding. We will get through this together.

Peace! Hope! Joy!

In-House Bible Study and Fellowship Time

In the past, Reba and I have led a four-week study on the book of Ecclesiastes. We are looking at offering that this fall online. We would set it up for a specific time and send you a link through email. You could then click on the link, follow the instructions on the screen, and join us. We could help teach you how to do that, if necessary. It would require a computer with a camera and microphone and internet wifi connection.

I am looking at an "in-house" study using a Bible study series designed to help us grow in our faith and knowledge of the Bible and how to live it in our world today. This too would be four weeks per study.

I would like to receive responses from you to determine what to offer. I will be sending out a mailing and/or email later this summer with more information. My goal would be to offer classes this fall.

Welcome to New Members!

We welcome Pastor Rick and Barbara Brenton, and Kelly Cook to our fellowship at Elim Lutheran Church. Pastor Bruce is also speaking with an individual seeking baptism.

Sharing Worship with Ascension ~

Since Pr. Rick has resigned as Ascension's pastor, their congregation will be joining us in "attending" our online worship services as they sort through the process to call a new pastor. Welcome, neighbors! Enjoy the online worship, and let us know of any information you'd like us to share more widely.

On that topic: Elimites are invited to join Kelly Martin from Ascension, who will be narrating this offering.

Topic: Adult Sunday School/Daily Discipleship

Time: Jul 19, 2020 11:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

To join meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79269840994?pwd=V3o4NlVpY3VzdzZCbDZnZGFkOXVzZz09>

Meeting ID: 792 6984 0994

Passcode: School

New feature for future Scribe issues?

We are considering a "getting-to-know-you" feature for future issues of the Scribe; it would involve having individual members of the congregation introduce themselves and describe their personal history with Elim Lutheran Church. If you have suggestions about how this should be done, please let us know - via email, facebook messaging, telephone, etc.

Editor's Note: As we navigate through this time of uncertainty about the future and having novel experiences tossed our way at every turn, we all do our best to stay grounded and take care of ourselves and others as well as possible. We will continue to produce monthly issues of The Elim Scribe as people remain isolated from each other. For those of you who have access to email and online social media, please check for messages from Pr. Bruce in your inbox; also check our facebook page as well as our website (elimlutheran.org) for relevant posts. If you would like to begin **receiving the monthly Scribe electronically** in lieu of a paper copy sent through the mail, please let us know via email, on our facebook page or by calling the office (801-394-5543.) Thank you for your continued support of Elim.

