



# The Elim Scribe

## Advent Under God's Stars ~ Pr. Bruce Kolasch

Advent is a special time of year. It is a time of preparation and anticipation. A time when we prepare for celebrating and remembering our Lord Jesus' first coming as the "babe of Bethlehem." We will be preparing our hearts for Christmas this year by focusing on stars each of the Sundays through December leading up to Christmas.

You will have the opportunity to write prayers, thanksgivings, concerns, names of those remembered, names of loved ones, etc. on stars that will be hung in our sanctuary. Sermons will focus on these topics:

- December 1                    The Creator's Star
- December 8                   Abraham's Star of Promise
- December 15                  The Star of David
- December 22                  The Christmas Star

We will also have an Advent Soup Luncheon immediately after the service each Sunday of December leading up to Christmas. Invite family members and/or friends to join you for these special services!

## Vicar's Voice ~ Vicar Lisa Mensinger

Why are you thankful for Elim? That was the question I asked in my sermon on Nov 24th. Here is a Wordle created from the words of gratitude that the congregation shared. God loves each and everyone of us, and we are blessed to share that love with others in many ways. On Nov. 24th, the Elim community poured their gratitude and love into baking pumpkin desserts for the Shepherd's Bowl community lunch on Wednesday, Nov. 27th. Thanks to all who donated supplies, equipment and time. The folks who share the fruits of your labors will enjoy them and appreciate your kindness.



**Christmas Caroling, Sunday, December 8,  
Noon — 3 p.m.**

Christmas is a favorite time of year for many of us. Bright lights, joyful decorations, Christmas trees, holiday décor, parties and festive meals... and caroling! It is more fun to sing Christmas carols with a group than it is to listen to Christmas music. We we invite you to join us as we carol for, and with, others this year.

We have three locations planned for caroling: the Wahlen VA Home, Lomond Peak Rehab and the Harrison-Regent. We will car pool, leaving the church at noon and expecting to return to the church before 3 p.m. We will also be delivering Christmas goodies along with our caroling. Deanna & Lydia Lee will be coordinating the assembly of the goodie plates; contact them if you have questions. Please, plan on singing with us this year. Warm up your voices and bring a friend!



Please join us for our traditional Christmas Eve hymn singing and candle lighting service: 5 pm, December 24.

**Zenon's Flour - or Grains of Truth from Tel Kedesh**  
by Karlene Widner

About 2260 years ago, Zenon departed from the port of Alexandria for Palestine. Not on an important mission, he was to check the books of various holdings of King Ptolemy II of Egypt. This work would have been forgotten but for the 1914 accidental discovery of more than 2000 papyrus fragments (now known as the Zenon Archives.) This article by Andrea Berlin (Boston University) dealt with just one papyrus - relating to flour. In 11 areas, they recorded a host of new or improved flours made from pistachios, garlic, chickpeas, etc.

Zenon's next to last stop was in Tel Kedesh (Kedesa) situated on a hilltop. It had large rooms (one 20 X 30) in the largest building, most likely an administrative center. Several small storage "rooms" lay behind the large one. In one of these storage rooms were many large jars; at the bottom of each was what looked like dust. Disappointed not to find intact goods, researchers checked what was inside the jars by scraping off the residue directly from the cleaned interior surface. After soaking residue overnight in a mixture of distilled water and bleach, they heated it in nitric acid and isolated the solid material by repeatedly diluting, centrifuging, and pipetting off the liquid. What resulted was examined and found to be mostly different cereal grains., including common wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and Syrian "wheat" (*Aegilops tauschii*.)

Bread in those times provided 75% of daily calories for the average person. *Triticum durum* had very little gluten and made a low thick, chewy bread. *Triticum aestivum* had a high gluten content and produced a light, airy loaf, and so it became the flour of choice.

A limestone statuette from 2477 BCE, found in a tomb, portrayed a woman in a kneeling pose moving the rubbing stone with both hands to and fro over flour grains spread out on a flat stone, a jar of grain between her knees and her feet crossed. This same grinding process was throughout early human history.



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