



The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

Christmas Greetings!

Christmas. We are once again in the season of Advent. The beginning of a new church year. The anticipation and celebration of Christmas. Bright lights. Christmas trees and wreaths. Parties and gatherings. Gift shopping and wrapping. Writing and receiving Christmas cards. And Christmas carols wafting through the air waves. It can be a time of hope and joy but also a time reminding us of our loneliness. Don't stay alone. Join us. It is an exciting time of year as we reach out beyond ourselves.

Our sanctuary will once again have our Advent Wreath and the lighting of the four candles of Advent in sequence, Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. These candles help remind us of our purpose and mission as a congregation. We are Christ-centered, Word-based and people-focused. We band together in our common faith and love to strengthen and encourage each other. We join together to connect with our community and share the good news of Jesus.

May the hope, love, joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you and give you strength and courage. God bless! Merry Christmas!

Pastors Bruce and Reba Kolasch



Coming up ...!

Join us for Christmas Caroling for our shut-ins —Sunday, December 18th, after our Advent worship service and coffee hour. We will be delivering Christmas goodies to them, so please let us know if you can provide sweet or savory treats or fruit for filling those plates!

Come and enjoy Advent treats and goodies from various countries and ethnic groups during our coffee hours following Advent worship services. Fellowship is good for the soul!

Christmas services this year will include Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 pm and Christmas (Sunday) morning service at the usual 10 am. Please join us in worship!

THANK YOU!! to all who helped to make our Nov. 9th Community Soup Supper a rousing success. We will be having more community events in the coming year. A hearty thanks also to BSA Troop 54 for the flag ceremony on Nov 9th as well as for resurrecting the tradition of supporting disadvantaged students from New Bridge Elementary with Christmas gifts. Thanks also to Elim members for generously supplementing the Thrivent grant that started that project.

This year, we will miss celebrating with those who passed on during 2022, including Patsy Kirchmann (2/24), Frieda Hummel (3/2), Les Moore (3/12), Sharon Moore (10/28), Beverly Cross (11/1) and Norm Soland (11/8.) We wish their families wonderful memories and peace.

Elim Lutheran Church - *a gathering of God's people for the sake of refreshment and renewal on life's journey.*

**Evangelical
Lutherans
In
Mission**

We are Christ's people.

Some say it takes a village to bring change. We like to say it takes a family. We are a family of diverse believers with varying opinions, working together to bring about positive change. It's all of us, changing our communities, one heart, one life at a time. We are all vulnerable. We are all loved. We share our time, talents, and personalities for the good of everyone.

We are passionate.

We long to have all people experience the wonder and love of God in Christ. That is why we exist. We are called together in this place, at this time, to kindle a love of God and love for all people regardless of who they are and whom they love. Our love for Jesus and our love for people fuels our passion.

We are Church with a PURPOSE.

- Connection - We welcome you. Our place is your place.
- Community - We need each other. We reach out beyond our four walls to embrace our larger context and community.
- Empowerment - We are stronger together. We encourage our members to engage and serve others.
- Family - We are all equal, encouraging each other and acting as catalysts for fun, goodwill and prosperity

Wishing you the happiest and holiest of holiday seasons!

