



The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

A Taste of Thanksgiving

Taste Buds. Thanksgiving reminds us of good food and family gatherings. Most all of us have a favorite dish or pie that we look forward to making and/or sharing together again. Whether your holiday favorite is turkey and stuffing, cranberry sauce, yams, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, etc. we all look forward to indulging our taste buds and spending time with family and friends. Thinking about that traditional Thanksgiving feast can make our mouths water. Yet, not everyone has been blessed (or challenged!) with a good sense of smell and taste. COVID-19 has reminded us of the value of smell and taste.

Psalm 34:8 tells us *“taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in God.”* It is a reminder to us that our Christian faith is relational. The Lord longs for us to taste God’s goodness—take it into our souls. Faith in God cannot be reduced to intellectual knowledge or assent. Our faith is built on a relationship of trust in God, and we can all learn to trust God more.

The type of faith this verse invites us to experience involves learning how to trust God in whatever circumstances we find ourselves; learning to depend on God’s goodness and love; abandoning our short-sighted ideology of independence and self-sufficiency. Accepting our human failings and weakness is the first part of trusting God. Doing so helps us recognize that we need a source of strength, hope and peace that is outside of ourselves. God is that source! Practice resting in God’s love and care. We are human and finite. That is reality. Make peace with your humanity, so that you can learn to repose in God’s love given us in Jesus. None of us does this perfectly or completely, but we can work at it. It takes a life time of practice, but it can make life easier and more joyful.

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Thoughts about Change

Change.... Change can be scary; it can also be good. Change can renew us and refresh our energy. Elim has seen many changes this past year, with more to come.

- Our parking lot and landscaping refurbishment will be completed sometime this fall. Thanks to the city of Ogden for doing this project in exchange for some of our unused property.
- Pr. Bruce and our church council have designed and printed a new advertising bookmark/ brochure that we can share with family, friends, visitors, and whomever might be interested in our little church.
- Our north entrance doors are repaired and usable. It will be easier and more inviting to have our front entrance in use again. Some folks have already found it to be very helpful during our parking lot renewal.

- Pr. Bruce is inviting any and all members to come and join him in person at Elim's altar rail for a special prayer every first Monday of the month at 8:30 a.m. This is a specific time of prayer for us to gather in person and pray for our mission and ministry as a congregation. We are excited about what God is doing in our midst. God is on the move!

Upcoming Special Sunday Worship Events

- *All-Saints Sunday, Nov. 7th, 2021:*

Please join us as we honor and remember those members of our congregation and other friends who passed on over the two years since our last in-person All Saints' Day observance. We remember, especially, Charlotte Lee, Janet Anson, Dorothy Kolasch, Barbara Brenton, Traudel/Marianne Rose, Margaret Rude, Karlene Widner, Ronny Lee Brandenburg, Judy James, Marian Landon, and Roland Hummel. All are welcome to come and light a candle of remembrance.

- *Thanksgiving, Nov. 21st, 2021:*

Join us as we celebrate Thanksgiving as a congregation at our 10 a.m. worship service. Bring canned or boxed goods as donations that we will pass along to our local food bank as part of your Thanksgiving offering.

- *Advent and Christmas Preparation, Nov. 21st, 2021:*

The first Sunday of Advent is Nov. 28th. We plan to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas after worship on Nov. 21st and need help putting up and decorating the Christmas tree, as well as hanging the garlands and banners for Advent and Christmas. Let's share some cookies and hot chocolate or coffee and listen to some Christmas music while we work. Please come join us!

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Remember that we will be returning to Standard time on November 7th at 2 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks back!



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