



# The Elim Scribe



## Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

### Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart.  
 Give thanks to the Holy One.  
 Give thanks because He's given  
 Jesus Christ His Son

And now let the weak say I am strong.  
 Let the poor say I am rich,  
 because of what the Lord has done for us.  
 And now let the weak say I am strong,  
 Let the poor say I am rich,  
 because of what the Lord has done for us.  
 Give thanks.

Henry Smith

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Sometimes, it is easy to be thankful. Sometimes,... it is hard. When life is good and things go our way—when the sun is shining, the birds singing, the flowers bright and beautiful—when life is good, we can smile and be thankful.

Yet there are times when being thankful is just downright hard. When we get a flat tire or our battery dies; when a check bounces because we made a mistake in our check book registry. Or when a friend lets us down. Or when we let ourselves down. Or when the pain gets too intense!

It can be hard to be thankful when our dog who's been in the family for a decade or more dies; or when our health fails; or when a loved one is suddenly torn from our lives through disease and death.

There is still value in learning how to be thankful, despite how tough and wrong life can be. We can be thankful that God is still with us. *"I will never leave you or forsake you..."* Hebrews 13:5. God catches every tear we have ever cried, keeping count of it. *"You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your record?"* Psalm 56:8

November is the month of Thanksgiving. Take a moment or two to acknowledge all the gifts God has given you (and us). Give God your sorrow and complaints, yes! But also pause and say, "Thank You, God, for all Your bounty and goodness to me and us."

in Jesus' name,  
 Pastor Bruce Kolasch

Elim's Church Council met earlier in October and began to make plans for special services for November and December—Thanksgiving Sunday and Christmas Eve. Those plans are being put on hold for now. We are not happy to put them on hold, but the current virus spike and hospitalizations (especially, ICU numbers) force us to be even more cautious.

The Covid-19 positive count on Friday, October 23 was very high: 1960 - just short of 2,000. Utah's hospitals are at, or approaching, capacity with Covid-19 patients. Our concern is that, with colder weather and gathering inside, case numbers are going to continue to rise even further. We do not want members of our congregation to

face an increased risk of becoming infected. In the meantime, please continue to be safe, maintain physical distancing, wash your hands frequently and wear your face mask in public settings.

We will keep you apprised of what is happening through emails and issues of the Scribe. We will be mailing out a stewardship/commitment letter in November, asking for your continued prayers and financial support for our 2021 budget.

We are very, very thankful to God for all His bountiful blessings to us. *“O give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His steadfast love endures forever”* (Psalm 107:1.) We are thankful for our congregation. We do need each other. Our mutual faith and encouragement strengthens each of us. We are very thankful to all of you who continue to support us. We are able to pay our bills and make essential repairs to our church facility, including having the carpet cleaned and moving ahead with repairs to the roof on the education wing of the church.

And...we will be ready and able to return to worship early in 2021 or sooner, if the virus number come back down. I am confident in God’s goodness, love and mercy, and our ability to return to worship the Lord on the Lord’s day, in the house of the Lord!

We are saddened to report that we lost three Elimites in October. Barbara Brenton left us on October 4 , and Pr Bruce conducted her funeral service on October 10. Her obituary is at <https://www.lindquistmortuary.com/obituary/Barbara-Brenton>. Gertraude (Traudel) “Marianne” Rose was called to her eternal rest on October 13. Her family is planning a graveside service to be scheduled later in 2021. Find her obituary at <https://www.lindquistmortuary.com/obituary/Gertraude-Rose>. On October 16, former member Margaret Rude passed on in Rugby, ND, where she had relocated from Ogden, UT. Her obituary is at [https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/18664298/Margaret-Ione-Rude/Rugby/North-Dakota/Anderson-Funeral-Homes-Nd?fbclid=IwAR1UuQT\\_KyGtVHXJoAXYkZKcX4Swe6sR6VzjAdBz-1XfUruCSZv5kc4Khc](https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/18664298/Margaret-Ione-Rude/Rugby/North-Dakota/Anderson-Funeral-Homes-Nd?fbclid=IwAR1UuQT_KyGtVHXJoAXYkZKcX4Swe6sR6VzjAdBz-1XfUruCSZv5kc4Khc). May God grant their friends and families comfort and peace in the loss of their loved ones.



Because of the decision to suspend in-person Sunday services after 10/25, we will miss our annual All-Saint's Day opportunity to honor those who have gone to their eternal rest. You are invited to carry on that tradition at home and light a candle for those members and friends from Elim, as well as others in your life, who are missing this year. Elimites (and their families) who no longer grace us with their physical presence this year are Sid and Randy Ash, Charlotte Lee, Janet Anson, Dorothy Kolasch (Pr. Bruce's mother), Barbara Edsinger Brenton, Traudel "Marianne" Rose and Margaret Rude.



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