



The Elim Scribe



Thanksgiving Thoughts from Pastor Bruce

We will have a special Thanksgiving Worship service on Sunday, November 24 at 10 a.m. We will not have a separate Thanksgiving Eve or Day service.

Giving God our thanksgiving and praise is a common theme for Thanksgiving. Most of us realize we do not say thank you enough, to God and to others in our lives. Most of us also know that being grateful and having a positive attitude help lift our spirits and influence others around us.

Some of you might remember the radio commentator, Paul Harvey. In his daily radio broadcast on 11-22-95, he shared what he said was a true story. It is about a frozen Thanksgiving turkey. This is the story: The Butterball Turkey Company set up a telephone hotline to answer consumer questions about preparing holiday turkeys. One woman called to inquire about cooking a turkey that had been in the bottom of her freezer for 23 years. That's right—23 years. The Butterball representative told her the turkey would probably be safe to eat if the freezer had been kept below zero for the entire 23 years. But the Butterball representative warned her that even if the turkey was safe to eat, the flavor would probably have deteriorated to such a degree that she would not recommend eating it.

The caller replied, "That's what I thought. We'll give the turkey to our church."

This year give God your best—the best of your time, the best of your praise, the best of your treasures and talents. After all, God has given us His best—the gift of life and grace through our Lord Jesus Christ. He is worthy of all praise and thanksgiving.

Blessed Thanksgiving! Joy and peace to you!

Grace at the Table ~ Vicar Lisa Mensinger

The first time that I gave communion at Elim during my internship I was awe struck. Well, any time that I give communion I have a vibrant picture of Grace in my mind. I see a picture of a very long table that extends beyond the altar in our sanctuary and connects with the altars at other ELCA churches from Elim & Ascension (Ogden) to Zion (Salt Lake City) and altars all around the world. At the Lord's Table we all are fed with the bread of life and share in the new covenant remembering that we are forgiven.

At times I tend to stumble over the Words of Institution because I get lost in this mind-blowing amazing grace that Jesus Christ constantly pours out for you. Reminding us of the key part - FOR YOU!

We bring many gifts to the table and I was able to share the gift of Elim's wine (thanks to Rick Widner) to the Lord's Table at Zion on Sunday, Oct 20th. I felt like Jesus was uniting two churches together at one shared table, and there was a physical representation. Do you see a Table of Infinite Grace?

On October 27, we will share the bread from Zion during communion at Elim. It feels like a continuous exchange of God's blessing at the table to fill us and sustain us in sharing this Holy Meal.



Fred Lund BSA Troop 54 Update

Scouts have been busy this summer mowing the church lawn every Tuesday before the Scout meeting, helping two senior citizen families with yard cleanup, and participating in "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. Several more service projects are planned for November and December.

The Scouts have been selling jerky and popcorn and have raised almost enough to pay the way for every Scout to attend summer camp next June. Thanks to all of you who made purchases.

Activities have included summer camp at Camp Bartlett, where each Scout earned between 6 and 8 merit badges. They went on the Ten Commandments Campout and Hike, went fishing at Cold Springs Trout Farm, and camped out in Elim's Fellowship Hall, where they cooked meals to pass their cooking requirements and also cleaned out and organized the Scout Room.

Every one of the five Scouts in the Troop will be advancing in rank at a Court of Honor at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19. Over fifty merit badges will be awarded. Members of Elim are invited to attend.

November and December will have even more events, including three service projects, a visit to the Ogden Nature Center, and surfing at Flowrider.

Thanks to our dedicated Scoutmaster Toni Bufkin and Assistant Scoutmaster Dan Rutledge, and to Committee Members Holly Bender, Renee Spencer, Dave Thomas, Joan Tonn, and Wiatt Williamson.



Vicar Lisa blesses Bella during the Animal Blessing on October 6th. She blessed 1 cat and 6 dogs in the flesh, and another 5 dogs and 10 cats from photos. Treats for all followed the service.

Khirbet el-Mastarah by Karlene Widner

The origin of ancient Israel has been debated since the beginning of Biblical archaeology. For a long time, many have looked to Joshua, which indicated that the Israelites had come from beyond Canaan. After much study, it has been concluded that many were from Canaan itself and were tired of the evil rule. They left and met up with a group believing in Yahweh, and they banded together and became known as the Israelites.

This combined group followed the Jordan and came to an area near Jericho. Researchers found over 70 sites, but they were a bit difficult to study. Results suggested that most "buildings" were built to shelter animals, and the people lived in tents. The ancient people were basically nomadic, and, if it weren't for the pieces of pottery which were identified during the study, investigators would have had trouble deciphering the history of human presence in the region.

The Israelite period extended from 2000 BC forward. Khirbet el-Masarah was one of the bigger sites and was studied in great depth just a few years ago. It and many other areas were located below sea level and some were almost surrounded by mountains.

Most recently, archaeologists visited the nearby site of Khirbet Anya el-Foqa, located about 2 miles away. It was a more stable area with much better preservation. It has been identified as a central administrative site as described in a 7th century BC papyrus. It was also a military site.



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