



The Elim Scribe



Reflections and Thanks from Pr. Bruce ~

Psalms 116:15, *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.*

Thank you for the cards, texts and emails I have received in regards to the death of my mother, Dorothy. The name Dorothy is the English version of a compound Greek word, *doron* meaning “gift” and *theos* meaning “God”— thus her name means “gift of God.” Her middle name, Irene, also has Greek origins and means “peace.” Those two names together, “gift of God bearing peace.”

She was living with my youngest brother in Wisconsin at the time of her death. She died peacefully in her sleep at his home. My father died over a decade ago and is buried in Aberdeen, South Dakota. My mother’s remains will be buried alongside my father’s.

My siblings and I—there are eight of us living—have many memories and stories. Sharing those memories and stories brought about laughter and tears. Sharing those also brings about healing and peace. One of those stories for me is about a sandwich. We were poor. Putting food on the table was not easy. Our mother’s daily challenge was what to feed us. One summer day my mother had fixed me an egg salad sandwich for lunch. For reasons I don’t remember I refused to eat it. Stubborn? Maybe! I was about six years old. A battle of the wills ensued. My mother won. I ate the sandwich! And, I like egg salad sandwiches to this day! Many of you know that the passing of a parent is a time of remembering and celebrating the best of those years.

2 Timothy 1:5, *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you...”*

My grandmother and mother were huge influences in my life and faith. I am a pastor today because of my mother’s simple and sincere faith. I often shared with my mother that I experienced how to care as a pastor from her.

I suppose most of us can point to someone who has been influential in shaping who we are. Take a moment right now and think about that special individual who molded and inspired you. Offer up a prayer of thanksgiving for him/her and determine how to honor them or their memory by how you live it forward.

Yours in Christ,
Pr Bruce Kolasch

Worship and COVID-19 ~ Elim Lutheran Church Council

Elim’s church council met on Monday, August 24th. Our main topic of discussion was when to resume “in-house” worship in our sanctuary, including defining the guidelines we will follow to reduce the health risks of gathering together. Our decision: **We will resume weekly worship on Sunday, September 6th at 10 a.m.**

It is very important to balance the need for safety and the need for reconnecting together in a good way. Therefore, we will be doing the following:

- We will check worshippers' temperatures as they enter our facility.
- We will implement physical distancing.
- We will wear face masks.
- We have hand sanitizer available.
- We will offer Holy Communion in a safe way.

- We will require all who attend worship sign a waiver releasing Elim from any culpability in the case of the virus spreading.
- If you are ill or have been exposed to the virus, we ask you to quarantine yourself voluntarily until it is safe, and you have been tested.
- Our online worship devotions will also continue to be offered.

The coronavirus is going to be with us for some time yet. If we knew the virus would be eliminated soon, we could hold out and continue to wait. However, the virus is a reality for us. A vaccine will help control it, and we do not know when an effective vaccine will be available. Nor do we know how effective it will be. The U of U is developing a saliva test with rapid results, much easier to do and much more affordable. That will help immensely when it is available.

In the meantime, we are anxious. Loneliness, depression and anxiety are rampant. Our culture is affected by the social, political, economic and health issues associated with COVID-19. We will attempt to strike a balance between safety and our desire for gathering together in worship.

We will move forward cautiously. We will gather weekly as we did before the arrival of the coronavirus. We will also monitor health and risk factors as we go into the fall and winter months. If the risk rises, we will revisit our worship plans.

Thank you for your continued prayers, love and financial support for our beloved community of worship.

AN UPDATE from "almost-a-Pastor" Lisa (in her words) ~

On Friday, August 14, I was Approved by the Rocky Mountain Synod Candidacy Committee to be called in the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

The Bishops meet near the end of September and decide who they want in their synods, and then I should receive a call by Sept 30 from one of the Bishops declaring that they will be giving my name to churches in that particular synod. And then I wait again for 1-5 months or longer for churches wanting to call me. We interview each other. If there is a match, their church congregation votes whether to have me or not. Rinse and Repeat.

Included with this issue is information about a program that might be helpful for you, your friends or family. Please share as appropriate. Also, just another reminder to let us know whether you prefer receiving a mailed, printed copy of the Scribe or if you would prefer to receive it in your email inbox (or simply read it on our facebook page.) You can email the office (office@elimlutheran.org) or send a message on fb to let us know. Thanks!

