



The Echoes



Thoughts on Prayer

The other day I was thinking about the way we talk about prayer and a question came to my mind. What is the "power of prayer?"

In the Old Testament Elijah entered a contest on Mt. Carmel with the prophets of Baal. The contest would prove who God was. They would pray for fire to come down and consume their offering on the alter.

The prophets of Baal prayed to their gods first. They seemed to need the strength of numbers so many of them got involved (see 1 Kings 18:25). The prophets of Baal prayed hard and long to get their gods to cause their offering to be consumed on their alter. They prayed until noon, they shouted, they danced around the alter. When there was no answer they became more impassioned. They prayed until the middle of the afternoon, they even entered religious acts of self abuse seeking some response to their prayers. But there was no answer.

Then Elijah prepared his offering. He did not look for ways to ensure success. He had the alter and offering soaked down in water, not once but twice. He did not have a mass amount of people praying as well. He was one voice. And he prayed: "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove now that you are the God of Israel and that I am your servant and have done all this at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and that you are bringing them back to yourself."

And God responded and the offering and alter were consumed. There was great power

The power of prayer is the One to whom we speak.



Sometimes we get this twisted. There are times when people speak as though the power of prayer were found deep within one's self; in one's own spirituality. Some believe the power of prayer is in the numbers who are praying. Some believe prayer needs proper formulations for it to be effective.

When Jesus taught his followers the Lord's Prayer he gave a different picture. The prayer he taught began "Our Father who art in heaven..." We could not address God as "Father" if he had not first spoken to us. We cannot address Him as Father unless he has first revealed himself to us. God who has spoken to us is also tuned to hear us. He is one who hears the faintest voice and comes in all His power to answer, for He brings what is best for his children. Jesus taught his disciples on prayer. *"Ask and you will receive, seek, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks will receive, and he who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to anyone who knocks. Would any of you who are fathers give your son a snake when he asks for fish? Or would you give him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"* (Luke 11: 9-13).

Prayer is much more simple than we sometimes think. It is communication with God. And the power of prayer is not found in the one who prays, but in the One who hears. God is power. So pray without ceasing, and the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Dan Haugen

Reprinted from The Echoes, January 1996

Bethel - Elbow

When Jesus entered the house of Martha and Mary their reactions to Him were very different. Martha saw Jesus' weariness and set about to meet his physical needs. Mary saw His divinity and set about to draw from Him. In Luke 10:42 Jesus said that "Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her" proving that sometimes it is more blessed to receive than to give. Like Martha, we often reverse the roles. We somehow think that God needs our service, but He actually wants to fill us first. Mary's hungry ears and heart were more precious to Jesus than Martha's busy hands and feet. Unless we learn how to receive from God we will have nothing to give to man and I have certainly experienced that personally. There is definitely a time and a place for service, but the good news is that when we draw from Him we cannot help but become great givers and servers.

April: 2nd – W.M.F. met for a Bible study, coffee, and a short business meeting. We're enjoying the study "Living Water" by Bunny Meyer, a Pastor's wife from South Bend, Indiana.

3rd-5th – Several members from Bethel enjoyed the fellowship and feasting on the Word at the annual AFLC conference at Bethlehem Church, rural Hawarden. Many thanks to Bethlehem for their hospitality!

5th – An impromptu choir presented "The Palms" following the message on Sunday morning. On Sunday evening the elders of Bethel invited anyone who was sick to come to the altar to be anointed with oil and prayed for, according to James 5:14-15. Several participated and it was a very encouraging time of caring and sharing.

10th – Bethel hosted a community pancake/sausage breakfast and Good Friday service at the Civic Center with Pastor Dave sharing a stirring Gospel message with the large crowd. Special music was provided by Darla Wonnick and Tom Wilson.

19th – The L.C.B.I. choir came to Bethel to minister in song in lieu of our regular Sunday morning service. Their wonderful concert was followed by a delicious potluck dinner.

27th – Spring cleaning day at Bethel. Many hands made light work and the sounds of laughter could be heard accompanying the swish of cleaning cloths. Thanks everyone for organizing and shining up our

physical church home.

May: 3rd – Membership Sunday saw eight new members being received into fellowship at Bethel. We praise God for the wonderful additions to our church family. May God richly bless each one! Of course, a wonderful potluck dinner in honour of the new members was enjoyed by all following Sunday School.

8th – Lyle & Sharon Greiner celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends in Moose Jaw. May God continue to bless this union with ever-increasing joy.

10th – Several from our congregation attended the Graduation exercises at L.C.B.I. in Outlook to celebrate with Luke Hundebly, Ashley Vollmer, Krystal Jess and many others who received their Grade 12 diplomas. We pray that they will allow God to lead and guide them as their educational and spiritual journeys continue.

14th – For the second time this month we woke up to...snow!...in May! It seemed a little ironic that a strawberry tea party was the featured event for our monthly W.M.F. fellowship and Bible Study night. However, all the ladies who attended enjoyed the evening very much. Thanks to June, Linda, Dawn, Dee, Marcelle, and others who made the tea social such a special time, and Darla Wonnick for leading the Bible Study.

17th – Norway Day was celebrated at Bethel. The founders of Bethel Lutheran were Norwegian and services were conducted in that language until the mid 1930's or so. For special music during the service Marg, Norma, and Darla sang the Lord's Prayer in Norwegian. Thanks to Synove and Mel for help with the correct pronunciation.

23rd – To prepare our Bible Camp for guests, there was a cabin cleaning day that some from our congregation participated in. We're very thankful that the LCBI students helped with grounds cleanup and that Steven Njaa will be helping with the ongoing caretaking responsibilities. May God and His Word be truly magnified and glorified through the Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp this summer.

Donna Hundebly

Bethlehem, Outlook

*“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”
1 Thess. 5: 16-18*

March – The last Sunday in March we watched a satellite documentary on the situation in Darfur.

April – We held a bake sale and tea, April 4th at the church. It was quite well attended and gave people from the community an opportunity to fellowship with one another. On April 5th we had a joint service, followed by potluck dinner and a time of fellowship with our church families. In the evening - the Outlook and District Festival of Music Grand Finale Concert. Several various musical items were heard, followed by coffee and fellowship. The next evening we hosted the Community Choir Easter Cantata, “Once Upon a Tree”. Yes, we had a time of fellowship and coffee after. The concert was heard from the United Church the next evening.

Before our Easter services began we had the privilege to hear the Alliance Church Easter Cantata, “Sacrifice”. Both concerts were very good.

Easter services were held beginning on Thursday evening, Friday morning, Saturday, an evening vigil, and Sunday morning with a pancake breakfast before our festive worship service. May the wonderful message of Easter live in our hearts and minds as we walk with our Savior day by day.

The following Sunday we were privileged to have missionaries Charles & Anita Jackson with us. They have been with WMPL (World Mission Prayer League) working in Kenya. They spoke at both services – with coffee and muffins after each.

An appreciation Tea was held for the Sunday School staff. A part of the lesson time was taken to thank the teachers and staff for their dedicated work.

May – On the first Sunday we held a joint service, as is our custom, and naturally it was followed by potluck dinner and a great time to visit together.

On May 6th our ELW held their general meeting, as well we were privileged to have Ockert Kruger tell us about his work with street kids in Africa. Our business affairs came after and naturally the afternoon closed with coffee and fellowship.

One service was held on Mother's Day to give those who wished the opportunity to attend LCBI's graduation ceremony. Many attended this festive celebration as well.

This brings us to the present, and on June 14th we have the annual picnic following the service. On June 21st we will have only one service at 10am, and each Sunday after till September, followed by coffee and fellowship.

Have a great summer – remember to take Jesus with you in all you do.

June Haug

Skudesnes, Loreburn

Winter has finally left us and spring is trying so hard to arrive. We have all struggled with being thankful for a spring that is here with nights that are still dropping below zero. Now when you look out your window you can praise God and thank Him for the new life. Trees have finally filled with leaves, tulips are blooming, robins are feeding their young, crops are poking through the soil and baby kitties have been born. God had blessed us once again with the beauty he created.

Palm Sunday started with the children waving palm branches. Pastor Bob found it such a treat that the children joined the service in such a way.

On Easter Sunday several of the congregation joined together for an impromptu choir led by Lucille Perry. I am proud to report that we Made a Joyful Noise. Dennis and Doris Stammes treated us all to eggs and toast afterwards.

The ladies of the congregation got together for the annual spring cleaning. Who would have thought that housecleaning could be so much fun.

Mother's Day was Pastor Bob's last service with us. The Sunday School entertained us all with "Jesus Rocks the World". Four precious girls rocked Skudesnes with their sunglasses, air guitar and enthusiasm for sharing their faith in Jesus. We had a blast. Following the performance they shared with the congregation what their mommy's mean to them. They also made and handed out a chocolate kiss rose to everyone. Cinnamon buns and fellowship were shared after the service.

The following Sunday we welcomed our new pastor, Pastor Kevin Sam. He recently accepted the call to Redeemer and Skudesnes and we welcome him

and his family to our communities and look forward to his leadership.

If you have a quiet moment remember to pray for our farmers that they have a safe spring and plentiful harvest.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and do not lean on your own understanding. In all things acknowledge him, and he shall direct your way.

Proverbs 3:5&6

Carie Langager



Bethlehem, Hawarden

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. John 15:1-2

April: 1st We are thankful to have Pastor Bernie Belau accept the call to become our Pastor. We also welcome his wife Cheryl and family.

2nd - Linda Lee hosted LCW at the church. Katie Haaland led the Bible Study on "I Enjoy Being a Wife – Submission".

3-5th - We were honored to host the AFLC Conference with Pastor Michael Brandt from Sioux City, Iowa as the guest speaker. It was wonderful to meet people from the various churches at the conference.

8-10th - Many enjoyed "The Sacrifice", an inter-denominational musical of the Easter Story. Katie Haaland was one of the participants in this presentation.

10th - Several attended the Good Friday Service in Hanley

12th - We were invited to the Sunrise Easter Service and breakfast at the Hanley Lutheran Church. We also had a service at our church later that morning.

17th - Kate Patkau was honoured at a bridal shower.

She became the bride of Lester Price and they will be living at Hazeldale where Lester works at a pasture.

23rd - Our LCW presented a program and served lunch to the residents of Golden Acres in Outlook. Some of the men came along and helped out.

May: 2nd Our LCW put on a Mother/Daughter Tea with the theme being "Dolls". We had a good collection of dolls – some being our favourite dolls and others had beautiful dolls on display. Each lady told about the dolls she brought.

7th - Betty Hunter hosted the LCW meeting with Mary Olson leading the Bible Study on "I Enjoy Being a Wife – Reverence".

10th - The men, along with the Sunday school, cooked a delicious breakfast for the women for Mothers Day. They even cleaned up the mess!

9-10th - LCBI Grad Weekend with several we know graduating. Our Pastor's daughter Lisa Belau was one of the grads as well as Erica Forbes (our former Pastor's daughter).

17th - The Installation Service for our Pastor and for the church council was held

Linda Follick



If you would like to teach or assist with a VBS class please contact Hollis Scheller @ (306) 854-4656 as quickly as possible.

The kitchen is always in need of a few extra hands. Spend the day and help prepare the meals or for a hour and help serve. All help is greatly appreciated.



Memorials

Donation

Neil & Katie Haaland

In Honor of Anna Marie Dahle's 90th Birthday, Elmer Knutson's 90th Birthday, & Ellen Joel's 90th Birthday

Norma Knutson
Linda Follick

In Honor of Doris Akre - Mother's Day & Ralph & Bev Berntson's 40th Anniversary

In Memory of Jasper Smith, Lana Webster, Kirk Langager, Oscar Akre
Owen & Marilyn Akre

In Memory of Orville Pederson, Rev Norman Salte, Ken & Evelyn Bjorgan, Rev Leonard McFarlane
Rev Arnold & Ruth Hagen

**Donations to the camp can be sent to:
Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp
C/O: Linda Follick
Box 1587
Outlook, SK S0L 2N0**



From the Editor

I am sorry to announce that this is my last publication of The Echoes. I am moving to Florida for a year to work for Disney World as an ambassador at the Canadian Pavilion in EPCOT. I would appreciate your prayers as I travel and start this new adventure.

If you are interested in taking on the position of Editor please contact Rod Vollmer @ 306-857-2191.

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