

January 2014

The Echoes



Adult Devotional:

Happy New Year! Every year we welcome in a new year with much celebration. We often look back on the past year with mixed emotion; with God's help we are able to give thanks for the many blessings and mercies granted us from our Heavenly Father. Depending upon our circumstances and "perceived" freedom in Christ, we meet with variable success in recognizing the blessings. We brothers and sisters in Christ "know" how much we are loved by our Saviour and "know" that God is sovereign in our lives. Sometimes the connection between the "knowing" and the "perceiving" or "feeling" is tenuous, at best. Whatever the last year held, we leave it hoping for better things to come.....hope for the future. In Jeremiah 29:11 God speaks through the prophet, "For I know the plans I have for you. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (NLT) In Christ we do, in fact, have a hope for the future. I pray that this "new" year of 2014 will be one in which we, God's people, will experience Him in an increasingly deeper way, learning to trust Him and recognize the blessings He brings to us. I pray that His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. I pray that His harvest will be great in this New Year.

When I looked up the word "new" in the concordance at the back of my Bible, I found many references to the

"new covenant" in Christ. "The day is coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt.....But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day," says the Lord. "I will put my instructions deep within them and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.....And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins." Jeremiah 31:31-34 excerpts (NLT) **PRAISE GOD** for His mercies!!

"Give thanks to the Lord of Heaven's Armies, for the Lord is good. His faithful love endures forever!"
Jeremiah 33:11 (NLT)

God bless you this New Year as you experience all that God has planned for you! Cherish the love He has for you and enjoy the hope He gives you for your future, in Christ Jesus.

Children's Devotional:

Rather than a devotional, I have decided to invite the children of all ages among us to participate in a project.

Please ask your children to participate. The guidelines are as follows:

Please submit a picture or photograph of a visual art project that represents your hope for this new year of 2014. Include a reference to God's hand in this hope and/or seeing the hope become a reality.

Please indicate your name, age, and where you're from along with your submission. All submissions will be shared in the next edition of The Echoes and/or the Bible Camp website.

January 2014

News from the Local Congregations:

***Representatives of other churches attending Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp are welcome to contribute to this column. We'd love to hear your news! Please see submission deadlines at the end of the newsletter.**

Bethel - Elbow

Prepared by: Ashley Stamnes

Yet you, LORD, are our
Father.
We are the clay, you
are the potter;
we are all the work of
your hand

Isaiah 64:8

Greetings from Bethel Lutheran Church! We pray that as the old year has passed away and the new year has dawned, God's people would be blessed and be a blessing to others!

Throughout the fall, we had 3 bible studies on the go. Two ladies morning studies as well as an evening study that went through "Promised Land" by Ray Vanderlaan.

December was a very busy month for us! First of all, our congregation was very excited to collect 92 shoe boxes to send to Samaritan's Purse! (102 from the area) We pray that these will bless the children that receive them.

Throughout the month of December, Pastor Doug's talks were about the different names of Jesus. We enjoyed being able to delve deeper and gain a new understanding of each one.

Pastor Doug led a membership class on December 8th for those desiring to become members. 12 people attended the class.

This year, we were blessed by the youth of our congregation as they did Advent Readings in service leading up to Christmas. As well, Pastor Doug prepared Advent Reading Booklets for people to take home and read. What a wonderful way to anticipate Christ's birth! On December 1st, there was a Love Offering Sunday and Potluck in honor of Pastor Doug and Kaycee. We appreciate all that you do!

The children from Bethel presented "It's a Wonderful Christmas" on the evening of December 8th. They once again brought us into the Spirit of Christmas as we caught a glimpse of what the world would be like if God had not sent His precious Son as a gift to us.

The ladies of our congregation prepared baking and packed boxes to distribute to those in need on December 15th. Thanks to all the hands that made this go smoothly! As well, the Youth Discipleship class had a luncheon and were able to show their class the presentations they had prepared.

Marcelle Savidan put up a 'Giving Tree' in the foyer for people to hang warm mittens, toques and scarves on. These items were sent to Pastor Wayne Olson at La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship and he distributed them where needed in the northern missions of Lac La Ronge Indian Reserve, Grandmother's Bay and Sucker River.

Many came out on December 19th for an evening of fun at the WMF Christmas Party! Carols, games, wonderful food and fellowship were enjoyed by all!

Pastor Doug had a lovely Christmas Eve candlelight service. Those attending sang many carols and watched a touching video clip as they worshiped the Christ Child.

About 30 people of all ages from our congregation had a wonderful evening together playing games and munching on goodies as we brought in the New Year!

January 2014

We are especially missing our Snowbirds this time of year! We hope you are enjoying your time away and we look forward to welcoming you home!

We have been praying for some of our member's health concerns. Please keep Jack Sailor, Synove Sanvic, Carl Rettger, and Lorraine Korbo in your prayers.

Finally, we were able to welcome 12 new members to our congregation on January 19th! What a blessing to have you in our midst as we worship on Sundays!

Bethlehem, Outlook

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the passing of June Haug. While I have not met her personally, I have received the congregational news she has submitted faithfully to The Echoes. I understand that June has not attended Elbow Lutheran Family Bible Camp for a number of years but her servant heart has kept her connected with all of us through her reports. My condolences to June's family and friends. –Lorna Sewell

A note from Linda Follick, on behalf of the Outlook congregation: We are saddened at the sudden passing of June Haug, a loving, faithful servant to our congregation for many years, and also our Echoes reporter as well. Hopefully in the future we will have someone take over her position. Blessed be her memory,

.Bethlehem, Hawarden

Prepared by: Linda Follick

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6-7

SEPT - Marcel and Jolie Vermette hosted a Fellowship of Christian Cowboys Rodeo weekend on the Aug 31-Sept 1 weekend. On Saturday there were dog trials. Sunday began with a pancake breakfast followed by a church service. Pastor Al Pinno brought the message. Rodeo events followed throughout the day for both adults and kids. Everyone enjoyed a pig roast for supper at the end of the day.

-Sunday School for all ages began on Sept 9. The superintendent is Linda Lee, teachers are Katie Haaland and Linda Lee. Pastor Al is leading the adult class studying from the book of Isaiah. School has started again with Wylie Vermette in Grade 8, Hayes in Grade 5, and Tate in Grade 2. They are being home schooled by their mother Jolie. The Haaland's are also being home schooled this year by their mother Carissa – Cadence – Grade 5, Cassidy – Grade 3, and Cohen – Grade 2.

-the LCW continues to meet studying "A Wise Woman Builds Her House." Katie Haaland hosted Sept & Nov, and Dorothy Pinno hosted Oct, with Joyce Olson, Pastor Al and Linda Lee leading the bible studies.

-Wednesday afternoon Confirmation classes began for Wylie Vermette – Wylie received a bible from the congregation.

-Pastor Al continues on his series on the Sermon on the Mount.

- Bethlehem hosted the AFLC Pastor's & Layman's Retreat from September 26-29. The theme was "Free & Faithful Living Congregations: the Sign of GOD'S Kingdom on Earth." There were morning sessions followed by a noon lunch. The afternoons were free and services were held each evening. The speakers were Pastors from various places in Canada – Pastor Dave Hesje (Camrose, AB), Pastor Harald Schoubye (Vernon, BC), Pastor Kelly Henning (Lake Alma, SK), Pastor Doug Lutz (Elbow, SK), and Pastor Al Pinno (Bethlehem-Hawarden). The Retreat weekend ended with a Pot Blessing Lunch served. Several families billeted those who came for the event.

-Wednesday evening Praise/Study/Prayer continues with Pastor Al teaching on Christ & the Apostle's Teaching on Hell: Hades, Tarturus, the Abyss, Gehenna & Lake of Fire.

-Congratulations to our oldest member Ken Lee who turned 95 years young on Thursday, September 26. Family and

January 2014

friends gathered for several parties and gatherings over a couple of weeks.

- Sunday evening was our Country Gospel Evening featuring "After Four" from Saskatoon. Two of the ladies in the group were former members of our congregation – Eleanor and Pat (Luther & Eunice Johnson's daughters).

OCT- Bethlehem Church conducted the Wednesday morning church service at the Outlook & District Health Center on October 2.

- The LCW put on a program and visited with the residents at the Outlook Health Center on Thursday, October 17.

-Friday evening was a Family Film Night at the church with pizza and popcorn served. They watched the World Wide Pictures Movie "Road to Redemption".

- Pastor Al and Dorothy Pinno travelled out to Vernon and Salmon Arm to share a presentation of EECC Missions.

- It was good to have Pastor Jack and Ella Sailor with us on Sunday, October 27. He spoke from Jeremiah 29: 10-14 and Colossians 2:1-15 on "The Purpose of Life." We pray God's blessings on him as he is struggling with his health.

-On Sunday evening a full house enjoyed our Country Gospel evening featuring the Skudesnes Harbor Gospel Band. Coffee and fellowship followed.

NOV- Bethlehem church hosted the Annual Meeting for the Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp.

-Following the morning service on Nov 10, all enjoyed a delicious lunch, then listened to an EECC Mission presentation given by Pastor Al, and Darwin Taylor spoke on the work he has been involved with at Grandmother's Bay and other northern communities.

- At our Wednesday evening P/S/P meeting, Pastor Al started his new study on "Jesus & the Apostle's teaching on the Kingdom of Heaven."

- On Friday evening, our congregation enjoyed an evening of bowling at the Bowling Alley in Outlook. A time of food and fellowship followed at the Follick's.

-At the Sunday morning service Pastor Al Pinno started a new series on "The Second & the First Coming of CHRIST 'Waiting Watching and Working for our MASTER, JESUS.'"

-November 21 the LCW put on a program at the Golden Acres High Rise in Outlook and served lunch.

-Nov 24- Country Gospel evening featured "The Derksen Family" – a very talented musical family of 8.

- Teen Challenge came to our church on Sunday morning, November 24 and provided some singing and gave their testimonies of how they overcame their drug and alcohol addictions. The congregation provided a shared blessing dinner for them following the service.

- Pastor Al and Dorothy Pinno left on Saturday (23rd) for Lake Alma to stay with Pastor Kelly Henning. Pastor Al will be sharing a deeper life series on "Life, Death and the Beyond: What the LORD Says" as well as sharing an EECC Mission Presentation.

- The LCW put on a Christmas theme program at the Golden Acres High Rise on Thursday, November 28.

They served lunch and visited with the residents following the program.

DEC- On Thursday, Dec 5 the LCW put on a program at Luther Place in Outlook, served them lunch and visited with them following the program.

- The LCW held their annual Christmas Party on Friday, Dec 6. Following a delicious pot-blessing supper, everyone enjoyed the movie "The Nativity." The kids enjoyed the popcorn during the movie and afterwards we all sang Christmas songs around the tree. The Sunday School met before supper to practice for the Sunday School program.

- On Wednesday, Dec 11, our congregation led the regular Wednesday morning Worship service at the Outlook Health Center in Outlook.

- On Sunday, Dec 15 Pastor Al Pinno spoke on "Blessed are Those Who Believe that What the Lord Says will Be Done," based on Luke 1:39-5. Everyone enjoyed a delicious pot-blessing dinner following the service and then the Sunday School presented their Christmas Program "The Christmas Story."

- We visited the Outlook Health Centre on Christmas Eve morning and brought gift bags for each of the residents. Some of the Sunday School kids came as well and they took part in the program, singing and visiting.

January 2014

- We had a Candlelight service on the 23rd, and Christmas Day services as well. Pastor Al spoke on Luke 2:8-14 "No Fear! Good News! Great Joy! Glory to GOD! Peace to All Who are Covered by His Grace!" Several gathered at the church on the 31st for an evening of games, fun, and food, followed by a devotional at midnight to bring in the New Year.

Letters to the Editor:

I received a letter from Irene Archibald in late October.

I will paraphrase her note below:

Irene lives in South Calgary and still enjoys receiving "The Echoes" to read about the goings on in the Bible Camp community. She and her husband, Norman, used to be members of the Skudesnes church and spent many summers going to Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp. When they moved to Saskatoon they became charter members of Rock of Ages Lutheran Brethren church, which was a new church planting at the time. In February of 1989 Irene and Norman moved to Calgary to be near their family who all lived here. While Norman went to be with the Lord on December 23, 2002, Irene continues to live in the Midnapore Beverly Age Care center. Irene very generously sent me a number of poems written by herself and other members of her family. It will be an honour to share these with you in this and following editions of "The Echoes".

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### "Unshackled"

Irene's Testimony

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. II Cor.5:17

Patched up? Oh no, My Lord – not good enough to meet Thy Holy gaze.

A garment you have made for me, so pure, so white, and beautiful to take my old one's place.

So hard I tried to mend my broken ways  
And harder still, yet more distressed became!  
You saw, and knew my weary burdened days  
Revealed your Loving Advocate  
Who took my place.

So free my heart became  
So filled with love and praise  
My burdens gone, my soul began to soar  
Oh! How my lips would thank Thee  
for Thy Grace.

Thy Righteousness is fair, my Precious Lord  
When in this Robe I am completely dressed.  
No spot, or wrinkle in me then is seen  
My heart is cleansed –  
And I am truly blessed.

- Irene Archibald

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If you, or someone you know, would like to drop a note just to say hello or to share some history of camp, please contact me by e-mail:

echoes@elbowlutheranbiblecamp.com or by post:

The Echoes

c/o Lorna Sewell, Editor

14 Hidden Spring Court N.W. Calgary, AB T3A 5J4

January 2014

**"Praise God from whom all blessings
flow...."**

**"For everything comes from him and exists by his
power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him
forever!" Romans 11:36**

The donations flowing into Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp
are a blessing to the body of believers who benefit from
the wonderful teaching each summer. This camp is a
blessing to our Lord as he takes pleasure in us, his
disciples, coming together to be better equipped to
carry out his great commission:

**"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey
everything I have commanded you. And surely I am
with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:19, 20**

GENERAL DONATIONS

Margaret Plunz
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Ron & Marcelle Savidan
The Birch Families
Lilly Lewis
Irene Archibald
The Rock Church
Bethlehem Ladies Aid (Outlook)
Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Hawarden)
Ray & Shelley Dueck
Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Outlook)
Trinity Lutheran Church
Leverne & Rene Baxter

PLAYGROUND & ELECTRICAL DONATIONS

Brian Wonnick
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Larry & Leanne Rinholm
Bethel Lutheran Church

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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IMO Gwen Follick
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January 2014

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Norma Knutson
Bonnie Beaumont
Florence Salway
Don & Dawn MacTavish

Wolfgang & Faye Dombrowski

IMO Lily Stubson

Doreen Carlson
Gerald & Linda Follick

IMO June Haug

George & Ruth Cooper
Gerald & Linda Follick

IMO Jim & Ruth Wankel, Bob Hundebly, Debbie Reddick

Jeanne Barton & Family

IMO Ruth Wankel

Ruth Knutson
Bruce & Carol Follick
Pearl Hundebly
Rose Chow
Robert & Evelyn Bramble
Lois Gossen

IMO Jim Wankel

Elaine Wanhella
Robert & Evelyn Bramble

IMO Ross & Gerri Vollmer's 50 Ann.

Owen & Marilyn Akre
Gene & Sylvia Sundby

IMO Lewis & Marg Webster, Oscar & Doris Akre,

Signe Vallevand & Sylvia Langager

Owen & Marilyn Akre

IHO Marilyn Akre's Birthday

Leone Tastad

IMO Oscar & Inga Olson, Ruby Sundby

Valborg Huglen

IMP Jim Kerney

***Donations to the camp can be sent to:**

Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp
c/o: Linda Follick
Box 776 Outlook, SK S0L 2N0

Important Upcoming Dates:

As per tradition, the 2014 Elbow Lutheran Family Bible Camp will begin on Saturday, July 6, 2014 at 7:20pm!
Come one, come all!!

Call for Submissions!

Please feel free to submit your devotional any time. My prayer is that we would have one adult, one teen, and one child submission (could just be a picture about faith) in each edition.

Submissions may be sent to Echoes Editor:
echoeseditor@elbowlutheranbiblecamp.com.

Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn His face toward you and give you His precious peace. Amen (Numbers 6:24-26)

I apologize for missing the following in the January 2014 edition of "The Echoes":

Ruth Stromberg, nee Simonson, sent a letter to "The Echoes", dated October 28/13. It is my pleasure to share the details below.

This ("The Echoes") has been my main connection to my home town of Elbow, Saskatchewan and place of birth (1927). My parents were Ben and Kristi Simonson, from the west coast of Norway (north of Bergen).

My two sisters, Selma and Nansey, live in Calgary and Sundry, AB respectively. They are well physically, and happy mentally (well-balanced...citizens of this great country, Canada!)

As for myself, Ruth, life has treated me well! I have been a widow for four years, however, life goes on and "we make the best of each day as it comes" with a thankful heart!

I have two daughters: Linda (in Toronto) teaches High School in Toronto and hopes to retire in about four years. Brenda has retired from teaching and now lives in Miami, Florida with her family. Her one son is my only grandchild and is now grown up.

Regarding Bob Hundebly: my sympathy to his family. I/we knew Bob "way back" when we were all kids. Rest well, Bob.

"Hello" to all our friends in Elbow, Strong field and elsewhere in the neighbourhood and at Calgary Faith Lutheran Church.

Personal contacts would be welcome:

Ruth Stromberg

548 Twin Oaks Crescent

Waterloo, Ontario N2L 4R8

**note: I'm considering selling my home in Waterloo (I have lived here since 1972) hence this address may soon change.*

Love and best wishes,

Ruth Stromberg