

The Echoes

a Publication of



December 2016

Welcome Invasion

*Devotional Submitted by Pastor
Doug Lutz
Bethel Church, Elbow, SK*

In our culture, most of life is often associated with a lot of hurry. The Christmas season is no exception. Whether it is upholding family traditions, managing the year-end rush of charitable requests or enduring the impatient bumps and shoves of harried shoppers, there are a lot of distractions that seek to invade our most intimate spaces.

John the Baptist was sent to make a straight path to God by calling God's people to repent... to look away from sinful distractions and turn back to God (Mt 3:1-3). When Jesus cleared the temple he, too, was removing obstacles... making way to prepare our hearts for nearness to God (Lk 19:45-48).

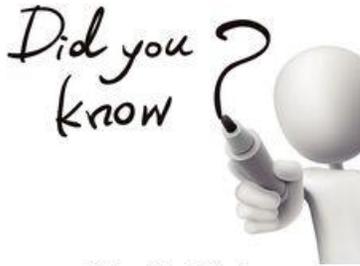
Perhaps the counter-cultural act of God entering human time and space at Christmas was intended, in part, to give us pause. To help us wait. To engage our hope. To resist the rush. To create some intentional patience away from distraction. To make room for the Holy Spirit to occupy more space in our hearts and minds as we await Christ's coming.

A strange thing happens when God starts to fill the cleared away places. He draws near. When Jesus shows up, life stirs in the most impossible places. From barren wombs to emptied tombs, life springs up where you least expect it.

Can we take some time today to wait... to pause before taking a needed vacation... to breathe before going to Bible Camp... to release anxiety to God before attending a family reunion... to simply quiet our souls as the main act of worship in preparation for each and every activity... including this Christmas season?

It is my prayer, no matter the occasion, that God would clear the sidewalks of our minds and crazy schedules and fill us with life and hope and peace that comes from Christ's invasion into our most intimate spaces.

Peace to you in the Prince of it!



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The Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp has a website:

<http://elbowlutheranbiblecamp.com>

Please visit often to learn more about the camp and see updates for 2017!

The Bible Camp Board Members are a dedicated group of volunteers from the Bible Camp's surrounding area. Wondering who they are?

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Hawarden, SK
Pastor Al Pinno
Grant Lee – **President**
Neil Haaland – **Vice President**

Bethel Lutheran Church

Elbow, SK
Website: <http://bethelelbow.com>
Pastor Doug Lutz
Brent Adams – **Secretary**
Doug Jess

Saskatchewan River Lutheran Church

Outlook, SK
Carol Larson

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Outlook, SK
Website: <http://bethlehemoutlook.com>
Pastor Daryl Olson
Gordon Rott

Skudesnes Evangelical Lutheran Church

Website: <https://skudesnes.wordpress.com>
Loreburn, SK
Rod Vollmer

Non-Elected Members:

Linda Follick (Outlook, SK) – **Treasurer**
Linda Lee (Hawarden, SK) – **Program Coordinator**



Our next Bible Camp runs from **July 1st to 8th, 2017!**

The first service for this camp, however, will be on Sunday, July 2nd, due to Canada's 150th birthday celebrations.



From the Editor

We want to hear from YOU! If you have any comments, questions, suggestions, or submissions for future issues of *The Echoes*, please email them to Dena (Hundeby) Michaelis at: **jeffdena@xplornet.com**

Thank you!



Congregational Submissions



Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp (ELBC) is supported by local Christian churches, numerous members and volunteers. The following are summaries from two of these churches regarding their parish activities since the last Bible Camp was held, in July 2016.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, SK

Submitted by Ashley Stamnes, Administrative Assistant

*How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take
refuge in the shadow of your wings
Psalm 36:7*

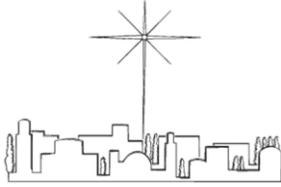
Greetings from Bethel! We pray that this newsletter finds you blessed! A lot has happened since Family Camp this year at our church. Here is a little update:

- † July 17th – We enjoyed another movie night here at Bethel! **War Room** was presented. This is an amazing movie about the incredible power of prayer. It was so fun to get together and fellowship in this way! The movie tied in with Pastor Doug's series *Pray: The 14 Day Challenge*. The challenge presented to us was to pray four minutes every day for fourteen days for four neighbouring families. God really moved through this time of prayer!
- † August 7th and 14th – As Pastor Doug and Kaycee were away for a time, we had the privilege of hearing Adam Driscoll again as well as Wes Olmstead who has graciously brought God's Word to us before! Thank you to both for coming!
- † August 20th – This wonderful day brought the wedding of Miranda Scheller and Matt Taylor. Miranda is the daughter of Jeff and Hollis Scheller. They were married in a special ceremony at the Bible Camp that they invited all their church family to witness. They then enjoyed a small reception with close friends and family back at Bethel. Congratulations, Matt and Miranda!!
- † August 21st – Cathy LaFleche of Saskatoon Pregnancy Options joined Pastor Doug to share the importance of life and the blessing of babies. What an important ministry!
- † August 21st – The Homestead Jamboree was again hosted at the Coyote Den at Savidan's. Music and wonderful food was enjoyed by all! Some of the singers who participated were Janelle Rinholm, Abby Adams, and the Line 19 Choir. This event closed with a concert by Bruce Rawling!
- † September 8th – Marcelle Savidan hosted the annual Ladies' Weiner Roast at the Coyote Den once again! It was so fun for the ladies to get together!
- † September 13th – The Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study resumed and began a study of the book of James.

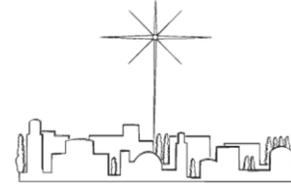
- † September 18th – Sunday School resumed for the year with a fun kick off planned by our Superintendent Kaycee Lutz! Our service time changed back to 10:30 am.
- † September 26th – Youth Discipleship began for the year. There are 6 students and their parents involved and they meet at Pastor Doug and Kacyee's for evening sessions.
- † September 29th – The WMF met for a regular meeting.
- † October 24-27 – A few people from the congregation attended the AFLC retreat and were very blessed! It was a great time of renewal!
- † October 27th – Many people from our congregation met at the church for a four hour prayer vigil to seek God about our upcoming Forgiveness Seminar. God is so good and it was an honour to worship Him and speak with Him!
- † October 28-30th - Pastor Boyd Hopkins was at Bethel to share his *Freedom Through Forgiveness* seminar. This was a powerful time and many were very touched by what he had to share. If you ever have a chance to attend one of these seminars, we really encourage you to do so!
- † We enjoyed a potluck on that Sunday as well.
- † November 13th – Dave Spelliscy shared about Operation Christmas Child in Pastor Doug's absence. The Spelliscy's and Janice Scrimbitt are very passionate about this ministry and have been highly involved in educating us about it and promoting this wonderful cause.
- † November 16th – Several ladies from the church began a Wednesday morning time of prayer called "Grandma's That Pray." Your prayers are precious to God and to your families ladies!
- † November 19th – We had a ladies coffee party for the women in the community. The theme was rather "warm and cozy" as we shared coffee, tea and hot chocolate, an oatmeal bar and homemade scones. We enjoyed a devotion and hearing about "morning memories" from the past. The party was followed by a regular WMF meeting.
- † November 19th – Janice Scrimbitt hosted a "Shoebox Packing Party" at the church. Thank you Janice for taking this on! What a blessing to help others!
- † In addition to Pastor Doug's series on Prayer, he also shared a series called *Heroes* where we were able to hear about some of the people of the Bible God used in extraordinary ways such as Esther and Deborah. Following that, we were inspired by his series *The Time is Now* where we studied from the book of Haggai. We were challenged to pray for those around us during the "Pray: 14 Day Challenge Series. During September and October, we learned about some forgotten yet very important virtues such as Honour, Purity, Loyalty, Integrity and Gratitude. Finally, Pastor Doug shared a series called "Gifted Vocation." We are blessed to hear God's Word!

We have also been fervently praying for those in our midst who are ill and hurting. May God continue to touch each of them with his love and healing. Bethel has a new website! For those who would like to check it out the address is www.bethelbow.church. It is still under construction and will continue to be updated!

We look forward to the Advent season ahead! The children in our church will present the musical "Lost and Found" on December 11th at 7:00 pm. Please pray with us that this will touch many hearts! May each and every one of you enjoy this wonderful season of celebrating our Saviour's birth! God bless!



**Bethlehem Lutheran
Church
Hawarden, SK**



Submitted by Linda Follick

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 118:1

We had a wonderful week at Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp this summer and were blessed to have Adam Driscoll (Moose Jaw) as our evening speaker and morning Bible teacher, and Boyd Hopkins (Saskatoon) as our other Bible teacher. Pastor Al Pinno was the youth leader, and the team from CLBI (Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Camrose, AB) was greatly appreciated as well. We had a lot of little children and look forward to having them back next year.

Pastor Al Pinno has been sharing from Revelations for the last few months in his series "The Kingdom of Heaven is Near!" It is a blessing to see how this book of the Bible shows what is to come and what a blessing it will be when He does finally come again to take us to be with him forever.

In adult Sunday School Pastor Al is teaching on 1st & 2nd Corinthians – "Life in the Body of CHRIST." The Wednesday evening PSP group is studying "True & False Prophecy: Then & Now." Our LCW just finished our study on "Spiritual Shape-Up."

Our congregation puts on a church service in Long Term Care at the Outlook Health Center about every month or so, and our LCW puts on programs at several senior places – Golden Acres, Golden Acres High Rise, Luther Place in Outlook. We also visited the Sunset Home in Saskatoon when Dorothy's mom was living there.

We are enjoying the extra mild weather for this time of year and the farmers are finally able to get out in the wet fields and take off some more crop. It is a harvest we will not forget soon! However, we are thankful for all the blessings God has given to us. We are thankful that Darwin Taylor has been asked to spend time up in Grandmother's Bay, SK to minister to the youth and their families there. We pray for his ministry there and for good health to be with him.

Our prayers are with Dorothy and Al Pinno and families on the passing of her mother Geneve Hesje in October. We continue to remember George Cooper in long term care in Outlook and with Ruth as well as she spends time with him. Blessings to you all from our congregations as we look forward to the Christmas season when we celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

**Skudesnes
Evangelical**



**Lutheran
Church**

Loreburn, SK

Submitted by Maxine Follick

Greetings from Skudesnes! It seems like a long time since we have put news in *The Echoes*. It's rather hard to know where to start, so I will start from where we are now.

Over the years we have seen a decline in our church as a result of older members moving away or passing on. However, we still carry on and thanks to the willing members we have, we have a close knit group that keep active with various events during the year. We are beginning our fourth year with Pastor Sonje Finnestad (yes, she is Pastor Ken Finnestad's daughter) as our part time pastor. We share with Redeemer Lutheran Church in Davidson and are so happy to have her. Our service is at 9:00 a.m. so we have lots of time after church for the inevitable -- coffee time!! That is where a lot of our sharing and caring gets done, as well as planning for our activities.

Next week we are looking forward to having the Outlook Community Choir coming to present their Christmas cantata. They have come at Christmas and Easter for several years now and it is something we really look forward to every year. This year we have little Jesse trees to decorate daily, and have a short meditation to keep us focused on the real meaning of the Christmas Season. I also made an Advent calendar with daily reminders and readings so that we can look forward to Christ's coming. We are continually thankful to God for His grace and love as we travel our journey together.



Calling all young writers!!

In future issues of *The Echoes*, we would like to include a devotional section for the younger ones amongst us. If you are a young writer and want to encourage others, **please** submit a short devotion for our next issue! You can email it to jeffdena@explornet.com. Thank you!



Treasurer's Report

List of Memorials Given Since Last Camp

(IMO = "In Memory Of")

Submitted by Linda Follick

IMO Darol Joel

Muriel Akre

IMO Myron Germo

Roy & Joyce Olson

IMO Gene Sundby

Roy & Joyce Olson
George & Ruth Cooper
Gerald & Linda Follick
Darrel & Lynn Kerr
Elaine Vollmer
Bill & Annette Ivan
Ray & Edith Blosky
Harry Johnson
Alice Schwanbeck
Dennis & Marilyn Gustafson
Carrie Gullickson
Pastor Daryl & Sheryl Olson
Arlin Ryan
Carolie Haug
Victor & Linda Lee

Bethlehem LCW

IMO Vern & Betty Vallevand

Brad & Jill Norrish

IMO Henry Martens

Dwayne & Cathy Richman

IMO Rose Dudragne

Darrel & Lynn Kerr

IMO Harvey Haug

Santhy Hermanson

IMO Ted Hundebly

Dennis & Ardell Rude

IMO Conrad Opdahl

Carolie Haug

IMO Eunice Tysdale

Eleanor Hundebly

Our Bible Camp has always run on free will donations. Donations are gratefully accepted in two ways:

By mail, to:

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

Through the Bible Camp website:

Click on "Support" --> *then*

Click on the blue, "Donate Now through Canada Helps.org:" button and follow the prompts.

May
God Bless You