

The Echoes

a Publication of



March 2017

Words - Live Ammo

*Devotional Submitted by
Pastor Adam Driscoll
Moose Jaw, SK*

"Let no unwholesome talk proceed out of your mouths, only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."
(Ephesians 4:29)

As a speaker - I use words - A LOT. Chapel, churches, pastoral counselling, and of course, camps!

Sometimes they come freely and easily. Sometimes I struggle find exactly the right way to phrase something . . . but one thing I have learned and felt and seen . . . is that words are never idle. **Words are live ammunition.**

Now, I haven't handled many guns in my life. Being from Newfoundland and a resident now of Saskatchewan, it has not been for lack of game or even opportunity. I have a healthy fear of the power of weapons. Strangely enough, they have the power to save life and to destroy it. And so do our words.

I can appreciate both the sensitivity and the '*violence*' that these images may conjure up. To use another illustration, I consider the scalpel of a doctor. This weapon is a tool that cuts through flesh and bone in order to save life, or in the case of all three of our children - bring life into the world.

What if we acknowledged that our very words cut through a person's skin, muscle, and mind and hit their heart? What would change in our family conversation, our yelling in the van, our 'under-the-breath-loud-enough-to-hear-but-not-understood' comments? How would we perhaps lock up in a 'vault' words that should never be handled? How would we approach important feedback that if not given with precision would leave a person wounded and bleeding? You can hear the seasoned gunman firmly saying, "Be careful where you point that thing!" So then why do we walk around with our safety off on our tongues and let loose?

What if we were to heed the words and reality that our words are equally powerful and equally dangerous? What if we recognize just what James is saying, "Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark." (James 3:5b). Forgive another illustration but in the forests of Newfoundland, we are taught to be extra careful about setting fires in the forest. Because of the root networks of trees, despite a fire

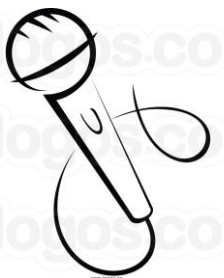
being doused and buried, the heat burns beneath the ground and a tree can ignite from the roots upward. Hours, if not days, after a hiker has vacated the premises. Thus it is with our words. We can cover over a statement said in anger, we can douse it with grace and compassion, but once spoken the spark has the power to ignite from the inside.

So how do tend our words? Well - it's actually more personal than I wish to admit. It's not as simple as what our mother's told us, "If you don't have anything good to say, don't say anything." Jesus actually tells us where our problem (and solution) rests. *"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. **For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.**"*

I wish it wasn't true - but the problem isn't with the words - it's with me. I'm not acquitted if I simply do not speak words that tear down. I must wrestle with the 'murder' in my heart as Jesus speaks earlier in the Sermon on the Mount. We must ask the Lord to use the scalpel of His Holy Spirit and the dividing work of His Word to transform our hearts. Our words are changed from the inside out.

It's unfortunate but it's true. Every day words are spoken in our friendships, our families, our workplace, and even in our churches. Words that set fire, that damage, cause pain, and take life. As a brother, and fellow word-weapon user, perhaps I can invite you to heed the same words as the seasoned gunman, "Be careful where you point that thing" – it's always live ammo.

Adam Driscoll is the Director of Spiritual Development at Cornerstone Christian School in Moose Jaw. He and his wife, Angela, and three kids (6, 5, 2) reside in Moose Jaw, a place that has become home now after 13 years! Having a heart for theology and leadership every day, he asks the question, "How can I help people discover and live their God given purpose with contagious obedience?" Through speaking, writing, and mostly coffee conversations, Adam always has this agenda: to love God, to love people, and to help people love God. Adam will be the youth speaker at this year's Family Camp at ELBC



Who are the main speakers / leaders at Bible Camp this year?

Youth Leader - Adam Driscoll (Description Above)

Evening Speaker and Morning Bible Class - Brad Young (Saskatoon, SK) - Brad is the Assistant Pastor at Open Door Baptist Church (<http://www.odbaptist.ca/>).

Bible / Mission Class - Rob Lewis (Camrose, AB) - Rob is the Executive Director of the World Mission Prayer League in Canada (<http://www.wmplcanada.org/>).



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!

We need your help!

Camp Clean-up

is scheduled for

June 2 & 3, 2017



Please bring small clean-up tools and big hearts!

Mark Your Calendar

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.



Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp is looking for a

CARETAKER

June through August, 2017
(Starting Date is Flexible)

Duties include (but are not limited to) janitorial tasks, garbage removal, grass mowing, basic maintenance, and painting as required.

Salary: \$2,000 + per Month
Contract Work - No Deductions
Call Grant Lee at (306) 222-2776



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!

Do you need to reserve a cabin for Bible Camp this year?

Cabin Reservations

can be made by calling Grant Lee at (306) 222-2776.



Get your spots early!



Congregational Submissions



Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp (ELBC) is supported by local Christian churches, numerous members and volunteers. The following are summaries from three of these churches regarding their parish activities since the last edition of *The Echoes* was sent out, in December 2016.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, SK

Submitted by Ashley Stamnes, Administrative Assistant

*"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." -
Isaiah 43:19*

It is so exciting to begin a new year and look ahead to what God has in store for each church and each person! In his annual meeting report, Pastor Doug has said we will continue to emphasize the discipleship themes of 2016. The next leg on our *Journey with Jesus* will be focused on "foundations in the kingdom".

We will be taking a deeper look at:

- 1) the mission of Jesus
- 2) how He "did" *prayer, healing* and the *proclamation* of God's favor
- 3) the tangible effect of the kingdom which the people under Christ's rule did and should expect to experience as His disciples!

Here is a recap of what Bethel has been doing the last few months:

December:

- † Pastor Doug provided a Family Advent Reading Booklet for anyone who wished to participate.
- † We had a Giving Tree set up to collect warm items of clothing for *Interval House* in Saskatoon.
- † We also had a box to collect for Teen Challenge.
- † Pastor Doug's Advent series was titled "*Socks and Underwear*". This was a wonderful set of talks focusing on God's Gift to us and led up to the *Best Gift Ever* on Christmas Eve.
- † 9th – The annual WMF (Women's Mission Fellowship) Christmas Party. This was a fun chance for members of the church and other community members to celebrate Christmas together with food, scripture, games, music and laughter!
- † 11th – The Sunday School children put on their Christmas Musical called "Lost and Found". They did a fabulous job sharing the message of Jesus birth and God's deep love for us!
- † 18th – The ladies brought baking and treats and packed Goodie Boxes to distribute to those in need in our community.

† 24th – We had a very meaningful candlelight service at Bethel.

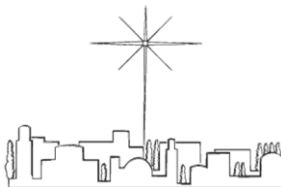
January:

- † Pastor Doug's series in January was titled "*Small Things, Big Difference*". We were reminded of the profound effect our thoughts, words and habits have on our daily lives and especially our walk with Jesus.
- † The various Bible studies resumed after a brief break for Christmas. ☺
- † 17th – The congregation had their Annual Meeting.
- † 26th – The ladies had their WMF Annual Meeting.
- † Thank you to all those who have stepped up to fill vacant positions and thank you to all who have served so faithfully over the years!

February:

- † 5th – Wes Olmstead was here to bring us the message in Pastor Doug's absence. Thank you!
- † 12th – Missions Sunday - June Evan's niece, Larissa Weins, was here with some guests to share what was going on with her work in Zambia! What a blessing! Following the service was a potluck.
- † We have many in our congregation and community who are grieving and ill. We continue to pray for them and trust God to be their comfort and hope.
- † We have seen the hand of God on many situations! We praise Him for His abundant healing and guidance!
- † We pray that each of you will be blessed as you continue your daily walk with Jesus.

Sending much love,
Bethel Lutheran, Elbow



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hawarden, SK



Submitted by Linda Follick

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. Psalm 62: 1-2

November:

- † 10 - The LCW (Lutheran Church Women) group met at the Follick's with Dorothy Pinno leading the last Bible study in our "Spiritual Shape-Up" series. The last study was titled, "Maintaining Spiritual Fitness." That afternoon the LCW put on a program and served lunch at the Golden Acres High Rise in Outlook.
- † Pastor Al Pinno continued his series on "The Kingdom of Heaven is Near!"
- † The PSP (Praise / Study / Prayer) group meet weekly to study "True & False Prophecy: Then & Now."

- † 27 - Pastor Al Pinno started a new series for the Advent season: "Attitudes and Acts Revealed at Christmas."
- † We enjoyed a country gospel evening with Verna Urlacher and Les Langager singing and playing their guitars.

December:

- † 2 - The LCW hosted a family Christmas supper and program. After a delicious potluck supper we were entertained by the Hunstad family. The evening ended singing songs around the Christmas tree.
- † 7 - We were saddened to hear of the passing of Pastor Vern Roste of Strathmore, AB. Pastor Roste served our parish from 1962 - 66. We send our deepest condolences to Sonja and families. Blessed be his memory.
- † 8 - The LCW put on a program at Luther Place and served the residents Christmas baking.
- † 18 - The Sunday School presented "The Story of Christmas."
- † The LCW packed Christmas cookies to be delivered in the community.
- † Some members of our congregation took part in the Hanley Carol Festival.
- † 23 - Bethlehem Candlelight Service
- † 24 - Our church gathered at the Long Term Care wing of Outlook Health Center on Christmas Eve morning to sing for the residents and to hand out some treats.
- † 25 - On Christmas Day, Pastor Al Pinno spoke on "The Joy of the LORD: JESUS, Others and You," based on 1 John 1:1 - 2:2.
- † 31 - Members of the church gathered at the church to welcome the New Year in with games, lunch and devotions.

January:

- † 1 - Pastor Al continued his series from Revelation on "The Kingdom of Heaven is Near."
- † 5 - The LCW group met at the Haaland's home with Linda Lee leading our new study on "Alpha & Omega" by Delores Berkas. Our theme song for this year is "Open My Eyes." Our theme verse is Revelation 22:12-13.
- † 8 - We had our Annual General Meeting.
- † 9 - Pastor Al and Dorothy left on a mission trip that took them first to London, then Thailand, India, and back to London again. They returned home on February 20. During their absence we were blessed to hear Pastor Adam Driscoll (Moose Jaw), Damon Ramer (student at Briercrest), Nathan Scott (student at Briercrest), Kevin Daugherty (teacher at Briercrest), and Wes Olmstead (teacher at Briercrest) speak.
- † 25 - The LCW put on a service at the Long Term Care wing of the Outlook Health Center.
- † 29 - We enjoyed a country gospel evening violin trio - Martin Rude, Lyle Campbell, and Al Wiebe. Some devotionals were shared, as well as hymn singing.

February:

- † 2 - The LCW group met at the Follick's home. Katie Haaland led the Bible study on "The Shaping of a People."
- † 7 - Congratulations to great grandmother Sylvia Sundby, grandparents Martin and Michelle Rude, and parents Chris and Denise Posehn on the birth of their second daughter, Clara Christine.

- † Darwin Taylor has spent a lot of time the last few months up north at Grandmother's Bay sharing God's word with the Cree youth.
- † We continue to pray for Darwin as he works up north, for Lois Taylor, and George & Ruth Cooper.

**Skudesnes
Evangelical**



**Lutheran
Church**

Loreburn, SK

Submitted by Maxine Follick

Greetings from Skudesnes! Since the last report we have been through the Advent and Christmas seasons and are now speeding into the New Year. In November we began preparing for the Christmas season by bringing our packed Samaritan Purse boxes to church. We then took them to Elbow where we had been invited for a delicious breakfast and informational session on the work and distribution of the Samaritan Purse program.

During Advent we had our Advent readings and lighting of the Advent candles as we added appropriate figures to the Manger scene week by week. This culminated with the arrival of Jesus on Christmas morning.....a little late because 'someone' (!!!) forgot to put

Him there.....isn't that just like us?!? 😊

In early December the ladies had their Christmas luncheon at the church along with our sisters from the United Church. We had a short program and lots of laughter. Also, before Christmas the Outlook Community Choir came to give their Christmas Cantata. This was a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit!!

Shortly after Christmas, former member Elsie Kerney passed away and her funeral was held at Skudesnes on January 5th.

Now we are looking forward to getting prepared for the Lenten / Easter season. On February 28th, we are planning a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper with an Ash Wednesday service to follow. We are looking forward to having the Outlook Community Choir back for their Easter Cantata during Holy Week (hopefully April 11th). Also, in April we will be looking forward to resuming our monthly Bible studies led by Pastor Sonje Finnestad.

We have enjoyed a pretty good winter so far and are looking forward to seeing our friends as they migrate back from their warm holiday getaways. God's blessings to each one!



What can our kids look forward to at camp this year??

Throughout the week, we will be using the Concordia Publishing House VBS material - ***Mighty Fortress: In Jesus, the Victory Is Won!***

CLBI (the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute) will have a ministry team for us... and we'll possibly have another team from a different location as well. Stay tuned!



Youth Corner



Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: "Let my people go, so that they may worship me."'" - Exodus 9:1

(Lucas Rinholm, Age 10, was asked to write a story from the point of view of Pharaoh during or after the exodus. Lucas is the son of Nolan & Janelle Rinholm. Their family resides in Gull Lake, SK.)

There I was, a floating Pharaoh. I Can't believe that selfish family member of mine would just leave me here after all we've been through! Although I did try to kill him...okay fine, bad move, but he deserved it!

He's been a real pain in the butt ever since his mom picked him out of those swimming grounds. She named him Moses, ran to the palace and showed Grandpa. Grandpa was Pharaoh at the time. He probably said to himself, "You already have an heir!" but kept it in long enough until she left the room.

I bet I was Grandpa's favorite after Moses killed Bob the guard. I didn't get it -- he was only doing his job! Then Moses ran away like a chicken with his head cut off! Nobody knows what happened after that. He probably got a wife and kids and came back to Egypt.

Then Moses showed up and said, "Let God's people go!"

I laughed so hard I chipped a tooth! I finally stopped laughing and said, "Nice beard!"

Moses told me that ten plagues would occur. I laughed and said, "No!"

Sure enough, ten terrible plagues happened. The tenth one hurt a lot of people, including me. All the first born sons in Egypt died. Again, Moses came and said, "Let God's people go!"

I'd had enough, so finally I said, "Fine!"

But being the Pharaoh, you *can* make bad decisions... so I changed my mind. I got all my best men and chariots with horses and followed MY people. We just about got to

them when Moses raised his staff and parted the Red Sea. (Now I wished I had called the river that Moses turned red, "The Red Sea" instead!)

Anyway, the Hebrew people all walked across and slammed the water door in our faces! All my men drowned and I thought I was dead too but I got to shore. Then I got bit in the face by a cobra and died.

Thanks, Lucas, for your refreshing take on a familiar story! Way to go!!



Treasurer's Report

List of Memorials Given Since Last *Echoes* Publication

(IMO = "In Memory Of")

Submitted by Linda Follick

GENERAL DONATIONS

Leverne & Rene Baxter
Jason & Carla Roy
Bethel Lutheran Church
Bethel WMF

IMO GENE SUNDBY

Sylvia Sundby

IMO VERN ROSTE

George & Ruth Cooper
Gerald & Linda Follick
Roy & Joyce Olson

IMO ART MOEN

Roy & Joyce Olson

IMO ELSIE KERNEY

George & Ruth Cooper

IMO TERRY HOWE

Darrel & Lynn Kerr

IMO HELEN GILES

George & Ruth Cooper

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Bethel Lutheran Church

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*