

The Echoes

a Publication of



September 2017

The Importance of Daily Meditating on God's Word

*Devotional Submitted by
Pastor Daryl Olson
Outlook, SK*

Martin Luther said, "The scriptures are the cradle that holds Christ."

Pastor Michael Foss says, "When God invites us to read and study the Word, God doesn't require us to understand everything. Nor does God invite

us to the Scriptures to solve all of our problems. God invites us into a relationship through the words of the Bible, and that relationship is primarily with God's Son, Jesus, whom we call the Living Word."

The Holy Spirit uses the words of the Bible to present to us the heart and character of God. Christians understand that Jesus has come to embody God's heart and character. So when God speaks in and through the Bible, God directs our attention to Christ. God never speaks a word to us through the Bible that contradicts or supplants what Jesus did or taught. So, as disciples, we always read the scriptures with Christ as the true interpreter of scripture. Jesus said in **John 5: 39, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me, (40) yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life."**

But how can a disciple truly hear the voice of God in the words of the Bible? Michael Foss points out that the Christian Church has historically offered a three step process for listening and discerning: Then he describes the basic process.

First, in a quiet place where you will not be interrupted, begin to pray that God will speak to you in the words you are going to read in the Bible. Tell God that you desire **not** information but transformation of your soul. Invite the Holy Spirit to open God's heart and character to you in the words of Scripture.

Second, read the passage, stopping when it speaks to you or when you read the end of that section. Then ask these few questions: What does

this passage tell me about God or life? How does what I hear fit with what I know about Jesus—His life and teaching, death and resurrection? What life lesson is here for me?

The third step is to pray that God will plant deeply within you the words that make for life. We want to conform our attitudes and behaviors to what we have received. So we ask God for the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower us to do this.

There are many different ways of meditating and pondering on a portion of Scripture. One that I use is called the "**SOAP**" method:

"S" stands for Scripture, and so before I read a portion of scripture I pray that God will speak to me through that Scripture. Then I write out the verse or the verses in my journal that I sense is / are speaking to me.

The "O" stands for observation. I observe by asking questions about that verse or verses, like those above or simply, "Who? What? Where? Why? When? How?" I write down my observations.

Next the "A" stands for application. How does this verse apply to me? What is God saying to me through this verse?

Last of all the "P" stands for prayer! I pray about what God has said to me or I pray the Scripture verse including thanksgiving and praise and asking that God would do as He has promised.

There is absolutely no way that a disciple will grow in their relationship with God if they don't spend time daily in the word of God. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Every day that I do not penetrate more deeply into the Word of God is a lost day for me." May we not have any of those lost days but rather spend time each day meditating on the word of God, the manger that holds Christ for us so that we get to see and to know Him.



The annual Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp Board general meeting is being held on Monday, November 6th at 7:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church in Elbow, SK.

Please plan to attend!



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 YOU!

Do YOU have a suggestion for an **Evening Speaker, Bible Teacher** or **Youth Leader** for our Bible Camp in 2018?

Please contact a member of the Bible Camp Board, or Linda Lee at (306) 855-4900 *as soon as possible*. Thank you!

*Mark
Your
Calendar*

Our next Bible Camp runs from **July 1st to 7th, 2018!**

A Note from Linda Lee



To all of the Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp Family.

Each one of you helped to make the 2017 Family Week at Bible Camp a special week!

Together we worshipped God, studied His Word, sang His praises, prayed with thanksgiving and petition, played, ate, listened, shared, renewed friendships . . .

Now we will stay in touch through ***The Echoes*** and continue to to be a family – to support and encourage each other in our daily walk with our Heavenly Father and our LORD and Saviour JESUS.



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 three of these churches regarding their parish activities since the last edition of *The Echoes* was sent out, in June 2017.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, SK

Submitted by Ashley Starnes, Administrative Assistant

*Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise His name;
Proclaim His salvation day after day.
Psalm 96:1,2*

Greetings from Bethel, Elbow! We pray that you all had a blessed summer and are looking ahead to autumn with a refreshed heart!

We at Bethel and the community as a whole have had a lovely summer, yet the community, church and individuals have been touched with grief and sorrow as well. We ask for your prayers as many are trying to recover from losing loved ones, illness and the ferocity of our lake and river as it claimed many lives this summer. But through it all, we know that our God is sovereign and mighty. He has answered many prayers and carried us through so much.

Here is a brief synopsis of the blessings and highlights of the last few months:

May:

† 28th Shannon Hundebly held a piano recital at Bethel for her students. The wonderful music was enjoyed by all!

June:

† 4th Teen Challenge led the service here at Bethel. It was a powerful time of testimony, praise and sharing. A potluck followed with much laughter, food and visiting. We so appreciate this ministry!

† 7th Many ladies of the congregation got together again this year to bake cookies for The Rock Church camp ministry that comes for three weeks each summer to Elbow Bible Camp. This is a wonderful ministry to children!

- † 9th Bethel hosted a speaker from Creation Ministries International in the evening. It was a very informative time.
- † 9th Loreburn Central School graduation was also this evening. We pray that each student would be blessed and that God would bring people into their lives to bring them closer to Him!
- † 11th We had our last Sunday School day and enjoyed games, songs and floats together. Looking forward to next year!
- † 15th The WMF (Women's Mission Fellowship) had their regular meeting.
- † 18th We celebrated all the amazing men in our congregation with a brunch on Father's Day. Thank you to Corry Downie, her daughter Cindy and everyone who helped out with this! We also switched to our summer hours on this day with services beginning at 9:30 am.
- † 19th The Harbour Golf Course again hosted the annual Teen Challenge Golf Fundraiser. Such a fun way to raise money for a wonderful ministry! Many from the congregation were involved in planning, playing and attending the supper and program.
- † 23rd The Knutson and Peardon families hosted a fundraiser for Sebastian Knutson (Grandson of Steve and Lynn Knutson) who just celebrated his 1st birthday and is battling Leukemia. We praise God that a bone marrow donor was found for him and the transplant (performed on July 7th) went very well and God is performing many miracles. The family was astounded at all the support and people who came out to help offset the large financial burden for this young family!

July:

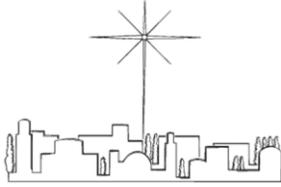
Family Camp was a huge success again! It was so fun to see familiar faces and meet many new ones as well. God continues to bless and use this camp for His glory!

- † 1st Bethel again handed out cold water bottles to those attending the parade. This simple act of kindness touches many and we pray it opens the door to those needing to feel God's love!

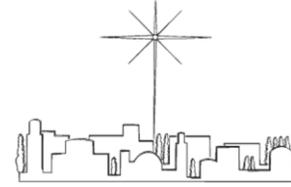
August:

- † 6th Ashley Stamnes hosted a Garden Party for the ladies in the church and community. It was a joy to get together and share time!
- † 13th The family of Doug and Marie Wankel hosted a 60th anniversary celebration for them following the service. Congratulations, Doug and Marie! You are an inspiration to so many of us!

As we approach fall, we pray for safety and protection for farmers in their harvest and for each and every person as they go about their daily lives. May God bless you all and may you continue to lift His Name high!



**Bethlehem Lutheran
Church
Hawarden, SK**



Submitted by Linda Follick

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12

Pastor Al Pinno started a new sermon series on the book of James (sermon titles listed below):

- † Words of Encouragement & Challenge from JESUS' Servant and Brother
- † Joyful Perseverance in the Challenges of Life
- † Tempted by Evil Desires
- † Pride & the Money Temptation
- † Be Careful Little Tongue What You Say
- † Faith & Works Go Together Like Chickens & Eggs
- † War & Peace
- † 'The Plans of Mice & Men
- † Be Patient in Faith: The Merciful LORD Judge is Standing at the Door
- † Anyone in Trouble should Pray in Faith
- † It is All About Saving Souls From Sin & For Eternal Life

On July 9th he spoke on, "O Canada: Kiss the Son," based on Psalm 2:1-12.

The Praise/Study/Prayer group continues to meet at the church on Wednesday evenings to study "True and False Prophecy" under Pastor Al's leadership.

Country Gospel Evenings were also held throughout the summer months:

- † May - DVD viewing of "Joey & Rory"
- † June - Larry Krause
- † July - Ken Olson & Friends
- † August - Per Vinding

Our LCW (Lutheran Church Women) group continues to meet monthly to study "Alpha and Omega" by Dee Berkas with the studies being led by the following women:

- † Linda Lee - "A Nations Rise & Fall" and "Restoration Begins"
- † Katie Haaland - "Promises in the Pit"
- † Dorothy Pinno - "Light for the Darkness"

They provided lunch for the farm auction of Gerry and Gail Gross on June 14th.

The Pinno's hosted a Family Fun Evening starting with a wiener roast, games, singing and sharing around a campfire on June 3rd.

June 19th was the Sunday school wind-up, with a wiener roast and baseball game after the morning worship service.

Prayers went out for Lorimer Olson who had by-pass surgery in June. He is recovering quickly.

Our sympathies go out to Jay and Eileen deGuzman on the loss of his mother. Jay spent a month in the Philippines.

July 2nd - 8th was family camp week at Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp just south of Elbow. The evening speaker and morning Bible teacher was Pastor Brad Young (Saskatoon), and another Bible teacher was Rob Lewis (Camrose). Our youth leader this year was Pastor Adam Driscoll (Moose Jaw), and a team from CLBI (Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute) assisted with the youth and children. It was a wonderful week, feeding on God's Word and enjoying the outdoor activities. We had over 170 registered this year – it was good to see so many little ones enjoying camp!

Darwin Taylor has been up in the Grandmother's Bay area teaching a school bus driving school and working with the youth of the community.

We are saddened at the passing of Joyce Olson on Tuesday, July 11th. Her funeral was at Bethlehem on, July 19th. Our sympathies to Roy Olson, Carolyn and Dave Albrecht and their extended families. Blessed be her memory.

Our sympathies to Hazel Martens and family as well on the passing of her husband, Tim Olson, on Wednesday, July 12th.

Get well wishes go out to Eileen de Guzman who broke her arm while on holidays in Manitoba. She needed surgery to repair the break.

Congratulations to great-grandparents George and Ruth Cooper, to Lori Giles (first time grandmother!) and to Trevor and Vanessa Giles on the birth of their first baby, Weston James, who was born in Saskatoon on August 1st.

We pray God's blessings on Jay and Eileen de Guzman and family as they leave on their mission trip. They will be working under YWAM (Youth With A Mission) in Australia serving the Papua New Guinea area on a medical ship.

We continue to remember those in need of our prayers – George and Ruth Cooper, Lorimer Olson, Lois Taylor, Roy Olson, Hazel Martens, and Jay & Eileen de Guzman and family.

**Skudesnes
Evangelical**



**Lutheran
Church**

Loreburn, SK

Submitted by Maxine Follick

Greetings from Skudesnes! Somehow the summer has flown by and here we are, full-blown into harvest!!!

The summer has been pretty quiet as to happenings. On the first Sunday of July, we didn't have church at Skudesnes as there were so many Canada Day celebrations going on and it was also the first Sunday of Elbow Bible Camp.

Pastor Sonje Finnestad enjoyed a few Sundays off for her holidays, and in her absence we did a presentation on the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:1-15). We were also very happy to welcome Lorimer Olson, as he brought us an inspiring message. One Sunday, we joined in with the Line 19 United Church congregations to celebrate our rural heritage and give thanks to God for all His blessings and protection over the years.

We are now pleased to have Pastor Sonje back with us. The ladies continue to have a monthly Bible Study led by Pastor Sonje.

On July 8th, there was a graveside service for Hazel Hagen. We were sad to say goodbye to this lady who was everyone's friend. May we all leave a legacy like that!! Also we were very saddened to say goodbye to God's faithful servant, Joyce Olson, of the Bethlehem, Hawarden congregation. Joyce was a living testimony to us all on how to live a Godly life.

To all our friends who care for God's creation and work hard at this time of year to help feed the world we pray for God's protection, and may we all be ever thankful for His bountiful grace and provision for us.



Youth Biography:

Rachel Stamnes

*(Rachel is the daughter of
Dwayne & Ashley Stamnes.
Their family resides in Loreburn, SK.)*

*As soon as they put forth leaves, you see it
and know for yourselves that summer is now
near.*

Luke 21:30

Hi, this is Rachel Stamnes and I'm going to tell you a little bit about myself. I am 12 years old and I go to Loreburn Central School and I am in grade 8. I play many sports like baseball, volleyball, and basketball and I ride my horse often. I love to be outside and play with my dog and cats.

In the summer we go camping at Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp and it's probably the most fun I have all summer. We do a whole bunch of fun activities like: a water slide and a water balloon fight, and on the last day for all the youth in the dorms we go to the beach and sit around a campfire and sing songs! It's so fun!

My family and I also go camping at Christopher Lake. We have friends there who have a cabin so we go two or three times a year and that's really fun because it's just my family and really close friends. We go see our Grandmas and Grandpas over the summer, too. We're so lucky to have them live so close to us.

I've learned so much at Bible Camp. One thing that my youth teacher taught me was this: If you do something you're not supposed to do or broke your Mom's favourite salad bowl or something, don't hide -- just go up to her and confess what you've done and accept the consequences.

Thanks, Rachel! We really appreciate getting to know you better!

*May
God Bless You*



Treasurer's Report

List of Memorials Given Since Last *Echoes* Publication

(IMO = "In Memory Of")

Submitted by Linda Follick

DONATIONS:

Donations during camp-too numerous to report – thanks to all who donated!

DONATIONS SINCE CAMP ENDED:

The Rock Church
Nolan & Janelle Rinholm

IMO Joyce Olson

Bethlehem LCW
Sylvia Sundby
Gerald & Linda Follick
Victor & Linda Lee
Tim & Gloria Martens
Neil & Katie Haaland
Audrey Olson
Tom & Vivian Brown
Roy Olson
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Everald Olson
Karen Olson

IMO Chester & Esther Pederson

Donelda Gregor

IHO Doug & Marie Wankel's 60th Anniversary

Dwayne & Cathy Richman

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.