

The Echoes

a Publication of



December 2017

The Father's Love

*Devotional Submitted by
Rob Lewis
Camrose, AB*

Some of my fond memories are of times spent at Bible Camp. As a kid, I loved getting out of the city and into the tranquil setting of the Lutheran Bible Camp at Hastings Lake, Alberta.

But, camp also presented some challenges and at times was a real stretch for me. Even today my initial emotion upon arriving at most Bible camps is that of anxiety.

I was an overweight kid and a bed-wetter. I remember a time when my twin brother (who was considerably slimmer) and I went to Bible camp by ourselves. I recall the fears I had of being teased about my size or having someone see me slip my plastic sheet into my sleeping bag just before bedtime. I became so anxious that I wanted to go home.

Our counselor was a young man with a gentle spirit and a kind heart. Although I can't remember his name, I do recall him encouraging me to stay and telling me that if I could make it through the week, I would be on my way to being able to handle similar situations in the future. It was great advice- some that I would share with young folks at other camps in the years that followed. The week went well and most of the other kids turned out to be kind and accepting.

Another challenge I faced was that I came from a single-parent home. My father died when I was four years of age. While lying in our bunks at night, the other guys would talk about ball games, hunting trips, other sporting events they had experienced with their dads. I remember feeling awkward and uncomfortable. The whole time of course, God knew what I was thinking, and how I was feeling.

One evening, I was standing down on the dock following campfire. It was cool if you asked a girl to sit with you at campfire and she said yes. I never asked, because I was sure no girl would ever want to sit with me. As I stood looking out over the lake, the reality of being a bed-wetting, fatherless, fat kid hit me. I began to feel sad and sorry for myself. In that moment an amazing thing happened. God came to me.

In the cool breeze that moved across the lake, gently brushing my face, I could sense His presence. It seemed as though He was saying, "I'm here Rob. I love you." I was just a young boy, but I was totally overwhelmed by His love and the assurance that He was my Father and I was His son.

Through the years, God has visited me in similar ways. It's kept me going and has strengthened me in times when I feel weak, insecure or unable to deal with my feelings or the circumstances of life. There are times even today when I feel just like a frightened little boy. It is then that God whispers once again, "I'm here Rob, I love you".

What was it that brought me such assurance that evening on the dock? In hindsight, I believe it was the power of God's Word -- His means of grace. It was the morning Bible studies, the messages of the evening speaker, the devotions in our cabins before lights-out. It was God's Word sown into my mind and heart at Sunday school, during family devotions, through visits from our Pastor. The Word broke through. Sorrow and sadness were overcome by the Father's love.

Over the years God has met people on the grounds of many Bible Camps. The Holy Spirit has done His work in the hearts of young and old, as the Law & Gospel are rightly proclaimed, and God comes near.

Whether God's Word convicts of sin, changes a heart, brings new life or fills us again with assurance of salvation, it always comes from the heart of a loving Father-God. Thank the Father for His love!

Recently the words of a song by a young Scottish artist have brought me comfort again. In his song, "**My Father**," **Steph Macleod** sings:

Sometimes, hard times fall, and I am
spent
Weary I call, seas relent
And here to tempt my fate, my foe
draws near
The hour is late
I'm weak, I fear
But wait, no, I need not tremble
Let go
Be still - surrender, I know whatever my
path, I'm not alone

My Father catches me, no matter how
fast I'm fallin'
With love that carries me, when I'm lost
and broken
I rise like an eagle
On wings, I soar over mountains high
Singing You are my Father - You are my
Father

And though I find my rest, a tempest
roars
A further test comes raging forth
My strength begins to fade and soon I'll
yield
Lost and afraid, alone I feel
But wait, no, I need not tremble

Let go
Be still - surrender, I know whatever my
path
I'm not alone

My Father catches me, no matter how
fast I'm fallin'
With love that carries me, when I'm lost
and broken
I rise like an eagle
On wings, I soar over mountains high
Singing You are my Father - You are my
Father

Oh! For in His arms I shall not want
In His arms I do not fear
In His arms I have found peace
For His presence comforts me

My Father catches me, no matter how
fast I'm fallin'
With love that carries me, when I'm lost
and broken
I rise like an eagle
On wings, I soar over mountains high
Singing You are my Father - You are my
Father

Listen on: <https://soundcloud.com/stephmacleod/my-father>



The Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp has a website:

<http://elbowlutheranbiblecamp.com>

Please visit often to learn more about the camp and see updates for 2018!



We need YOU!



We VERY much appreciate all the campers, and are so thankful for everyone's help! This year (same as the last two years), we will be asking everyone to sign up for one work duty each day. Many hands make light work!

Would YOU consider helping out in one of the following ways?

- Being on a **Music Committee** -- These are the people who choose the hymns for the evening service and find pianists to play.
- Being part of a family (or other) group, willing to lead a **Morning Chapel** service?
- Being part of a family (or other) group, willing to plan and supervise an **Afternoon Craft** for the Grade 6 and Under campers?
- Being a helper for the **Morning VBS Childrens' Classes**?

Please contact Linda Lee at (306) 855-4900 *as soon as possible*. Thank you!



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@explornet.com

Thank you!

Mark Your Calendar

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

We already have two leaders lined up for next year: Pastor Jim Johnson (Camarillo, California) and Adam Driscoll (Moose Jaw, SK)

More information coming soon!



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 September 2017.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, SK

Submitted by Ashley Starnes, Administrative Assistant

*The LORD your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love He will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.*

Zephaniah 3:17

Greetings from Bethel! It is a chilly but beautiful day here with the odd snow flake falling. Isn't God good? He makes so many things for us to enjoy! May you find peace and rest in His love today!

Here is what has been happening at Bethel the last few months:

September:

Pastor Doug was still on compassionate leave during the month of September. We were blessed to have some awesome men of God come to share God's Word with us in his absence.

- † 5th The Ladies Bible Study began the year with a brand new study entitled, "Captivated By God". This is led by Donna Hundebly and many ladies come each week to learn as they read God's Word.
- † 7th Marcelle Savidan again hosted a Ladies Weiner Roast at Coyote Springs. Many ladies from Bethel, Skudesnes and the community came and enjoyed excellent food, music, devotions and games!
- † 21st The ladies had a regular WMF meeting.
- † 24th We had our Sunday School Kickoff with games organized by Janell Hundebly! We are doing things a bit differently this year as there are so few parents and helpers. Janell, Lisa Peterman and myself are sharing the job of superintendent. Janell and Lisa are alternating

teaching and once a month, I will lead the children in music and a different member of the congregation will plan a craft for the children. The youth are assisting in teaching the younger kids. We have now begun practice for the Sunday School Christmas play which I will again direct. This new plan is a blessing and is working very well! The adults are also meeting for Sunday School, with Ron and Donna Hundebly leading the group! They are studying "Parables."

- † 24th A group from the Outlook chapter of the Gideons shared with us during service. We were blessed with testimony and messages from Warren Read and Loretta Lyons.

October:

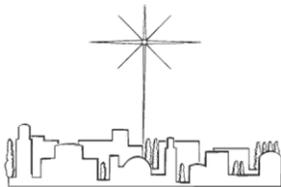
- † 1st Pastor Doug returned from his leave but unfortunately, just for four Sundays as, due to Kaycee's health concerns, the best decision for them was for Doug to resign. However, we made the best of our last four Sundays together! This Sunday we had the blessing of a double baptism as the Knutson/Brown family had their two youngest children baptised.
- † 15th What an exciting Sunday as five of our young people confirmed their faith in Jesus! Emmitt Hundebly, Jasmine Hundebly, Alexius Long, Ayden Soggie and Rachel Stamnes were confirmed in Christ. Many guests were there and each of the confirmands contributed to the service in a special way. The service was followed by a delicious cake for everyone made by Doris Stamnes as we fellowshiped!
- † 15th As Kaycee flew in for confirmation, we also had a farewell potluck for Doug and Kaycee in the evening in order to share our love for them and bid them farewell. They will be missed!
- † 22nd This was Pastor Doug's final Sunday with us. The Elders had a prayer of blessing for him. May God guide their steps and be in all they do.
- † 22nd We began weekly evening prayer to seek God's will as we call a new pastor.
- † 29th Bonnie Jean Low and Dave and Colleen Spelliscy shared about their trip with Operation Christmas Child to deliver Christmas boxes this past summer. It was awesome to see their passion for this ministry and for children!

November:

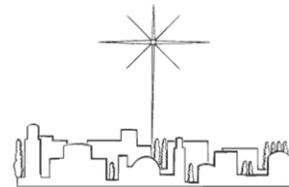
- † 6th Bethel hosted this year's Annual Bible Camp Meeting.
- † 10th Janice Scrimbitt hosted a shoebox packing party with over 50 boxes being packed! They were sent off with a prayer of blessing and we know they will touch many hearts!!!

In the absence of a pastor, we have been blessed to have many different men in to fill the pulpit. Thank you to Adam Driscoll (Director of Spiritual Development at Cornerstone Christian School in Moose Jaw, SK), Wayne Hove (President of Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, Outlook, SK) and Dallas Beutler (Pastor of "The Rock" Church in Saskatoon, SK) for bringing God's Word to us.

We ask that, as always, you would join us in prayer for all those hurting and grieving in our congregation. We also ask that you would celebrate with us as God has performed miracles and answered countless prayers. And finally, we ask that you join with us as we seek God's will for a new Pastor. He already has someone picked out for us so we will trust Him on this new journey of faith! God bless you all as we approach the exciting and precious time of Advent and Christmas!



**Bethlehem Lutheran
Church
Hawarden, SK**



Submitted by Linda Follick

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31

September:

- † 3rd Our congregation gathered at the Rafter V Ranch (Marcel and Jolie Vermette's) on Sunday, Sept 3rd for the morning service. The Vermettes hosted the Saskatchewan Fellowship of Christian Cowboys Fellowship weekend. It was a weekend of strengthening and encouraging each other as fellow believers, husbands, wives and children. The guest speaker for the weekend was Pastor Brad Young from Saskatoon. Games, gymkhana, roping, a trail ride and visiting were also enjoyed.
- † 5th Back to school! Wylie Vermette is now in Grade 12 at Kenaston School, while his brothers Hayes (Grade 9) and Tate (Grade 6) are both homeschooled by their mom, Jolie. Cadence Haaland is in Grade 9 at Aden Bowman Collegiate in Saskatoon, while Cassidy (Grade 7) and Cohen (Grade 6) are at John Lake School in Saskatoon. Halley Sincennes (Grade 4) and Landon Sincennes (Grade 2) are attending school in Outlook, SK.
- † 8th Congratulations to Neil and Katie Haaland on the birth of another grandson – Colby Arthur Rokos has joined the family! Greg, Dena,

Danyel, Garrick and Jesslynn are thrilled. Neil and Katie headed down to Fergus Falls, MN shortly after Colby's arrival where Greg is in his last year of seminary.

- † 10th Sunday School started with Dorothy Pinno, Katie Haaland and Linda Lee teaching classes. Pastor Al continues to lead the adult class, teaching from 2 Corinthians. During the morning service Pastor Al spoke on "Children Need: Love, Truth, Protection and Eternal Life in Heaven," based on Matthew 18:1-14. Everyone enjoyed hot dogs for lunch following the service.

October:

- † 16th -19th The Association of Free Lutheran Churches (AFLC) Canada Fall Retreat was held at the Cypress Hills Camp (<http://www.cypresshillscamp.ca/>). The theme was "Faithfully Serving the LORD in these Times" with guest Pastors Dave Manley and John Attwood.
- † 28th We were saddened at the passing of George Cooper, but rejoice in his "homegoing" after a long struggle with the effects of a stroke in 2014. We are so thankful for George – for the witness he was of his Lord and Savior and for all he has done for the Bible Camp as well as our congregation. His memorial service was held at Bethlehem on November 3rd with a host of family and friends attending. Blessed be his memory!
- † 29th Pastor Al spoke on, "Proclamation: 'The Ongoing War in the Church to Save People'" based on Jude 1-4; 17-25.

November:

- † 1st Our church gathered at the Long Term Care of the Outlook Health Center for their Wednesday morning church service. Pastor Al brought a short message and there was lots of hymn singing and visiting.
- † 4th All Saints Celebration! We had pizza supper, followed by a movie on "Luther" (with popcorn!). Some wore biblical costumes and explained their significance.
- † 6th The Annual General Meeting of the Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp was held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Elbow, SK. Grant Lee was re-elected as Chairman, and Neil Haaland was re-elected as Vice Chairman. Appointees: Secretary -- Rob LeBlanc, Treasurer -- Linda Follick. Plans are underway for next year's camps.
- † Darwin Taylor has spent quite a bit of time up in the LaRonge / Grandmother's Bay area this fall (northern Saskatchewan). He taught a school bus drivers' course and has been ministering to the youth in the schools. He also spoke at the Expanding Youth Ministries banquet in Saskatoon about the missionary work in the northern Cree villages, and shared as well with the Rock of Ages Lutheran Church youth group in Saskatoon.

- † 19th Ruth Cooper attended the baptism of her great grandson Weston Giles (son of Trevor and Vanessa) at Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon.
- † We continue to remember those in need of our prayers – the Cooper families, Roy Olson, Lois Taylor, and Jay & Eileen DeGuzman and family (serving in the New Guinea area).

Weekly:

- † Our Praise / Study / Prayer group continues on Wednesday evenings with Pastor Al Pinno leading the study on “True and False Prophecy.” During the Reformation season, we spent four weeks watching a video on Martin Luther’s life.
- † This fall, Pastor Al started a couple of new sermon series:
 - **Series #1: “A Googolplex of Signs & Wonders”**
 - Part 1: "Jesus said, 'Stop Doubting and Believe'" (John 20:24-31)
 - Part 2: “The Heavens Declare the Glory of God” (Psalm 19:1-4)
 - Part 3: “Thanking God for the Sign of His Eternal Word” (Psalm 119.89-96)
 - Part 4: “Life is the Signature of Christ” (John 1:1-13)
 - Part 5: “The Sign of the Spirits” (Romans 8:9-17)
 - Part 6: “The Miracle of the Mind and Reason” (Isaiah 1:18-20).
 - **Series #2: “Religions & Jesus”**
 - Part 1: “Jesus is the Only Way to God & Heaven” (John 14:1-11)
 - Part 2: "Judaism: 'Adding & Subtracting From God’s Word'" (Matt 15:1-14)
 - Part 3: “Ishmael & Allah or Jesus & The Father” (John 3:16-18; 31-36)
- † **Country Gospel Evenings:**
 - September: The Derksen family from Rosthern, SK (Eight members of their group entertained us with piano, harp, guitar, violins, trumpet, french horn, tuba, trombone, mandolin and banjo playing, along with their strong singing voices!)
 - October: Bruce and John McPhail (Wiseton, SK) and Les Langager and Verna Urlacher
 - November: Men of Song (Saskatoon, SK).

**Skudesnes
Evangelical**



**Lutheran
Church**

Loreburn, SK

Submitted by Maxine Follick

Greetings from Skudesnes. Wow... winter has hit here hard and fast. Hopefully everyone was ready for it!

We have had a few projects going on here (rather simultaneously) this fall. We started out by celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Pastor Ron Bestvater came to speak to us and show pictures of his trip to Germany and the places where the Reformation began. However, the "picture thing" didn't quite work out, so Pastor Ron had to paint word pictures for us -- which he did superbly! It was so delightful to meet Pastor Ron's father, who had also gone on the trip, and added his own insightful comments. After the presentation, we had a potluck supper, including many delicious dishes with a definite German influence!! Another thing we did during the weeks leading up to Reformation Sunday was to learn about the indulgences that Martin Luther spoke out against so strongly. We took home "Penance boxes" and a list of conditions that draw us away from God and then paid "indulgences" into the box when we were guilty of these sins. We soon found out that one cannot pay off God, and we are so thankful to be reminded that salvation is a **free** gift from God. All we have to do is accept the gift (Romans 5:1)! Needless to say, the boxes did generate a goodly sum of money which was then sent to the Lutheran Theological Seminary (Saskatoon, SK).

Also, during October, we collected items to be made into "We Care" kits for Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR -- <https://www.clwr.org>). We ended up with five Hygiene Kits and one Sewing Kit! We are thankful to Home Hardware for shipping these kits for free and also to Joan for doing all the organizing of this project.

Going into November we went straight from CLWR kits to Samaritan's Purse boxes. We gathered about twelve boxes -- which I think is a personal best for Skudesnes!! Thanks to Marcel for looking after this project.

Once again we were saddened to learn of the death of one of our elder saints. George Cooper passed away in late October. George was such a strong and positive witness in his home church and also at the Elbow Bible Camp. We send our deepest sympathies to his family.

Looking ahead, we anticipate many Christmas festivities going on in our communities. A major one for Skudesnes is the annual concert presented by the Outlook Community Choir on Dec 11th. As we enter into another Advent season, may we be joyful in our anticipation of Jesus' arrival. God's blessings to all.



Youth Corner:

Cassidy Haaland

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

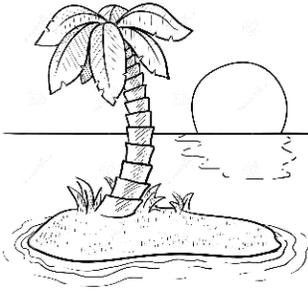
Psalm 139:7-10

Some of us are thinking about Christmas, and loving the snowy weather that surrounds us at this time of year. Others aren't so excited about the cold temperatures, and may be dreaming about warmer places. Regardless of which group you belong to, sit back and enjoy this short story by Cassidy Haaland. Cassidy is in Grade 7, and is the daughter of Chad Haaland (Bethlehem Hawarden congregation). Thanks, Cassidy!

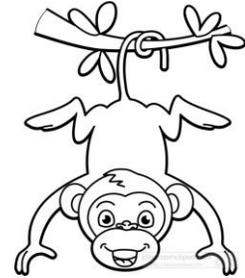
What would you do if you were stranded on an Island? First, imagine you went on a beautiful tour on an island cruise ship. (Kinda' sounds like Gilligan's Island!!!) Suddenly, a storm occurred. It came up FAST!!! Because of the waves, the ship was wrecked on the reef outside of the island, and washed all of us aboard, along with the remains of the boat, up onto the beach. After drying out, we all made our way over to the wrecked boat to find anything we could use to survive. There were five of us in total, including the guide who was giving the tour. Only a few things were on the boat. We had the following items that we could salvage: duct tape, sunscreen, a knife, a few lifejackets, some snorkel gear, and a lighter. There were also some containers. There was no paper or anything we could use as a fire starter. We looked around the island and there was food and fruit to be had EVERYWHERE! There were pineapples, coconuts, mangoes, bananas, and dragon fruit.

We started to make a shelter with palm tree branches and leaves so that we had something to sleep on and in overnight. Who knew what kind of critters were on the island? After finishing the shelter, we collected all the fruit that we could find. By the time we finished, it was getting dark... so it was time to make a fire. With the lighter, and some dried up palm tree leaves and coconut husks, we managed to get one started. We dragged some old, dry driftwood from the beach to keep the fire going. With the knife, we hacked into the fruit and had a delicious meal. After we were done eating, we all made our way into the shelter and went to sleep.

(Youth Article, Continued...)



During the night, we all had a terrible sleep. There were tons of sand flies that were bothering us, as well as the constant howling of some sort of monkeys!!! By morning, we were all super hungry so we all filled up on more fruit.



As a group, we decided that it would be best to make a big "S.O.S." sign in case any search helicopters or planes came looking for us. We also made a giant wood-covered teepee that we could light on fire to make lots of smoke for ships to see.

After making the teepee, we decided we had better find some fresh water. We could hear a waterfall, but didn't know how to get to it. With as many of the containers as we thought we could carry, we set off through the jungle to find the hidden waterfall. After quite the trek through some dense bush, we found it. The only problem was, it was surrounded by those darn howling monkeys! Man, they were loud! We made our way down to the water's edge, and filled up all the containers. We slowly backed out of the area so that the monkeys would not chase us. As we started back towards the beach, something fell from up above. It was a baby monkey!!! We picked the monkey up and set it back on a branch. Momma monkey did NOT like that! She started howling like crazy, basically telling all the other monkeys, "AFTER THEM!!!!" We ran as fast as we could, ripping and tearing our way through the thick bush. Luckily, all the containers had lids and we were able to save all the water we had got.

Once we got back to the beach and there were no more trees above us, the monkeys stopped chasing us and we were safe. Just as soon as we got to the beach and safe from the monkeys, the two people who were left at the beach to watch for rescue started screaming and yelling and waving their arms. They had started the fire and had obviously seen something out on the water. They saw us!!!! We were safe, we thought. It appeared to be a big ship. We were rescued. But, how were we to get from the island out to the big ship? After we all drank water that we had hauled back from the monkeys, we decided to try to swim out to the boat. The boat had anchored just past the reef and it looked like the people onboard were putting a small rowboat in the water. Praise GOD!!! We made it safely to the boat and back on to the ship!

The End.

That's my story, now what's yours..?

By Cassidy Haaland



Treasurer's Report

List of Memorials Given Since Last *Echoes* Publication

(IMO = "In Memory Of")

Submitted by Linda Follick

DONATIONS:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Outlook)
 Open Door Baptist Church
 Outlook Laestadian Lutheran Church
 Ron & Marcelle Savidan
 The Archibald Family
 The Rock Church
 Roy & Randi Vestre
 Grant Lee
 Lori Giles

IMO Joyce Olson

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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
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Through the Bible Camp website:

Click on "Support" --> *then*

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