

The Echoes

a Publication of



December 2019

A Serendipitous CHRISTmas...

*Devotional Submitted by
Pastor Todd Erickson
Roseau, Minnesota*

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the LORD appeared to them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people..."

In the midst of this upcoming month and into the new year ahead, our lives will become busy and often muddled with many things and thoughts. Some of these thoughts will give us moments of joy; others will fill our lives with extreme frustration and maybe even doubts and fears. Yet through it all, we will continue on with our everyday life doing what we need to do to exist, live, cope... to press forward as we spend our time on this floating sphere called the earth.

There's no telling exactly what the shepherds were thinking that night so long ago as they took care of their sheep and settled in for the evening, but one thing we do know is that a **Serendipitous** moment changed their lives. A Serendipitous message....

"...Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is CHRIST, the LORD..."

Serendipity is the dip of the serene into the common responsibilities of life. Serendipity occurs when something beautiful breaks through into the monotonous and the mundane. It is when the sun breaks through! It's been shining all the time; it's just that the matters and cares of this world have overtaken it, clouding it away, and making our life seem so purposeless. We began to expect little from it, and we're seldom disappointed when we do.

You may wonder at my ramblings, but as I've walked with God for a few decades now, I must confess that I still find much about Him incomprehensible and mysterious. But this much I know: He *delights* in surprising us. He dots our pilgrimage from earth to heaven with amazing serendipities... Just in the past week, I've had four encounters with dear people who have brightened my day by

reminding me of the precious gift that each day is. They have been like the angels once again telling me – a shepherd – the good news that indeed Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He is Christ (the Messiah), my LORD. God has used them to change me and draw me unto Him.

How about you? Your situation may be as hot and barren as a desert or as forlorn and meaningless as a wasteland. You may be tempted to think, “There’s no way!” when someone suggests things could change. Well, be on the lookout: God has brought the Serendipity of CHRISTmas into your life. Will you let Jesus change you this year? He changed the shepherds’ hearts; let Him change yours. Blessings to you all this CHRISTmas and throughout the upcoming New Year. Thank you so much for the wonderful week of camp spent with you all this past summer!



In Christ’s Love, Pastor Todd

“...The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” (Luke 2:8-10, 11, 20)



Next year is Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp’s

75th Anniversary!!



What are **YOUR** memories of Bible Camp through the years?

We want to hear **YOUR** stories and see your photos! These will all be collected and shared on a “display board” next year at camp. Thanks to Paula Archibald for submitting these gems:



Email submissions to “jeffdena@xplornet.com” or mail to Box 832, Lethbridge, AB, T1J 3Z8. Thank you!



Congregational Submissions



Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp (ELBC) is supported by local Christian churches, numerous members and volunteers. Throughout this newsletter, you will find summaries from four of these churches regarding their parish activities since the last edition of *The Echoes* was sent out, in June 2019.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, SK

Submitted by Ashley Starnes, Administrative Assistant

*Prepare the way for the LORD in the wilderness;
make a straight highway for our God in the desert.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill made low.
Isaiah 40:3 & 4a*

Greetings from Bethel! We hope that all of you are doing well and that Jesus is doing mighty things in your lives! We have been blessed to see God at work here at Bethel in many ways. We are thankful for his love and care for us.

September:

- 8th – Many ladies attended the Annual Skudesnes / Bethel Weiner Roast at the Coyote Den. A fun time was had by all! A special thank to Marcelle Savidan for hosting.
- 12th – Ladies' Thursday morning Bible Study kicked off. The ladies are again studying from the book of John – "Living Beyond the Ordinary."
- 12th – The Women's Mission Fellowship (WMF) had a regular meeting in the evening.
- 15th – Adult Sunday School kicked off with Pastor Dave Hesje leading! Service time also switched back to 10:30 a.m.
- 23rd – Pastor Dave began Adult Confirmation classes. It is so encouraging to see so many wanting to learn more about God and His Word!
- 29th – Childrens' Sunday School kicked off!

October:

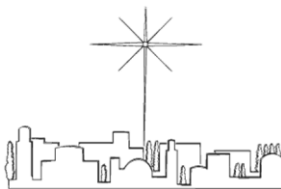
- 18th – Rob and Lisa Peterman hosted a "Mystery Supper" at Bethel for the youth. It was a great time!!
- 27th – We had a Harvest Potluck following the service. This was a chance to rejoice in the harvest for some, and also a reminder that many farmers need our prayers (especially this year) as many crops are still in the fields.
- 27th – Dale Hundebly and Larry Rinholm had a Bible Camp information booth set up following service to inform our congregation regarding items of interest coming up at the Camp meeting the following week.

November:

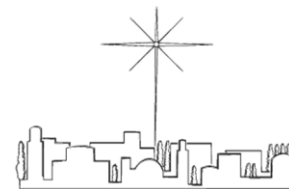
- 5th – Janice Scrimbitt hosted a youth Samaritan's Purse® "Operation Christmas Child" Shoebox packing party at Bethel. What an awesome ministry! It was so fun to involve our youth!
(Website: <https://www.samaritanspurse.ca/pack-a-shoebox>)
- 10th – Janice hosted a Samaritan's Purse® "Operation Christmas Child" Shoebox packing party for the congregation. Thank you, Janice, for your passion for this ministry – and to our congregation for your contributions!
- 14th – The WMF had their last regular meeting in the evening.
- 16th – Alison Uitti and Barb Friesen were here from Spoken Word Ministries to present fun, fellowship, worship and healing at a one day Ladies Retreat. What a blessing to all who attended! (Website: <http://www.swma.ca>)
- 17th – Pastor Al and Dorothy Pinno were at Bethel to share the Word of the Lord and about their overseas work. It was so wonderful to see them and to hear what God is doing in their lives!



We continue to pray for those who are hurting in our congregation, community and world. May we learn to trust God to meet all our needs. As we approach advent, we encourage everyone to remember that God is truly with us!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hawarden, SK



Submitted by Linda Follick

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish spoil or fade –kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 1Peter 1:1-5

August:

- Since Pastor Al Pinno has left, we have watched several video sermons from Christ Church Anglican Church in Plano, Texas, given by Pastor Paul Donison (Victor Lee's cousin and son of Marilyn Donison-Pederson).
- Our sympathies go out to the Cooper families on the passing of a brother-in-law and uncle, Bob Blenkinsop, from Hawarden.
- Our prayers go out to Lois Taylor who fell and broke her hip. She had surgery in Saskatoon and moved down to Davidson to recuperate at the hospital there.

She was there until the end of October and was able to go home under the care of her son, Darwin. Prayers have also been said for Sylvia Sundby's grandson who fell and had a serious head injury.

September:

- Sunday School started! Katie Haaland led the Adult Bible Study entitled, "Apostles." Marcel Vermette is teaching the younger children. (The older children sit in with the adults.) A wiener roast followed the service.
- Family and friends gathered at the church to honour Sarah Bryson on her upcoming marriage to Chad Haaland.
- Our Lutheran Church Womens' (LCW) group met at Katie Haaland's home. Our study was entitled, "Joseph –God working Out His Perfect Plan."
- Prayers went out to Catherine deGuzman who had her tonsils removed.
- Jay deGuzman returned home from the Philippines, where he was working with Youth With a Mission (YWAM). He was part of a team whose goal was getting a ship from Papua New Guinea over to the Philippines to be overhauled and used in their organization. (YWAM Website: <http://www.ywamcanada.org>)
- 29th – Congratulations and God's blessings to Chad and Sarah (Bryson) Haaland on their marriage!



October:

- Our LCW led the worship service at the Long Term Care wing of the Outlook Health Center.
- We studied the Biblical character Nehemiah at the LCW meeting, hosted by Linda Follick. The title of the study was, "Build a Strong Wall of Christ Like Living".
- It has been good to have Pastor Daryl Olson and Cheryl worshipping with us several times this summer. He has led our morning worship service and brought us God's Word on several Sundays as well.
- Pastor Al and Dorothy Pinno came here after attending the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) Fall Retreat in Cypress Hills from October 21st - 24th. (AFLC Website: <http://afllcanada.org>) Pastor Al led our morning worship service on the 27th, with lunch and fellowship following. That afternoon, Pastor Al and Dorothy left for Winnipeg, and then travelled on to the United States to give mission presentations at several congregations.

Other Items of Note:

- Our sympathies go out to Ruth Cooper whose cousin from Edmonton, Arthur Boyarzin, passed away. Lori Giles drove her to the funeral.
- On November 4th, we hosted the Annual General Meeting of the Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp.
- The LCW led the morning worship service at the Long Term Care in Outlook.
- It was good to have Pastor Al and Dorothy back here on November 17th for another morning worship service. They headed back to Alix, AB the next day (after being away from their home for a month!).
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Linda Lee who is undergoing medical treatments. We also send prayers and best wishes for Lois Taylor and Sylvia's grandson, who are still recovering from falls.



The Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp has a website:

<http://elbowlutheranbiblecamp.com>

Please visit often to learn more about the camp and see updates for 2020!

For Your Information...

On July 16th, 2019, Cabin 9 (Boys' Dorm) sustained fire damage, due to a power surge during a lightning storm. The electrical wiring had multiple failures while the walls had char spots and smoke damage. The group at camp ("The Rock" Church from Saskatoon) was able to use fire



extinguishers to put out the fire. Volunteers washed the kids' clothes and bedding while sleeping arrangements were adjusted. The great part was that none of the kids that week – or the rest of the camping season – had to go home or miss camp because of the fire!



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 (Hundebly) Michaelis at:

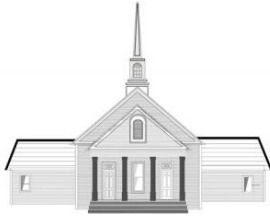
jeffdena@xplornet.com

Thank you!

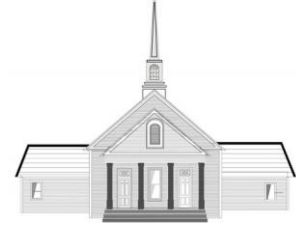


Our next Family Bible Camp Week runs from **July 4 - 11, 2020.**

We want to see you there!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Outlook, SK



Submitted by Bev Berntson

*And this is the testimony God has given us: God has given us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life: whoever does
not have the Son of God does not have life.
1 John 5, 11 and 12*

With fall arriving, Bethlehem Lutheran saw many new faces and activities – new students at the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (L.C.B.I. Website: <https://lcbi.sk.ca>) and returning students worshipping with us. It is always so good to see all the young people in our congregation.

Sunday School has resumed with many children singing, playing and learning about the Bible.

Ladies' Bible Studies, Adult Bible Studies, Youth Groups, morning coffee on Tuesdays and many other activities keep the church a bustling place.

As well, many new Discipleship groups have started teaching us to engage with, equip, encourage and edify our fellow Christian brothers and sisters.

Many members attended Homecoming Weekend at L.C.B.I. on October 18th and 19th.

Sunday School children are busy collecting and packing articles for the Samaritan's Purse® "Operation Christmas Child" Shoeboxes (Website: <https://www.samaritanspurse.ca/pack-a-shoebox>). Sunday, November 3rd is packing day. The children love packing the boxes for children all over the world!

Sunday evening, October 27th was our "Harvest Pie Party." We learned about LAMP Ministries (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots Inc.; Website: <https://www.lampministry.org>) and heard from the members who went to Southend, SK in August. They are collecting donations of winter outerwear, boots, quilts and blankets. Some members will be heading to Southend again soon to deliver these items.



On Sunday, November 3rd, we acknowledged "All Saints Sunday" by lighting candles to remember the Saints who have gone before us.

Christmas is just around the corner! On behalf of myself and every member of Bethlehem, "Have a very BLESSED CHRISTMAS, and Happy New Year!"

**Skudesnes
Evangelical**



**Lutheran
Church**

Loreburn, SK

Submitted by Maxine Follick

Greetings from Skudesnes! Philippians 4:19 says:

"But my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

It's easy enough to repeat these promises and believe them when things are going well. It becomes a bit harder when the crop is crushed under a foot of snow!! As I predicted in the last *Echoes*, the harvest was long and frustrating, with some crops still waiting to be harvested. But we need to keep trusting that God really does care for us and knows our every need.

We have had a very quiet fall season at Skudesnes with everyone focused on getting the harvest done.

- On September 8th, Marcelle Savidan hosted a ladies' wiener roast at Coyote Springs Campground. It is always good to get together and share some food and laughs!!!
- Due to timing conflicts and inclement weather, our Bible Study got off to a slow start this fall... but hopefully from now on we will be able to carry on with studies on the third Monday of the month at Skudesnes. This year we are studying the book of Acts.
- On November 5th, we had the burial service for Leland Akre (after a service had been held in Saskatoon). Leland was the son of Alfred and Marjorie Akre. After the committal, we served coffee and lunch. Our sympathies go out to Leland's family and friends.
- On November 10th, Pastor Sonje had her last day of holidays; in her place, we had Pastor Dan Haugen and his wife Bev with us for the service. Pastor Dan was our interim pastor for a while a few years ago, so it was fun to reconnect with him and Bev as we shared a potluck dinner.
- We collected Samaritan's Purse® "Operation Christmas Child" Shoeboxes
- Advent is soon upon us and we are looking forward again to the Outlook Community Choir presenting their Christmas Cantata on December 17th at 7:30 pm.
- On December 22nd, we are having a Candlelight Service at Skudesnes at 7:00 p.m... and then it will be Christmas!! God's blessings to each one as we look forward to celebrating the first coming of Jesus, and also as we anticipate His final return.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Treasurer's Report



**Since the Last Echoes Publication,
Donations have been Given In
Memory of these Loved Ones:**

Submitted by Linda Follick

Robert Blenkinsop
Marion Pederson

Harry Deyenberg
Art Boyarzin

A sincere, "Thank you!" is extended to all who are able to faithfully donate to our Bible Camp. We appreciate every donation, large or small!

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.



Attention: Long-Distance Campers Include Your Voice at Camp!



Previously, only members of the "charter churches" of the Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp (ELBC) have been eligible to vote at general meetings and to hold positions on the Board. The charter churches are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| † Bethel Lutheran, Elbow | † Bethlehem Lutheran, Hawarden |
| † Skudesnes Lutheran, Loreburn | † Bethlehem Lutheran, Outlook |

There has been a desire among the ELBC Board members to make some changes to the existing constitution and bylaws. These changes enable "long-distance" campers to:

1. Have voting rights at all general meetings, and
2. Provide for up to four Directors to be elected to the Camp Board with full voting privileges from the floor as numbers and interest grow.

The constitution / bylaws now allow "electronic" participation in meetings to make long-distance attendance practical.

Within the newly ratified constitution / bylaws, provision for this to happen has been realized. The following application is the result of this initiative. Please **fill out the attached form**, and accept this as an invitation to become members of ELBC.

Larry Rinholm
Director, ELBC