

The Echoes

a Publication of



December 2020

Master Bedroom

*Devotional Submitted by
Pastor Dave Hesje
"One-Tired Preacher"*

*Bethel Lutheran Church
Elbow, SK*

My favorite letter to Santa: "Dear Santa, I'll take anything because I haven't been good."

My wife has a pecking order for people that has been clearly revealed over the years, by where

she places people to sleep when they come to spend a night. When our teenage son Dan had his friends sleep over, Deb put them in a tent in the backyard. Deb would throw food over the balcony to keep them out of her house! I don't think they were even allowed use of our washroom! Hey they're boys! If our teenage daughter Michelle had a sleepover, Deb put the girls in the basement with rights to the fridge and washroom! If Deb's and my friends spent the night, they slept upstairs in our spare room and we cooked and waited on them! However, when our parents, or a really special guest slept at our house, Deb moved us into the spare bedroom and gave them "The Master Bedroom"! They call it the master bedroom because that is where the head of the house, or master of the home sleeps, right? Of course, right! In hindsight, no matter what SCRIPTURE says, apparently, I'm not the master, but the one who sleeps with the master! I would press this issue, if it wasn't for the fear of ending up in the backyard with Dan and his friends!

Our Master bedroom is our best bedroom. At times it has had an ensuite, almost always a T.V., and for sure it is our biggest bedroom with the most expensive and comfortable mattress we own. If you get this room you are at the very top of Deb's pecking order, as she has given you our very best!

When Jesus set aside equality with God to be born baby Jesus, the only room the world had for Him was a manger! A manger is worse than the backyard! It was a feeding trough in a where cattle eat, slobber and you know... As Jesus grew to become a man, it didn't get much better. He said, "Foxes have holes and the birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." When Jesus died, He was placed in a borrowed tomb! As the room in which Deb

places our overnight guests reveals their importance to her, the room the world made for Jesus reveals where He is on the world's pecking order!

No one is greater than Jesus, He is God, the creator, sustainer, and redeemer of the world! Jesus is the perfect, sinless Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! No one deserves our Master bedroom more than Jesus!

In Bible times, most never knew who Jesus was and who they were rejecting! We have no excuse! If the Master Bedroom represents your very best and the backyard is your manger, or the least you have, where is Jesus in your pecking order?

I love lots of things about Christmas: the family coming together, the games, the food and all the laughs we have. But in all these things, where is Jesus? Is He in the center of all we do – the Master Bedroom – or is He outside looking in from the manger?

You have a pecking order. If you pay attention to your priorities, your conversations, and where you spend your time and money, you will know where Jesus fits in!

We are in a pandemic and a time of social isolation; however, it's all the more reason and opportunity to move Jesus from your manger to your Master Bedroom! 2020 can be your best year ever if Jesus moves into your Master Bedroom!

God is Lord of all, or not Lord at all! God asks for our first fruits, our Master Bedroom! Surely because of who Jesus is, and all He has done for you, He deserves your Master Bedroom! If Jesus doesn't get your Master Bedroom at Christmas – the time of the year we celebrate His birth – where will He be the rest of the year? This Christmas 2020, let's give Jesus our Master Bedroom by giving Him our very best... and let's keep Him there!

"...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

In His Grip, Pastor Dave





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 three of these churches regarding their parish activities since the last edition of *The Echoes* was sent out, in September 2020.



Bethel Lutheran Church Elbow, SK



Submitted by Ashley Starnes, Administrative Assistant

*Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you;
therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.
For the Lord is a God of justice.
Blessed are all who wait for him!
Isaiah 30:18*

Greetings from Bethel! We hope this finds each of you well. I know that the last few months have been challenging at best and beyond discouraging for many. Praying that God is sending people at just the right time to bring comfort to you and that you will continue to seek Him often.

September:

- 16th Ladies' Wednesday morning Bible study resumed with Donna Hundebly leading!
- 22nd A bridal shower was held for Reyann Arugay, bride elect of Tim Hesje. Although it was very small due to guidelines, many dropped off gifts and Reyann had a lovely time!
- 23rd Wednesday evening Bible study resumed in person and by live stream. To maximize the interaction for all involved, Pastor Dave is leading the in-person study at 7:00 p.m. and the virtual one at 8:00 p.m.
- 27th Worship service time changed back to winter hours (10:30 a.m.). As well, adult Bible study resumed and is being held in the fellowship hall this year.
- 28th Confirmation began in person and by Zoom. This year they are studying "Living in God's Grace".

October:

- 1st There was a Women’s Mission Fellowship (WMF) general meeting held at the church.
- 4th Children’s Sunday School began. This year looks a little bit different as we need to spread out and sit in family groups, but we are very encouraged to be able to still learn about God together!
- 10th The wedding of Tim and Reyann Hesje was held at Bethel. A lovely ceremony and reception was held in-person for a small group and also live streamed so many of the rest of us could share in their happiness! We wish nothing but blessings for Tim, Reyann and their son Karl as they become a new family!
- 18th Daniel and Julie Olson were married in Alberta on a lovely, snowy day! We pray God’s blessing over them as they begin their lives together!
- 19th – 20th – Some of our congregation attended the Association of Free Lutheran Churches (AFLC) Retreat in Cypress Hills, SK.

November:

- 8th Due to the impending blizzard, it was a very small service this day but again, many were very thankful for the live stream!
- 11th The local Legion held a small, outdoor Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph in Loreburn. Lest we forget...
- 19th The youth had an Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing party at the Strongfield Hall. Thank you to the Petermans and Janice Scrimbitt for organizing this!

We continue to pray for all those that have lost loved ones, those that are ill in body and those that are struggling in spirit. Let’s continue to bring them before God but also be mindful of how we can be His hands and feet to those who are in need of comfort.

As we approach the Advent season, let us all prepare our hearts for Jesus and be ever thankful for His love and sacrifice for us.



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:

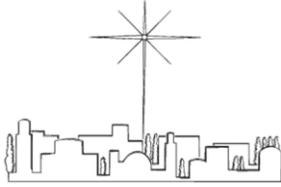
jeffdena@explornet.com

Thank you!

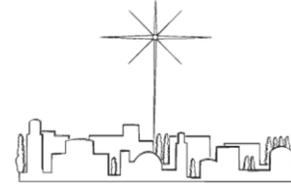


Our next Family Bible Camp Week runs from **July 3 - 10, 2021.**

We want to see you there!



**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*

We are so blessed to have God as our rock and salvation! He is our strength which cannot be shaken as long as we don't take our eyes off of His leading and guiding. In the midst of this COVID scare we need not be afraid, for He is in control and will always be with us no matter what comes our way.

Worship services continue with Pastors Daryl Olson and Adam Driscoll leading us. We are so thankful that we have been able to continue to meet; because of our low numbers, it hasn't been a problem.

During the last week of July, Darwin Taylor went up to the Cree communities in the LaRonge area. He shared the Gospel of Jesus with over forty children, teens, adults and Elders from three Cree communities. He met outside in people's yards distributing "Gospel Treat Bags" that contained both treats and printed messages reminding them of God's love and prayers for them from God's family of believers.

In late August, Grant Lee pulled a trailer with Jay and Eileen de Guzman's belongings out to Victoria where Jay is working as a Marine Superintendent at the port in Victoria. Rhonda Lee went along to help with the move. They have rented a house in a suburb of Victoria. We pray God's blessings on them as they serve Him in another province.

We continue with our Lutheran Church Women (LCW) meetings as we are able. The last two studies were "The Poison of Unresolved Anger," and "When I Can't Understand Why," from our study on "Don't Follow Your Feelings" (Linda Korhonen).

Cadence and Cassidy Haaland are attending LCBI in grades 10 and 12. Cohen is taking Grade 9 at Walter Murray in Saskatoon. Hayes and Tate Vermette are attending Outlook High School taking grades 12 and 8.

In October, Linda Follick had hip surgery and Ruth Cooper's daughter Leanne Rinholm had surgery, and both are recovering quickly.

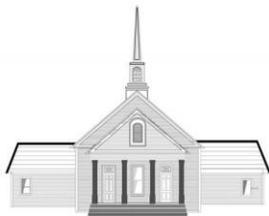
The LCW put on a couple services at the Long Term Care Home in Outlook. The first time was outside so distancing could happen, and the last time we sang in the entryway and used a microphone so they could hear.

On October 26th, Darwin Taylor left for the Grandmother's Bay / La Ronge area. He is taking up some donations for the community and is also teaching a driver training session.

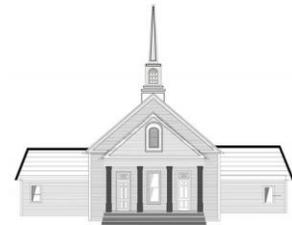
Tate Vermette was presented with a Bible from the congregation. He is starting to take Confirmation classes under the leadership of his dad, Marcel.

Congratulations to a former member, Harry Johnson, who turned 100 in October! He is now in Long Term Care in Outlook.

We praise God for answered prayers for healing for Linda Lee, Linda Follick, and Leanne Rinholm. We ask for continued prayers for Tre Archibald and his family, as well as Darwin Taylor's health and ministry to the Cree nations. We think of our seniors – especially Roy Olson – who are isolating themselves for their own protection. We pray God's blessings on them for good health, and that they would feel His presence with them at all times.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Outlook, SK



Submitted by Bev Berntson

*"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."
Galatians 5:6b*

What can one say about these troubled times except, "Have faith and love one another"? Things at Bethlehem are as normal as possible these days. Most things are carrying on, following COVID rules.

We have service every Sunday and also get to watch it virtually. Sunday School follows the Service. Everyone is so happy to be able to congregate and see each other in person, even if it's from a distance!

Church Council meets monthly, Bible studies are continuing, and discipleship classes are going ahead with a few changes. Everyone is starting to think about celebrating the birth of our Lord and how we can do it as a congregation.

Blessings to all who read ***The Echoes***. Stay safe and believe He will take care of us.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Youth With a Mission (YWAM) Medical Ships: de Guzman Family Update



We live in an ever-changing world! In response to the updates from the World Health Organization, plus the individual governments involved, YWAM Medical Ships has decided to suspend ship-based outreaches until it is deemed safe for our crew and the communities that we are reaching. This decision has been weighed against many factors, including the travel restrictions placed on international volunteers – who make up 70% of our personnel.

YWAM Medical Ships is deeply committed to serving remote communities in Papua

New Guinea, the South Pacific and soon the Philippines. We will do all we can to ensure that we are well-positioned to resume our full suite of field-based operations in remote, rural areas at the appropriate time. We will continue to monitor and assess the impact of COVID-19 and adjust our planning accordingly.

On a personal note – and how this affects our family and our ability to continue to serve with YWAM Medical Ships and serve again onboard in the future – we have needed to move. During the summer, we relocated to Vancouver Island to allow Jay to work out of Esquimalt Harbour with the auxiliary vessels at the Canadian Navy Base. Working on the water locally will augment the much needed marine operations time Jay needs to be able to renew his Captain's license in 2021. Keeping his license active and current enables him to continue to serve in a very tangible way. Jay continues to work with YWAM Medical Ships to help facilitate the hands on work that will take place once borders open up again.

We are very thankful for a safe and successful move from Saskatchewan to Vancouver Island in and amongst all this uncertainty. The kids are great little travelers and we are so proud of the way they have handled this move. The school year has been met with a new school, new teachers and some new friends. Caleb and Katherine love their new school and are settling in very well. Mikkel misses his siblings when they go to school, having been used to them being around all the time. At 20 months he is really trying his best to keep up with them! With everyone being socially distant right now we



(de Guzman Family Missions Update Continued...)

have not fully settled into our new community. We would love to find a local church where we can attend and connect with others... until then, we are relying on the good preaching that we are blessed with via the internet.

We feel very blessed with this new opportunity that God has provided us. We are also thankful for His provision of safety during our moving, and for being with Caleb and Katherine as they started a new school this fall. Please pray with us as Jay works at getting his required hours so he can renew his Captain's License



in 2021 and as Eileen is working on transferring her nursing license from Saskatchewan to British Columbia.

Many Blessings,
Jay, Eileen, Caleb, Katherine and Mikkel

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Linda Follick

Thanks so much for your continued support for our camp! Since our last report, **memorial gifts** have been given in memory of Gerry Cooper, other Cooper family relatives, Derek Langager, and Ron Popowich. A gift was also given **in honour** of Harry Johnson's 100th Birthday.

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.