

The Echoes

a Publication of



September 2018

My Eternal Hope

*Devotional Submitted by
Pastor James L. Johnson
Camarillo, California*

Acts 20:28

***"Be on guard for yourselves
and for all the flock of God
which the Holy Spirit appointed
you as overseers to shepherd
the church."
(HCBS Translation)***

Ever since my family's great experience at Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp last July, we have been thinking about the value of retreats.

You spend six days, going away, and coming together, learning and growing with other Christians, and investing in God's Word for a while. During that precious week in early July, we got to know so many new friends -- and catch up with long-time connections. Linda and I loved seeing our boys, Isaiah and Titus, build meaningful friendships with our new Elbow friends.

Linda and I did the same thing in late August this year. We spent a week in Colorado at a marriage retreat for ministry couples. The facilitator for our group was a long-time youth pastor named John Wood. One night, John led us in a study of the passage above, Acts 20:28. Three truths about the passage above caught my eye -- and I'm sending it along to you.

1. God wants me to be "on guard" for myself. We need to take care of each other. In Acts 20, Paul was talking to good friends from his church family in Ephesus. He loved them and was leaving them after three years. Down at the ocean port, he tells them, "Be on guard for yourselves." We need that. We do that instinctively. It's natural for humans to protect ourselves. We drive defensively. We veer from danger in a car, breaking hard at sudden impediments -- a deer crossing the road, a pickup hugging the center line going the opposite direction.

We also guard our eyes and bodies in a crowd. When an object (or a Norwegian softball) is flung by our eyes, we blink and duck as fast as we can. When a dangerous person walks near us, we back away. On July 1st, during the fireworks display in downtown Elbow at 10 p.m., we were so close to the fireworks. The ashes were falling on our heads! We shuffled and ducked. We said, "Watch out!" We need to do the same thing spiritually every day. Paul says, "Watch out for

yourselves." That means coming away sometimes – going to Bible Camp, getting away on a marriage retreat, or making sure you get to church on Sunday. It's all about being "on guard" for ourselves. Part of that involves rest and part involves fellowship. God wants you to be on guard.

2. God also wants us to be "on guard for...all the flock of God." We need to watch out for each other. When I'm in a busy parking lot in Camarillo, at the Outlet Mall or at the busy In-n-Out restaurant, I'm like a Papa Bear. I watch for danger, stare down cars backing up too fast. I put my arms around my kids and grandkids and yell, "watch out" or "wait." God wants us to be protectors of His people. It's the reason we do family camp. It's the reason we gather for family reunions. We want to keep in touch. Keep your eyes out for your kids, for your parents, for your nieces and nephews, for your grandchildren. Keep your head on a swivel because the Devil hates our kids and wants to "steal, kill and destroy" them (John 10). Gather together with other Christians frequently. They will watch out for you, and we will watch out for them.

3. God also appoints us to support certain people. Look at Acts 20:28 again. "Be on guard for yourselves and for the all the flock of God, which the Holy Spirit appointed you as overseers." Did you know that God appointed you to be an overseer for other Christians? Paul wasn't just talking to pastors and leaders and elders. He was talking to *everyone* who is a spiritual leader. God has established, appointed and put you in charge over a huddle of friends who don't know Him. He has established your family and your church. He set you in a circle of relatives. It was no mistake. He puts married couples together, and gives children to men and women. He calls Pastors to oversee churches. Do you get it? God is in charge of appointing leaders and putting families together. The Holy Spirit does it. *Jesus saves us, God gathers us, and the Holy Spirit brings us together.*

At family camp we bond and come together. We learn each other's stories and we rally together. These relationships are not coincidental. The Holy Spirit does it. Jesus said, "I know my own and my own know me." (John 10). And then the Holy Spirit calls protectors and leaders to oversee our growth in Christ (See 1 Timothy 3).

When we left camp on July 7th and fled to the Czech Republic, we found another family in Trinec to share the load and help us in our task to share the gospel to middle school children. We had a great time and 15 kids came to Jesus! One week later, we were back in Winnipeg and visiting our daughter, Lydia, and her husband and two children. It's all family -- from Elbow to Czech Republic to Grand Forks, North Dakota -- then Camarillo.

We're a family who cares about each other and watches out for each other.

Isn't it fun to be a part of God's flock?

Thanks for your encouraging words, Pastor Jim! Please keep the Johnson family in your prayers in the coming months, as the next year will come with a lot of changes for their family. **Friends can pray for the Johnson family in the following ways:**

1. Saying goodbye to our friends in Camarillo will be hard.
2. The congregation has voted to call one of my former top students to serve. He and his wife have four small children. They will give an answer by mid-July.
3. We're hoping to make an offer on a house near our new Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) church within a few days. Pray for provision to cover the costs to close the sale.
4. Pray for son (Seth) at Bible College and daughter (Miah) at Bible School.

To keep up with the Johnsons, go to the following website
<https://www.goodshepherd-church.net/>

Send mail to:

Jim and Linda Johnson
1864 Temple Ave
Camarillo, CA 93010



The Johnsons will send their new address in November.



This year's Bible Camp was a resounding success! Thank you to ALL of our volunteers. We couldn't do any of this without YOU!

**Do YOU know a great leader??
We need YOUR help!**

Planning for next summer's camp begins NOW! If you have a recommendation for a Speaker, Bible Teacher or Youth leader, please notify the Bible Camp Board by contacting your local Bible Camp Board Member or Grant Lee at (306) 855-4900. 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 2018.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, SK

Submitted by Ashley Stamnes, Administrative Assistant

Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10

Blessings to you all from Bethel, Elbow. We pray that you have had a good summer and that you are looking forward to what fall has to bring. We have had a busy summer at Bethel despite the fact that there are not too many “events” to report!

June:

- 4th A shower for Sarah Hundebly (bride elect of Nick Foth) was put on at Bethel by friends and family. Sarah received many lovely gifts and a wonderful time was had by all. Sarah and Nick had a beautiful wedding in Saskatoon on June 24th. May God bless them always!
- 8th Loreburn Central School graduation was held at 7:00 pm. Best wishes to all the graduates. Our congregation is especially proud of Kyle Archibald!!
- 13th The ladies of our congregation had a cookie baking bee for the children from “The Rock” church outreach who come to camp at Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp. This is such a special ministry!
- 17th A beautiful brunch was held in honour of the men in our congregation for Father’s Day! This was also the day that we switched to our summer hours. Service has been at 9:30 a.m. for the summer.
- 18th The annual Teen Challenge Golf Classic was held at the Harbour Golf Course. It was such a blessing to be able to support this amazing outreach!!
- 23rd The first Meridell Knutson Memorial Tea Garden Party was held at Janet Hundebly’s home. The ladies were encouraged to dress for “high tea” if they were able, in hats and gloves. A lovely time was enjoyed by all.
- We were blessed to have Kevin Daugherty and Ken Wilsdon share God’s Word with us in June.

July:

- 1st – 7th Family Camp was amazing this year! God's name was lifted high, the speakers were wonderful, numbers were up (especially the children), the food was terrific as usual and the fellowship of believers second to none! We look forward to next year with anticipation!
- The Wednesday evening Bible study group decided to continue meeting through the summer. They have been meeting for prayer and are reading through the book of Mark together.
- We were blessed to have Rick Johnson, Ken Bush, Kevin Daugherty, and John Barkman share God's Word with us in July.

August:

- 4th Send a Kid to Camp Project. Several ladies from Bethel organized a table to sell donated items in support of the children that attend "The Rock" Church Camp. May God touch many lives through this amazing ministry!
- We were blessed to have Kevin Daugherty, Ken Bush and Adam Driscoll share God's Word with us in August.

We ask that you would rejoice with us in the many answered prayers throughout the summer and continue to hold up those hurting and ill in our midst. We also are continuing to praise God for the men that are sharing His Word with our congregation and ask that you would agree in prayer that God would send His choice of shepherd to us in His perfect timing.

May God richly bless each and every one of you. He is a good, good Father.

**Skudesnes
Evangelical**



**Lutheran
Church**

Loreburn, SK

Submitted by Maxine Follick

Greetings from Skudesnes! My thoughts are somewhat scattered as I have just learned of the passing of Debbie Joel. She fought such a long, hard battle but we know she is at peace now with Jesus. That news brought freshly to mind the

very sad news we had this summer of the sudden passing of Norman Langager. Norman was a life time member of Skudesnes and he and Sylvia were dedicated, strong supporters of the Bible Camp. Norman's funeral was held at Skudesnes on July 19th. Our sincere sympathies go out to these grieving families. They are remembered as God's dedicated servants.

We also had joyous occasions at Skudesnes this summer. On May 6th Emryn Mary Ayers, daughter of Wyatt and Bailey (Sanden) Ayers was baptized into the Christian faith. On May 27th, her little cousin, Lily Ann Sanden, daughter of Dusty and Christina (Aadland) Sanden was also baptized. We welcome these little ones into our Church family and pray God's blessing and guidance for them.

On March 20th we enjoyed the Outlook choir as they sang their Easter Cantata. Then, on Maundy Thursday, we had a joint supper and communion with Redeemer Lutheran Church (Davidson, SK).

We continue to have our monthly Bible studies at the Church led by Pastor Sonje. We have welcomed friends from the United Church to study with us. We are now doing a study on the Beatitudes.

Pastor Sonje took two weeks of her holidays at the beginning of July. On July 1st, Lorimer Olson brought us the message. We are so blessed to have Lorimer willing to share with us when Pastor Sonje is gone. On the 8th of July we had joint service with the United Church as we celebrated our rural way of life. The service was followed by a BBQ lunch.

A big, "Thank you!" goes out to Ron Savidan for volunteering to represent Skudesnes on the Bible Camp board.

Best wishes for speedy recoveries to Doris Stamnes and Elaine Vollmer who have both undergone hip surgery this summer. Our best wishes also go to Darrah Langager, who is having shoulder surgery this week.

Our best wishes go out to Doris Stamnes as she has moved into a new residence in Davidson.

Throughout all this grief and changing situations, and also in rejoicing at new life through baptism, may we always remember these words:

"The Lord is my light and salvation---whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life---of whom shall I be afraid?"

For He will conceal me in His shelter in the day of adversity; He will hide me under the cover of His tent; He will set me high on a rock."

Psalm 27:1 & 5



The Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp has a website:

<http://elbowlutheranbiblecamp.com>

Please visit often to learn more about the camp and see updates for 2019!

**A
G
M**



Please make plans to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp Association. It is being held at 7:00 p.m. on November 5th, 2018 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Outlook, SK (601 Ash Street).

All are welcome. We want YOUR input!



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:

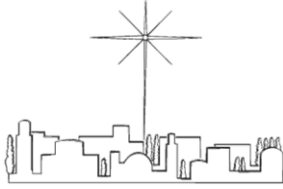
jeffdena@explornet.com

Thank you!

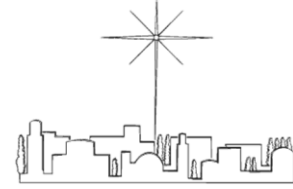


Our next Family Bible Camp Week runs from **July 6 -13, 2019.**

We want to see you there!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hawarden, SK



Submitted by Linda Follick

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:37

Harvest is well underway in our area. May we also be willing workers in His harvest fields.

June:

- 5th Katie Haaland hosted the Lutheran Church Women's (LCW) meeting. Dorothy Pinno led the Bible study on "Intimacy With God" (Lesson 6: "From Surviving to Soaring—Listening to the Spirit").
 - Wednesday evening Praise / Study / Prayer meetings continue on Wednesday evenings with Pastor Al Pinno. He is leading the study titled, "True & False Prophecy: Then & Now."
 - 7th Jay, Eileen, Caleb and Katherine deGuzman returned home from their mission trip on a medical ship that worked out of Papua New Guinea. Jay was the ship's captain and Eileen worked as a nurse on the ship. They did lots of surgeries in the area. The children were home schooled by Eileen.
 - Bethlehem had their annual clean-up day at the church and attended clean up days down at Elbow Bible Camp.
 - 10th Last Sunday of Sunday School with a wiener roast following. Pastor Al concluded his study on 1 and 2 Corinthians during the adult Sunday School hour.
 - 17th "Happy Father's Day" to all the Dads! Pastor Al spoke on "Our Father in Heaven." (Matt 6: 9-15, 25-34).
 - 20th Lorimer Olson joined the ladies to put on the church service at the Outlook Health Center.
 - Pastor Al left for a month-long mission trip to Russia. He spoke at three Bible Camps:
 - Moscow – Most of the attendees were men with drug and alcohol addictions.
 - Efremkino – Family Camp
 - Penza – Family Camp
- He shared seven basic truths on Jesus that God's Holy Spirit testifies to in His Word.
- While Pastor Al was away, Marcel Vermette, Lorimer Olson and Daniel Olson spoke at our worship services.
 - 28th Congratulations to Wylie Vermette who graduated from Kenaston High School! He is apprenticing at Brandt Industries to get his Heavy Duty Mechanics Certification.

- Greg Rokos has finished his seminary training in Fergus Falls and has accepted a call to serve at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Camrose, AB beginning August 1st. We pray God's blessings on Greg, Dena and their family (Danyel, Garrick, Jesslyn, and Colby) as they begin their calling in Camrose.

July:

- 1st - 7th Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp week with Pastor Jim Johnson (Evening Speaker: Camarillo, CA), Pastor Norm Miller (Bible Teacher: Abbotsford, BC), and Pastor Adam Driscoll (Youth Leader: Moose Jaw, SK). Ministry teams came from the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (Camrose, AB) and the Association Free Lutheran Bible School (Minneapolis, MN). It was a week of blessing with 200 registered!
- 12th Linda Lee hosted the LCW meeting. Katie Haaland led the seventh study entitled, "Intimacy With God – Preparing My Heart."

August:

- 2nd Linda Follick hosted the LCW meeting. Dorothy Pinno led the Bible Study "Intimacy With God – Lesson 8 – Preparing My Heart."
- Pastor Al Pinno has been sharing his series entitled, "A Googolplex of Signs & Wonders," and on "Jesus & The Religions of the World."
- 12th Doreen Carlson attended the baptism of her great grandchildren Ian, Louisa, and Noelle Biberdorf on Sunday, August 12th at the Kenaston Anglican Church. Nancy and Troy Carlson were the sponsors for their nieces and nephew. We pray God's blessings on these little ones.

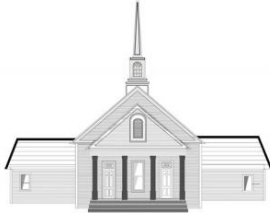
Our sympathies go out to the families of Norman Langager and the families of Ruth Hesje who passed away recently. Get well prayers go out to Marcel and Jolie Vermette who have both broken their arms in the last couple of months. Marcel had surgery and Jolie is on a waiting list.



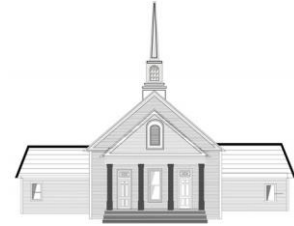
The following items were left at Bible Camp after our week together:

1. 3 Baseball Caps
2. John Deere Men's XL Jacket
3. 1 Medium Child's Bunnyhug
4. 1 Calvin Klein XXL Grey Sweater
5. 7 Mugs from the Children's VBS Craft

If you think any of these items might belong to you, please contact Linda Lee at (306) 855-4900 or leml29@outlook.com. **Items not claimed by November 1st will be donated.** Thank you!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Outlook, SK



Submitted by Bev Berntson

Well, summer is almost over and we are looking forward to fall activities starting.
“Heavenly Father, help us to use our gifts to serve you. Amen.”

May:

- 6th Gideon's Praise Festival was held on Sunday evening.
- 13th Mother's Day, and Graduation at the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (LCBI)
Graduates from our congregation were Mari Friggstad, Meredith Bruce, Nolan Haugen, Ellie Reddekopp and Alexander Behenna

June:

- 3rd Final Sunday School, picnic and games. Fun was had by young and old alike!
- 9th Confirmation luncheon was held for confirmands and their families.
- 16th Congregational canoe trip! Many turned out to canoe down the river and landed at Ken Haugen's for a barbecue.
- 17th Confirmation Sunday
Confirmands were William Behenna, Chase Bruynooghe, Mathew Dolman and Alexander Haugen.
- 29th Congratulations to the following Outlook High School graduates from our congregation: Matthew Hogan, Alex Hong, Josh Ivan, August Lammers and Elizabeth Stushnoff.
- 30th The last day for Shelley Luedtke as Administrative Assistant in our church. We thank Shelley for her years in this position.

July:

- Through the summer months, we held one service at 10:00 a.m. with coffee and fellowship following.
- 1st Joint Community Service was held in Outlook. Intern Ben Wyatt, from Bethlehem, delivered the message.
- 3rd We welcomed Amy Reddekopp as our new Administrative Assistant.

August:

- 13th – 17th Vacation Bible School was held at the Alliance Church in Outlook, with many children from our congregation attending..
- Pastor Daryl attended the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) Convention in Denver, CO along with Sheryl. They also holidayed along the way.
- 26th This is our last service with our Intern, Ben. We wish Ben, Ruth and boys God's richest blessings on their future.

All in all, we have had a busy summer here at Bethlehem with many activities, the usual Tuesday morning coffee time, and meetings for "A Night in Bethlehem" (which I will fill you in on in my next report). May you all have a blessed fall and all the best to teachers and students heading back to school.

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

Submitted by Linda Follick

Norman Langager
Ruth Hesje
Debbie Joel

Blessed be their memories!



Please Note: We will no longer be publishing the individual names of donors in ***The Echoes***, as we honour the words of Matthew 6:4 (New Living Translation):

"Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you."



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.



The Bigger Picture

by Klayton Knutson

Klayton is 15 years old, and resides in Camrose, AB.

There is a reason for everything. Yes, including terrible things in life. One thing to keep in mind is the bigger picture. “Bad” for you could be “good” for another person.

Let’s say you didn’t win the lottery for the hundredth time. Many people would complain that they didn’t win; however, another person who won it may have needed it more. We as humans only see *our* perspective – our narrow-minded point of view. That doesn’t mean everyone is selfish, but it’s human nature. If you think about it, many individuals pray to God for material things or selfish things. I am not saying that that is wrong... but in excess, it is.

Even the most kind-hearted, selfless people are not one hundred percent selfless. Instead of being narrow-minded, think about the big picture that God has planned. This may be hard due to humans only seeing through one pair of eyes but do try. Secondly, God provides guidance and strength. Ask for that instead of literal things. Here in the first world, we are very privileged. Be content with God has given you already! We are blessed with more conveniences than the Kings of old. We have so many devices that make life easier that we don’t need, but have anyway. On the other hand, if you need something material then it is fine to ask God. There is a huge difference between needing food because you are starving and “needing” a flat screen television.

God listens to everyone’s prayers – and some conflict with each other! In His infinite wisdom, God has to pick and choose. The breath you use to ask for a new Rolex watch could be used for something bigger: something beyond yourself and more important. In the end does it something like that matter? Not at all. If anything, focusing on yourself can be dangerous and is narrow-minded because it ignores the bigger picture. It’s not like you are less important than everyone else... but you are *equally* precious in God’s eyes.

*May
God Bless You*