

The Echoes

a Publication of



March 2020

Bathe it All in Prayer

*Devotional Submitted by
Pastor Kelly Henning
Faith Free Lutheran Church
Lake Alma, SK*

A number of years ago, I heard a speaker at a New Year's gathering at a church tell how, in his home church in which he grew up, they would always start a new year with a prayer emphasis and special prayer meetings. The new year was always bathed in prayer, and it was a special time for everyone.

A new year begins often with new directions, and it needs this – especially in Christian congregations, and in the lives of believers. Begin our “new years” in prayer and give them all to God, for HIS mercy and guiding.

I like the spirit of this and would commend it to all of us. Give to God each day and *especially* give to God this new year. Let prayer be our doorway to great mercy and God's working in our lives, and do this as we start the year that is ahead. Let 2020 be a year of God's lavish *grace* for each of us – a gift humbly asked for by prayer in faith, and a blessing generously given by God.

Sadly, however, it is far too easy to do the Christian life by depending on our own strength and wisdom. The flesh is very good at deceiving Christians and making us think we can do things on our own and by our own strength. “I did it my way” is the life motto of far too many. Do not believe this, and beware of living this way. As Proverbs 3:5b tells us, “Lean not to your own understanding.” No! May we do it God's way.

We have better from God. Ask God for HIS guiding, providing, and leading in all things. We need it, and God created us to be people needing His mercy and leading and blessing. As we start a new year, surrender all things to Him with freshness and cast ourselves on HIS infinite mercy, seeking and imploring HIS grace (as the “prayer of confession” says in the old “Service and Hymn Book”). The words are old fashioned, but they are so very accurate and heart-felt. God bless them to us.

Then, be prepared for God to ask us to be a blessing to others! Do not be surprised if God opens doors for us to serve and that because HE has blessed

us so much. Abraham, in Genesis 12, was called to be blessed and then to be a blessing to others in turn. Abraham was “blessed to be a blessing.” This is a good example of God’s work in believers’ lives even today. God gives generously and then asks us to generously serve in turn. Many times HIS answer to our prayer of faith and surrender is the call to serve in HIS KINGDOM work. May God give us the eyes to see His mercy for us, and a heart to sense HIS call. People of prayer often end up being people called to serve God’s Kingdom work.

I recall many Christian speakers over the years tell how prayer is a gift – and it is a gift of God. It is given to believers and blesses our lives greatly as we enter in and use it. May we use it to bless our congregations and Bible Camp, and then seek from God HIS paths of service for us. 2020 is a year of God’s purposes and blessing. May we seek these in prayer and be part of the LORD’S plans and work in it all.

Pray for wisdom and guidance for Elbow Bible Camp and the program being set in place for this year. We pray to see all of you there this year for the Good things God will give!!!

Amen!!

You’re invited to Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp’s
75th Anniversary Celebration!!



Date: Sunday, July 5th
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: Camp Dining Room
Cake and Coffee Served!

You can help! We need YOUR memories of camp through the years!

We want to hear YOUR stories and see your photos! These will all be collected and shared on a “memory board,” to be displayed in the dining room at camp.



Email submissions to “jeffdena@xplornet.com” or mail to Box 832, Stn. Main, 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 December 2019.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, SK

Submitted by Ashley Starnes, Administrative Assistant

*“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4*

Greetings from Bethel! Pastor Dave (Hesje) has been focusing on Jesus being the source of our joy in his sermons this month. We pray you are finding joy in His presence as well!

November:

- 27th – The youth enjoyed a progressive supper! Thanks to Rob and Lisa Peterman for organizing and to all who hosted a “course.” No one went home hungry!!

December:

- 8th – We had “Pastor Appreciation Sunday.” We are so very blessed to have our Pastor and his beautiful wife as our shepherds!! We enjoyed a time of fellowship following the service with a potluck.
- 8th – This was a busy Sunday! The Sunday school had their Christmas production in the evening. The message of Jesus’ birth and God’s great love for us was brought forth in recitation, scripture, song, humour and drama.
- 9th – Bethel’s annual Christmas banquet was again a great success! Thanks to all who organized, and to Cindy Halvorson who catered a beautiful meal.
- 15th – Many brought gifts of food and helped pack and deliver “Cheer Boxes” for people in our community. Our prayer is that God’s love was felt by everyone who received a box.
- 24th – Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was held. This is always a beautiful and meaningful way to celebrate His birth.
- We again had a “Jessie Tree” set up in the fellowship hall for people to donate warm clothes to Interval House in Saskatoon. (Interval House Website: <https://saskatoonintervalhouse.org/>)

January:

- 21st – Bethel’s Annual Meeting – Thanks to all those who attended and to all those who serve Bethel and fill the many needs. You are appreciated!

- 30th – Women’s Mission Fellowship (WMF) Annual Meeting – Thank you to all the ladies who help in so many ways through this hard working group!

February:

- 1st and 15th – Men’s Prayer Breakfast started up again – an awesome time of fellowship and good food.
- Youth Group – Rob and Lisa Peterman are hosting a youth evening every Tuesday at Bethel. Our youth are so important to God and to us!
- 15th – Youth Pizza and Praise & Worship Night!! Luke Hundebly led *Praise and Worship* for the Youth!!

We hold those who are hurting and grieving as well as celebrating and rejoicing in our prayers. Know that wherever you are and whatever you are going through, God cares and is walking with you.



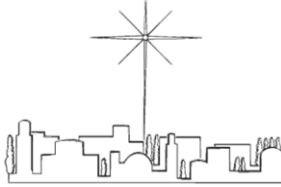
We’re trying something new for the opening evening of camp!

Saturday, July 4th

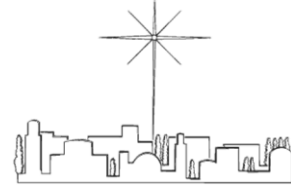
Come for a time of “Singing, Sharing and S’mores” in the tipi!

This is a fun way to kick off the camp week, and is open to **ALL AGES**.

Please Note: This replaces the traditional service, usually held in the chapel at the beginning of camp.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hawarden, SK



Submitted by Linda Follick

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

December:

- We have been blessed to have Pastor Daryl Olson from Outlook filling in quite regularly for our Sunday morning services.
- Pastor Al and Dorothy Pinno were at our church one Sunday in January, and we are also utilizing teaching videos of Paul Donison's from Plano, Texas. We had a combined Candlelight service / Sunday School program on December 22nd.
- Congratulations to Sylvia Sundby on becoming a Great Grandmother again! On December 23rd, Lucy Grace (9 pounds, 11 ounces) was born to Chris and Denise Posehn and sisters Eleanor and Clara. Lucy's Grandparents are Martin and Michelle Rude. On Christmas Eve morning, our church visited the long-term care wing of the Outlook Health Center, bringing them treats and singing for them.
- Our sympathies go out to Darwin and the rest of the Taylor families of Davidson on the passing of their mother Lois just after Christmas on December 27th. Her funeral was held on January 8th with Pastor John Dueck officiating, and Pastor Al Pinno bringing a greeting.

January:

- 9th Katie Haaland hosted our Lutheran Church Women's (LCW) meeting at the church. Our new LCW executive for the year took over.

President – Katie Haaland
 Vice-President – Linda Lee
 Secretary – Sylvia Sundby
 Treasurer – Linda Follick

Program Co-ordinator – Sylvia Sundby
 and Katie Haaland
 Altar Committee – Katie Haaland and
 Ruth Cooper
 Cheer Committee – Sharon Cooper.

The LCW started our new Bible Study: "Don't Follow Your Feelings," by Linda Korhonen.

- Following the service on the 19th, Bethlehem held our Annual General Meeting. The new Executive is as follows:

President – Neil Haaland
 Vice-President – Marcel Vermette
 Secretary – Katie Haaland
 Treasurer – Victor Lee
 Deacons – Marcel Vermette, Neil Haaland
 and Victor Lee



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Trustee – Jolie Vermette and Gerald Follick,
Cemetery Committee – Neil Haaland and Grant Lee
Sunday School Superintendent – Jolie Vermette,
Assistant Sunday School Superintendent – Grant Lee
Bible Camp Board – Grant Lee and Neil Haaland,
Bible Camp Program – Linda Lee and Katie Haaland

- Darwin Taylor recently completed a time of ministry service at Fishing Lake First Nation (northeast of Wynyard, SK). He conducted a School Bus Operator's Course, during which time his students successfully passed all the Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) exams. The new bus drivers will be providing transportation for students in the Wadena and Fishing Lake area to an impressive new school opening in that area on February 3rd.



- 28th Neil and Katie Haaland, and Chad and Sara Haaland and family drove out to Camrose, AB to attend the ordination service for Greg Rokos at Resurrection Lutheran Brethren Church. (Website: <https://www.rezchurch.ca>). Dena (Neil and Katie's daughter) is married to Greg.
- 29th The LCW put on the Wednesday morning church service at the long-term care wing of the Outlook Health Centre.

February:

- 6th Linda Follick hosted the LCW meeting at the church. We all took turns leading the study entitled, "The Truth About Feelings."
- 14th Happy Birthday and God's blessings go out to our oldest member, Roy Olson, who turned 94!

Other Items of Note:

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Linda Lee who is undergoing medical treatments, and with the Taylor families who are mourning the loss of their mother.
- In Adult Sunday School we are watching a series of Ray Vander Laan videos entitled, "The Promised Land – Crossroads of the World." There is a set of discussion questions following each video.
- Our sympathies and prayers go out to Roy Olson and the Olson / Johnson families on the passing of Roy's sister, Harriet Johnson, from Hamilton, ON (February 14th). Harriet was married to George Johnson – Harry's brother. (Harry Johnson is from the Outlook area.)



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!



Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp is looking for a

CARETAKER

June through August, 2020
(Starting Date is Flexible)

Duties include (but are not limited to) janitorial tasks, garbage removal, grass mowing, basic maintenance, and painting as required.

Salary: \$2,000 + per Month
Contract Work - No Deductions
Call Grant Lee: (306) 222-2776



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:

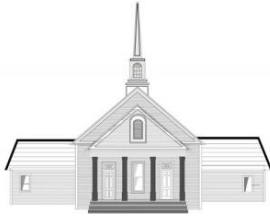
jeffdena@xplornet.com

Thank you!

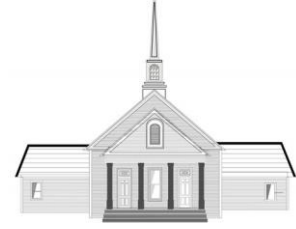


Our next Family Bible Camp Week runs from **July 4 - 11, 2020.**

We want to see you there!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Outlook, SK



Submitted by Bev Berntson

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13: 34

Ben Wyatt, our intern last year, was installed as pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Barrhead, Alberta on November 30th, 2019. Some of our members travelled there for the installation. God's richest blessings on you and your family as you serve this congregation, Ben!

The Christmas banquet was held in the fellowship area on December 1st, and had a good attendance. The entertainment was presented by Les Langager and company.

Best wishes to Pastor Ken Finnestad as he continues to recover from two surgeries.

Some of our members headed to Southend, Saskatchewan at the end of November, where they spent a week in the summer at a Vacation Bible School. They loaded up blankets, clothes and lots of snacks to take to all the friends they had made. These warm clothes were very much appreciated by the people who received them.

Throughout the month of December, we awaited the celebration of the coming of Our Saviour by lighting the Advent candles and preparing for His Coming.

December 14th saw the church bustling with excited children as they went "shopping" for gifts for family and friends. Many members helped with wrapping and choosing gifts. (These gifts are donated by the members.) This is a day that the children absolutely love! The money they spend (which is very minimal) is given to a different cause every year.

On December 15th, the Sunday School presented their Christmas play. It was a real eye opener about "the meaning of Christmas." Rumours are that they will be presenting a continuation at Easter.

Bible Studies and Discipleship groups continue weekly. On Sunday mornings in the Fireside Room, we are studying the book of John. On Wednesday evening in the Fireside Room, a group is studying the book of Acts. Ladies' Bible Studies continue monthly as well.

On Sunday, January 12th, Outlook and District Music Festival celebrated forty years with a gala concert at our church/

A Festival of Praise was presented by the Gideons on January 19th (Website: <https://gideons.ca/>). The festival featured “The Three L’s” (Shelley and Delwyn Luedtke and Sherry Lovrod), the Alliance Church Worship Team, the Outlook Mens’ Chorus, and the Bethlehem Hawarden Trio (Linda Follick, Katie Haaland and Sylvia Sundby).

Our congregation was responsible for Meals on Wheels in January. Thank you to everyone who helped.

February 9th, the Mission group from the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (LCBI) served a lunch of Chili and Baked Potatoes. All donations went toward their upcoming mission trip to Baja, Mexico. (Mission team pictured below; photo taken from LCBI’s “Campus Clips” weekly email.)



Website: <https://lcbi.sk.ca/>



Back Row LtoR: Wyatt Johnson (Kelvington SK), Daniel Yanez (Outlook SK), Aidan Codling (Outlook SK), Kari Alford (Leader), Elsa Graupe (Saskatoon SK), Christa Woudwijk (Outlook SK), Nyah Hopkins (Outlook SK), Leslie Hicks (Leader) Michael Rusk (Leader), Leah Adelman (Leader), Abby Radics (Leask SK), Josie Wright (Outlook SK), Janet and David Calow (not in picture).

After lunch on the 9th, we held our Annual General Meeting. Thank you to everyone who was willing to serve in all capacities. We appreciate and pray for them as they carry out their duties in the coming year.

May all praise and glory be given to Him!

**Skudesnes
Evangelical**



**Lutheran
Church**

Loreburn, SK

Submitted by Maxine Follick

Happy New Year from Skudesnes! I know that sounds odd since we are well past the middle of February, and less than a week away from the beginning of Lent!!

We had a few things going on during the Advent season. First, the Ladies' Bible Study group had a noon pot luck lunch at the church on December 9th. After lunch, we played a few games and had some readings and devotions. Then, on December 17th, the Outlook Community Choir came and presented their Christmas Cantata, which concluded with a wonderful rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus." On December 22nd, we had the Christmas Candlelight Service at Skudesnes. It was so nice to see so many out for that. The Skudesnes Harbour Band provided special music. With Carie (Langager) playing the piano and/or organ, the music was very special indeed!!! The little ones got a taste of old fashioned storytelling when the flannel graph board was used to tell the timeless story of the first Christmas.

We have been able to have church every Sunday so far this year, and I am thankful for the dedicated souls who brave the cold dark January mornings to come out – especially our Pastor, Sonje (Finnestad)!

On February 5th, we had our Annual General Meeting, with the following being nominated to positions on council:

Chairperson:	Maxine Follick	Deacons:	Jody Sanden
Vice Chairperson:	Candice Wankel		Verna Urlacher
Secretary/Treasurer:	Holly Vollmer		Laurice Vollmer
Church Secretary:	Gerri Vollmer	Education:	Candice Wankel
Trustees:	Codey Sanden		Verna Urlacher
	Ron Savidan		Marcelle Savidan



Looking ahead to the Lenten season, we are having our annual pancake supper on February 25th (Shrove Tuesday), followed by the Ash Wednesday Service with the imposition of ashes (February 26th). This is always a meaningful way to begin the Lenten season.

God's blessings to all as you journey through Lent. May we all be drawn closer to Christ!

Treasurer's Report



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

Submitted by Linda Follick

Nola Norrish
Lois Taylor

George Cooper
Leverne and Lillian Christensen

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