

The Echoes

a Publication of



September 2020

Serving the Weak with Love

*Devotional Submitted by
Pastor Mac deWaal*

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Outlook, SK*

*In everything I did, I
showed you that by this
kind of hard work we must
help the weak,
remembering the words
the Lord Jesus himself
said: 'It is more blessed to
give than to receive.' ”
Acts 20:35 (ESV)*

Paul is talking to the church leaders in Ephesus. He has just reminded them of his work to not be a burden to those who were new to faith or being introduced to Christ. He worked hard to make sure that there was no stumbling block to faith for those whom he was trying to reach with the gospel. He gave of himself to the point of death a number of times. What a great witness to the gospel!

Paul asks us in this passage to enter into the same spirit – to put ourselves out there for the sake of the weak. It is a servant attitude that he picks up from Christ Himself. Everything done for the sake of the other, especially those who are weak. How are you serving the weak?

I know that I often put my own needs in front of those around me. I need the grace of God not just to have the strength to give up on my own desires for the sake of others, but even just being able to think of them in the moment. Too often I fret because I missed an opportunity to share the love of Jesus, simply because I was too focused on myself. I get tunnel vision and do not notice those around me. I need Jesus to help me see beyond myself to the needs of others. I also need His grace to grant me enough faith to trust that He is looking after me so that I am free from looking to my own needs and turn away from that to the needs of others.

Never have I been so blessed with such a great learning opportunity as I am now. With all our Covid-19 fears running rampant and causing a lot of chaos, now is the time to train my thought patterns to be focused on others. Look to the weak, those who are physically vulnerable or those whose faith is weak and love them by meeting them where they are at. Even if I believe that it doesn't matter if I live or die, they might not be there yet themselves. Bend down, pick up the mask, sanitize the hands for the thousandth time and love.

God give us strength and courage to love even as He loves us.



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 2020.

Skudesnes Evangelical Lutheran Church Loreburn, SK

Submitted by Maxine Follick

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of
God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)*

Greetings from Skudesnes! Recently, I have been reading a book called Living the Psalms. It is a series of five short studies on selected Psalms. The last one I did was on Psalm 23, where we learn that the hopeless sheep (us) need to look to the shepherd (Jesus) for everything needed, both physically and spiritually. We need not fear any valley – even the valley of death – when Jesus is the Shepherd. These are comforting messages in times of upsetting circumstances.

Our highlight was having our first real live Church service on August 16th – exactly five months after our last service!!! Although it was a shortened version with many alterations, it was great to worship together with our members and also friends from the United Church and from Davidson Redeemer Lutheran Church. We will be meeting again on August 30th and September 16th, and that will be the day Davidson will resume having church services. After that, we will resume our weekly services.

Tomorrow, August 22nd, we will be having the Service of Remembrance and Committal at the Skudesnes cemetery for Derek Langager. Derek is the son of Hal (Kim) Langager and Carol Gudmunson, brother to Calvin, and grandson of Audrey Langager. We hold these loved ones up in prayer as they go through this difficult valley.

Thankfully we have not had anyone fall ill to the COVID virus, but it is beginning to feel like we are on an island in a rushing river, as we hear of cases creeping in closer around the edges!!!

We are praying for the safety of all who are working long hours in the harvest fields. As well, we keep in our prayers the safety of all the children (and teachers!) who are going back to school classes in an often difficult and confusing environment.

God's blessings on you all this fall season.



Bethel Lutheran Church Elbow, SK



Submitted by Ashley Stamnes, Administrative Assistant

*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.
John 16:33*

Hello from Bethel! We pray that each of you are doing well and growing closer to God each day. We don't have a whole lot of news at Bethel of course, but we are very encouraged that we are able to have services again and fellowship together!

June – We were very grateful to have a service with 30 people on the 14th! A lot of changes were made to ensure safety and compliance with health guidelines, but it was such a blessing to be together again! We were able to expand to 50 on the 21st.

July – In July we continued services and enjoyed the summer weather!

August – Pastor Dave and Debbie (Hesje) were able to have some well earned holiday time! We were blessed to have Pastor Arlin Olson bring the message and Communion on August 16th and Wes Olmstead on August 23rd!

We continue to pray for many people in our church, community and beyond. There are so many hurting people, but we have a big God who cares so much!!

We pray that each of you will rest in His peace in the coming days and weeks.

*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14:27*

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7*

*Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.
2 Thessalonians 3:16*

*You will keep in perfect peace
those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in You.
Isaiah 26:3*



The Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp has a website:

<http://elbowlutheranbiblecamp.com>

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

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



Date: Sunday, July 4th, 2021

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!



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:

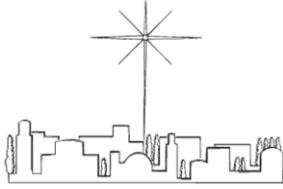
jeffdena@xplornet.com

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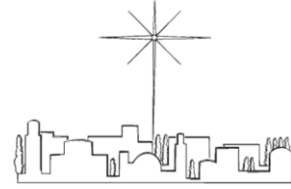


Our next Family Bible Camp Week runs from **July 3 - 10, 2021.**

We want to see you there!



**Bethlehem Lutheran
Church
Hawarden, SK**



Submitted by Linda Follick

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
Psalm 119:11*

We were saddened to have to cancel our week of family camp at Elbow Bible Camp. It is a good opportunity for some maintenance and cleanup of trees down there – if you have some free time, just contact one of the board members and volunteer your services! 😊

We started up our church services on June 14th by watching a video sermon by Pastor Paul Donison. On the 21st, we watched another video sermon by Pastor Lyndon Korhonen (President of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in the United States). Since then, Pastors Arlin Olson, Daryl Olson, Greg Rokos (Camrose, AB) and Adam Driscoll (Moose Jaw, SK) have been faithfully serving our congregation on Sunday mornings.

We have gone to the Long Term Care Home in Outlook twice for their Wednesday morning worship services out on their patio. Linda Follick hosted the July 8th Lutheran Church Women's (LCW) meeting with all taking part in the Bible study entitled, "When I Feel Hopeless." (This is part of Linda Korhonen's study, "Don't Follow Your Feelings.") Katie Haaland hosted the Aug 6th LCW meeting with the study entitled, "The Poison of Unresolved Anger."

We offer congratulations to Great Grandmother Ruth Cooper, Grandmother Lori Giles and parents Trevor and Vanessa Giles on the birth of Aliya Jaylene on May 3rd – a little sister for three year old Weston.

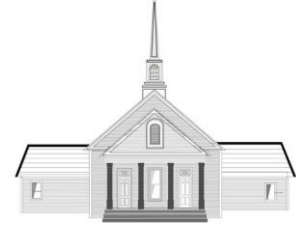
Neil and Katie Haaland and **Victor and Linda Lee** both celebrated their **45th Wedding Anniversaries** this summer and we pray God's blessings on them.

H A P P Y
Anniversary

We continue to remember our elderly shut-ins in our prayers – this pandemic has been so hard on them. We praise God for the healing that Linda Lee has experienced and continue to pray for her recovery. We also pray for the Archibald family as they support Tre in his illness. We praise God for the harvest that he has sent us and pray for safety for our farmers and ranchers. May we be faithful in sharing what the Lord has given us.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Outlook, SK



Submitted by Bev Berntson

Times are certainly different for all of us. Let us find peace in these troubled times in Our Lord.

*Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength.
They will mount up on wings as eagles.
Isaiah 40: 31.*

Events at our church recently:

We had a sewing week July 15th – 19th. Masks and social distancing were observed, but the ladies worked hard and were as productive as ever! Layettes are being packed this week.

Since people were really missing their coffee times at church, we held a couple of Zoom™ coffee meetings two Sundays in June.

We are continuing to live stream worship services; however, we also added in-person worship services on July 5th. Masks for singing, and using every *other* pew certainly brings a different feel to the experience, but it is good for those who have been able to return. Some are continuing to worship using the live stream. We also provide a handful of DVDs to members who don't have internet access.

During the week of July 13th – 17th, we held a backyard Vacation Bible School (VBS). Families invited children in their social bubble to gather in the backyard for crafts and games, and then one of our Pastors visited the backyard as a biblical character. The week was great fun!

We have had five families in our congregation celebrate weddings since the pandemic began. All the weddings were modified from the original plans, but all were very special events and we rejoice with the couples.

The North American Lutheran Church convocation was held August 7th – 8th. The gathering was scheduled for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania but was instead moved online. Janice Bruynooghe served as our delegate.

Sunday School will be resuming at our church in the fall with an in-person as well as an on-line option. The teaching staff has very good procedures in place to help keep everyone safe when they return.

Treasurer's Report



Submitted by Linda Follick

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

George Cooper
Debbie Joel

A **BIG**, "Thank you!" goes out to everyone who has remembered Elbow Bible Camp in their giving, even though family camp this year was cancelled. We appreciate 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.



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.