

The Echoes

a Publication of



March 2022

The Great Adventure

*Devotional Submitted by
Pastor Dallas Beutler*

*The Rock Church
Saskatoon, SK*

"Where did he go? He was just supposed to go to the cabin and be right back!" With those words, a leader goes looking, from the "tent of meeting" where we are gathering for lunch, back towards the dorm. Most times the "lost sheep" is found quickly, already on their way back. The "found one" is quick to show the leader their new treasure...

a very special stick discovered while meandering through the bush, now their very own prized possession (at least until it breaks)! This experience is just one of the prizes of the great adventure known as camp!

Each year some of the children who come with us from The Rock Church in Saskatoon (Website: trcyxe.ca) have never been away from home, or have never been to the lake, or have never been to camp. There are a variety of responses with some staying close to their leader while others go off excitedly veering off paths and through the trees all while whooping and hollering. No matter how they start camp—bold or nervous—it doesn't take long till they are roaming and feeling free on their own great adventure.

Hundreds of children and youth have come with us to camp for the last two decades. (Our first time at Elbow Bible Camp was 2012). Each year the great adventure includes hearing that Jesus loves them, and experiencing Jesus' love through the leaders and God's creation. Many respond to Jesus' love, inviting Him into their lives to be their Saviour, and starting on the path of discipleship with Jesus as their new forever friend.

In the book of Acts, Scripture tells of the great adventure that was taking place for the early church, after Jesus had ascended to the Father and the Holy Spirit came to empower His followers. We read of signs and wonders, with many people being healed, experiencing visions, and being saved. And in the midst of these amazing things taking place, there is also stress and distress that causes followers to be dispersed far and wide and out from Jerusalem.

As a result of this, we read in Acts 13, Paul is now preaching at the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch. There was great success as much of the city heard the gospel and many believed. However, the Jewish leaders became jealous and caused influential people to stir up trouble. Eventually they had Paul and Barnabas kicked out of the city. What was the response of the followers of Christ to the successes and distresses taking place in their great adventure? Acts 13:52 says, "And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

I am greatly challenged and encouraged by the disciple's actions. In the midst of opportunities and no matter what the situation was on a given day... it would seem that they were embracing the great adventure with JOY and grace. I desire to do the same.

Steven Curtis Chapman had a well-known song in the 90's (yes, thirty years ago!) entitled, "The Great Adventure"!

*"Saddle up your horses, we've got a trail to blaze
Through the wild blue yonder of God's amazing grace
Let's follow our leader into the glorious unknown
This is a life like no other, whoa whoa this is the great adventure"*

How do we view our journey with Jesus? Have we settled down or saddled up? Settled down to the known and safe routines and patterns of Christian living? Or saddled up for the adventure of what God might be up to, wondering where we might fit in? There is an adventure in God's kingdom where we can be his hands and feet to bring love, hope, and a message of redemption into a world that is so broken. No matter our individual journeys and callings, we are all called to live out the Great Commission and Great Commandment and this is to be our definition of the Great Adventure.

I trust that as 2022 is well under way that we will all take the opportunity to step into God's invitation to His Great Adventure... that we would view this as a fresh opportunity to use the freedom we have for the purposes of fully following Him. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your camp family and embracing the children and youth we serve. Your openness and grace allows us to step into the great adventure of camp every summer with confidence.



Pastor Dallas & Leah Beutler

Knowing we have your blessing, prayer and support is an indescribable gift.

The children are already asking when camp is and the team has started to prepare. Would you begin to or continue to pray for the great adventure known as camp 2022? May the Lord bless you this year in your own great adventure with Him!



Camp Clean-up

We need your help on June 10th and 11th! It's important that we take care of our camp. Clean-up, maintenance, or new projects... it all matters! Many hands make light work! Questions? Please contact Grant Lee at (306) 222-2776.

Is pre-registration for camp required this year?

Pre-registration is NOT required this year. If you happen to know for sure by May or June that your kids are coming, it will help those who are in charge of ordering Vacation Bible School materials or craft supplies. However, you can still come or bring a friend at the last minute. We always order extra! ☺

Text Shannon Hundebly at (306) 867-4065.



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@explornet.com

Thank you!



Cabin Reservations

Do you need to reserve cabin space for the week of Bible Camp? If so, don't hesitate! Contact Grant Lee:

grlee81@yahoo.ca

or

(306) 222-2776



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 2021.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hawarden, SK

Submitted by Linda Follick

But what does it say? The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. -- Romans 10:8-10

We continue to be blessed to have Pastors Adam Driscoll and Daryl Olson lead our Sunday morning worship services. We also listened to a sermon video from Pastor Paul Donnison (Texas). We continue to watch videos from the Holy Land with Ray Vander Laan followed by discussion during our adult Sunday School class.

Our sympathies are with the Haaland families on the passing of Bill (Sherwood Park, Alberta) on November 23rd. He is a brother to Neil (Haaland) and Merlene (Hansen). Our sympathies also go out to the family of Adela Lenz (Berstad) who passed away on December 11th. Pastor Arne Berstad was our pastor for many years back in the 1970's. A private family burial was held on December 15th at the Bethlehem cemetery.

Darwin Taylor spent two weeks in the Grandmother's Bay area visiting and distributing goodies, warm clothing, and blankets out to the residents there. The Lutheran Church Women (LCW) continue to meet monthly to study, "Don't Follow Your Feelings" – a Bible Study based on 1Timothy, by Jeanette Berntson.

Several enjoyed the various Christmas festivities in the area. The Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (LCBI) choir held their Christmas concert on December 15th. LCBI also featured their handbell choir at that concert! It was a very nice evening of Christmas music. The ladies packed cookie trays to distribute around the community. On December 23rd, we had a Christmas supper and Candlelight program. Several of our adults and community members participated in the event. The play was called "Long Foretold – The Journey of the Magi." We held our Annual General Meeting on January 16th, with our church executive remaining the same. Pastor Adam (Driscoll) is meeting with Tate Vermette after lunch on Sundays to help him along with his Confirmation studies. Our other activities in the community have been put on hold until covid restrictions are lifted. We wish God's continued blessings on Roy Olson as he celebrated his 96th birthday with his family on February 14th.

ATTENTION ALL CHURCHES

Would you please put this in your bulletin, and spread the word? We have increased the Caretaker Salary, and would appreciate securing someone as soon as possible. Thank you!



Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp is looking for a

CARETAKER

June through August, 2022
(Starting Date is Flexible)

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

Salary: \$3,000 + per Month
Contract Work - No Deductions
Call Grant Lee: (306) 222-2776

Welcome



Joan Soggie is our newest regular contributor to **The Echoes!** We thank Maxine Follick for her years of faithful service in reporting the goings-on at Skudesnes Lutheran Church in Loreburn. Now, Joan will be taking the reins going forward. Joan has been married to Dennis for 58 years, and they are happily retired in Elbow. They look forward to getting together with family this summer – four children, eleven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren! Welcome, Joan. We look forward to hearing from you regularly!

**Skudesnes
Evangelical**



**Lutheran
Church**

Loreburn, SK

Submitted by Joan Soggie

Greetings from Skudesnes Lutheran Church!

We had our yearly congregational meeting just a few weeks ago, on January 30th. In the annual report, it was recorded that in the covid year 2021 at Skudesnes, the number of confirmed members who received communion was 32. I recalled a visit recently with a confirmand of almost 90 years ago. Ingrid Kaldor told us that her confirmation class at Skudesnes in the early 1930s had numbered 32.

Our congregation is perhaps only a remnant of that large original congregation. However, we are so thankful for that remnant, that “keeps the light of faith shining in a dark world.”

When we could not meet due to covid restrictions, Pastor Sonje broadcast her thoughtful sermons for all to access on YouTube™. As restrictions were lifted, we had wonderful worship services, with music led by Carie Langager or Verna Urlacher at the piano. We had special music programs. The last one, in November, was a joint service with Redeemer Lutheran, Davidson. Carol Dieno, Kristine Cook and Verna Urlacher provided great music on piano and violin, and we enjoyed fellowship with our sister congregation.

Earlier in the year, Maxine Follick put her time and spare fabric to good use and made 30 beautiful cloth bags which the women of the congregation stuffed to the brim for Transition House in Saskatoon. Offerings have also gone to support CLWR, Local Food Banks, LutherCare, Teen Challenge, Interval House and our own Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp.

There have been fun times, socializing over coffee after church or sharing a meal prepared by the members. 2021 ended with a beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight service. We are grateful!



We have been blessed not only by Pastor Sonje’s messages but also by the faithfulness of our church council and members. As president, Maxine Follick guides, keeps us informed, and occasionally even provides the message. Gerri Vollmer goes above and beyond to fulfill all the unseen and vital duties of church secretary. Jody Sanden makes sure our church kitchen is stocked with necessities and contacts members when donations of food items are required. No maintenance or improvement is too trivial or too hard for trustees Codey

Sanden and Ron Savidan to handle (if it has not already been dealt with by Ron Follick or another anonymous helper). Whether it is cleaning the church or shovelling snow or serving lunch, there is no shortage of volunteers. Their actions show their love.

Families who belonged to Skudesnes in years past but have since moved away have not forgotten their original church home. Celebrations of life were held at Skudesnes and four graves added to the churchyard in 2021. The congregations' sympathy is extended to the families of Wendy Hagen, Glenn Kerney, William Chapman, and Muriel Tastad.

Last summer, Marcelle Savidan and Penny Aadland created an outdoor coffee-place in a sheltered area by the church building. Now we look forward to the return of warm weather and the opportunity to enjoy that space together. Meanwhile, we pray for the health and safety of all, whether out braving icy roads or kept at home by covid.

Thanks be to God!

CAMP DATES

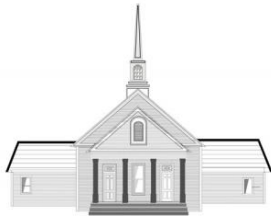
Family Bible Camp week begins with the supper meal on **Saturday, July 2nd**. After supper, we will gather in the teepee for "Singing, Sharing and S'mores," like we did last year.



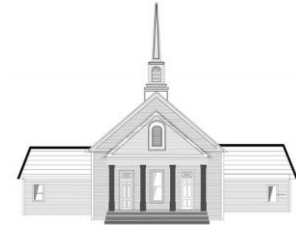
(This replaces the traditional service, usually held in the chapel at the beginning of camp.)

Bible Camp ends with the lunch meal on **Friday, July 8th**.

We want to see you there!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Outlook, SK



Submitted by Shelley Luedtke

Greetings from Bethlehem in Outlook!

We had wonderful events as we celebrated Christmas as a church family. Each worship service throughout Advent featured special music by our members. Our Sunday School presented a Christmas concert called "Light of the World," and we held a community Blue Christmas worship service. Christmas Eve we had two beautiful candlelight services, then a service on Christmas Day, and one more on the 26th since that was Sunday. This was a busy time, but a time of rich, meaningful worship.

The first two months of the New Year have brought many good things, along with some challenges.

Our church returned to our pre-pandemic schedule for worship with the start of 2022. We are back to two services each Sunday. One service is at 9:00 am and one is at 11:15 am with Sunday School. Our Adult Study takes place at 10:00 am. However, with COVID numbers surging in the community along with extreme cold temperatures, January was a month of challenges.

The weather has been difficult at times, at one point totally icing over our parking lot and sidewalks. Three hardworking servants spent the Sunday School hour chipping away at all the ice in front of the church one Sunday! Ah, the prairies. It was a huge effort on the part of the ice chippers but they helped make things so much safer for everyone.

Prior to Christmas, Dorothy Jenson passed away. In January we lost Larry Hovdestad. Both were in long-term care in Outlook. Blessed be their memories.

We were thrilled to commission a young woman in our congregation for service overseas. "Etta," we'll call her (for privacy / safety reasons), is teaching English to refugees in Albania. She has been there for a month now and is teaching children she describes as energetic and eager to learn.

It was a busy and fun morning at the church on January 25th when a team from the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI) in Camrose came and offered to lend a hand wherever they might be needed. They were spending the week at the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (LCBI) and asked if they could help out at the church a bit. They brought such



a spirit of joy into the building as they lint-rolled all the chairs, swept, mopped, vacuumed and took on whatever tasks we asked. Please pray for CLBI and this year's group of students. They did not get to travel to the areas of mission, service and learning they expected, but the group that was here was willing to serve wholeheartedly.

We held our annual meeting on February 6th. Our council members for 2022 are:

President: Sheri Lovrod
Vice President: Mari Friggstad
Secretary: Janet Gross
Treasurer: Shawn Follick
Board of Deacons:
Tia Woudwijk
Greg Reddekopp
Mark Gross

Board of Education:
Janice Bruynooghe
Maria Karppinen
Krystal LeBlanc
Board of Trustees
Mike Perry
Ken Haugen
Kirk Friggstad

Our Sunday School students made Valentine's Day cards for all the residents in long-term care in Outlook. The congregation also sent cards to the staff. Let's remember this important community in prayer.

Anyone who has ever led worship or music events at the long-term care centre knows the limitations of the sound system that has been in use for many years. Our council approved the purchase of a new system and we delivered it in the middle of February. Early reports suggest everyone is quite excited!

Pastor Mac DeWaal spent a week in February teaching at CLBI in Camrose. We look with anticipation to the Lenten season and the celebration of Easter.

Treasurer's Report

Thank you for your continued support to our camp – especially for the memorials we have received in honour of:

George Cooper Adela Lenz (Berstad)
Kathy Coates Debbie Beech (Knutson)
Bill Haaland
Terry Roste

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.

Where are they now?

We recently received an update from one of our long-time readers. Some of you may remember Betty Jackson. Her daughter-in-law, Trish Jackson Reimer, sent this greeting from southwest Kansas. Thanks so much for the update, Trish!



Sending a quick note to let you know that Betty Jackson turned 94 in June. Despite a fall in her home in April leaving her with a broken arm, she has recovered and continues to live alone in her home. She may be hard of hearing and pretty much blind from macular degeneration, but she does not let that deter her from loving on people, hugging them, and asking, "Are you ready to meet Jesus?" She says she is waiting for her "comeuppance" one day soon.

Here is a picture of Betty Jackson and me at her 94th birthday celebration. Betty and her husband, Reverend Sid Jackson, were the caretakers at the camp in the mid-90's I believe (for one or two summers). Sid's mother was a Vallevand. My first husband, Paul (Sid & Betty's son) and I traveled as song evangelists for 32 years before Paul passed away from cancer in 2009. We always enjoyed our visits to Elbow and the surrounding area.

Memories

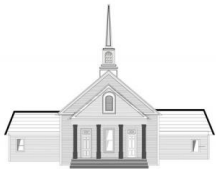
*Submission by Leone Nadeau
Saskatoon, SK*

"I remember staying at the first Bible Camp. I was ten years old. It was at Skudesnes Church. The girls' dorm was a big white tent set up in the church yard. I think the boys slept in the barn.

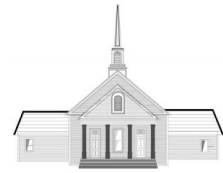
I have seen many changes in the camp over the years. So many blessings each year during the camps. So many wonderful memories!"

*Thank you, Leone, for sharing
your memories with us. We
appreciate it!*





Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, SK



Submitted by Ashley Starnes, Administrative Assistant

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

Greetings from Bethel! We are so thankful that we are able to keep in touch with other precious churches via this newsletter! After a very busy December and January, things have slowed down a bit at Bethel but we are so thankful for the opportunity to gather together each Sunday to worship and during the week for various studies!

December:

- 5th Pastor Appreciation Sunday. How grateful we are for our Godly pastor and his wife! This was our chance to say ‘thank you’ with a love offering and time of fellowship.
- 8th This was the last Ladies Morning Bible Study of the season.
- 12th The Sunday School led the service with readings, songs and a Christmas play entitled “Love Came Down”. What a blessing the children were as they told the story of Christ’s birth and His love for us!
- 19th This was the Sunday we packed and delivered Cheer Boxes to share love with many in our community. Thank you to all those who brought items or donated to help with this ministry. A very special thank you to June Evans, Leanne Rinholm, and Corry Downie for all their work to make this happen!
- 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Many attended this meaningful time.

Bethel had a Giving Tree throughout the month of December and into January. All items were given to Saskatoon Interval House.

January:

- 12th Wednesday Night Bible Study resumed.
- 13th Zoom Study resumed. This group is working their way through Ephesians.
- 18th Bethel’s Annual Meeting. This was well attended. We are thankful to have so many who care so deeply about our church!
- 25th Women’s Mission Fellowship (WMF) Annual Meeting

February:

- 6th Pastor Dave began a Membership / Basic Christianity class. This will take place on Sundays following the worship service.

We pray that God will use us mightily for His service in the coming year. Please pray for our church, for our members, and for all those around us that are hurting, grieving, or lonely. We know that God cares for each and every aspect of our lives. We pray that God will bless and keep each of you as well!



We VERY much appreciate all the campers, and are so thankful for everyone's help! If YOU are willing to help in any way this year, please contact **Shannon Hundebly**:

Phone: (306) 867-4065 or (306) 854-2007

Email: kshundebly@sasktel.net

Here are some areas where we need **YOUR** help:



Our kitchen volunteers work so hard – and we're so thankful for them! When the supper meal is over, we'd like their day to be over, too. We need volunteers to be in charge of planning and serving cocoa / snacks in the evenings this year. Would **you** be willing to coordinate this – individually, or as part of a team?

We may have a ministry team to assist us with the **VBS classes** this year... but we still need LOTS of help! Would you be willing to teach (or help assist) the kids in their morning sessions? This is such an important ministry!



Would you be willing to help coordinate **Special Music** for the evening worship services during the week?

Are you more of a “hands on” person? How about helping **preschoolers** with their sandbox and craft time? (This would be for **one** session per morning.)



Special Note:

Young Adults or “Young-at-Heart”! If you are 18+ years old, and willing to stay in dorms with the youth, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. This could be in a ‘counsellor’ type capacity, or simply spending nights in the dorms, in a supervisory role. Thank you for your consideration!