

The Echoes

a Publication of



September 2022

Think About These Things

*Devotional Submitted by
Pastor Kevin Langager
Tofield, Alberta*

This summer at camp, the Bible passage that was the basis for the study I led was Philippians 4:4-9. In the last three verses we are encouraged to think on what is good and of God, and to live according to what the Apostle Paul lived and taught, that we might know the God of peace with us.

We read:

8 *“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” (NIV)*

Despite the fact that there is nothing that is not affected by sin in our lives and in this world, despite the fact that Satan is called the ruler of this world, and despite the fact of sickness, suffering and sorrow that touches us all, all is not lost. In fact, all has been **won** through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that we might live by the obedience of faith and love, with eternal hope, and all peace and joy. The fact of sin and of Satan, of sickness, suffering and sorrow, does not mean that there is no good in this world. There are signs of God’s goodness all around, in His creation, and in the lives of all faithful and good people. “Though the wrong seems off so strong, God is the ruler yet.” (From the hymn, “This is my Father’s World.”) Jesus is Lord, and He is near.

We are not to stick our heads in the sand, ignoring the sin, evil and suffering all around us. Yet, our priority is to be mindful of the good, of what is of God. Otherwise we tend to become cynical, and there is no faith, hope and love, no joy and peace in cynicism. We are to remember and recount God’s acts, reminding one another of the grace and goodness of God. This is more than the power of positive thinking. It is the power of being assured of God’s presence and

promises at work in and among and through His people, for the sake of this world that He loves so dearly, and for which Jesus died and was raised.

The Old Testament people of God were to recount to their children and to one another over and over again all that God had done in rescuing them from Egypt, providing for and protecting them through the 40 years in the wilderness, and bringing them into the Promised Land. They were to do this daily in their homes, week by week as they gathered to worship, and corporately as a nation every seven years.

Moses said to Israel:

“4 Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 NIV)

In other words, keep God and His Word ever before you and your families. *“For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.” (Psalm 100:5)*

It was a great encouragement for me to be at camp this year, to see children and grandchildren, parents and grandparents acknowledging God’s goodness and love across the generations. Thank you for this example, and for your reverence for the Word of God. Keep Jesus ever before you, in your hearts through faith. Continue to impress Him to your children. Talk about Him and to Him wherever you go, in whatever you are doing, morning, noon and night. The truth and love of God’s Word in Christ will become ever more apparent the more you listen to, learn of, and live by Him; and the God of peace will be with you.

If I think only of myself and my own condition, and my own day’s doings, and my day’s record of service, then I can find no peace. Therefore, O Father, let me think rather of You and rejoice that Your love is great enough to blot out all my sin. And, O Christ, the Lamb of God, let me think of You, and lean upon Your heavenly righteousness... what You are for me and in my stead. And Holy Spirit, think within me, and so move within my mind and will that as the days go by I may be more and more conformed to the righteousness of Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever. Amen. (From John Baillie’s Diary of Private Prayer)

The God of peace be with you all!
Pastor Kevin Langager

The Bulletin Board

- The Bible Camp Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, November 7th, 2022 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Outlook, SK. Please make plans to attend!
 - Address: 601 Ash Street, Outlook, SK
 - Website: <https://bethlehemoutlook.com>
- Please consider becoming an Associate Member of the ELBC by filling out the attached form / the form at the end of this newsletter.
- Do you know someone who would make a great speaker / leader for next year's camp? Contact Grant Lee at (306) 222-2776. Thank you!

LOST AND FOUND

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

Clothes:

1. Red/Black Buffalo Plaid, Zip-up Bunnyhug (Size Small)
2. Light Pink Bunnyhug – Old Navy Brand (Kids Size Large: 10-12)
3. Pink Shorts (Girls' Size 10)
4. Kids Sparkly Shoes – Carter Brand (Size 9)

Miscellaneous:

1. Sketch Book with Gold Mechanical Pencil
2. Pillow with Light Blue Pillow Case



If you think any of these items might belong to you, please contact Rhonda Lee at (306) 374-1221 or rmlee82@yahoo.ca. After **September 30th**, they will be donated!



Congregational Submissions



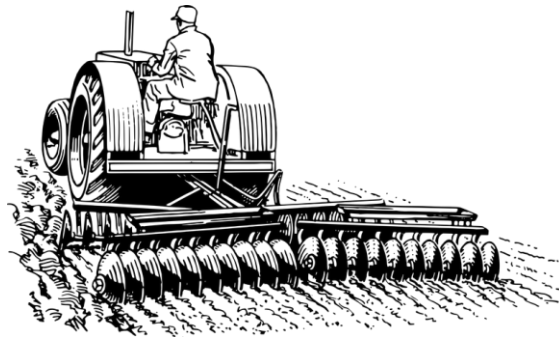
Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp (ELBC) is supported by local Christian churches, numerous members and volunteers. Throughout this newsletter, you will find summaries from four of these churches regarding their parish activities since the last edition of *The Echoes* was sent out, in June 2022.

Skudesnes Lutheran Church Loreburn, SK

Submitted by Joan Soggie

Greetings from Skudesnes Lutheran Church!

The spring and summer season began with a joint service of Skudesnes and Redeemer at Redeemer Lutheran in Davidson, SK. Then, on June 5th we celebrated a Rogation service, beseeching God's blessings on the seed, the soil, the water, and the weather as well as all those who labor in His fields and gardens. It was a time of rejoicing in the beauty of God's creation as well as a sobering reminder of our role as stewards of that creation.



On June 19th, we celebrated the men of our congregation with special desserts prepared in their honor. June 26th and July 3rd we had no worship service at Skudesnes. This allowed all to take part in "Church in the Park" with Redeemer on June 26th, and the Bible Camp service on July 3rd.

June was, as usual, "housecleaning month." Everyone participated as they were able to spruce up the grounds and clean the church.

July began with Bible Camp and sped by too quickly. We were grateful for a few timely showers that kept crops growing. Council met and, thanks to the young'un's patience in guiding us oldsters through the set-up, we now are all connected through WhatsApp™ so that messages may be easily relayed to everyone.

Several friends and family of the congregation were lifted up in prayer for various health concerns. Our condolences go out to Don and Gladys Ector following the passing of Don's brother, Kenneth Ector, in July. Condolences also go out to the Akre family on the passing of Muriel Akre in August.

On July 31st, we hosted Redeemer congregation at a joint service and were treated to special music by Peter Sarich, Carol Sarich, Valda Cool, Carol Dieno, Tracy Hodgins, and our own Doris Stammes. A potluck lunch and fellowship was enjoyed by all following the service.

August 7th we were again treated to music, this time courtesy of Skudesnes Harbor – Verna Urlacher, Les Langager, and Marty Zdunich. In Pastor Sonje's absence, Maxine Follick gave an excellent talk on placing our faith in God, not our material possessions.

Everyone was invited to celebrate Ron Follick's 80th birthday the next Saturday in the Strongfield, SK Hall, where we enjoyed not only congratulating Ron but catching up with other old friends and neighbors. Despite the hungry crowd – just like in the Biblical story of the loaves and fishes – there were leftovers. The next day, we continued munching our way through the bountiful goodies in the fellowship time after worship service! Thank you, Ron!

Now harvest is in the air, combines are in the field, and boxes of zucchini and tomatoes appear mysteriously in the church basement as gardeners share their bounty. Pastor Sonje will return refreshed from her brief holiday, and in her absence, we have continued to be blessed by our talented and generous congregation. Where else would you have the crippled woman whom Jesus healed appear in her headscarf to tell us her story during Sunday service? (Inquire for more details.)

We are blessed beyond measure. Thanks be to God.



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



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Outlook, SK



Submitted by Shelley Luedtke

Greetings from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Outlook!

On Sunday, May 29th we recognized and prayed for six high school graduates from our congregation. We look forward to seeing all that God has in store for Kenya Reddekopp, Anton Woudwijk, Ella Hopkins, Otto Lammers and Selam Measho Tsehaye.

On June 1st our Confirmation students were honoured at a tea with their Confirmation service held June 5th. Receiving instruction this year were Alyssa Follick, Isaac Lammers, Tessa Ivan and Rebecca Ziegler.

A congregational picnic and Sunday School wind-up was held June 12 in Ardath, SK, wonderfully hosted by Heather Elliott and Greg Graham. The festivities began with games and activities for the whole family and then we joined in an amazing meal. Greg prepared a mouth-watering bounty in the smokehouse which was thoroughly enjoyed! The weather was just lovely and there was a lot of visiting and fellowship all afternoon.

At our June Mission Prayer Breakfast we were excited to welcome Cheryl, who had arrived just a couple days earlier from Ukraine. It was good to see her and hear all she had to share. Her plan is to return and continue her mission work in the fall. Arlin and Ruth Olson were also with us that morning so it was a special time indeed.

Our Sunday School was well represented in the Canada Day parade in Outlook with a wonderful float sharing the story of Jonah and the Whale. A talented group built the float and several children rode on it.



Several people from our congregation attended Family Camp at Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp. Pastor Mac and Lila were there Thursday morning to lead worship.

We were excited to join with the family of Byrdie Zboril in celebrating Byrdie's 90th birthday with a "Come and Go Tea" in July. What a wonderful afternoon it was for family and friends.

On Sunday, July 17 we commissioned an outreach team that headed to Southend, SK. The congregation was involved (prior to their departure) by attending a fundraising lunch, gathering Christian books, and decorating several hundred cookies. The team had a fantastic week and we continue to pray for the community.

Our pastors were able to enjoy some time away and we were blessed to have Pastor Daryl Olson, Pastor Dan Haugen, Marilyn Gustafson and Arlin Olson fill the pulpit for us while they were away.

Our congregation continues to prepare for welcoming a new refugee family into our community. Members of the refugee committee have been attending Zoom meetings and gathering for prayer. We trust in God's planning, provision and timing in all this. We have seen Him move mightily already! We sponsored a family six years ago who were in a refugee camp in Eritrea for many years. The family has worked hard and done well. The two daughters, Asmeret and Selam, are currently preparing to head to Saskatoon for work and then further education.

Often times in the summer, a church can become rather quiet during the week, but that's certainly not the case this summer! Two mornings each week English classes are being taught to new arrivals so there is wonderful activity happening there. As well, our Tuesday morning coffee times continue to be great fun. About 10:00 am every Tuesday people start arriving for coffee and great conversation. If you are able, please join us!

Russel and Olive Fonstad celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on August 11th. On August 14th, their family held a "Come and Go" gathering for them in the courtyard of long term care. Congratulations, Russel and Olive!

In September we will be receiving an intern from CLBI (Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute). His name is Seth Hansen and he is doing a parish ministry internship as a part of a Bachelor of Applied Christian Studies. We look forward to welcoming Seth into our church community.

As we prepare for fall, we anticipate the excitement of Sunday School starting again, more Bible studies and new discipleship initiatives. May God be glorified in all these efforts.

Summer 2023: Kitchen Volunteers Needed! Head Cook and Crew Wanted



After many years of FAITHFUL service, Carol, Linda and Katie are "retiring" from camp kitchen duties.

This is an opportunity for a new 'crew' to take the reins.
Are you interested?

We want to hear from YOU!

Please contact Grant Lee at (306) 222-2776. Thank you!



The Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp has a website:

<http://elbowlutheranbiblecamp.com>

Please visit often to learn more about the camp and see updates for 2023!



Registration Information

Are you curious about how many attended camp this year? I was! According to Rhonda Lee, our camp registrar, we had

224

people register for camp during the week. Wow! Since Rhonda took on the registrar duties in 2014, we have not surpassed 200 attendees.

Thanks be to God for His faithfulness!



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:

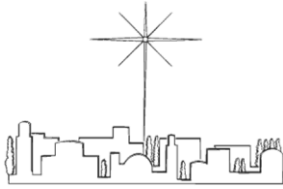
jeffdena@xplornet.com

Thank you!

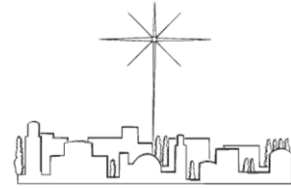


Our next Family Bible Camp Week runs from **July 1 - 7, 2023.**

We want to see you there!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hawarden, SK



Submitted by Linda Follick

*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
Matthew 9:35-38*

June:

- Our LCW (Lutheran Church Women) group continues to meet monthly. In June, we finished our study of 1 Timothy. This was a study written by Jeanette Berntson. (Website Link: <https://www.aflc.org/women/resources/bible-studies>)
- Gerald and Linda Follick attended the Confirmation of their granddaughter, Alyssa, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Outlook on June 5th. (She is the daughter of Shawn and Amanda Follick.) Family and friends gathered at their home after the service.
- Gerald and Linda Follick, and Neil and Katie Haaland attended the LCBI (Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute) Spring Concert on June 5th. Alyssa Follick played the hand bells and Cassidy Haaland sang in the choir. It was a wonderful evening of music.
- Neil and Katie Haaland were in Camrose to attend the confirmation of their granddaughter, Danyel, on the 19th. It was also Greg and Dena (Haaland) Rokos' Anniversary and Father's Day.

July:

- 2nd – 8th – Family Camp at Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp. It was a wonderful week of preaching and teaching with Pastor Bob Schultz (evening speaker and morning Bible teacher), and Pastor Kevin Langager (morning Bible teacher). Mackenzie Wahl was the Youth Leader, and Ovi Friesen and Whitney Klassen were the dorm counselors. Over 200 people attended the family camp this year! It was great to see lots of young families in attendance.
- It was good to have Eileen de Guzman, Caleb, Katharine, and Mikkel from Victoria spend the month of July in Outlook.
- Neil, Katie, Chad and Sarah Haaland and family spent the weekend of the 16th in Alberta. They attended the memorial service for brother / uncle Bill at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Sherwood Park. (Website: <http://mountolivet.ca/>)

- 23rd – The family of Rae Hunter gathered at our church for a memorial service, with internment in the cemetery and visiting over lunch. He passed away in August of last year.

August:

- 9th – The LCW met at the church to start their new study entitled, “Behold Our God.” This is based on Psalms 90 - 100 and was written by Karen Floan, Anne Presteng, Gwen Berge and Wendy Westlake (the Snipstead sisters). (Website: <https://www.aflc.org/women/resources/bible-studies>)
- Over the summer we have had Pastor Daryl Olson and Pastor Adam Driscoll deliver some of the sermons. As well, we’ve watched some sermon videos by Reverend Paul Donison (Victor Lee’s cousin’s son from Texas).



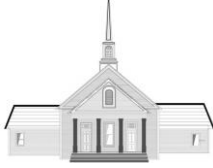
Prayers:

- We continue to pray for the Archibald family.
- We praise God for successful cataract surgeries for Sylvia Sundby!
- We pray for continued healing for Linda Lee, as she recuperates from her fall.
- All of the farmers and ranchers – for safety in harvest and cattle handling.

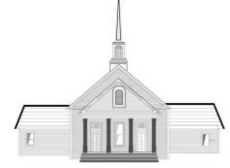


Carol, Linda and Kate in Moose Jaw

Carol Larson, Linda Follick, and Katie Haaland – the retiring camp cooks – would like to express our appreciation of your kind generosity of the Spa getaway in Moose Jaw, SK. We had time to get away Aug 23rd – 24th. The food was great – and we didn’t even have to cook it! 😊 The massages felt so good, especially combined with the mineral water swim. The trolley tour of the city & tours of two tunnels were very interesting. Thank you so much to those who contributed to this wonderful gift. God’s blessings to you all!



Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, SK



Submitted by Ashley Stamnes, Administrative Assistant

***You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek You; I thirst for You,
my whole being longs for You, in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.
Psalm 63:1***

Greetings from Bethel!

My, the summer flew by so quickly! We are thankful for all the different blessings of this season including time with family, much needed rest, the beauty of God's creation and meeting new people.

In the last summer heat of August and September, may we not only be thirsty for water, but for more of God as the above Psalm states. He is our Living Water.

June:

- Lisa Peterman has organized a nursery time for the young children in our congregation and guests. We are so thankful for all those helping!
- 26th – Ron and Donna Hundebly a hymn sing for the evening. This is always very much enjoyed!

July:

- 2nd - 8th – Many from our congregation attended part or all of ELBC (Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp). As always, it was a blessing! From wonderful morning and evening teaching and amazing food to laughing children, it was full of great music and such good fellowship.
- 10th – Pastor Arlin Olson shared the message on this Sunday in Pastor Dave Hesje's absence. We are so blessed to have him and Ruth as a part of our congregation.
- 23rd – Brad Norrish and several men from the congregation organized a car show and BBQ. This was in support of the refugee family that we are sponsoring. It was very well attended and so much fun! It was a busy weekend in Elbow with the rodeo on, and this just added to the good times! In addition, we ask that you keep our refugee family in your prayers. Please pray that God would guide everyone involved and everything would be in His time. May He bring blessing and safety to this special family.
- 24th – Pastor Daryl Olson brought us the message and we were blessed!
- 31st – This was our Western Service at the rodeo grounds. It was well attended, and we pray that many seeds were planted through God's Word in Pastor Dave's message, the shared testimony, and the great music by NewLaw.

August:

- 7th – Teen Challenge had a presentation during service followed by a potluck and fellowship. We are always touched by their stories and are so thankful for all God is doing. Please join us in praying for the men's and women's centres and their needs.
- 14th – We were thankful to have Jay Dunbar bring the message in Pastor Dave's absence.
- 21st – Dale and Janet hosted a church picnic for the congregation and guests. Thank you for graciously opening up your lovely yard to so many!

We continue to pray for those hurting and mourning in our midst – both the spoken and unspoken needs. God knows and He cares deeply.

We pray that He would also touch all those reading this newsletter!



Treasurer's Report

Thank you to all the donations that came in during our Family Camp week in July. Thank you also for those who sent money to the camp through Canada Helps. I have received all the donations from there; however, there has been a major glitch in trying to get into our account in their website. You will receive a receipt from them; I apologize for not being able to send an email thanking you. I will still keep trying to get into their system and they are trying to help with not much success.

There were several asking to e-transfer funds to the Elbow Bible Camp and we have decided to do on-line banking, which will enable us to do that. Donations can be sent through my email – lindafollick@hotmail.com. We will be closing our account with Canada Helps shortly. (They take 3% of all donations and we can do better by mailing a cheque to Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp or online through my email.)

Memorial Gifts received since the last issue of *The Echoes*:

Harvey Haug
Johan and Ruth Hesje
Norma Knutson

Ruth Knutson
Marie Wankel
George Cooper