

# The Echoes

a Publication of



March 2023

## Twice Mine

**One-Tired Preacher:  
Pastor Dave Hesje  
Elbow, SK**

Little Timmy, from the ghetto, loved sailboats, and often watched them on the lake. One day his love for sailboats moved him to make his very own little replica. He spent days meticulously building his sailboat.

He carved the hull, whittled the mast, made sails from a sheet, and then painted and lacquered it, so it would shine and last.

Little Timmy deeply loved the boat he made and couldn't wait to see it sail! So, he hurried to the lake and launched his precious sailboat, clinging to the long-attached string. Timmy was captivated for hours enjoying his new boat! He was having so much fun, he didn't notice a storm was fast approaching! When the storm hit, little Timmy frantically tried to pull his sailboat to shore! But a big gust and wave capsized the boat and released it from the string! Timmy badly wanted to go in after his boat, but the waves were far too high and the wind too strong, so all he could do was stand and weep as he watched his precious boat disappear. Timmy sadly went home! But he never gave up hope, as every day, he returned to the lake seeking to find his lost boat.

One day, totally unexpectedly, little Timmy was walking past a pawn shop, and unbelievably in the window, was his boat! His heart leapt for joy! His boat was badly damaged, but there was no mistaking, it was his boat! He excitedly ran into the store hollering, "You have my boat; you have my boat!" The owner quickly replied, "No, I have **my** boat!" Timmy said, "No it's my boat! I made it, and I lost it, but its mine!" The man replied, "It might have been yours once, but it's mine now, and it will cost you \$20 to buy it back." To Timmy, that was an enormous amount of money! Timmy, however, was willing to do whatever it took to get his boat back so he did odd jobs to raise the \$20. A week later, Timmy had his \$20, and ran to the pawnshop to buy his precious boat back. He anxiously dumped his coins on the counter and excitedly said, "I'm here to buy my boat!" Timmy left the store with a huge smile, cradling his precious boat in his arms like it was a newborn baby!

Timmy carefully repaired the damage and restored his boat to its former glory before delicately placing his boat on his dresser in his room. He then stood back

admiring it, and said, "Little boat, I made you, I lost you, I found you, I bought you back, I restored you to your former glory. So little boat, you are more special and precious than ever to me, because you are twice mine!"


I love this cute story, because it is the gospel! God fearfully and wonderfully knit you together in your mother's womb. God passionately loved and admired the work of His hands, saying, "It is very good!" As a storm separated the little Timmy from his precious boat, sin separated you from God. As little Timmy stood by the lake and wept when he lost his boat, God's heart was grieved and filled with pain at the time of the flood, because of sin! As little Timmy every day went to the lake in search of his precious boat, so Jesus came into this world to seek and save the lost. As this little Timmy earned the money to buy his boat back, so God gave Jesus – His one and only Son – as the ransom price to buy you back, or redeem you! As the storm and water damaged the little boy's boat so sin damaged us, who were made in the perfect image of God. As little Timmy restored his boat to its former glory, so God transforms all who repent, into new creations through Christ and His Word! As this little boy placed his redeemed and restored boat on his dresser in his room, so Jesus has prepared a room in His Father's house, to place us forever!

The difference between you and the boat is that **you** have a choice. Jesus has already paid for your redemption. By faith, you must choose to believe in Jesus, who died to redeem you, and receive this precious gift of salvation, so God can say, "You are twice mine!"

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.  
Ephesians 1:7*

*Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.  
John 1:12*

In His Grip, Pastor Dave Hesje



Mark your calendars now  
for the annual Bible Camp  
spring clean-up:  
**June 9-10, 2023**  
Many hands make light work!



## 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 2022.

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hawarden, SK

*Submitted by Linda Follick*

*“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me, I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand, I and the Father are one.*

*John 10:27-30”.*

#### December:

- 16<sup>th</sup> Congratulations to Ruth Cooper on the birth of her 14th great-grandchild! Simon Bradley was born to Graeme and Robynne Rinholm and weighed in at 8 pounds 4 ounces. Grandparents are Larry and Leanne Rinholm.
- 18<sup>th</sup> The Haalands and Follicks attended the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute’s Christmas Concert featuring the LCBI Concert Choir. (Neil and Katie Haaland’s granddaughter, Cassidy, was a performer at that event.) The Christmas Concert also featured the Chamber & Hand bell Choirs, Jazz Band and Outlook Men’s Chorus. Over 250 people were in attendance!



*Photo taken from LCBI’s Facebook page; photo posted on December 19, 2022.*

The Follicks also attended The Bethlehem Lutheran Church’s (Outlook) Christmas Program, “The ABC’s of Christmas.” Addison and Linaya Follick played in the instrumental group.

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Congratulations to Chad and Sarah Haaland on the birth of their daughter Hannah Elizabeth, a little sister for Johnny, Cohen, Cassidy and Cadence! Congratulations also to grandparents Neil and Katie Haaland.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Our Candlelight and Christmas Day services were cancelled due to the weather.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Our sympathies to Ruth Cooper and families on the passing of her brother, Len Ochs, from Vernon, British Columbia.

We continue to have weekly morning worship services and are so blessed to have Pastor Adam Driscoll (Moose Jaw, SK) and Pastor Daryl Olson (Outlook, SK) leading our services. As well, we watch sermon videos from Rev. Paul Donison. In Sunday School, we watch videos of Ray Vander Laan teaching about the Holy Land with discussion following.

We continue to meet monthly for our Lutheran Church Women (LCW) meetings where we are studying “Behold Our God”— a study on the Psalms (Website Link: <https://www.aflc.org/women/resources/bible-studies/>).

Neil and Katie Haaland hold a weekly Community Bible Study in their home to study “The Holiness of God” by R.C Sproul. They watch a video with discussion following. (Website Link: <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/holiness-of-god>)

### January:

- 25<sup>th</sup> Several took in the “Evening of Sharing” at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Outlook. Several of the refugees from Afghanistan gave their testimonies. Lunch and fellowship followed.
- 29<sup>th</sup> After the morning worship service and lunch the congregation held their Annual General Meeting. There were no new changes from last year:
 

President:	Neil Haaland
Treasurer:	Victor Lee
Secretary:	Katie Haaland



### February:

- 14<sup>th</sup> We pray God’s blessing to Roy Olson who celebrated his 97th Birthday. On the same day we lost Sylvia Sundby to her battle with cancer. Our sympathies go out to the Sundby / Olson families:
  - Heather & Ron Haaland, (Nanton, AB)
  - Carren Blosky,(Outlook, SK)
  - Michelle & Martin Rude (Outlook, SK)
  - Geoff Sundby (Calgary, AB)
  - Siblings Lloyd & Carolyn Olson (Camrose, AB)
  - Phyllis & Arnold Schellenberg (Calgary, AB)
  - Merton & Shirley Olson (Kelowna, BC)

- Paul & Kim Olson (Hague, SK)
- Sister-in-law Mary & Allan Freitag (Hague, SK)

Her funeral was held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Outlook) with the burial at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Hawarden) after lunch was served. Pastor Mac de Waal from Outlook led the service, Pastor Al Pinno gave the message (*which contained a sermon written by Pastor Gene Sundby*), and Pastor Daryl Olson spoke at her internment. Sylvia was our pianist for many years and we are going to miss her beautiful playing – not to mention her faithful witness – and being a mentor and friend to us all. Blessed be her memory!

We continue to pray for Roy Olson, Sharon Cooper, and the Archibald family.



We also are praying for the LCBI Mission team who arrived in Mexico on February 19<sup>th</sup>. They will be working at orphanage called “Hogar Para Ninos – Foundation for His Ministry” in Colonial Vicente Guerrero, Mexico. They will spend the week there and start their long drive home on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Kalen Follick and Cassidy Haaland are two members of the Mission Team; they are grandchildren of Bethlehem Lutheran (Hawarden) members. Check out their website at <https://www.ffhm.org>.

*Photo taken from LCBI’s Facebook page; photo posted on January 18, 2023.*



**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](mailto: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 Outlook, SK



*Submitted by Shelley Luedtke*

Hello everyone,

It was a very exciting day on December 2<sup>nd</sup> when a group of about 20 people from our church – and Bethel Lutheran in Elbow – gathered at the Saskatoon airport to welcome the families (from Afghanistan) who we have been praying and preparing for. It was an amazing (and emotional) moment when they walked through the doors. They saw a welcoming banner, Canadian flags and a group eager to welcome them to Saskatchewan!

Handshakes, hugs and many smiles were shared as everyone took in the moment. There was tremendous excitement as eyes were glued to the door, waiting for the families to walk through! In the weeks since, we can say wholeheartedly that we have been so blessed by their presence in our congregation.



*December 2, 2022 – Saskatoon Airport*

On December 5<sup>th</sup> we had a wonderful morning of worship and fellowship. A potluck lunch was thoroughly enjoyed by a big crowd. We were also treated to music by Annika Friggstad as she shared beautiful Christmas carols on the violin. The Men's Chorus also joined us and sang three special numbers.

The Sunday School held their annual Christmas Shopping Spree on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Gently used items became great gifts for grandpas, grandmas, moms, dads, siblings, cousins and more. Children get to "shop" and then wrap all their purchases so there are surprises under the tree.

The next evening the Sunday School presented their Christmas concert and did a wonderful job sharing the message through a program called, "ABC's of Christmas".

On December 21<sup>st</sup> we held a "Longest Night" Service. It was good to be mindful that the Christmas season can be a painful time for many. Scripture readings, special music, prayer, the lighting of candles and a message were part of the meaningful service.

Our church had a display set up as part of "Winter Wonderland" in the Outlook & District Regional Park. Once again the event was very good and we were pleased to present the Nativity to the community.



In January a new program began at our church called, "Mom's Morning Out." This is a gathering for moms and their young children, each Tuesday at 11:00 am. It is a great time of visiting, coffee and, of course, cuddling little ones.

On January 25<sup>th</sup> we held "An Evening of Sharing" to hear the testimonies of the new families from Afghanistan. What a powerful night it was! Five people shared their testimony after a time of praise and worship music.

January 28<sup>th</sup> was the funeral service for Marlene Vavra. Blessed be her memory.

On February 5<sup>th</sup> we had a Chili & Baked Potato Lunch and enjoyed some great fellowship. It is so good to enjoy these times together.

Our annual general meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> was a time to give praise for God's work among us. What a year it has been! We are thankful for intern, Seth, who has been with us since September, and we are thrilled to have the families from Afghanistan with us. This is in addition to ministry already happening here. God is indeed so, so good.

Heading into the Lenten season we will be holding Wednesday evening services at 7:00 p.m. each week as a time of preparation as we reflect on Christ's journey to the cross.



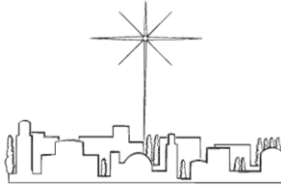
Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp is looking for a

**CARETAKER**

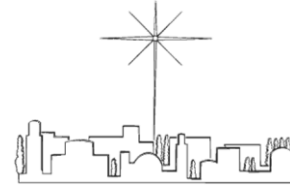
June through August, 2022  
(Starting Date is Flexible)

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



## Skudesnes Lutheran Church Loreburn, SK



*Submitted by Joan Soggie*

Greetings from Skudesnes Lutheran Church!

We have been blessed with wonderful weather this winter. Not once have Sunday services had to be cancelled because of blizzards or bad roads! Maybe there were a few more foggy days than we wanted, but the rime frost encasing tree branches was so beautiful against the snowy fields. Maybe that's where our ancestors got their inspiration for white-on-white hardanger embroidery.

In November we invited the community to join us for an evening of country gospel and western music provided by musician Larry Kraus. Decorations of Western gear and Maxine's fake campfire set the mood, and once again Jody Sanden provided an outstanding lunch. The evening was enjoyed by all, and raised \$430.55 for area foodbanks.

Our congregation was shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of Ernie Pryor in late November. Ernie and Jean have been faithful attendees at Skudesnes when the United Church is not having services, and we have come to love and appreciate them so much.

The education committee resurrected one of Maxine's Sunday School flannel graphs for Advent, reasoning that we are all still children at heart, especially at Christmas. The readings illustrated how God moved through the lives of Old Testament characters preparing the hearts and minds of the Israelites for the coming Messiah. This, together with the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath, re-reading the timeless story of God's love, and Pastor Sonje's message each Sunday, helped prepare our own hearts and minds for Christmas and the birth of our Savior.

On December 8<sup>th</sup> we welcomed the ladies of the community to an old-fashioned Scandinavian Christmas Eve, planned by the education committee with the assistance of Penny Aadland. (Yes! There was lefse, krumkake, gjetost, and that special Danish dessert, Risalamande... but no lutefiske.) As we gathered around the Christmas tree, Viv Brown read the Christmas story and Verna Urlacher led singing of the old carols that we never hear often enough. We went home refreshed in body and soul.



*Photos taken with permission from Kim Sogge's Facebook page.  
Thank you, Kim!*



Our final event of 2022 was the Christmas Eve candlelight service, followed by Christmas goodies and visiting over coffee. For those who could stay, we had a potluck Christmas Eve supper, complete with roast beef and potatoes. It was a beautiful evening and a great turnout.

The New Year began with special birthdays: Walter Tastad's 99th on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and Art Vollmer's 90<sup>th</sup> on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

On January 29<sup>th</sup> we welcomed Davidson Redeemer to a joint service and potluck dinner. The fellowship was enjoyed by all!

Congratulations to Dawni and Anthony Neufeld on the birth of their baby boy on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, grandchild to Randy and Verna Urlacher and great-grandchild to Sharon Urlacher.

The annual meeting of Skudesnes Lutheran Church was held on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with reports from Pastor Sonje Finnestad, President Maxine Follick, Trustees Ron Savidan and Codey Sanden, Church Secretary Gerri Vollmer, Treasurer Verna Urlacher and the Education Committee – Marcelle Savidan and Joan Soggie. Long-time church secretary Gerri Vollmer is stepping down and Carie Langager has kindly agreed to take over that job, in addition to her service in Music Ministry. We are so grateful for these willing workers. By the grace of God, our congregation will continue to thrive through each one offering his or her gifts for the good of all.

Our beloved Pastor Sonje Finnestad plans to retire by the end of this year. She hopes to continue serving our congregation in some capacity, but none of us know what the future holds. I will close with her words, and one of her favorite verses:

"All we can do is love God and each other and the world God loves, follow Jesus, share the good news, bear witness to the light, and trust God to take care of the rest."

*Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. – Luke 12:32*



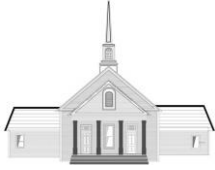
**Need to reserve a cabin for camp next summer?**

Contact Grant Lee at (306) 222-2776.

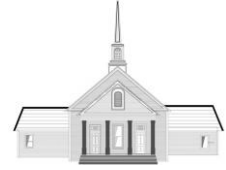
**Want a preview of the camp schedule? Visit this link:**

<http://elbowlutheranbiblecamp.com/wp/family-camp/>





## Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, SK



*Submitted by Ashley Stamnes, Administrative Assistant*

*Sing to the Lord; praise His name. Each day proclaim the good news that He saves. Publish His glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things He does. Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods.*  
*Psalm 96:2-4*

Greetings from Bethel! As we are still in the middle of winter – even though the weather is quite lovely right now – it still feels like July is a very long ways away. However, before we know it, we will be gathering together at Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp once again!

We have had quite a few things going on at Bethel and it has been an eventful winter so far.

### **December:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> There was a general Women’s Mission Fellowship (WMF) meeting.
- 4<sup>th</sup> The Sunday School had their program during the morning service. The kids shared through song, readings and their drama, “Who Could Imagine a King?” We had more children participate this year and had an amazing turn out! We were so thankful to spread the love of Jesus to so many!
- 11<sup>th</sup> We were able to share our love and appreciation for Pastor Dave and Deb through a love offering and potluck. How blessed we are to have a pastor and his wife who proclaim God’s love and preach His Word!
- 18<sup>th</sup> The ladies brought baking and packed cheer boxes for many in the community. They were delivered by lots of helping hands! What a great ministry!
- 24<sup>th</sup> There was a lovely candlelight service. Many congregants and visitors came to celebrate the birth of our Lord.



The biggest highlight of the month was having most of the members of our newcomer family (Afghanistan refugees) arrive safely in Canada! Praise God!

As well we were again able to collect warm items of clothing on our “Giving Tree” to donate to Saskatoon Interval House (Website: <https://saskatoonintervalhouse.org/>).

### **January:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday School resumed for the new year. Thankful for new and old faces alike!

- 17<sup>th</sup> We had our Annual Congregational Meeting. We are thankful for another year of serving God and being a part of lifting His name high!
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Pastor Brian Tysdal and Adam Tysdal shared with us during our service. Pastor Brian brought a wonderful message and Adam ministered through song. Thank you for joining us!
- 29<sup>th</sup> We had another potluck and celebrated the arrival of the remaining members of our newcomer family!

**February:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> The WMF had their annual meeting. (This was postponed from the original date in January due to icy road conditions)

We keep all those grieving, hurting, and ill in our prayers. May God be their comfort and peace. We are also so very thankful for the many answered prayers and blessings!



## Treasurer's Report

Thank you so much for all the donations that have come in. Without them we could not continue with the general upkeep of the camp or any improvements that need to be made.

Thank you to those who are sending their donations to camp using our on-line banking by sending e-transfers to [lindafollick@hotmail.com](mailto:lindafollick@hotmail.com).

I am still getting a few donations through Canada Helps. However, if you use a stamp and mail a cheque to the following address, you will get a receipt for the full amount instead of having 3.5% taken off your donation.

Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp  
Box 776  
Outlook, SK S0L 2N0

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

**Audrey Langager**  
**Darlene Blenkinsop**  
**Carol Wick**

**Martin Christensen**  
**Len Ochs**  
**Sylvia Sundby**