

Advent & Christmas Communique



If the activity in the malls and the shows on television are any indication, Christmas will soon be upon us. Perhaps you already have plans to celebrate the season in various ways—through office parties, family gatherings, or with a host of other special events associated with the season. As strange as it may seem right now, you may have already had your share of the hustle and bustle of Christmas, and are looking forward to the beginning of a new year, and a chance to rest up from all the busyness of December.

But Christmas is far more than busyness and celebration. Christmas is about presence: the presence of God with us. Christmas is God's gift of Himself, as Jesus Christ comes to be our Saviour, to suffer and die for sinners like us, that we may have life in Him.

Where would we be without Christmas? We could do without the lights, the gifts, the turkey. But we cannot do without the forgiveness and salvation that Christ brings to us. We cannot hope to get through our lives without the hope that comes to us in Christ. There is no joy in life without the joyful message of the angels, "to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour; He is Christ, the Lord!" Take away Christmas—and the misery, struggles and pains of this world would overwhelm us all.

But we remember that long ago, in an insignificant stable in Bethlehem, God came to change things for us. The Child who is God in the flesh grew to give Himself for us. We have life in Him! May you celebrate that life with great joy in these coming days, and treasure the gift of Christmas in your heart throughout the year.

In His love and service,

Pastor Bode

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Noteworthy

Kids Bible Club - Children age 4-11

December 10: 9:30 -11:30 am.

January 14: 9:30 - 11:30 am.

Children's Choir

Join us Thursday, December 15th at 6:45 pm for a peek into our children's choir and to hear some of the songs we have been working on. Rehearsals resume on Thursday, January 12th.



Moms and Tots

December 15th: Bring some of your favourite Christmas cookies to share, along with the recipe. In January we will meet Thursdays, January 5th and 19th.

Caroling to our homebound members:

Time to bring music cheer to our homebound members on Friday, **December 16th**. Meet at the church at 6:15 p.m. to form our caroling groups and pick up the plates of goodies to take to those you visit. After caroling, quench your throats and palates with fellowship and goodies at Pastor Bode's house. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex in December.



LYF in Christ (Lutheran Youth at Foothills)

December 2: Topic Study Night

December 16: Caroling

January 13, 2017: Winter Sports

January 27, 2017: TBA

Watch the bulletin and your email for more details.

Preschool Christmas Concerts

December 19 - 7:00 pm Morning Classes

December 20 - 2:30 pm Afternoon Classes

Preschool Classes resume on January 4, 2017.

Ladies' Bible Study

We meet on December 8th (7:45 pm) and 22nd and January 5th at 7:30 pm at Deaconess Miriam's home. Contact her for more information. We are currently studying the Fruit of the Spirit; feel free to jump in!

LWML Epiphany Lunch - Sunday, January 8

Join us after service January 8 for Pot-blessing meal. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Voter's Meetings: December 4, January 29

Parish Planning Council: December 5, January 9

Elders: February 6, January 3

FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL

Join us **Thursday, December 1st** for some Advent family fun. And by family, we mean the Foothills family! Bring a dish to share for our **pot-blessing supper at 5:30 pm** or come at 6:00 pm to join in the festivities. Supper will be followed by a devotion and activities for all ages.



ADVENT SERVICES HERALD THE GOOD NEWS: "FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME"

As we draw near to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are using Martin Luther's Christmas hymn, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come", written for his children to help them understand the blessings that are ours in Christ, to help guide us in our Advent preparations.

We will look at the Gift of Hope; the Gift of Love; the Gift of Peace; and the Gift of Life, beginning on Wednesday, November 30th.

We hope you will join us for this special time of celebration and encouragement. Services are at 6:30 pm; we begin with soup suppers at 5:30 pm.



Coffee teams

We are so excited to add some new members to our coffee teams! Welcome Diane Voss, Kristy & Kellen Rosenau and Merv & Kareen Borgeson.

Dec. 11 - Pot-blessing meal - Tim & Tracy Roth, Joyce & Murray Kee

Dec. 18 - Pat & Lorne Rosenau, Lucy Oberhammer

Jan. 1 - Shirley & Carl Berdahl, Ellen Wagner, Cheryl Lemke

Jan. 8 - Ingrid Kubke and Robert Kubke, LWML Potluck

January 15 - Belinda & Dave Perrin, Brenda Bode

January 22 - Heather Sommers, Warren Kee, Matthew Pfaff, Merv & Kareen Borgeson

January 29 - Voter's Meeting



Don't forget to check out the fall book club selections, and write your order on the sheet before December 31!

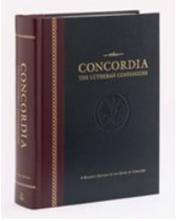
Our preschool ministry is in need of (a) classroom volunteer(s). If you're able to assist with this important work, please speak to Betty Ann!



The Preschool's 15th anniversary is coming up in 2017, and we'd like to celebrate with an event in June. We're looking for an event coordinator to take charge of the details; if you're interested, please talk to Betty Ann or Michelle.

Would you like to know more about what Lutherans believe?

We'll be having a Book of Concord study in February, which will give you an introduction to the Book of Concord, which includes the Augsburg Confession, the creeds, and the catechisms, among others. There are two times to choose from: parts 1 and 2 will both be offered the morning of February 11, or in a two-week series on February 21 (part 1) and 28 (part 2) at 7:30pm. We hope to provide some children's programming on February 11 – please let us know if you're interested in helping and/or bringing children. Watch for signup sheets in December!



There is some sort of Christian education opportunity at Foothills nearly every day of the week; if you're looking to learn, the Board of Christian Education is here to facilitate. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly! See Trevor or Michelle Heumann, Board Chairs.

Newsletter Deadline:

Please have your submissions for the January/February edition of Foot Print to the office by Friday, January 6. Newsletters will be printed the following week and available on the welcome desk on January 15th.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE / POT-BLESSING MEAL

"From Heaven Above" will be presented by the children of our congregation during our worship service on **Sunday, December 11th**. Sunday School families - rehearsals take place Saturday, December 3 at 10 am and December 10 at 1 pm.

Join us after the service for a **"pot-blessing" meal**. Everyone is asked to bring a family favourite or a dish from your childhood to share.



SPECIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

We gather together at this special time of year to worship and thank God for His blessings of life in Christ. We invite you to join us and encourage you to extend the invitation to your family, friends, and neighbours.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Services

4:00 pm; 6:00 pm; (8:00 pm TBD) December 24

Christmas Day Family Celebration

(No Sunday School or Bible Studies) (Communion)

10:15 am December 25

New Year's Eve Vespers

(Communion)

6:30 pm December 31





In 2017 we will be thanking God for the 50 years of our congregation by organizing 50 servant events for our members to participate in. The first couple of months' events are as follows:

1	Jan 1-14	Random Acts of Kindness
2	Jan 15	Blanket Drive
3	Jan 26	Children's Choir sings at Manor
4	TBA	Shift at Food Bank
5	February	Visit Homebound Members
6	TBA	Blood Donor Drive
7	Feb 19	Collect Stamps for Cdn Bible Society
8	Feb 25	"Coldest Night of the Year"

Details:

Random Acts of Kindness – This servant event is for people of all ages! We challenge everyone in the congregation to do something for someone (unexpected and unasked for) each day from January 1 – 14. Some examples of these acts would be buying a coffee for a stranger, shovelling your neighbour's sidewalk, phone or e-mail someone you haven't seen for a long time, offer to babysit, etc.

Blanket Drive – We will be collecting blankets and/or sleeping bags for the homeless. There is already a bin (beside the ones for the Food Bank) for the blankets and we will deliver them January 15th.

Food Bank – We will work a shift at the Food Bank. There is a sign up sheet on the Human Care Ministries bulletin board. The date and time will be announced as soon as one is assigned.

Visitations – The LWML visits homebound members of our congregation in February. They invite the rest of us to do the same.

Blood Donor Drive – A booking will be made at a blood donor clinic for a group of us to donate blood. There will be a sign up sheet on the Human Care Ministries bulletin board as soon as the date is known. Anyone who is unable to join us on that date are encouraged to make your own arrangements to donate. After all, "it's in you to give".

Stamps – Save the stamps off all the Christmas cards (and any other mail) you receive during the next few months. We will deliver them to the Canadian Bible Society on February 19th.

Coldest Night of the Year – We can volunteer to help or participate in the walk on February 25th to raise money for the Mustard Seed.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS



With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, please make sure someone will be here if you need to access the church.

December 26 Office Closed
 December 27 9:00 am-Noon (Reduced Staff)
 December 28 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 December 29 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 December 30 9:00 am - noon



Consider supporting the Foothills Lutheran Church **Benevolence Fund** in the New Year. Support from this fund is coordinated between a Pastor and HCM Board member to respond to requests for FLC members who may be at risk of being without their basic living needs. This is not a budgeted item, and can include needs such as food, shelter, medical treatment, and transportation needs.

The Board of Human Care Ministries welcomes all requests for help and service by email, phone, or a mailbox note to Stacey Bablitz (sbablitz@shaw.ca, or call 403-686-7112).

There are Advent Devotion booklets (in regular and large print) available on the welcome desk. Please help yourself for your own use and also to give away to friends, family, and neighbours.

