



Dear Friends in Christ, and Fellow Redeemed:

In the coming weeks we will see an increase of green in stores, as retailers prepare for St. Patrick's Day. I noticed that the breakfast cereal, Lucky Charms, has a special edition this spring where the green shamrocks turn the milk green. Bars will serve green beer on March 17<sup>th</sup>. I remember that my roommates and I made green spaghetti for St. Patrick's Day. For one day of the year it seems that everyone claims to have a bit of the Irish in them, celebrating a day dedicated to a man who is a folk hero, surrounded by both history and legend. While much of the celebration no longer has anything to do with St. Patrick, this man does deserve to be remembered.

From his writings, we know that Patrick was born in England. In his *Confession*, Patrick tells of being taken as a captive at sixteen years of age by Celtic raiders. He was not particularly religious at this time, but the hardships of slavery led him to turn to God.

He was in bondage for six years, when a vision led him to a certain harbor where he boarded a boat that took him back to England. It wasn't long after his return that Patrick felt called to go to return to Ireland as a minister of God and to lead the Druid pagans to Christ.

He studied for the priesthood and asked to be sent to Ireland, but his requests were denied. He became a bishop, but still wasn't allowed to go to Ireland. Another bishop, Palladius, was the first to take the Gospel to Ireland. When that mission failed, Patrick was finally given permission to undertake the mission to Ireland.

It took courage to face the warrior chieftains, the Druid magicians and an unbelieving land. But Patrick had a great faith in a great God, and a love for the people who had once treated him as a slave. He travelled across Ireland, sharing the Light of Life—Jesus Christ—with people who were lost in the dark.

It can be hard to separate legend from reality, but Patrick's faith was real. He trusted in the Triune God, and was eager to share his hope with others. Many may know that Patrick used the shamrock—a symbol sacred to the pagan Druids to whom Patrick preached as a lesson of the Trinity. To be honest, it is not the best illustration and it would take some time to explain that, but Patrick was able to use it effectively, for which we thank God.

We know that his preaching had a dramatic impact on Ireland—and from there to other areas of the world. In an article by John Murphy Ball originally published in the March 1999 *Lutheran Witness*, the author noted:

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...Continued from Page 1

[Patrick] often faced certain death unafraid. He argued, preached and brought Christ with him everywhere he travelled. In his path he left converts and churches under construction. In about the time it took Patrick to walk across it, Ireland converted from paganism to Christianity. Ireland outlawed slavery and stopped raiding its neighbors. Never before in the history of the world and never since has such a dramatic and sudden cultural and religious change taken place without force of arms, solely through the Word of God.

A hymn in our Lutheran Service Book is attributed to St. Patrick. It is referred to as *St. Patrick's Breastplate*. The hymn is LSB 604, entitled "I Bind Unto Myself Today". The hymn speaks of the faith and hope to which Patrick held fast. It is a great encouragement for us all.

I bind unto myself today  
The strong name of the Trinity  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One and One in Three.

A fitting tribute to St. Patrick isn't drinking green beer, rather we hold to the same truth of the God who has revealed His great mercy for the whole world in Jesus Christ. That message is sorely needed by the world today, just as much as it was in Patrick's time. There are so many still lost in the dark, troubled by loneliness, slaves to the sinful pastimes of this world. God does have an answer for the hurts, the worries, the fears of human hearts. Patrick learned that the reason for hope is found in God's gracious gift of His Son. Through faith in Jesus Christ, Patrick, who was once a slave, found what it meant to truly be free. God can give us all that same freedom in Christ. That is something to celebrate!

In the service of that Triune God,



## Message from the Vice President

So here we are well into the new year of 2024.

Now that we have an approved budget, we have an idea of what we are looking at financially for 2024.

There are a number of projects going on at FLC over the next several months, so we are very blessed with a number of volunteers who have dedicated many hours to improve our facility in the near future. The kitchen renovation will start after Easter. The new floors in the fellowship hall, and a new sound board in the sanctuary. These are all items that are long overdue. And I look forward to seeing the end results in 2024.

On another note, it became very apparent at the January 28<sup>th</sup> voter's meeting that we need to establish a direction for Foothills in 2024. There will be a brief survey that will go out near the end of February, and we do need the results back as soon as possible. This is a huge opportunity for everyone to voice their opinion on what is important for the congregational needs at Foothills, and where we want to focus our resources.

In closing I have found that Foothills Lutheran Church is a wonderful congregation to be a part of, and I look forward to serving in whatever direction we end up going in.

Hans Dueck  
Vice President

### March Mission of the Month

#### LAMP

LAMP missionaries provide spiritual witness and nurture within remote northern Canadian communities, often accessible only by plane. Various programs bring the Gospel to these areas.

### April Mission of the Month

#### Our LCC Seminaries

Provide training for future pastors and workers in the church.

# Children & Family Ministry

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Our 2024 lessons began “In the beginning”! The current quarter provides a high level view of the Old Testament. March will begin with the Exodus and in the next months we will see God working through Moses, Joshua, kings and prophets to preserve for Himself a people.

### Our upcoming lessons include:

Mar 03	The Exodus	Exodus 14
Mar 10	<i>The Ten Commandments</i>	Exodus 20:1-21
Mar 17	Joshua	Joshua 3:1-4:18
Apr 24	<i>Palm Sunday Activity/ Children Sing in Service</i>	
Mar 31	<i>Easter Sunday No classes</i>	
Apr 07	Gideon	Judges 7:1-23
Apr 14	Samuel	1 Samuel 3
Apr 21	David	1 Samuel 16; 2 Samuel 5 & 7
Apr 28	Mephibosheth	2 Samuel 4:4; 8:1-13

## LADIES' BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



Two ladies' study groups continue, with new members always welcome.

Our Tuesday group is studying the book of Colossians with a resource called “*The Mighty and the Mysterious*”. We meet weekly at the church at 7:30 pm.

Our Thursday afternoon study meets weekly at the church at 1:30 pm for an in-depth study of the readings for the upcoming Sunday.

Both studies take place in-person, with the option of

## FAITH AT HOME

As a congregation we are encouraging the families of our congregation to adopt a Faith-at-Home lifestyle, where parents claim their God-given role as primary faith-teachers of their children. Deaconess Miriam has resources for families to help them fill this role at every age and stage. She'd love to talk with you! You and your children will receive an invitation to the sessions appropriate for their age. Upcoming sessions include “*Forgiveness in the Family*” on **March 17<sup>th</sup>** and “*Family Service*” on **April 14<sup>th</sup>**. See more details for both sessions below!



## Bottle Drive: Sunday, April 28



Would you like to spring-clean your empty bottles out of the back cupboard, garage shelf, or basement corner *and* support the youth group? Bring your refundable bottles to church on **April 28<sup>th</sup>**, and the youth group will recycle them and add the deposit to the youth gathering travel fund! Please drop them off by the red basement doors either before or after the service.

## Family Time In Christ—Gardens

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It's a bit early for gardening in Calgary, but some people are already planning their vegetable and flower gardens for this year. As you talk about your garden and how it will look this year, consider as a family the gardens that have significance in Holy Scripture.

*Genesis 2* tells us that the Lord God “planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He put the man whom He had formed”. God made this beautiful garden for the people He had created, Adam and Eve, and in that garden He gave them everything that they needed. In that garden were two trees – the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. *Genesis 3* tells us what happened in that perfect garden when Adam and Eve listened to the serpent (Satan) rather than to God, and ate the fruit that God had forbidden them to eat. Their perfect relationship with God, and with each other, was broken. They had to leave that garden for a life that included hard work, struggles with sin, and death. God sent them out, though with His promise of a Saviour.

*Matthew 26:36-46* tells us of a garden on the Mount of Olives – Gethsemane. Jesus, the promised Saviour, went there with His disciples and spent time apart from them praying. Matthew tells us of His agony, to the point that He falls on His face and prays that His Father would take the cup (His suffering and death) away. Blessedly, in that garden, Jesus conforms Himself to His Father's will and so after His arrest there, willingly goes to His death for us.

*John 19:41* tells us of yet another garden, where there was a new tomb. Joseph of Arimathea lays Jesus' body in that tomb, in that garden. It is to that garden tomb that the women come early in the morning on the third day. And it is in that garden that they hear the words “He is risen!” Because Jesus has died and has risen, we live in trust in Him and His promise that our sins are forgiven, and that our eternal home will be in heaven with Him. Thanks be to God!

God's blessings to you as you observe Lent, Holy Week and Easter through the month of March!

Deaconess Miriam

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Children age 4 and up are invited to join us for twice monthly practices where we will learn God's Word through song, learn what we can do with our voices, learn a bit about music, and learn how to sing with others. We had a “Family and Friends” concert in December, and plan to sing during worship and at Foothills Manor in the spring. If you are interested in having your children participate, please contact Deaconess Miriam.

## Vacation Bible School 2024

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Planning is under way for this year's summer Vacation Bible School! “*A Week with Jesus*” will run the mornings of **July 22-26**. Lessons will cover Holy Week and a bit beyond. Curriculum planning is underway, and we thank all of those who have stepped forward to commit their time to ensure that it is a week of learn-



## Board of Elders

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Greetings and God's Blessings from the Elders.

Since the voters meeting earlier in the year, the topic of the direction and vision of the church has been a key topic for the Elders. As was mentioned in the last Elders update, we are dealing with a recurring budget deficit at Foothills. This will require the church to prioritize its missions and activities. We are discussing how to bring the congregation into the conversation, and you can expect further information on this initiative very soon.

Of course, all members of the church can contact an Elder (Ralf Hinterleitner, Brian Kehler, Rob Kaut, Timothy Knudtson, Robert Kubke, Rick Nelson, and Austin Voss) any time to discuss your opinions of the future of the church.

And most importantly all members can pray for the Elders, the PPC and for the whole congregation as we look to the vision of the church.

On behalf of the Board of Elders  
Austin Voss

# Board of Fellowship

# LWMLC

## Fellowship

Due to the kitchen renovation and flooring replacement in the Fellowship Hall, there will be some disruption to coffee after service in April. Coffee fellowship will look a little different, watch for more details in the bulletin as we move through the renovation.

We love it when you bring in home-baked and purchased treats. After Easter, during the construction, we will not have our usual amenities so we will be asking you to only bring in treats that can be served directly from the package or individual wrapped treats would even be better.

## Square Dancing

The Fellowship Board welcomes you to join us in some early Stampede fun and learn some square dance steps on Friday, **April 26th**. Watch out for further details as the date gets closer.

## Kitchen Reno Update

We have an official date for the start of the renovation project. It is **April 8<sup>th</sup>**. Yeah!

As we move through the renovation, you will see boxes or items around than church as we start demo on the kitchen and strip the flooring in the Fellowship Hall. Construction work will only be done during the day time Monday to Friday and we are hoping to have as little disruption to FLC life as possible.

We are replacing the stoves, hood fans and getting rid of the chest freezer. If you or anyone you know is interested in any of these items, please speak to Heather Sommers.

Thank you for your patience as we move into this exciting change.

## Epiphany/LWMLC Sunday

Pastor Bode officiated an inspiring worship service on January 7<sup>th</sup> as we celebrated Epiphany/LWMLC Sunday. It was very uplifting to have you join us in reciting our LWMLC Pledge and singing two of our favourite LWMLC hymns: “Lord Jesus, You Have Called Us” and “Called to Serve”. Indeed, we are all called to serve our Lord and Saviour wherever and whenever He has need of us and to share the wonderful Gospel message with others. Your generous mite donations help to further that cause with proceeds going toward LWMLC Mission Grants.

Following the worship service, we enjoyed a wonderful pot blessing luncheon. We appreciate all the delicious food contributions! Special thanks to the coffee team who worked along side us that day!

## St. Patrick’s Tea at Foothills Manor—Friday, March 15, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Please join us as we visit the residents of Foothills Manor. We’ll sing Irish songs and enjoy fellowship and refreshments together.

## National LWMLC Convention—July 11 – 14

With the theme: “Sing to the Lord a New Song” (Psalm 149:1), LWMLC women will convene in London, Ontario this summer. Brenda Bode will be our South Alberta Zone Delegate. All ladies are welcome to attend in person or on-line.

## Upcoming Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **April 22**. All ladies are welcome to join us!

## Forgiveness in the Family



Take it Home!

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Following the service

What would happen in your family if you regularly confessed how you have hurt each other, and practiced speaking clear words of forgiveness to each other? What would that mean for your children’s understanding of God’s forgiveness and for their future relationships?

Come learn and practice simple ways you can lay foundations for relationships based in God’s grace.

Lunch will be provided. Please bring your family so you can practice this together.

RSVP to Deaconess Miriam

[miriam@foothillslutheran.om](mailto:miriam@foothillslutheran.om)

Designed for children born in 2015 and their parents.

## Board of Christian Education



*“Teach...that the next generation may set their hope in God” – Psalm 78*

Our annual Lent Bible study is upon us. Please join us each Monday from February 26 through March 25 at 7pm at the church. Everyone is invited to attend, and we particularly encourage the leaders of our congregation to participate. We are looking at the life, faith, and ministry of St. Paul.

If you haven't visited the library lately, please stop by and check out something to aid in your spiritual growth over this coming year. If you have a title or subject you'd like to see added to the library, email us at [educa-tion@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:education@foothillslutheran.com), call in to the office, or speak to the staff. And keep an eye out for the new art work outside the library. It will be put up very soon, if not already.

Have you joined our (private) Facebook group for Foothills members? We post announcements and event reminders to the group, and occasionally share devotions; if you use Facebook more than you read the bulletin, this group might be for you!



[www.facebook.com/groups/flchristianed/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/flchristianed/)

For other Christian Education news, see youth on page 7, and Sunday school and family ministry on page 3.

The Board of Christian Education is:

*Chair: Trevor Heumann*

*Staff Members: Pastor David Bode, Pastor Eric Moffett, and Deaconess Miriam Winstanley*

*Board Members: Michelle Heumann (Secretary), Derek Kiefer, Kayla Moffett, Tobi Stene*

## Board of Stewardship

### Giving Back to Our Lord

During February and March we are focusing on what we can give back to our Lord out of thankfulness for all He has given to us. One of the key things that all of us can give back is our time. Our Lord has gifted each of us with talents that we can use within our congregation and within the community. Our church needs volunteers in all areas to further our outreach to others and to provide Christian care, spiritual strengthening, and fellowship to our members. **We ask each member of our congregation to examine your talents and gifts and fill out the “Time and Talents” survey that was distributed in February.** We will use these surveys to match the talents of our members with the various volunteer opportunities in our congregation and within our community. Our congregation cannot survive without active engaged members so we encourage each of you to prayerfully consider how you can use your talents to further God's work.

Every member of a household should fill out a time and talents worksheet before March 31st. There are three ways to do this. You can fill out a .pdf version that was emailed to members, scan and email back to [daledust@shaw.ca](mailto:daledust@shaw.ca); you can fill out a hard copy found in your mailbox and on the Welcome Desk and hand into the church office or email to [daledust@shaw.ca](mailto:daledust@shaw.ca); or you can complete the form online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QFH9HNL>. If none of these work for you, please contact the church office and we can arrange for a form to be sent to you.

We thank all of you who are currently working or have worked in the past on a committee, board or initiative of our congregation. We also encourage those of you who are not currently volunteering to get involved.

Please take the time to fill out the Time and Talent questionnaire and to personally reflect on the gifts God has given you and how you can give those gifts back to Him out of thankfulness for all He has given you.

### Family Service



**Take it Home!**

**Sunday, April 14, 2024 following the service**

**God uses each of us to point to Him when we love and serve our neighbor. What happens when parents and children serve others together? Come and learn how the shared experience of serving together can strengthen your family's bonds to each other and to Christ.**

**Please bring your whole family so you can participate together. Lunch will be served.**

**RSVP to [miriam@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:miriam@foothillslutheran.com)**

**Designed for parents with children born in 2018.**

# Youth Event News

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Youth group, or LYF (Lutheran Youth @ Foothills), is for youth in grades 7 to 12, and friends are welcome! We meet every second and fourth Friday, whether it's a long weekend or not, usually from 7 to 10 pm.

**Sunday morning youth Bible study is every week** at 9am in the youth room, except for March 31 (Easter) and April 21 (the youth retreat weekend - but there IS confirmation that day). There is no confirmation on March 24, so everyone in grade 6 is invited to youth Bible study that Sunday.

## **March 8: Fort Night**

We'll be at the church from 7 to 10pm. Bring a friend, a water bottle, a snack, and be ready for anything!

## **March 22: Pinata Party**

What's a pinata party, you ask? Does it mean we are going to have a pinata-making contest and then getting treats to fill it? Will we break our pinatas? Guess you will have to come and find out! Again, we'll be at the church from 7 to 10pm. Bring a friend, a water bottle, a snack, and be ready for anything!

## **March 29: Bonus Hockey Game**

On Friday the 29th, at 1 PM, we will be going to a Calgary Wranglers game. Parents, youth, and young adults are welcome to attend. We have 20 tickets, and they are \$15 per person for those who want to attend. We will be meeting at the Saddledome about 20 minutes before the puck drops. Talk to Evan for more information.

## **April 12: Flying Squirrel**

Watch for details about cost and timing!

## **April 19 to 21: Central Alberta Youth Retreat**

The fall youth retreat we used to host regularly at Foothills is being rebooted in Leduc and it's going to be a great weekend. The cost is \$75/person, plus a share of the mileage, and our registration deadline is March 12. If you're interested in going - whether as a youth or a parent driver and/or chaperone, talk to Pastor Eric ASAP.

## **April 26: Spring Cleanup**

We'll be going around to help out some church members who need it - watch for more details!

## **April 28: Bottle Drive**

Bring your bottles to church on Sunday morning, and we'll take them to the depot and add the money to the youth gathering travel fund. We'll need some volunteers to make announcements on the Sunday in April, and some people to collect the bottles as people drop them off. Thanks to Jean for offering her van! Let Michelle know if you can help out.

**May event dates** will be the 10th and 24th.

**We are also having a special event for everyone** on Tuesday, May 21, starting at 6:45pm. Join us to watch a battle of Alberta - the Calgary Surge vs. the Edmonton Stingers on the big screen in the Fellowship Hall! Game time is at 7pm, and even if you're not a basketball fan, come out for some visiting and snacks. We'll be accepting donations to cover the costs of the streaming licence and the food, and any extra will go into the youth gathering fund. A signup sheet will be available after Easter so we can have an idea of what snacks to get. And if you're able to help with organizing snacks, let Michelle know.

**Parents, save the evening of June 28th** for a parents' event with Miriam during the last youth event of the school year! The topic is TBA, so let Miriam know if there's anything you're interested in discussing/learning about with other parents of youth. The youth currently in grade 6 are invited that night as well.

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner! Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship, and donated several hundred dollars towards the youth gathering fund. We'll know the exact amount once we've finalized the cost of the supplies, but it looks like it will be almost enough to cover one youth's registration fees for the next NYG (July 4-8, 2025)! Also thank you to the youth and parents who helped shop, cook, and clean up. It was a great turnout!

If you have questions, please ask Pastor Eric, Kayla, Evan, Trevor, or Michelle, and stay connected with youth news by giving a youth leader your email address.