

FOOTHILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH



July/August
2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What next?!

Typically, when we hear people utter that simple phrase, they are thinking in negative terms. The car has needed a major repair, the roof leaks, the stove isn't working properly, and one of the children has the measles. So, what's going to happen next? What else can go wrong?

We still live in a world where we look back and blame things on COVID. What next? The break in the main water line was bad enough, and then there were other spots in need of repair. What next?

At the beginning of a new year, people reflect on what has been, and hope that this year will be better than the one gone by. There is no denying that there are times when things do seem to go from bad to worse. There are days when we can't begin to imagine what else can go wrong in our lives, because it seems everything has already gone wrong. Some people become pessimistic about life, somehow believing that if we don't get our hopes up, it will be harder for us to be disappointed.

I don't think I have ever heard anyone ask the question, "what next?" in terms of the wonderful blessings that God gives us each and every day. When was the last time you got out of bed in the morning with a little prayer of thanks on your lips that you were even able to greet the new day—and that there was a new day for all of us, and then wondered, "what next, Lord?" And then, as you went through the day, without mishap or disaster, did you think, "what other blessings do you still have in store for me, Lord?" As you sat down to enjoy your lunch and dinner, did you say a prayer of thanksgiving for the gifts that God had again set before you? And when you laid down your head at the end of the day, did you take a moment to thank God for bringing you safely through the day, and giving you a place to lay your weary head? Did you wonder, "What next, Lord? What other blessings do you have in store for me?"

Life may be far from perfect—but we still have our good and gracious God with us. He continues to bless us, even through the troubles that may come. I have always appreciated the words of the prophet Jeremiah in the book of Lamentations: ***"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*** (Lamentations 3:22–24, ESV)

No one knows what tomorrow may bring. Thankfully, God stands ready to help those who seek His help. He is with us. He wants to bless us and give us strength for the days. Trusting in His goodness, we can be confident, even in the midst of the adversity of our life.

Foothills Lutheran Church
3104 - 34th Avenue NW
Calgary, AB T2L 2A3
Phone: 403-284-1342
www.foothillslutheran.com
office@foothillslutheran.com

David Bode, Pastor

flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com

Eric Moffett, Associate Pastor

flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com

Miriam Winstanley, Deaconess

Children & Family Ministry

miriam@foothillslutheran.com

Eldon Ohlinger, Pastor Emeritus



Perth Nant M Book

Mission of the Month

July

Canadian Lutheran Bible Translators

Canadian Lutheran Bible Translators is the agency that provides for the work done by the Kuhns in Cameroon and others like them. While we support the Kuhns, there is a need to provide for the administration of the whole programme.

August

The Mustard Seed

The Mustard Seed Calgary offers programs and services to help homeless men and women rebuild their lives. We have had a team serve dinner. Traditional area of support.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: Please make sure to phone the office prior to coming by the church to ensure that someone will be here to let you in. Pastor Bode and Deaconess Miriam are out of the office at various times as their work requires.

At the time of publication Pastor Bode and Deaconess Miriam have scheduled vacations as follows:

Pastor Bode	July 10—19, 2024
Deaconess Miriam	August 7—13, 2024

Operation Christmas Child



Many boxes in Canada go to warm-weather countries and there are great bargains to find during late summer in children's clothing and toys. And for the back to school season everything from erasers to paper to pens are available. Please remember if you are going to enclose regular pencils that you also enclose pencil sharpeners.

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 2023-2024 Sunday School year concluded on June 16th, with the students participating together in a service project. Comfort bears, knitted by some of the ladies of our congregation, were stuffed. Once they are sewn up, they will go to Hope Mission, Calgary, for inclusion in their Christmas baskets for families.

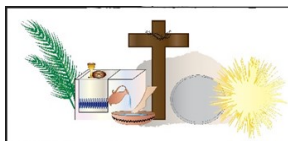
We give thanks to God for our teachers of this past year, our students, and their parents, and look forward to seeing everyone back for **Rally Day, September 8th**!

LADIES BIBLE STUDIES – THE SUMMER PLAN

Our Tuesday Ladies' Study plans to meet every two weeks through the summer, beginning July 2, for a walk and a devotion. Watch the calendar, and if you want to join us, check with Deaconess Miriam regarding the location, as members are taking responsibility for each evening by turn.

Our Thursday afternoon study will continue to meet through the summer, as long as we have at least 3 ladies planning to attend. Please let Deaconess Miriam know each week whether you will be attending. We will continue our *"Longer Look at the Lessons"*!

A WEEK WITH JESUS - VBS 2024



Registration remains open for this year's summer Vacation Bible School. *"A Week with Jesus"* will run the mornings of

July 22-26 and lessons will cover Holy Week and a bit beyond. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors to participate. We give thanks to God for all of those who have stepped forward to commit their time to ensure that it is a week of learning and fun for those who attend.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children' choir wrapped up on June 13th with a little concert at Foothills Lutheran Manor. We plan to start up again in September – watch for more information or speak with Deaconess Miriam if you are interested in having your children participate.

LWMLC News

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support of our initiatives!

LWMLC fulfilled all obligations toward our mission grants for the 2022 – 2024 triennium. Your contributions toward LWMLC Mites helped us reach that goal!

We recently received a thank you from The Canadian Bible Society for our used stamp donations which support their Key to Freedom Bibles program. The used postage stamps are put in 10-pound stamp boxes and sold to collectors. The funds raised are then used to purchase Bibles for inmates in Canadian prisons. These Bibles are changing the hearts and lives of many people. Here is what a chaplain at a large provincial jail in Ontario wrote about this program:

“What is really telling about Key to Freedom Bibles is how it looks when they are returned to us. These Bibles are read, pages earmarked, verses underlined and highlighted, and the Bibles are fattened with sweat of many hands. We give them to one person, and they travel through the institution, inspiring one after another, until we give them rest. They have been read and re-read, until they are no more. I can say, from my perspective, what a privilege it is to sit with inmates with this Bible in their hands.”

South Alberta Zone Spring Rally: On May 25th, 34 ladies participated in the “Trees of Righteousness” Rally at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lethbridge. Pastor Loveridge officiated in the opening worship service and led the Bible Study based on women in the Bible.

After a delicious lunch, Pat Howitt presented a short version of the “Oaks of Righteousness” seminar. Amy Vetter, from “Safe Families Canada”, was our guest speaker. She told us about the work they do in Lethbridge, partnering families in crisis with local church families, demonstrating Christian love in practical and significant ways. Contributions were given to this organization.

National LWMLC Convention: Ladies from across Canada will gather in London, Ontario, July 11 – 14. Under the theme: “Sing to the Lord a New Song”, they will enjoy worship, Bible Study, and fellowship. New mission grant initiatives for the 2024 – 2027 triennium will be chosen. Brenda Bode is our South Alberta Zone Delegate.

Foothills Society Meetings will resume in September. All ladies are welcome to attend!

For more information about our projects and events, check out our bulletin board display by the kitchen entrance.

The history of Foothills LWMLC Society has been documented in delightful scrapbooks, which are kept in our church library for you to enjoy.

God’s blessings, Cheryl Lemke

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: Please make sure to phone the office prior to coming by the church to ensure that someone will be here to let you in. Pastor Bode and Deaconess Miriam are out of the office at various times as their work requires.

At the time of publication Pastor Bode and Deaconess Miriam have scheduled vacations as follows:

Pastor Bode	July 10—19, 2024
Deaconess Miriam	August 7—13, 2024

Family Time in Christ

We are into the season of bright, sunny days. Summer is here! Take some time this summer not just to enjoy the sun, but to consider what it can teach us about our wonderful, loving God.

- Take some sunny-day walks, and spend some time talking with your children about the sun.
- Light was created on the first day, but when did God create the sun? Why? Read Genesis 1:14-19 and talk about how God is a God of order. What in this passage tells us this? If you have a *Lutheran Study Bible*, check out the study note for verse 14 and marvel at His planning.
- See how bright you can make a room by opening curtains and letting the sun shine in. Turn on the lights too! Isaiah 60:19 tells us that there will a day when we won’t need the sun, because God’s radiance will be the only light. Imagine the brightness of the centre of the sun, and then think about how bright God’s radiance will be when we see it.
- Watch a sunrise and see how the shadows shorten and are chased away by the sun. God’s light chases away the shadows of the sun. Psalm 18:28 tells us that God turns darkness into light.
- At night, shine a flashlight on a dark wall. Use your hands to make shadow puppets. Now we have the sun by day and the moon by night. In heaven there will never be a night. Nothing will block God’s light. See what Revelation 22:5 has to say about this!

Have a sunny, and Son-filled summer!